With four named tropical storms threatening U.S. coastlines within two weeks, the launch of Carolina’s new Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters is timely. Chancellor Holden Thorp discussed the University’s plans to create the center at a celebratory event last week.

Housed within the center will be a new Center of Excellence for the Study of Natural Disasters, Coastal Infrastructure and Emergency Management. Funded with a multimillion dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Center of Excellence will study natural disasters in coastal areas. The research it conducts will provide emergency managers with the latest scientific information to help protect the coastlines and the people who live there whenever storms threaten.

Carolina is creating interdisciplinary partnerships within the University and with other universities, government agencies and industry representatives to create and direct these research efforts. The Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters will address issues including hazards law and policy, environmental hazards management and the role of information technology.

“The center is a catalyst to reach out to additional faculty and students as well as federal and state partners as a way to further expand our efforts to understand all natural disasters and the impact they have,” Thorp said.

“It will allow us to use this information to assist people in North Carolina, around the nation and around the world to help them make more informed choices.”

The center’s principal investigator, Rick Luettich, who is internationally recognized for his work in storm surge and coastal modeling, is director of the UNC Institute of Marine Sciences and professor of marine sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences. He also serves RENCI as chief domain scientist in coastal modeling. RENCI will collaborate with center researchers to provide visualization and computational resources.

With more than 50 percent of the nation’s population living along the coasts, the knowledge generated by the center will have an immediate, significant impact, Thorp said.

“It is a way we can connect the depth of the research we are already doing with the real problems our nation is facing,” he said.

The DHS grant will provide Carolina-led research at least $2.5 million a year for six years, and possibly more as the center develops. UNC is teaming with Jackson State University in Mississippi to carry out an education and outreach component to help translate the research into practice.

“There couldn’t be a better fit between this new Center of Excellence and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,” said U.S. Rep. David Price, chair of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee. “Here in North Carolina we are very familiar with the phenomenon we are going to study. We have been a leader in preparing for and responding to these natural disasters.”

Between 1980 and 2004, he said, North Carolina responded to more billion-dollar disasters than any other state in the country.

Luettich, who was a primary developer of the storm surge model
The University will test the emergency sirens and, for the first time, text messaging capability on Sept. 16 between 12:15 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. The sirens will sound only during a life-threatening emergency or a test such as this one, followed by a text message.

The University has taken precautions to help keep the campus community safe year-round.

Any safety-related announcements will be posted on the University homepage (www.unc.edu), on Alert Carolina (alertcarolina.unc.edu) and through other communications such as mass e-mail.

In addition, if the University’s emergency sirens sound during a life-threatening emergency — or if other conditions warrant — the University will send a text message alert to students, faculty and staff who have registered their cell phones in the online campus directory.

University officials encourage everyone in the campus community to register their cell phones by going to alertcarolina.unc.edu and clicking on “Register Your Cell Phone.” The number can be kept private. The University will only send a text message when it is imperative to get information out as quickly as possible or during tests.

Beginning Sept. 10, people will be prompted to provide their cell numbers whenever they update their Onyen passwords — every 90 days — or check their password expiration dates. Information Technology Services made the changes to the Onyen password management system to give people ample opportunities to register their cell phones.

“ITS is pleased to be able to implement this important aspect of Alert Carolina,” said Priscilla Alden, assistant vice chancellor for User Support and Engagement. “We want to make it as easy as possible for people to register their cell phone numbers so they can receive any emergency text messages from the University. Providing an automatic reminder every three months, or whenever people check their password expiration dates, seems to be a practical, useful way to achieve this.”

The new system gives people four options. They can enter a cell number in the Alert Carolina field, approve the number that is already listed there, indicate that they do not have a cell phone that can receive text messages or choose not to register a cell number.

University officials are optimistic that this new feature will increase cell phone registration dramatically. At the beginning of September, 13,750 people had registered for emergency text messages, representing about one-third of the total University population.

“Sending text messages is a key part of our overall emergency communications plan. In an emergency, we want to have as many tools as possible available to us to reach people quickly,” said Leslie Strohm, chair of the Emergency Warning Committee. “Having a mechanism in place that forces people to think about this issue every 90 days, at minimum, is a valuable asset to Alert Carolina.”

For information about Alert Carolina, refer to alertcarolina.unc.edu. For information about the University’s Adverse Weather Policies, refer to hr.unc.edu/hottopics/adverseweather (see related article on page 11).
Updated harassment, discrimination policies are more inclusive

Long-standing University policies have supported Carolina's commitment to provide a welcoming, inclusive environment that protects the rights of the University community to learn and work in an atmosphere free from discrimination and harassment.

Until now, however, the information about sexual harassment, racial harassment, unlawful workplace harassment and non-discrimination was specified in separate policies.

This summer the University adopted an updated comprehensive Policy on Prohibited Harassment and Discrimination. This policy replaces the separate policies that previously existed and supplements the general protections outlined in the existing Policy Statement on Non-Discrimination. The updated policies are more inclusive and include gender identity and gender expression in the list of protected groups. In addition, the revised Policy on Prohibited Harassment and Discrimination more clearly specifies the procedures for reporting and addressing concerns of students, SPA employees, and EPA faculty and non-faculty employees.

The process to revise and update the policies began during the 2006-07 academic year, when faculty, staff and students who advise Ann Penn, the University's equal opportunity/ADA officer, began a review of the policies, Penn said.

“We discussed the potential for confusion in having multiple policies addressing harassment and discrimination. The group recommended that the University adopt one comprehensive policy that outlines all the information about unlawful harassment and discrimination and provides clear information about how people can address concerns about these issues,” she said.

“We also recommended adding gender identity and gender expression to the list of protected groups in our policies so that our policies would be more inclusive and consistent with the policies of our peer institutions.”

The University's policies, which apply to all members of the Carolina community, affirm that the University does not discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.

See HARASSMENT page 10

For more information, visit research.unc.edu/cn.
Trees on South Columbia affected by duct bank project

Many trees along the east side of South Columbia Street, between Manning Drive and Mason Farm Road, will be removed starting this week as the University begins a new phase of its electric duct bank project.

The location for the duct bank has been coordinated with the N.C. Department of Transportation’s project to widen South Columbia Street from Manning Drive to Purefoy Road. Scheduled to begin a year from now, the project will add a center turn lane, bike lanes and sidewalks.

The duct bank work and road widening will occur only on the campus side of South Columbia and should have minimal impact on the neighborhoods across the street. The duct bank installation, to begin near the corner of Mason Farm Road and South Columbia, will proceed northward on South Columbia to the Manning Drive intersection. While the duct bank work will be done off the street, it may require temporary lane shifts along South Columbia. Mason Farm Road will be closed when the installation crosses that street. Pedestrian detours of the construction site will be clearly marked.

The duct bank project should take three months to complete. While erosion control measures will be put in place, re-landscaping of the area will not occur until the road widening project is completed, probably in 2011. The area will be restored to a streetscape consistent with the rest of campus.

Commuting task force still exploring options

The Chancellor’s Commuting Costs Task Force took a hard look at flexible scheduling at its fourth meeting on Sept. 3. A proposal to institute a four-day workweek to help employees cut their commuting costs was all but jettisoned as unworkable during the heart of the academic year.

Committee members agreed there was no point in making a recommendation to Chancellor Holden Thorp that he would have to reject.

However, an idea that task force members seriously debated was whether it would be possible to institute a four-day workweek when summer school was in session.

Another idea floated for further study was closing the University between Christmas and New Year’s Day — a move that would generate some gasoline savings and reduce the University’s operational costs when only a fraction of employees typically worked.

The one major exception to be made, of course, would be for employees at UNC Hospitals.

Former Chancellor James Moeser approved the creation of the task force in response to a resolution passed by the Employee Forum in late spring calling for the University to seek creative strategies to help employees save money at the gas pump.

Task force members have emphasized the need to ensure the operational efficiency of the University even as it tries to help employees cope with gas prices.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Human Resources Brenda Malone said she would like the task force to meet three more times to explore all options that have been developed. The next meeting will be held Sept. 18.

CARSON’S LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP NAMED IN HER HONOR FOR JUNIORS

REMEMBERING EVE

Chancellor Holden Thorp reads a letter written to him by Teresa Carson, mother of Eve Carson, at an Aug. 26 news conference announcing the Eve Marie Carson Junior Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of Carson, Carolina’s former student body president who was murdered in March.

In the background, from left are, J.J. Raynor, current student body president, Emir Sandhu and Andy Woods, friends of Carson who participated in the briefing.

The first scholarship in Carson’s honor will be awarded later this year. Criteria include demonstration of a high level of academic performance and strong involvement in a leadership role on campus during the first three years of a student’s undergraduate career.

The scholarship helps support and nurture future leaders during the summer following the junior year through the senior year.

“These scholarships are a testament to Eve, to the loving caring person she was and to her remarkable ability to create innovative ways of fully living our commitment to our Carolina values,” Raynor said. “In her dedication to Carolina Eve saw a need for Carolina to recognize those who are most dedicated to it, who although they bloom late, come to shape Carolina and define the excellence we pursue here. Rewarding excellence achieved at Carolina, rewarding those who use their time here to the best advantage, is an incredibly revolutionary concept in the world of higher education.”

FitzGerald to oversee new joint airport authority

Kevin FitzGerald, executive associate dean for finance and administration in the School of Medicine, will lead joint efforts to establish a new airport authority in Orange County.

The University and the UNC Health Care System will lead the 15-member airport authority, with representation from Orange County and its municipalities. FitzGerald has been named to oversee the organization and initial work of the board.

A law enacted by the N.C. General Assembly in its most recent session allowed the UNC Board of Governors to create an airport authority to assemble the information and resources needed to site and eventually construct a new airport to replace Horace Williams Airport, which is owned by the University.

Carolina plans to close the airport and temporarily move the Medical Air Operations of the Area Health Education Centers to a new hangar at RDU International Airport when the first building on the Carolina North campus is ready for occupancy.

FitzGerald is an adjunct instructor in the School of Government and a former special assistant to the chancellor. He is also the former director of the N.C. Division of Social Services.

“I am excited about the opportunity to locate a new airport in Orange County,” he said. “Not only would a new airport have a significant annual economic impact here, it would also support and enhance AHEC’s operations.”
Cronenwett to return to nursing faculty

Linda Cronenwett, dean of the School of Nursing since 1999, will step down next summer after a decade of nursing leadership at Carolina. But her lifelong work in the field of health care quality improvement is not yet complete.

During a one-year administrative leave, Cronenwett will develop resources for a national initiative to improve quality and safety education for nurses in what will be a third grant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She serves as principal investigator.

Faculty in all the health-care professions are working to change curricula to afford future health-care providers the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to improve the quality and safety of health-care systems, Cronenwett said. Carolina is leading the national initiative in nursing.

Cronenwett came to Carolina in 1998 as the Sarah Frances Russell Distinguished Professor of Nursing Systems following extensive experience in active duty in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, maternity and pediatric nursing practice and in previous faculty positions at Stanford University and the University of Michigan.

For 14 years prior to her arrival at Carolina, Cronenwett was a nurse researcher and administrator at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, N.H. There, she was involved with early movements to promote evidence-based practice and quality improvement in health-care delivery systems.

"Health professionals are trained to be excellent practitioners with their individual patients, but patients experience an overall lack of reliability within our complex systems of care," she said.

"Health-care team members and technologies are constantly changing, and the impact of these changes requires greater attention to the potential for errors and safety problems. To be a good nurse or physician or pharmacist these days, a health-care professional has to be knowledgeable about how the system of care is performing — and how to address any problems with that performance."

Cronenwett serves on the board of directors for the Institute for Health Care Improvement, the N.C. Institute of Medicine and the N.C. Center for Hospital Improvement, the N.C. Institute of Medicine and the N.C. Center for Hospital Improvement, the N.C. Institute of Medicine and the N.C. Center for Hospital Improvement, the N.C. Institute of Medicine and the N.C. Center for Hospital Improvement.

Dobson hired as facilities assistant vice chancellor

After a national search, Van Dobson was named assistant vice chancellor for Facilities Services. He assumed the role Sept. 2, replacing Jim Alty, who left last summer.

Dobson brings to Carolina more than 24 years of experience in facilities engineering, management and services. He most recently served as commanding officer of the Naval Construction Battalion Center in Gulfport, Miss., where he was chief executive officer of a thousand-person organization that provided housing, medical, security, logistics, information technology, public affairs and utilities services to a 10,000-member community.

Other assignments throughout Dobson’s distinguished military career included serving as executive officer for the Navy Public Works Center Jacksonville and Engineering Field Activity Southeast and public works officer for the Navy Region Hawaii. He is a graduate of the Naval War College and holds a master’s degree in civil engineering and a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering.

"After only one week in the job, I can tell that UNC-Chapel Hill is the perfect place for me. I feel very fortunate to have been selected for this position and am excited to be joining the Facilities Services team,” Dobson said. “I know how important the work of this University is and am honored to have the opportunity to support its many vital missions.”

At Carolina, Dobson will oversee the operation of the University’s largest department, which is responsible for maintaining and operating University facilities and grounds, including building repair and maintenance, minor renovations and construction, grounds, housekeeping, waste reduction and recycling, energy management, sustainability and mail services for the campus community.

“I am very pleased that Van decided to join us,” said Carolyn Elfland, associate vice chancellor for campus services. “His depth and breadth of knowledge, experience and skill in both facilities and broader leadership roles are tremendously valuable.”

See CRONENWETT page 10

HONORS

DAVID AMMONS
Albert Coates Professor of Public Administration and Government, Ammons has been appointed to the National Performance Management Advisory Commission. This commission is charged with creating a principles-based framework for public sector performance measurement and management.

The commission was established by 10 leading state and local government public interest associations and includes appointees from each of the sponsoring organizations as well as recognized leaders in the field from management, research organizations and academia.

GREGORY CIZEK
Professor of educational measurement and evaluation in the School of Education, Cizek has accepted a nomination to serve on the National Technical Advisory committee of the U.S. Department of Education.

The committee advises the Secretary of Education on issues regarding the assessment and accountability components of state standards and testing. Cizek was notified of his nomination recently by Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings.

WESLEY FOWLER
Palumbo Distinguished Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology and director of the division of gynecologic oncology, Fowler has been honored by his former fellows, family and friends with an endowed fellowship bearing his name.

Fowler has been head of the OB/GYN oncology group since its inception more than 25 years ago. He plans to step down from his administrative role in the near future but will continue to see patients.

LAURA MERSINIS-HOUTHON
Assistant professor of physics and astronomy, Mersini-Houghton has been awarded a $50,000 grant from the Foundational Questions Institute.

One of this year’s 33 recipients, Mersini-Houghton will work with Richard Holman of Carnegie Mellon University on the project, “The Puzzle of the Initial Conditions and the Multiverse.” They are investigating the initial high-energy conditions of the universe that supposedly prompted the Big Bang.

A multiverse is a theory in which our universe is one entity among many.
Aftter last year’s record-setting drought, the spring and summer rainstorms have been a welcome sight. There is a downside to Mother Nature’s bounty, however, especially when joined by human nature.

Drinking water supplies can become contaminated. The water in area lakes can end up polluted and covered in algae, stifling the population of plants, fish and other aquatic animals. Expensive and difficult filtering can threaten drinking water treatment.

The root of this hypothetical destruction is stormwater pollution. Stormwater is the flow of water that results after it rains, often traveling by ditches and pipes to creeks and rivers. Though unfamiliar to many people, stormwater has a firm grasp on the environment that can be detrimental.

About 45 percent of select U.S. water bodies are impaired by polluted stormwater and do not meet water quality standards, according to the 2000 National Water Quality Inventory, conducted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The University is striving to control stormwater pollution across campus. New construction incorporates porous paved surfaces and roof gardens wherever possible to prevent runoff, and environmental experts address problems with existing waterways.

A recent project has focused on the restoration of a creek on an unused portion of Finley Golf Course.

Since June, Carolina has been working with the North Carolina Ecosystem Enhancement Program (NCEEP) to restore about 1,400 linear feet of stream channel and five acres of riverbank along Chapel Creek, which flows through the golf course.

The original creek channel was deeply incised and polluted waters by contributing sediment and other pollutants picked up along its path.

"Streams on golf courses are often made straight, to get more room on the golf course," said Sharon Myers, an environment specialist and geologist at Carolina’s Department of Environment, Health and Safety (EHS).

When waters get high and there are no floodplains, the streams deepen and gouge sediment, she said. Because the creek flows into Morgan Creek, which flows into Jordan Lake, that sediment can be carried to the lake and create algae blooms.

The first phase of the restoration project was finished in July, Myers said. The original channel was plugged with clay after the new, parallel channel was created and began carrying water.

Workers applied fabric to the new river bench and installed root wads, tree trunks and large boulders into the bends of the new channel. This slows the creek during periods of runoff.

Think only students illegally share files? Think again.

Faculty and staff have also engaged in copyright infringement and illegal file sharing, although in much smaller numbers.

Information Technology Services (ITS) Information Security is ramping up efforts to curb copyright infringement at Carolina. Information Security oversees the security of the University’s electronic information, including the campus data network.

An extensive campaign warning students, faculty and staff of the risks of illegal file sharing, already under way, will continue throughout the fall semester.

ITS is using a series of posters, advertisements and other materials to help spread the word that legally downloading and sharing is a wise choice. In addition, a new Web site, www.unc.edu/filesharing, provides legal ways to access copyrighted materials and answers to frequently asked questions.

“Our biggest concern is protecting the security of the University’s data, technology and communication systems,” said William Cameron, assistant vice chancellor for information security. “We have found that some employees don’t understand the dangers or the consequences of using peer-to-peer networks or illegal file sharing on the network.”

Improper use of peer-to-peer networks such as Limewire or BitTorrent puts individual computers at risk and increases the vulnerability of the campus data network. In addition, users who illegally share copyrighted materials are violating University policy as well as U.S. copyright law.

The University’s Data Network Acceptable Use Policy strictly prohibits “unauthorized copying, distributing, altering or translating of copyright materials, software, music or other media without the express permissions of the copyright holder.”

The Office of Human Resources views this prohibition seriously and proactively takes appropriate steps to ensure that employees understand the policy and the implications of any violations. Employees who violate the policy are counseled after the first offense. Subsequent violations could result in disciplinary action.
Strong work ethic helped make Billy York into a master craftsman

When asked, Billy York says he grew up in Pittsboro, even though he was already more than half grown by the time his mother moved him there. It might be more accurate to say that it was where he began to quit being a boy.

"My father got killed in a motorcycle accident when I was 9 or 10 years old and my mother moved back to Pittsboro with her family a couple of years after that," York said. It was about the time he was to start seventh grade.

If there was going to be a man in the house, he knew he would have to take on the job. "I went to work fulltime when I was 13 years old, if that ought to tell you anything," he said.

He worked at the service station and used car lot that his uncle owned in town, from the end of the school day until 11 o’clock at night. About the time he graduated from high school, his uncle bought a second gas station and hired York to run it until he entered the Air Force for a four-year stint.

York spent three years in England working in base supply. When he got home in 1960, he bought part of the tire recapping business his uncle had started.

He might have ended up staying there. The money was good and there was no one to answer to but himself. But Congress "began passing all these fancy rules," York said, and a government man came by with news they would have to buy a piece of million-dollar equipment to stay in business. The family couldn’t afford it.

So York spent nearly all of his time on the road, buying used tires and hauling them back from New York to sell around the Carolinas. "I was buying what they took off at a rate of a thousand tires every week," York said.

He pictured spending the rest of his life on the road, hauling tires up and down the East Coast. Then Velna came along. Velna was the woman he married in 1972 who told him in short order that his time on the road made her feel more like a widow than a wife.

"She really wanted me to stay at home a little more," York said. "I was leaving Sunday and not getting back home until late Wednesday or sometimes Thursday."

GETTING OFF THE ROAD

In fall 1974 she talked him into coming to Carolina, where she worked, to apply for a job as the warehouse manager for the zoology department in Wilson Hall that paid less money than he was already making.

"I was overqualified, but that is basically how I got my foot in the door," York said. As bad as the money was, he discovered that the amount of work was worse. There was so little of it for him to do that just about drove him crazy.

"It was just a little stockroom in the basement with no more than $500 worth of stuff in it and I really didn’t have enough work," York said. "I got bored so I was out running around the building looking for things to do just to keep myself busy. I’m still that way. If I thought I wasn’t, I would have gone home a long time ago."

That was 34 years ago, and just about everything has changed inside Wilson Hall except Billy York.

His job title is “laboratory operations manager,” but even the nine colleagues who nominated him for a 2008 C. Knox Massey Award know that the title hardly captures all that this man does.

INTEGRAL TO THE DEPARTMENT

Steven Matson, chair of the biology department, said York had become an integral and critically important part of the

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CREEK from page 6

high-flowing water, stabilizes the bank and provides habitats for aquatic life.

Inhabitants such as minnows and water bugs have already "moved" to the new channel — as well as golf balls. In November permanent plants will replace the temporary grass, which will help keep the bank stable.

The area opened to the public about a month ago. In November permanent plants will replace the temporary grass, which will help keep the bank stable.

The athletic department helped fund the bridge.

NCEEP will monitor the site for five years, removing invasive species and replanting areas that do not survive, said Conor Keeney, an EHS stormwater technician.

Carolina and NCEEP expect to see an improvement in water quality and an increase in educational opportunities concerning stream restoration process.

"I’m interested to see it over time," said Myers. "We’re anxious to get fall planting completed, and then we’ll watch it grow." EHS will also post signs about the creek restoration, she said.

STORMWATER TECHNOLOGY

The University has incorporated stormwater technology into new construction. For example, porous pavement on the new McCauley lot allows water to drain directly and recharge the water table rather than carry pollutants, and the FedEx Global Education Center’s roof garden holds precipitation and prevents runoff.

The Ehringhaus and Hooker recreational fields have infiltration beds under the turf, which replenish the groundwater supply and retain stream base flow during dry weather. The Hooker infiltration bed can hold 500,000 gallons of water that will eventually return to the water table or be pumped for irrigation.

Though Carolina and its partners take big steps on the sustainability track, the residents of Orange County can help. More than 60 percent of water pollution results from leaking car oil, lawn and garden fertilizers, improperly disposed wash water, maintenance chemicals and cooking oils and grease, according to EHS.

EHS recommends a number of ways residents can reduce stormwater pollution:

- When fertilizing, make sure the applications of fertilizer and pesticides are at least 20 feet away from the edge of streams and storm drains;
- Mow the grass at 3 inches to promote root growth and shade out weeds;
- Sweep or blow pesticides, fertilizer, leaves and grass clippings back onto lawn or naturalized areas; and
- Clean trash cans inside and use car washes so that toxic materials go to the sanitary sewer system.

For more information about the Chapel Creek project, refer to the EHS Web site, ehs.unc.edu/environmental/stormwater/chapel.shtml.

Editor’s Note: Meagan Racey, a junior from Pinehurst, contributed this article.
STONE CENTER REFLECTS ON 1968–69

The global significance of 1968 and 1969 will be a topic of programming during the 2008–09 academic year at the Stone Center for Black Culture and History.

Fall programs begin Sept. 11 at 7 p.m. with “The Time is Nigh: Organize, Mobilize, Radicalize,” a panel discussion with 1968 Olympian Tommie Smith. Smith is one of the Olympic athletes who participated in the black-gloved fist gesture at the 1968 Summer Olympic Games in Mexico City — a visible challenge to racism and injustice happening in the U.S and the world at the time.

Refer to the center’s Web site for a complete listing of fall programming: sonjahaynesstonectr.unc.edu

MUSIC RETURNS TO JOHNSTON CENTER

This fall’s Thursdays on the Terrace performance series offers music ranging from old-time string band music to hip-hop, blues, ’60s rock and bluegrass.

The live music is free to the public on select Thursdays from noon to 2 p.m. on the Education Foundation Terrace of the Graham Memorial Building, home to the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. The schedule in September includes:

- Sept. 11: Tommy Edwards and Carolina Lightning, North Carolina bluegrass;
- Sept. 18: Boo Hanks, Piedmont blues; and
- Sept. 25: The Backbeat, ’60s rock ‘n’ roll.

See www.johnstoncenter.unc.edu.

RAP WITH NEWSOM

Cookie Newsom, director for diversity education and assessment, is holding informal monthly sessions on changing topics with the promise that the conversations will be lively, entertaining and educational.

The first rap session is set for Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Campus Y conference room: “Is America ready for a black president?”

E-mail Newsom for more information on future topics (newsom@email.unc.edu).

UNC PARTNERS TO ESTABLISH DRUG SAFETY SCIENCES CENTER

The University and the Hamner Institutes for Health Sciences are establishing a joint Center for Drug Safety Sciences, to be led by Paul Watkins, Verne S. Cavininess Distinguished Professor of Medicine.

The center is a collaboration among The Hamner Institutes, a private nonprofit translational-research organization in Research Triangle Park, the School of Medicine and the Eshelman School of Pharmacy. The Hamner Institutes and the University have committed to spend at least $10 million over the next three years to launch the center and its research and training programs.

This will include a new 14,000-square-foot research laboratory that will open in early 2009 at the Hamner Institutes.

For more information, refer to www.thehamner.org.

PLAYMAKERS PRESENTS ‘PERICLES’

PlayMakers Repertory Company kicks off its 2008–09 main-stage season Sept. 24 – Oct. 12 with William Shakespeare’s “Pericles.” Producing Artistic Director Joseph Haj’s production features original music and songs by Jack Herrick of the Red Clay Ramblers. Herrick performs his music live during the performances, along with an ensemble cast of 14 actors, singers and musicians.

Among the special events are a “Sneak Peek Director’s Talk” with Haj at noon on Sept. 17 in the theater and an Oct. 7 all-access performance that includes sign language interpretation and audio description.

Performances are held in the Paul Green Theatre in the Center for Dramatic Art. See the Web site (www.playmakersrep.org) or call 962-PLAY to purchase tickets or more information.

CARTER GIVES LAMBETH LECTURE SEPT. 16

Hodding Carter III, University Professor of Leadership and Public Policy, delivers the 2008 Thomas W. Lambeth Lecture in Public Policy on Sept. 16 at 5:30 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. Carter will discuss “Public Policy, Public Opinion and the Public Good” in the free public talk.

For information, call Pete Andrews (843-5011) or see snipurl.com/3mmv7.

KEEPING TAPS ON TRAFFIC FLOW

There’s a new law enforcement presence on campus, but this one doesn’t wear a badge. The newest tool in the effort to enhance pedestrian safety across campus is the Speedsentry radar system, which helps monitor motorists’ rates of speed. The mobile device shows passing motorists’ speeds while collecting volume and speed data. It helps the Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Unit (TAPS) of UNC Public Safety’s Community Response Team gather information regarding traffic flow on different campus roadways.

In 2007, TAPS officers began using Lidar guns to monitor the speed of individual vehicles within a stream of traffic. Unlike radar that directly identifies speeders and calculates their speed.

During the fall Yield to Heels pedestrian safety event, scheduled Sept. 17 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Public Safety officers and UNC Highway Safety Research Center representatives will distribute safety information at heavily traveled pedestrian crosswalks around campus.

HOSPITALS PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES WITH EVENT

An Emergency Preparedness Fair takes place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sept. 23 – Sept. 25 in the lobby of the N.C. Children’s Hospital. The event provides information and tools on family, elder, and special-needs preparedness as well as information on coping with stress during and after a disaster.

LIBRARY PRESENTS BOOK LAUNCH AND EXHIBIT OPENING

The launch of a new book about former Chief Justice Susie Sharp and an exhibit and accompanying talk about a century of North Carolina’s political campaigns are planned at Wilson Library.

On Sept. 11, author Anna Hayes reads from ‘Without Precedent: The Life of Susie Marshall Sharp,’ published by UNC Press. The free public program begins at 5:45 p.m. in the library’s Pleasant Family Assembly Room. snipurl.com/3modq

■ From Sept. 15 to Jan. 31, 2009, the North Carolina Collection Gallery will host “Soapboxes and Tree Stumps: Political Campaigning in North Carolina.” The 250-piece exhibit examines 100 years of Tar Heel campaigning and political issues, focusing on the period from 1890 to 1990.

■ On Sept. 25, the free public program “Vote for Me: Campaign Buttons to Town Square Rallies” will feature speakers Lew Powell and Rob Christensen. The program begins at 5:45 p.m. in the Assembly Room. A reception and exhibit viewing begin at 5 p.m. Powell is forum editor for the Charlotte Observer; Christensen writes for The News & Observer and is the author of “The Paradox of Tar Heel Politics.” www.lib.unc.edu/ncn/gallery.html

KIDS ROCK!

Kids ROCK!, the family program sponsored by Campus Recreation, offers a morning of jump rope activities Sept. 27 for children and their parents at the Rams Head Recreation Center.

The programs are free, held from 10 a.m. to noon, but an R.S.V.P is required two days ahead of each event to meghanmn@email.unc.edu.

See campuscen.unc.edu/employee_rec/kids_rock_08.pdf

BECOMING FIT, A STEP AT A TIME

The kickoff for Walk for Wellness, Campus Recreation’s free program of organized walking groups will be held Sept. 16 at 12:15 p.m. in the lobby of the Student Recreation Center.
USE oF oNE CArD p AYMeNtS

expre SS pLAN ALL owS purchases at Rams Head Dining Hall.

linA Dining Services is offering a 30 percent discount on meals. See its.unc.edu/OneCard. As an incentive for signing up, Caro-

payroll deducted. accepts the UNC One Card as payment; the purchases will be made at any campus location that

go on their first walk. All walking paces and levels are welcomed.

For more information, see www.unc.edu/events.

FIRE SAFETY FAIR PLANNED FOR SEPT. 17

The public safety and environmental health and safety departments, as well as the Chapel Hill Fire Department will co-sponsor a Fire Safety Fair on Polk Place Sept. 17, 1 – 3 p.m.

Activities planned for the event include fire extinguisher training, a "crawl" through Chapel Hill’s smoke house, and trying on fire gear. ehs.unc.edu

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has published "Eudora Welty: The Woman and the Myths" at 4 p.m. Sept. 23 in Hill Alumni Center. Call 962-0503 for information.

JEWISH STUDIES POSTS 2008–09 EVENTS

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies has published its 2008-09 schedule of public events. Topics range from Klezmer revival, Jews and evangelical Christians, to the Settlement Cookbook.

On Oct. 27 at 7:30 p.m., Walter Zev Feldman, a leading Klezmer researcher and performer, lectures on "Rediscovering the Dance of Klezmer Music" at the Friday Center. He

For complete listings of events, including athletics, see the Carolina Events Calendars at www.unc.edu/events.
the basis of an individual’s race, color, gender, national origin, age, religion, creed, disability, veteran’s status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

“Our educational and employment decisions are based on an individual’s abilities and qualifications, not on a person’s background, beliefs or circumstances,” Chancellor Holden Thorp said in an e-mail message to campus last month. “Everyone who works or studies at Carolina should understand the expectations for respectful, appropriate interactions among students, faculty and staff.”

The Equal Opportunity Office has primary oversight of the University’s harassment and discrimination policies and procedures. Information about the policies, including a question-and-answer section, is also available on the Office’s Web site, www.unc.edu/depts/eooada.

“Our Web site also provides two online training programs focused on the issues involved in harassment and discrimination,” Penn said. “In addition, our staff is available to discuss on-site training for University groups or departments.”

Copies of the policies, including a list of offices people can contact for help in understanding the policies and options for resolving any concerns, are available at www.unc.edu/campus/policies.html.

CRONENWETT from page 5

Quality and Safety. She is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Nursing and was recently appointed to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs Special Medical Advisory Group.

Since 2003, she has also been associate chief nursing officer for academic affairs at UNC Hospitals.

“Although nursing faculty and UNC Health Care nurses work for separate organizations, the chief nursing officer Mary Tonges and I work together to help Carolina nursing be the best it can be across both education and service settings,” Cronenwett said.

Under Cronenwett’s leadership, the University’s nursing school has gained a national reputation for clinical education and scientific excellence. Its national profile has risen commensurate with the quality of the programs offered.

CENTER from page 1

used by FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other groups in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, said the center will ultimately help people make smart decisions.

“In my work, I try to figure out the impact of a hurricane on the storm surge and flooding,” he said. Even minor fluctuations in the strength or size of the storm — or its projected landfall — can make a huge difference, he said.

“We can’t change hazards, but we want to keep them from becoming disasters,” Luettich said.

He had spent the previous three days collaborating with colleagues to provide storm surge information and projections for Hurricane Gustav, which made landfall in southwestern Louisiana Sept. 1.

The center’s executive director is Gavin Smith, who came to Carolina from the consulting firm PBShJ. Smith formerly worked as the director of the Office of Recovery and Renewal for the governor of Mississippi and had worked in the N.C. Division of Emergency Management from 1996 to 2002. He is a research associate professor in city and regional planning at UNC.

The launch of the Carolina center came on the heels of the announcement earlier in the day of a new Institute for Homeland Security Solutions based in Research Triangle Park.

It will be managed as collaboration among RTI International, Duke, Carolina and the N.C. Military Foundation.

FORUM from page 3

wants,” Griffin said, adding that if the issue warranted it, he would make a phone call to forum members so he could make an informed decision based on their input.

In another matter, Vice Chair Brenda Denzler reviewed research she had conducted about a report of a human resources task force formed by Bowles. The report calls for inserting “Article 16” into the State Personnel Act in order to grant the UNC system more flexibility in the way SPA employees are hired, classified and paid.

Denzler said that she thought the discretionary powers granted to individual managers might be too broad and too vague. Further, she said, breaking UNC system employees away from other state employees could weaken their lobbying power with the General Assembly.

Denzler also repeated a concern that forum members had raised in previous meetings about the unknown ramifications of creating a new personnel system that is supposed to have job security provisions that are “substantially equivalent” to those in the State Personnel act.

No one has specified what “substantially equivalent” means, Denzler said.

YORK from page 7

department and his three decades of service stood as testament to his commitment.

After the zoology and botany departments merged into the biology department in the early 1980s, York took on the responsibility of maintaining both Wilson Hall and Coker Hall next door. As the biology department hired new professors to engage in cellular and molecular biology research, each new hire required an old laboratory to be renovated for its new purpose, Matson said.

“Billy York was, and continues to be, the person in charge of completely redesigning and planning for the renovation of each and every one of these high-tech laboratories,” Matson said.

Moreover, Matson said, “his ability to work with faculty, staff, students and various units on campus to move a project along is without compare.”

No one is indispensable, but don’t tell that to York’s colleagues.

A few years ago, when the word leaked out that he was starting to think about retiring, it put the department into a near panic. “They wanted to give me a good-size raise if I would stay and I said, ‘OK, I’ll stay one more year.”

The next year, he got another call from the chair: “Just what will it take for you to stay?”

In an age of specialization, York carved out his niche by knowing a little bit about everything — from plumbing to electrical work to painting — and being willing to do it.

“I sort of halfway attribute that Massey award to that attitude,” York said. “I’m not one of those people who say, ‘Oh, no, that’s not my job.’ I don’t care what I’m asked to do. At one time, when I wrote my job description, the last paragraph that I put in was, ‘Any other duties for the benefit of the biology department.’ That means they could ask me to do anything they wanted to.”

LIFELONG LESSONS

And every day, with every person he meets, York applies what he believes is the most important lesson he learned as a boy pumping gas at his uncle’s gas station in Pittsboro — what he calls “the value of just being polite to people.”

“I started out early working with the public and I learned very quickly, if you learned to say, ‘Yes, sir,’ and ‘Yes, ma’am,’ you get can get along a whole lot better. I still do that today even with these young kids around here.”

It isn’t a matter of age, York said. If you give people respect it will be returned to you in kind.

He is 71 now, but his age belies an energy that keeps him moving as fast as people half his age. But he is not yet ready for retirement, or the recliner.

When that day inevitably comes, hanging on York’s wall will be the Massey award. And right under it will hang the two-page nominating letter that he had matted and framed.

“Just to know that your peers appreciate you enough to even turn your name in for consideration is worth a great deal to me.”

HARASSMENT from page 3

Department and its Foundation Board are raising funds for an endowed doctoral student scholar- ship in Cronenwett’s name.

In fact, she said, the last three classes of pre-licensure students have had more than 20 percent non-white students.

In response to North Carolina’s need for nurses, the school has increased the number of undergraduate nursing students. Last year, Carolina graduated 194 new nurses, compared with 125 in 2001. Overall, the school offers undergraduate, graduate and postdoctoral programs to more than 700 students.

“We could not have accomplished this growth without being able to double our space, which had been the school’s dream for decades,” Cronenwett said. She credits support from the N.C. Higher Education Bond Referendum and the school’s alumni through the Carolina First Campaign for making the addition to Carrington Hall possible.

One future challenge Carolina and other nursing schools will have to address is the nationwide shortage in nursing faculty, she said. The key will be to recruit students into nursing doctoral programs at younger ages and provide adequate scholarship and stipend support.

At Carolina, friends of the nursing school and its Foundation Board are raising funds for an endowed doctoral student scholarship in Cronenwett’s name.

The search for the nursing school’s next dean is under way. Robert Blouin, dean of the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, chairs the search committee.
Adverse weather policy always in effect

With the possibility of tropical storms or hurricanes affecting the Triangle area this time of year, employees should remember that the adverse weather policy is always in effect.

Any time an employee cannot attend work due to a weather-related event, the policy applies. This includes having to stay home to care for a child who could not attend school due to adverse weather.

The Office of Human Resources has complete information on its Web site, hr.unc.edu/hottopics/adverseweather, including resources to determine the University’s current adverse weather condition level, a link to the Public Safety site and access to portions of the SPA and EPA non-faculty adverse weather leave policies.

For details about the University’s current conditions, call the Adverse Weather and Emergency Phone Line, 843-1234, or see the UNC homepage, www.unc.edu, or Alert Carolina, alertcarolina.unc.edu.

Direct questions about the adverse weather policy to your employee and management relations specialist, whom you can find at HR Connect (hrconnect.unc.edu); click on “Adverse Weather Leave.”

ACHIEVING A MILESTONE

After 14 months of intensive study and direct clerical experience, the most recent class of Basic Clerical Skills graduates celebrated their successful completion of the program on Aug. 12. This year’s graduates are, from left, Timothy Williams, Carolina Population Center; Bonnie Wicker, Housekeeping; Angela Jones, Mail Services; and Randall Smith, Carolina Copy. Not pictured are Fernando Cruz, Printing and Duplicating; Jacqueline Holman, Housekeeping; and Jewel Roberts, Housekeeping.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Fall for All, the University’s annual employee appreciation event, will be held Oct. 16 in the Pit and the Great Hall of the Student Union.

The day will include free food, games and entertainment, the Employee Expo and Benefits Fair, and Student Stores discounts. Additional details will be provided soon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Call the Office of Human Resources Employee Services Department at 962-1483 to find out more or to volunteer for the event.

See you there!

NEWS IN BRIEF from page 9

performs the next night in a Klezmer Trio concert with Christina Crowder and Alex Fiterstein at 7:30 p.m. at Gerrard Hall.

Most events, including the Klezmer evenings, are free. www.unc.edu/ccjs/events.html

ART BRINGS GLOBAL EDUCATION BUILDING TO LIFE

The FedEx Global Education Center presents a rotating series of art exhibits this fall, beginning with the Holodomor Art Exhibition, on display throughout the building until Sept. 15.

From Sept. 17 to Sept. 21, the Brushes with Life Art Exhibition will be on view, featuring art loaned by the UNC Neurosciences Hospital’s Brushes with Life STEP Art Gallery.

On Sept. 18 at 5:30 p.m., the premiere screening of the documentary film “Brushes with Life,” by Chapel Hill filmmaker Philip Brubaker, features eight artists with mental illness striving to be recognized as creative talents.

Following the film, a panel discussion of art, mental health and global perspectives will be held. global.unc.edu

DEADLINES TO WATCH

The following items contain time-sensitive dates for submission of applications or nominations:

- The Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative’s Launching the Venture program is accepting applications through Oct. 1 for entrepreneurial faculty, staff and students who want help planning to launch a new business or nonprofit. It is a signature program of the Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative. www.unc.edu/cei/launch.

- Nominations are due Oct. 1 for University Teaching Awards, which recognize outstanding teaching and mentoring. provost.unc.edu/teaching-awards

- The Carolina Women’s Center (CWC) announces a call for nominations for the 2008 Women’s Advocacy Award for substantial contributions to the climate for gender equality on campus. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 3. A link to complete information is located at the bottom of the CWC’s Web site (womenscenter.unc.edu).

- Nominations are open through Oct. 14 for Distinguished Alumnus and Alumna Awards, to be presented at University Day 2009. Complete nominating information is available on the Faculty Governance Web site: snipurl.com/3mnok.

ADDITIONAL LECTURES

- On Sept. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Auditorium of the FedEx Global Building, Mark von Hagen, past president of the International Association for Ukrainian Studies, presents the keynote address for the conference, “The Ukrainian Famine-Genocide: Reflections After 75 Years.” snipurl.com/3o7gr

- On Sept. 18 at 6 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building, Jerrilyn Dodds, City College of CUNY, presents “Hunting in the Borderlands: Castilians and Nasrids Forge Cultural Identities in the Paintings of the Alhambra,” sponsored by the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies.

- On Sept. 22 at 5:30 p.m. in Toy Lounge of Dey Hall, Andrea Berlin, University of Minnesota, presents the Kaplan-Brauer Lecture, “New Light in the Period of the Maccabees: The Excavations at Tel Kedesh.” The talk is hosted by the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

- On Sept. 26 at 2 p.m. in 569 Hamilton Hall, Efraim Lev, University of Haifa, presents “Medieval Pharmacology: Evidence from the Cairo Genizah.” The lecture is sponsored by the Program in Medieval and Early Modern Studies and the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.
 Olympics become a window in the wall for Carolina student

Stay in the moment. That’s the oft-repeated mantra — almost a cliché now — that coaches routinely dispense to their athletes when they are about to face the test of their lives.

Bethany Tuggle’s big moment at the Beijing Olympics sneaked up on her the very first night of the games when she found herself face to face with Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd at the end the women’s basketball game between Australia and Belarus.

Her mission — the equivalent of what would be a gold-medal-like performance as a student reporter for the Olympic News Service — was to get a quote from him.

“I didn’t think I would be able to do it and I was severely nervous because it was the first day,” said Bethany, a junior journalism student at Carolina “I waved at him and said, ‘Mr. Prime Minister,’ and he came right over to me.”

As part of her training, she had been told over and over to avoid controversial questions, and Bethany did. She asked first what he thought about the uniforms the Australian athletes wore for the opening ceremonies.

And then she asked him his plans for the rest of the day.

Rudd looked down at her and said, “I am going over to the cube to watch some Australians beat some American swimmers.” Then, she said, “He patted me on the shoulder and winked.”

Old China Versus New China

Of course, China is by no means a perfect country, and to Tuggle’s amazement, he even met a few Chinese brave enough to admit it aloud, if only in whispers. “There are two types of people in the world,” Tuggle said. “There are the why people and the why not people. I ran into a whole lot of why people, but the why not people stood out.”

The “why people,” for Tuggle, were the rule followers, the people who accepted the wisdom of the old order and followed it without question. The “why not people” belonged mostly to the younger generation, age 25 or younger, who itched for change.

“They didn’t shout it from the rooftops, of course, but in a cab, they would lower their voices just a little bit and say, ‘I hope China would reconsider the one-child policy,’ and then talk about the recent earthquake in which thousands of Chinese children perished.”

Bethany heard the same kind of whispered complaints from the three Chinese girls she befriended. One was Lindsay. Another was Candy, the young woman who worked in the shop where her father bought a beautiful set of white pearls to give his wife. The third girl, Sophia, worked for Olympic News Service.

Coming Home

The night before they left for home, Bethany and her father invited the three women out to dinner. The evening, like all the days in Beijing, ended sooner than they hoped, Bethany said.

After interviewing the prime minister, Bethany got a chance to interview athletes on both the United States’ men’s and women’s basketball teams. Once, she stood directly in front of the 6’8” Lebron James after one game, with some 20 clamoring reporters pushing her from behind.

“I could have asked a question but I was a little intimidated,” Bethany said.

Bethany knows that much of her training at the games is antithetical to the rules of real-world journalism where controversial questions are not skirted and scoops never shared. But the experience proved to be invaluable to her in ways she knows she has yet to fully understand.

Her father returned with a set of pearls to give his wife. Bethany thinks she came home with something even more valuable, something she hopes to carry with her on whatever path she takes.

“Confidence,” she said.  

English in Demand

Bethany was one of 31 Carolina students who traveled to China from July 7 to Aug. 25 to first train and then serve as student reporters for the Olympic News Service at the Beijing Olympic Games.

They were accompanied by journalism professor Charlie Tuggle, who also is Bethany’s father. The students were not only there to learn, Tuggle said, but to provide a vital service.

There are always three “official” languages for the Olympic games. The first is always the language of the host country. The others are English and French, but unofficially, English has always been the favored currency that journalists use to collect and exchange information.

In the past, the host countries had always provided English-speaking interpreters to Olympic News Service to interview athletes and share the quotes they got from them with the international press, Tuggle said. But host countries had never had enough interpreters, and the ones they had were not always able to record “flash quotes” from athletes with the speed and accuracy needed.

And that’s when the International Olympic Committee suggested to the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic games that it use English-speaking journalism students to fill that role. Of the 13 universities that participated, five were from the United States.

A Quest for Perfection

The contingent of students from Carolina ended up staying at Renmin University of China where Bethany befriended a first-year student who, for her guests’ benefit, called herself Lindsay. Lindsay’s job was to tend to their every need, as she fully demonstrated the night one of them developed a stomach virus and needed a hospital.

When they called Lindsay to find out where the nearest clinic was, Lindsay insisted on coming to the student’s room and taking her there. Lindsay had just worked a 12-hour shift, but she insisted on staying with the sick girl at the hospital the entire night, Bethany said.

Tuggle said Lindsay’s dedication reflects the collective pride that China demonstrated throughout the games. Every volunteer, no matter how menial the task, approached it the way a gymnast begins every routine: with the aim of reaching perfection.