Incoming class maintains record of excellence

Within the last week, more than 28,500 students arrived on campus for the start of the academic year. Among them were an expected 3,953 first-year students who joined their peers for weeklong move-in, social and learning activities.

Some 23,000 students vied for places in the first-year class. Of those, 32 percent were admitted, and 54 percent of the admitted students were expected to enroll. These students hail from 97 North Carolina counties, 43 states and the District of Columbia, and 23 other countries.

Their average SAT score for math and critical reading combined was 1302, with 640 of the enrolling North Carolinians scoring 1400 or higher — 43 percent of all the high school seniors statewide who scored at or above this level on the SAT.

Four-fifths of enrolling N.C. residents graduated in the top 10 percent of their high school class, up 6 percent from five years ago; and 41 percent graduated in the top 3 percent, up 8 percent from five years ago.

Carolina enrolled 519 new entering Carolina Covenant Scholars this fall: 428 are entering as first-year students, and 91 as transfer students. The Carolina Covenant provides a debt-free education to qualified low-income students from North Carolina and beyond.

Sadly, the academic year also began with the loss of Carolina student

LITERARY FESTIVAL: ‘A CELEBRATION OF READING AND WRITING’

They are writers of all genres for readers of varying interests and ages and lifestyles. They are both homegrown Tar Heels and those who claim other locales. They know life and death, grace and hardship, and everything from children to politics to basketball.

They comprise the North Carolina Literary Festival, hosted Sept. 10-13 by the University, and their number at last count is 102 authors.

John Grisham, Elizabeth Edwards and Pulitzer Prize-winners Douglas Blackmon, Rick Bragg and Elizabeth Strout are among those who will be featured.

Others will include Will Blythe, who documented the Carolina-Duke basketball rivalry in “To Hate Like This Is to Be Happy Forever”; former North Carolina Poet Laureate Fred Chappell; forensic anthropologist Kathy Reichs and favorite Tar Heel novelists Doris Betts and Clyde Edgerton.

The festival, whose theme is “A Celebration of Reading and Writing,” will include more than author readings and talks across the campus. Exhibits, performances, book signings, sales and children’s activities also will take place, said festival director Amy Baldwin.

“With this lineup of authors, the festival will offer something for everyone,” she said. “With
ON THE WEB

CAROLINA COVENANT WELCOMES MORE SCHOLARS, UNVEILS NEW SITE

Carolina has enrolled 519 new entering Carolina Covenant Scholars this fall as it saw a 22 percent increase in first-year students this year who qualified for need-based financial aid. Read more about the program on its newly designed Web site.

‘PETER’ GAINS 13 POUNDS A DAY

American Indian Center program assistant Randi Byrd and her massive pumpkin, Peter, were featured in a News & Observer story recently in which she spoke about carrying on American Indian traditions and her hopes for winning at the N.C. State Fair in October. The center plans to bring Peter to campus on Oct. 26.

JOHNSTON SPEARHEADS LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT

The work of Robert Johnston, director of the Carolina Vaccine Institute, is featured on the UNC Global Web site for his work as founder and executive director of Global Vaccines, which works to meet basic health-care needs for people around the world.

Thorp says UNC can handle state’s 5 percent holdback

The final budget for 2009–11, which earlier this month the General Assembly approved and Gov. Beverly Perdue signed, means about a 7 percent cut in state funding for Carolina.

“Considering the state’s still uncertain revenue picture and this budget’s impact on other state agencies, legislators treated the UNC system very fairly overall,” Chancellor Holden Thorp said in an Aug. 17 e-mail message to faculty and staff.

Until that revenue picture becomes clear, however, Perdue is taking steps to stretch state resources. And that includes a mixture of good and bad news for state agencies.

Perdue rescinded the emergency budget restrictions for state funds that had been in place since July 24. But she also instructed the Office of State Budget and Management to withhold 5 percent of each state agency’s monthly allotment starting in September.

“When this is another reduction for us to manage, we understand that the governor needs to proceed with caution in this environment,” Thorp said.

Because the University had already enacted a total 10 percent permanent cut for state appropriations effective in July, Thorp said administrators could handle the 5 percent holdback without asking campus units to make additional cuts.

If state revenues continue to decline, though, Perdue could take additional steps that would require more cuts from campus units, Thorp said. “Nevertheless, we are hopeful that our current measures may, in fact, hold us for the fiscal year,” he said.

The University’s priority has been to protect core academic and teaching programs. In fact, administrators limited campus reductions to instructional units to slightly more than 5 percent.

But research centers and institutes, which have been key in attracting federal research grants, have not fared as well. Although they are being cut between 17 percent and 23 percent, campus administrators were braced for...
University issues updated guidance about H1N1 influenza

Usually, the flu takes a hiatus during the summer, but the H1N1 flu has not followed the typical pattern — and that has public health officials concerned.

The virus has continued to circulate worldwide throughout the summer. As the academic year begins and groups of people are in close contact daily, the H1N1 virus has the potential to spread easily. On top of that, flu transmission typically accelerates during the fall and winter.

The combination of these factors increases the likelihood that University students, faculty and staff could be exposed to someone with H1N1, either on or off campus, and contract the illness.

On Aug. 5, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued new guidelines about the best ways to prevent spreading the H1N1 flu. Based on that information, the University developed new recommendations for when students, faculty or staff should stay home from work or school.

The campus e-mail message outlining these recommendations is posted on the Alert Carolina site, alertcarolina.unc.edu/go/doc/1395/281157. The University will continue to provide updated information about H1N1 flu on Alert Carolina based on available data from health officials.

“We hope the University community will take these guidelines seriously,” said Mary Beth Koza, director of environment, health and safety. “It is absolutely essential that people who develop flu-like symptoms seek treatment right away and take every precaution to keep from infecting their classmates, professors and co-workers.”

The best place to get information about the latest government updates is www.flu.gov, Koza said. University officials are closely monitoring the latest developments.

As soon as the University has specific information about the availability and administration of the H1N1 vaccine, now under development, officials will notify the University community, she said. “We are working very closely with Orange County Health Department on this,” Koza said.

Because the vaccines may be released gradually beginning in October, the CDC developed a priority list to focus on immediate immunization for those most vulnerable to this specific flu strain, those most likely to spread the flu and sustaining health-care workers so they can assist the sick in a pandemic.

The most vulnerable groups include younger people (5–24 years of age), pregnant women, health-care personnel and people who have underlying health conditions. Immunizing these groups first will help contain the spread of the flu during the vaccination roll-out period, which may take a few months, Koza said.

The H1N1 vaccine is different from the seasonal flu vaccine. Flu shots for seasonal flu will be available for the University community this fall, as in past years. Specific dates and times for administering the shots will be posted on the environment, health and safety Web site, ehs.unc.edu.

CDC RECOMMENDATIONS

Although H1N1 flu has proven to be relatively mild and responsive to anti-viral drugs, the CDC recommends that everyone take the following actions to stay healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers can be used if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.

The Department of Environment, Health and Safety, www.ehs.unc.edu/healthy/h1n1.shtml, is leading Carolina’s response to the H1N1 flu in collaboration with the UNC Health Care System, UNC General Administration, the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services and the Orange County Department of Public Health.

For additional information about H1N1, refer to Alert Carolina at alertcarolina.unc.edu, the CDC at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu and the United States government site, www.flu.gov.
Hettleman Prize winners span the arts and sciences

Four highly promising professors in diverse fields have been awarded the Phillip and Ruth Hettleman Prizes for Artistic and Scholarly Achievement by Young Faculty.

They are Norman Sharpless, associate professor of medicine and genetics, and Brian Strahl, associate professor of biochemistry and biophysics, both in the School of Medicine; and Andrew Perrin, associate professor of sociology, and Jeff Whetstone, associate professor of art, both in the College of Arts and Sciences. The recipients will be recognized during the Sept. 4 Faculty Council meeting.

The Hettleman Prize, which carries a $5,000 stipend, recognizes the achievements of outstanding junior tenure-track faculty or recently tenured faculty. Phillip Hettleman, who was born in 1899 and grew up in Goldsboro, established the award in 1986. He earned a scholarship to UNC, went to New York and in 1938 founded Hettleman & Co., a Wall Street investment firm.

PERRIN

A faculty member since 2001, Perrin focuses on political sociology, culture and social theory. “His research is truly ground-breaking, drawing on an extraordinarily diverse set of disciplines to understand the constraints and opportunities for American democracy,” said Howard Aldrich, chair of the sociology department, in his nomination letter.

Perrin’s latest book, “Citizen Speak: The Democratic Imagination in American Life,” establishes a link between everyday conversation and political thought. Reviewers called it “a first-rate example of the sociological imagination at work” and “theoretically sophisticated, deftly argued and beautifully written.”

Perrin’s use of diverse methods to answer important sociological questions is impressive, Aldrich said. He collaborates extensively with graduate students to explore the cultural and social roots of American citizenship. In 2004, he received the department’s Rachel Rosenfeld Mentoring Award.

Fluent in German, Perrin translated and published an essay on public opinion by German sociologist Theodor W. Adorno. He is now completing a two-volume translation of Adorno’s work on public opinion, funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also is examining how people use letters to the editor as a way of “doing citizenship.”

SHARPLESS

A noted researcher, clinician and teacher, Sharpless is drawn to finding solutions to intriguing but difficult scientific problems, particularly those applicable to human cancer. His innovative research has included knocking out the p16INK4a gene in mice to demonstrate its role in preventing cancer and determining that expression of p16INK4a accumulates with age and is a biomarker of human aging.

Currently, his research focuses on two “tumor suppressor” pathways that are inactivated in most, if not all, human cancers, and the role of these pathways in aging.

STRahl

The scientist’s accomplishments, charisma and collegiality mark him as a leader in clinical translational science, said Shelton Earp, director of the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, in his nomination letter.

“Ned possesses a great intellect, an ability to get to the heart of the matter, a propensity for hard work and ambition to succeed that strikes the right — not the wrong — note,” Earp said.

Sharpless, who has been at Carolina since 2002, recently was inducted on the first try into the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the nation’s oldest translational research society.

STRahl

As a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Virginia, Strahl established a reputation based on his contributions to the “histone code” hypothesis, a new idea providing insight into the function of chromatin. This work has potential for understanding and treating human disease, because the histone code is thought to regulate the accessibility of genetic information that controls cell growth and disease.

Strahl came to Carolina in 2002. His ability to combine biochemistry, molecular biology and genetics, as well as to incorporate yeast and mammalian cell lines as models, “has enabled him to quickly become a leader in the chromatin/transcription field,” said Leslie Parise, chair of biochemistry and biophysics.

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WHETSTONE

A new hospital doesn’t inherently change the quality of care patients receive, but it can certainly enhance the way care is provided. The new state-of-the-art N.C. Cancer Hospital, scheduled to open next month, is a perfect example.

Not only will it provide sorely needed space to treat the patients who travel to Chapel Hill from across the state for their cancer care, it will bring together the many people who provide patient care and the researchers who work to develop new therapies.

Because cancer treatment relies on a team approach, having a faculty designed with that in mind is vital, oncologists say. Benjamin Calvo, chief of the division of surgical oncology, believes the new hospital will allow physicians to access other specialists quickly in a way that simply isn’t possible in community hospitals and wasn’t possible at UNC until now.

“The N.C. Cancer Hospital gives the University opportunities to generate new knowledge of cancer therapies it never had before,” Calvo said in a video describing cancer care “then and now.”

Five years ago the N.C. General Assembly authorized $180 million to construct the 320,000-square-foot facility, soon to be the home for the UNC Health Care clinical cancer programs and the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. Construction of the new hospital, which is part of the UNC Hospitals complex on Manning Drive, began in 2005. It is designed to treat the growing number of UNC cancer patients, which in the last six years has increased 35 percent and is projected to double by the year 2020.

“People come to UNC from every corner of the state to receive the best cancer care,” said H. Shelton Earp III, Lineberger director, professor of pharmacology and medicine, and Lineberger Professor of Cancer Research.

“The University’s and School of Medicine’s departments and Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center have recruited and trained a stellar group of researchers and clinicians who work together to continually improve care options. The state’s investment in the new N.C. Cancer Hospital will enable these faculty to accelerate discovery of innovative treatments for people in all 100 North Carolina counties and beyond.”

At the end of July, more than 2,500 UNC Health Care employees had a chance to tour the new hospital and pay tribute to a loved one by placing a ribbon that included his or her name on the ribbon wall.

The public is invited to an open house for the N.C. Cancer Hospital on Sept. 26 from 1 to 3 p.m. People will have a chance to tour the new hospital and meet some of the health-care professionals who work there.

As the complexity of care in a disease like cancer increases, so does the need for resources that can keep pace with changes in the field, said Joel Tepper, professor of cancer research, in a “then and now” video. A facility like the N.C. Cancer Hospital provides the necessary space to conduct key research that will benefit patients, he said.

The hospital includes expanded multidisciplinary clinic and research space, specially designed facilities for high-technology tumor assessment imaging and treatment, a 50-bed inpatient unit, a state-of-the-art infusion suite and an environment that emphasizes natural light, indoor courtyards, gardens and public art. Also, teleconferencing facilities will connect University physicians with the state’s community-based physicians as they plan patient treatment.

For information about the hospital, refer to www.nccancerhospital.org. To see videos describing the construction of the N.C. Cancer Hospital and to hear firsthand “then and now” accounts, refer to www.youtube.com/profile?user=uncmedicine&view=videos.
University plans to end workday early Oct. 22 for Thursday night football

On Oct. 22, the University will host its first Thursday night football game in school history when the Tar Heels play the Florida State Seminoles. The nationally televised game, which starts at 8 p.m. in Kenan Stadium, is expected to attract a large crowd of fans — and cars — to campus.

To help ease the anticipated traffic congestion, University officials have decided to change the time at which the workday ends on Oct. 22 from 5 p.m. to 3 p.m.

“We anticipate that employees leaving campus at this earlier time should encounter significantly less inconvenience,” said Brenda Richardson Malone, vice chancellor for human resources.

The Atlantic Coast Conference requires each conference school to play one home football game on a Thursday night. The University has met this obligation in the past by scheduling its “home” game in Charlotte.

This year, Chancellor Holden Thorp requested Carolina’s home game to be scheduled on Oct. 22, the Thursday evening of fall break, so the University could meet its obligation without playing football on an evening that classes were in session — and without requiring people to travel to Charlotte.

Employees who cannot work their regularly scheduled hours on Oct. 22 because of the workday schedule change will have to make up the hours or use available leave, Malone said.

“We have identified several options to allow employees to be paid for those hours without undue hardship,” she said.

“The Office of Human Resources encourages managers and supervisors to be as flexible as possible under these special circumstances.”

**MAKING UP THE TIME**

Options include:
- Employees can work the additional hours during that week, with management’s approval, by coming in early, staying late, working a reduced lunch break or some combination of the above on the other four days in that work week (Oct. 19, 20, 21 and 23);
- Employees can use available flexible furlough hours to cover the leave; or
- Employees can use any accrued compensatory time or their available vacation or bonus leave to cover the hours if they prefer.

Second-shift employees should not be affected by this change in the workday schedule unless they are otherwise notified by their supervisors, human resources officials said.

The football game will not require schedule changes for third-shift employees.

Employees in Facilities Services will receive additional information about work arrangements for Oct. 22.

For additional information on the work schedule change, employees should contact their assigned employee and management relations specialist in the Office of Human Resources (see HR Connect at hrconnect.unc.edu).

The Department of Public Safety will communicate specific parking plans and arrangements closer to the game date.

**HONORS**

**DICK RICHARDSON,** former provost and professor of political science, has received the Rotary International Foundation’s Global Service to Humanity Award for Zone 33, which includes North and South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and Georgia. Richardson was cited in part for his volunteer work with Heifer Project International, which provides 23 kinds of animals to indigent families in 100 countries, for his founding work with World View at UNC and as an advisory board member to Carolina for Kibera.

Author **RUTH MOOSE**, lecturer in the Creative Writing Program, was this year’s honoree for the North Carolina Writers Conference (NCWC), held on July 31 and Aug. 1 in Carthage. Each year the conference honors a North Carolina writer or literary leader during its banquet. Moose was chosen for the NCWC honor for her talents as a writer and long-time teacher and as a leader in the literary community.

The International Council on Active Aging (ICAA), an association that supports professionals who develop wellness and fitness facilities and services for age 50-plus adults, has named **BONITA MARKS**, an associate professor of exercise physiology in the Exercise and Sport Science Department, to the new ICAA Visioning Board. Leaders appointed to the board will drive ICAA 2020, an initiative set up to create a vision for the future of active aging.

**JAVED MOSTAFA,** associate professor at the School of Information and Library Science (SILS) has been appointed a Frances Carroll McColl Term Professor. The SILS-based professorship was established in 1997 to recognize faculty who have made notable contributions to research, teaching and service to SILS. It provides a salary supplement and funds for research and travel to a SILS faculty member for a two-year term.

Thorpe said Bowles’ proposal to modify retreat rights was reasonable, and added that going forward it was important to make sure the best people led the UNC system universities.

Too few people would be willing to take on such demanding jobs, he said, if they were not assured of being able to return to what they are at heart — faculty members.

On Aug. 14, the day after the discussion, the BOG moved to scale back the pay of former N.C. State University Chancellor James Oblinger to $173,000 annually, an amount commensurate with other faculty salaries there. Under an agreement he signed when he resigned earlier this year, Oblinger was to be paid his full administrative salary, $35,000 a month, for six months.
Courtland Smith from Houston, a junior biology major who was serving as president of the UNC chapter of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

“There is nothing worse than losing a young person. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends as they grieve and cope with such a great loss,” said Chancellor Holden Thorp in a message to the campus community on Monday.

The State Bureau of Investigation is investigating the shooting death of Smith in an incident on Interstate 85 involving the Archdale police early Sunday morning.

On Monday, the University had counselors available to talk with members of the Carolina community. Students also were encouraged to visit Counseling and Wellness Services or to contact the Office of the Dean of Students.
Matson focuses on graduate students’ contributions, needs

It has been a year now since Steve Matson took over as dean of the Graduate School—a year of time for friends and colleagues to ask him if he likes the job.

The answer, Matson said, is unequivocally yes. “I have been challenged, which is a positive thing, and I have learned that I like essentially all elements of the job.”

A member of the faculty since 1983 and a former chair of the biology department, Matson is widely respected for his work in the field of genetics and molecular biology.

He now oversees more than 8,000 graduate students in the University’s 66 doctoral and 100 masters programs. Matson said one of his most delightful discoveries is the consistency in excellence.

“I have learned over the past year how good we really are — and how good we are everywhere,” Matson said.

His predecessor, Linda Dykstra, teamed with former University trustee Rusty Carter to shine a light on the needs of graduate students and the vital role they play in driving the University’s research.

Part of his job, Matson said, is to continue to advocate for graduate students and explain their importance to both the University’s teaching and research missions.

“Many people believe graduate students are here to implement the research agenda of a faculty member, and while it may start that way it doesn’t finish that way,” Matson said.

“In that vein, being a graduate student is not unlike an apprenticeship where you are learning from the master, if you will, the craft or trade. Over time, not only do you absorb everything the master has to teach, but you begin to have your own set of ideas, and then ultimately, you become the teacher.”

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

When he took over as dean in July 2008, Matson had no way of knowing that the country was on the cusp of the largest economic downturn since the Great Depression — a financial situation that sent budget cuts rippling through the University.

He is grateful that the Graduate School has been able to absorb the cuts in state funding without laying off employees — and just as importantly to Matson — without “balancing the budget on the backs of our students.”

Two key factors have given the Graduate School some needed help, and Matson is thankful for both: The number of donors to the Graduate School has significantly increased this past year, and Chancellor Holden Thorp established a $2 million grant for a new program called Chancellors Fellows.

The first cohort of 10 or 11 student fellows will arrive on campus this fall and another 10 or 11 students will arrive in fall 2010, Matson said.

Each Chancellor’s Fellow is guaranteed five years of financial support in the form of stipends and tuition assistance. As part of the program, first-year graduate students will be freed from teaching duties to begin work on their doctoral degrees.

Matson would like to see all first-year graduate students have that same opportunity — something for which the school now lacks the resources.

Another financial challenge, Matson said, was erasing the significant deficit in the tuition remission budget he inherited.

Tuition remission is funding for out-of-state graduate students that pays the difference between in-state and out-of-state tuition. It is a major recruitment tool to attract the most talented students from all 50 states and around the world, he said.

With the support of the Office of the Provost and the Budget Committee, which allocates discretionary funding to meet University priorities, Matson was able to lift tuition remissions out of the red.

He instituted a structural change in the fund distribution beginning this fall. Instead of offering tuition remission to all qualified students whose departments request it, each department will receive a set amount of money to offer its students. Matson hopes this allocation system is temporary and that the Graduate School will be able to support all tuition remission requests when the economic climate improves and resources increase.

FEELING CONNECTED

Matson also is focusing on helping graduate students overcome the sense of isolation they all too often feel, both within the graduate community and the broader University community.

The Graduate Student Center, which opened about two years ago, is one place they can go for social activities and professional development activities.

Similarly, several years ago the Office of Undergraduate Research started a program called Graduate Research Consultants to build a bridge between graduate students and undergraduates. The graduate student consultants work in the classroom to help undergraduates with their research projects.

Another long-standing program, the Royster Society of Fellows, was launched in 1996 as the graduate-level equivalent of the Morehead-Cain Scholars program for undergraduates. Named in honor of Thomas S. Royster Jr. and Caroline H. Royster, the program is designed to broaden students’ intellectual horizons and develop their leadership skills.

See MATSON page 11

HETTLEMAN from page 4

His accomplishments, creativity and collaborative approach to research have earned Strahl acclaim at the national level.

In 2004, he received an award from the Pew Scholars Program in the Biomedical Sciences, and recently he received a prestigious Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers. This year, he received a EUREKA award from the National Institutes for Health for “exceptionally innovative research projects that could have an extraordinarily significant impact on many areas of science.”

WHETSTONE

A noted artist-photographer who has been on the Carolina faculty since 2001, Whetstone draws on his background in zoology and photography to photograph and write about the human relationship to the land — something his art has reflected for nearly two decades.

“Clearly Jeff Whetstone is a rising star,” said Mary Sheriff, chair of the art department, in her nominating letter.

Whetstone has broad experience as a documentarian, although his recent work includes a “more poetic and profound interrogation of his subjects, often blurring the distinction between natural and cultural formations as well as that between objective rendering and subjective expression,” Sheriff said.

Much of Whetstone’s art explores the nature and culture of the Southeast. For example, he uses images of humans and animals to examine what constitutes wilderness.

As a result, viewers are engaged both intellectually and emotionally, Sheriff said. Whetstone’s newest project, Post-Pleistocene, depicts modern cave art of the Southeast’s Cumberland Plateau region.

Named a Guggenheim Fellow in 2007, the “biologist at heart” traveled through North America photographing what he called the “nascent wilderness all around us.”

Steve Matson, dean of the Graduate School, poses near the fountain in front of Bynum Hall, the school’s home.
UPCOMING LECTURES

- On Sept. 1, Western Kentucky University communication professor Carl Kell will discuss Southern Baptists and race relations at the Hill Alumni Center. His free public lecture, “Build the Wall … Save the Castle: Southern Baptists and Race Relations,” is one of the James A. Hutchins Lectures presented by the Center for the Study of the American South with support from the General Alumni Association. The talk begins at 4 p.m. For information, call 962-5665 or see www.uncsouth.org.

- Diana Lipton, lecturer in Hebrew Bible and Jewish Studies at King’s College in London, will give a talk titled “And We Were Together: Solomon’s Window on Two Biblical Viewpoints” on Sept. 1 at 5 p.m. in Hyde Hall. It is sponsored by the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies.

- On Sept. 8 at 5:30 p.m., collage artist Aldwyth, whose retrospective has been on view since May at the Ackland Art Museum, will speak about her work in a free public lecture, part of the Hanes Visiting Artist Lecture Series. Her presentation will be in the Hanes Art Center auditorium.

- Geza Vermes, emeritus professor of Jewish Studies at Oxford University, will give the Eli N. Evans Distinguished Lecture in Jewish Studies on Sept. 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Friday Center. His talk is titled “Sixty Years of Wrestling with the Dead Sea Scrolls.” www.unc.edu/ccjs/events.html

- On Sept. 17, James A. Joseph, Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Studies at Duke University and former U.S. ambassador to South Africa, will give the Thomas Willis Lambeth Lecture in Public Policy: “Remaking America: Higher Education and Civic Engagement.” Free and open to the public, it will be held at 5:30 p.m. in Gerrard Hall. A reception follows.

- Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine Oliver Smithies will lead the semester’s first Carolina Innovations Seminar on Sept. 3 with his talk, “A Nobel Laureate’s Perspective on the Global Impact of Evolving Research Methodologies.” Sponsored by the Office of Technology Development, the event will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in 014 Sitterson Hall. snipurl.com/eea30

TRANSIT NEWS

A new trial bus route serving Chatham County, UNC, Chapel Hill and Carrboro went into service Aug. 24. Carolina and UNC Health Care employees with addresses within the route area are eligible for free passes by registering with the Commuter Alternative Program and requesting the Chatham bus pass. See snipurl.com/qjgg9.

In addition, as the new school year has begun, visit the Department of Public Safety’s Web site (snipurl.com/qjgg9) to review changes made to parking and bus routes over the summer. For information on Triangle Transit, call 485-RIDE or see triangletransit.org.

AN AMERICAN INDIAN WELCOME

On Aug. 27 at 5:30 p.m. the American Indian Center will host a Welcome Extravaganza on the lawn of Abernethy Hall. Live music and dancing will be performed by drum groups and intertribal dancers. American Indian student organizations will provide information about their activities, as well as the offices of diversity and multicultural affairs and Student Academic Counseling.

‘FROM CAROLINA BLUE TO CAROLINA GREEN’

Have you recognized ways to cut costs, increase environmental sustainability or reduce resource consumption within your department or somewhere else on campus?

The University Management Development Program’s “From Carolina Blue to Carolina Green Team” is sponsoring a contest for permanent faculty and staff to submit innovative, practical and creative solutions to help make UNC a little more green. All ideas, regardless of scale, are welcome, but preference will be given to those ideas that are achievable in a short period of time and are reasonably inexpensive to implement. Winners will be selected and announced in late fall, and the best ideas will be presented to administrators at the University.

Send submissions by Oct. 15 to CarolinaBlueToCarolinaGreen@unc.edu. Include name, e-mail address, phone number, department, job title and brief summary of ideas.

PROCESS SERIES KICKS OFF SEPT. 4

“Afterimages of the Disappeared,” a one-woman performance about the Dirty War in Argentina from 1976 to 1983 in which nine members of one woman’s family were killed by the Argentine military, is the first show in this year’s Process Series.

The series, which began last year, is a collaboration among University units including the departments of dramatic art and communication studies. Works are performed free of charge and discussed afterward by their authors and audience members.

All performances will be held in Gerrard Hall. “Afterimages of the Disappeared” will be performed at 8 p.m. on Sept. 4 and Sept. 5.

To learn more about the series, see uncnews.unc.edu/content/view/2777/66 or contact Joseph Megel, UNC artist-in-residence and the series director (843-7067 or megel@email.unc.edu).

ENTER GLOBAL PHOTO EXHIBIT

Entries are due by Sept. 18 for the Center for Global Initiatives’ 10th Annual International Photography
FALL EVENTS AT STONE CENTER
A Grammy-nominated Afro-Puerto Rican ensemble and an art exhibition featuring the latest work of a Moroccan-born artist will be among the fall programs at the Stone Center.

The center also will host international visiting fellows Sept. 4–11 from the Instituto Universitario de Barlovento of Venezuela for a weeklong residency that will include meetings on a proposed study-abroad program.

On Sept. 16, as part of the center’s ongoing Diaspora Festival Competition. Open to all faculty, staff, students and alumni, entries will be judged on artistic merit and their representation of a cross-cultural or international experience. snipurl.com/q2Z6n

LIBRARY EXHIBITS COMPLEMENT LITERARY FESTIVAL
Three free, public exhibits in the Wilson Special Collections Library will add historic depth to the North Carolina Literary Festival.

- “Four from between the Wars: Paul Green, Thomas Wolfe, Robert Ruark and Walker Percy,” on view in the Melba Remig Saltarelli Exhibit Room through Sept. 30, examines the lives and legacies of four literary alumni. Approximately 75 historic photographs, rare printed items and original documents illuminate the development of these students into some of the South’s best-known writers of the 20th century.

- “Author to Author: Literary Letters from the Southern Historical Collection” illuminates ties within the community of Southern writers during much of the 20th century. On view through Sept. 30 on the 4th floor of Wilson Library will be original letters by authors including Clyde Edgerton, Gail Godwin, Langston Hughes and Jill McCordle, as well as additional materials related to authors featured in “Four from between the Wars.”

- “Consecrated to the Common Good: 100 Years of Journalism Education at UNC-Chapel Hill” will open Sept. 9 in the North Carolina Collection Gallery. On view will be items related to famous alumni including Charles Kurault and Jeff MacNelly, as well as the history of journalism education at UNC as told through documents, publications and photographs. The exhibit will remain open through Jan. 31, 2010, in conjunction with celebrations planned by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication. library.unc.edu/Wilson

‘LATINO PORTRAIT’ PROJECT SOLICITS VIDEOS
The 2009 Latin American Film Festival invites members of the local and University communities to submit videos for the “Latino Portrait” project. Videos, no more than five minutes long, should be submitted by Oct. 15.

Selected videos will be screened during the film festival, which will take place in November, and will become part of the collection of the Consortium in Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Carolina and Duke.

In addition, some may be broadcast on local television. latinfilmfestivalunc.com

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS
Next issue includes events from Sept. 17 to Sept. 30. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Fri., Sept. 4. E-mail gazette@unc.edu. Fax: 843-5966; clearly mark for the Gazette. Campus Box® 6205. The Gazette events page includes only items of general interest geared toward a broad audience. For complete listings of events, including athletics, see the Carolina Events Calendars at www.unc.edu/events.

library.unc.edu/Wilson
STATE BUDGET AFFECTS TUITION WAIVER POLICY

The state budget approved by legislators earlier this month included a change to the UNC system’s tuition waiver policy, reducing the number of free courses a full-time faculty or staff member may take per academic year from three to two. This change is retroactive to July 1 and goes into effect for the 2009-10 academic year.

The deadline to request a tuition waiver for fall 2009 is Aug. 31. An updated version of the tuition waiver request form is available at hr.unc.edu/Data/benefits/tuitionprograms/tuitionwaiver.

Tuition waiver deadlines may vary from institution to institution. Employees are responsible for knowing the deadline applicable to the institution at which they are enrolled.

For additional information, contact Benefits Services at 962-3071 or benefits@unc.edu.

WEIGHT WATCHERS AT WORK HOLDS OPEN HOUSE ON SEPT. 4

People who are looking to make some positive health changes can check out the next series of Weight Watchers at Work and join the current “At Work” members, who have lost more than 900 pounds in the past 19 months.

Weight Watchers’ new Momentum program focuses on losing weight and keeping it off by learning to choose food that keeps you feeling full longer so you don’t eat for the wrong reasons. Meetings include practical strategies to help you reach your goals, comprehensive step-by-step plan materials and guidance from trained leaders who have lost weight with Weight Watchers and have kept it off.

To join the next 12-week series or get more information, come to the Weight Watchers open house on Sept. 4 at 11:30 a.m. at the Administrative Office Building, 104 Airport Dr. For more information about cost, program features and start times, contact benefits@unc.edu.

REGISTER FOR BASIC CLERICAL SKILLS PROGRAM FALL BOOT CAMP

Sessions for the fall Clerical Assistant Boot Camp, the first phase of the Basic Clerical Skills program offered by the Office of Human Resources, are about to begin. Employees must complete the boot camp before they apply to the clerical skills program.

The boot camp gives participants an opportunity to begin learning the basic functions and activities of an office environment and helps them determine if a clerical position is their desired career path.

Sessions will be held Tuesdays and Thursdays between Sept. 1 and Oct. 13, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Orange County Skills Development Center on Franklin Street. Participating in this program is considered work time.

To register or ask questions, call Training & Development at 962-2550.

Cone to help foster innovation, entrepreneurship

Judith Cone, vice president of emerging strategies for the Kauffman Foundation, has been appointed special assistant for innovation and entrepreneurship at Carolina. Her appointment is temporary, up to 18 months.

“Our goal is to develop strategies that foster innovation and entrepreneurship in all aspects of the University’s mission, and I can’t imagine a better person to help lead that effort,” Chancellor Holden Thorp said in announcing Cone’s role.

At Kauffman, Cone developed many of the foundation’s signature entrepreneurship initiatives, including the Kauffman Campuses Initiative through which the University’s Carolina Entrepreneurial Initiative was created.

FOR THE RECORD

A story in the Aug. 12 Gazette included errors about Connie Bullock, one of the public safety officers who talked about personal safety at the Aug. 5 Employee Forum meeting. He is support services captain in the Department of Public Safety.
poets to novelists and genres ranging from thrillers and memoirs to romance and award-winning literature, the festival will be a landmark event for the Triangle that no one will want to miss.”

All events are free and open to the public.

The libraries of UNC and Duke and N.C. State universities, with additional support from N.C. Central University, organize and sponsor the festival, whose location rotates biennially among the Carolina, Duke and NCSU campuses. Since the festival began, it has been held in 1998 and 2002 at Carolina, 2004 at NCSU and 2006 at Duke. The festival is supported by private gifts and grants.

By the time Sept. 10 rolls around, the festival will already have been in full swing across the state for some writers. On Aug. 22, authors Charles F. Price and Daniel Wallace brought the festival to Pack Memorial Library in Asheville and the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington, respectively, and participated in reading and discussion programs for residents in those cities.

Also scheduled to participate in the extended festival are Alan Gurganus (Sheppard Memorial Library in Greenville -- Aug. 25), P.T. Deutermann (Cumberland County Library in Fayetteville -- Sept. 1), Joan Medlicott (Patrick Beaver Memorial Library in Hickory -- Sept. 1) and Randall Kenan (Forsyth County Public Library in Winston-Salem -- Sept. 8).

INDEX OF EVENTS

The festival Web site, including the Frequently Asked Questions page, is the best source of information (www.ncliteraryfestival.org). While all sessions are free of charge, some do require tickets to reserve seats.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

- John Grisham and Kathy Reichs -- Sept. 10, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall: “From Reality to Fiction.” Grisham and Reichs discuss how their professional careers as a lawyer and a forensic anthropologist, respectively, have influenced their stories and writing. Requires tickets.
- Anna DeVereaux Smith -- Sept. 11, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall: “Finding Grace and Kindness in a Winner Take All Society.” Smith presents the Frank Porter Graham Lecture with commentary and performance based on people she has interviewed on the topic of grace in the face of hardship.
- Elizabeth Strout -- Sept. 12, 5:30 p.m., Memorial Hall. Strout reads from and discusses her Pulitzer Prize-winning book “Olive Kitteridge.” Requires tickets.

PERFORMANCES


through discussions with other fellows, presentations and outreach.

Thanks to the Roysters’ ongoing generosity, Matson said, the Graduate School has created a Royster professorship, the school’s first chaired professorship. This faculty member will serve as the Royster fellows’ director and provide leadership and mentoring for this interdisciplinary group of graduate students, now numbering more than 100 fellows each year.

Matson has not given up his role as a biology professor despite his wife’s good-natured complaints about not seeing him much during the past year because of his two full-time jobs. But Matson sees keeping his old job as a requirement for being able to do his new one well.

“Research is what I was trained to do and is something I would really miss if I wasn’t doing it,” Matson said. “But beyond that, I think it helps make me a credible administrator – somebody who actually knows what graduate education is all about.”
Johnson leads effort to take kids ‘from the STREETS to the SUITES’

Let’s go, Mommy!

First grader D’erica Cotton tugs on Felicia Harper’s hand, eager to begin her first day at Union Independent School in Durham. It is Aug. 19, the long-awaited opening day of the free private school for the children of economically distressed northeast-central Durham.

Nearly 70 little ones arrive in new uniforms: dark blue pants or skirts and neckties with pale yellow shirts — to which some parents have added matching blue and yellow hair ribbons or beads and lacy yellow socks.

Two men in dark GQ suits, both beaming, tower above the deluge of energetic kindergarten through second-graders. They are giants in more ways than by comparison to the munchkin-high youngsters scurrying about their knees.

Eight years ago, the idea for the school took hold of Rev. Kenneth Hammond of Union Baptist Church on North Roxboro Street in Durham and James H. Johnson Jr., the William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Strategy and Entrepreneurship at the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

Union Independent was created in a collaboration between the church and Johnson’s Urban Investment Strategies Center at the Frank Hawkins Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise. The institute is an arm of the business school that seeks to apply University resources and brainpower to real-world issues. Union Baptist raised $2 million and borrowed $8 million to buy land across the street and construct the 49,000-square-foot building.

Johnson, a member of Union Baptist, designed an operating model for the school that adds special elements to the North Carolina standard course of study: nutrition education, character development, entrepreneurship, global awareness and economic literacy. The school will operate year-round from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, to provide extra tutoring and enrichment as much as to keep kids off the streets.

During the extended-day program, students will learn about poetry and practice writing, grammar and public speaking. They also will play outside in secured playgrounds or inside the school’s full-size gym. During the traditional school day, they’ll study language arts, math, science, social studies, theater and Spanish.

“The goal is to have them bilingual by eighth grade,” said Head of School Troy K. Weaver.

All this takes place in a community where drug deals and gang activity are common. Half of all households are headed by single females, 98 percent of residents are minorities and 40 percent of the children live in households with incomes below the federal poverty level.

“From the streets to the suites” is where Johnson hopes Union Independent will take them. The school will add a new kindergarten class and another grade every year until it teaches students through the eighth grade. Eventually, Johnson and Hammond believe, the facility can also be used for health care, fitness, healthy cooking classes and more for adults in the area.

“Maybe people will change,” Harper said. “It’s wonderful to see a vision coming into focus,” said Johnson, who has brought to bear his years of research on urban areas, inequality and underprivileged youth to design the operating model.

“There’s no better experience than to see young, excited kids coming to this school. Their job is to be excited. Our job is to maintain it. We have a talented staff committed to making sure these kids get to where they need to go.”

Johnson grew up poor in Eastern North Carolina. He earned a doctorate in geography at age 26 and went on to teach at UCLA, studying urban poverty and how to build bridges between academic research and social action — between the haves and the have-nots.

At Kenan-Flagler, Johnson teaches courses on entrepreneurial and business-oriented strategies and approaches to poverty alleviation, job creation and community economic development.

“There are pressing social problems we should be addressing, and I had to do something,” he told Fast Company magazine in a 2007 story (www.fastcompany.com/magazine/38/johnson.html). “I’ve always believed I was put on this Earth to make a difference.”

Soon after coming to Carolina in 1992, Johnson got to know the late Frank Hawkins Kenan, then chair of the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust.

“One of the first times we met, he talked about how kids from the inner city needed something other than drug dealing and basketball,” Johnson said.

Their collaboration produced the Durham Scholars Program for kids in northeast-central Durham, an after-school, weekend and summer tutoring and enrichment program for sixth- through 12th-graders, housed at Union Baptist.

Since 1996, there have been 240 Durham Scholars. Eighty percent of the students graduated from high school, and half went to college. Each graduate qualified for a $10,000 college scholarship from the Kenan Trust, which committed some $10 million to the program.

Durham Scholars taught Johnson and Hammond a great deal about working with underprivileged children. “We needed intervention that began much earlier,” said Hammond.

Now, budding new friendships blend with fun, learning and discipline from day one at Union Independent.

“When we are outside our classroom, we need to be in one line,” second-grade teacher Villa Gaddy tells her class. “We should be still and our hands should be down at our sides.” Everyone must face forward before the line can move.

After lunch, second-grader Madison Kelly high-fives with Weaver. “Guess what?” she said. “I’m having a great day today.”

For more information about Union Independent School, refer to www.unionis.org/. For additional information about Johnson, refer to snipurl.com/qos5ig.