House budget could call for 11% cuts to UNC system

House members are still hammering out the final details of a proposed state budget for next fiscal year, but it is likely to be $2 billion leaner than the $20 billion budgets the Senate approved and Gov. Beverly Perdue proposed last month.

The expected $2 billion reduction reflects a sobering fact: What was estimated in April to be a daunting $3 billion budget shortfall for the 2009–10 fiscal year is now projected at nearly $5 billion.

The full impact that a shortfall of that magnitude could have on students from kindergarten to grad school became clearer last Thursday when the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education released its preliminary biennial budget for the 2009–10 and 2010–11 fiscal years, said Dwayne Pinkney, the University’s assistant vice chancellor for finance and administration who is keeping a close eye on budget developments.

The subcommittee’s preliminary budget calls for no tax increases and 11 percent budget cuts that would be applied evenly throughout K–12 public schools, the state community college system and the UNC system.

Under the House’s proposal, the UNC system would face a $337 million reduction, which equates to an 11.1 percent cut, Pinkney said. In addition, the proposal would impose an across-the-board tuition increase of $256 for all students.
Soloway, noted history scholar, UNC administrator dies May 11

British social history scholar Richard Allen Soloway, Eugen Meezrach Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus, died May 11 of metastatic melanoma.

In his 41 years of teaching at Carolina, Soloway also served as chair of the history department, senior associate dean for the social and behavioral sciences and interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Known for his contagious enthusiasm for British history, Soloway was deeply committed to excellence in higher education and personal integrity in public service. He was an avid art collector, an amateur musician, a baseball fan, gardener and competitive sailor.

A native of Boston, he majored in journalism at the University of Iowa, worked as a stringer for the Associated Press and became editor of the Daily Iowan. A skilled pilot, he served as a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps. He recently returned to flying by way of highly detailed computer simulators.

In 1960 Soloway completed his doctorate in European history at the University of Wisconsin and was called to active duty in the Air Force, where he served as an instructor and pilot at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. In 1962 he joined the University of Michigan faculty and in 1968 was recruited to Carolina’s history department.

Soloway’s published work in his primary teaching and research concentration — the history of eugenics, birth control and population change in the late 19th and 20th centuries — includes two books, “Birth Control and the Population Question in England, 1877–1930” and “Demography and Degeneration: Eugenics and the Declining Birthrate in Twentieth-Century Britain.”

Memorial donations may be designated to the Richard A. Soloway Fund in the Program in the Humanities and Human Values. For information, refer to www.unc.edu/depts/human/index.shtml, or call 962-4388.

ON THE WEB

VOLUNTEER, MEET FAMOUS AUTHORS
The 2009 N.C. Literary Festival is hosted by UNC this year, Sept. 10-13, and volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. Check out the festival Web site and click on Volunteers to sign up for the times and tasks that best suit your skills. You never know what authors you might get to meet.

GOOGLE TALK ON VIDEO
The School of Information and Library Science posted its Kilgour lecture on UNC’s YouTube channel. Pamela Samuelson, professor at UC Berkeley, gave the talk on the Google book search settlement which would end the litigation by publishers and authors against Google’s massive book scanning and indexing project.

CAROLINA GREEN
With dozens of “green” programs in academics, research, engagement and campus operations, Carolina is at the forefront of the worldwide movement toward a more sustainable future. The Carolina Green Web site features an online directory of green resources to help everyone have a greener impact on the world.

Four honored by alumni association for distinguished service

The General Alumni Association honored a top Carolina administrator and three alumni during commencement weekend for outstanding service to the University and to the association. Recipients of the 2009 Distinguished Service Medals were Dwight M. “Davy” Davidson, past chair of the alumni association board; Fred N. Eshelman, a major supporter of the pharmacy school; Bernadette Gray-Little, UNC executive vice chancellor and provost; and James H. “Jim” Winston, who helped establish the College of Arts and Sciences’ first overseas facility. The association has awarded the medals since 1978.

DAVIDSON
Davidson, from Greensboro, is president of Engineered Plastics. A 1977 UNC graduate, he has served on the University’s Board of Visitors and advised the UNC Foundation Investment Fund.

He was on the chancellor search committee that recommended Holden Thorp as the University’s 10th chancellor. Davidson has served on the alumni association board in several roles, including assistant treasurer and most recently, board chair, in 2007–08.

ESHELMAN
Eshelman is a native of High Point, a 1972 Carolina graduate and president of pharmaceutical company PPD Inc. In 2008, the Eshelman School of Pharmacy was renamed in his honor.

He has been a member of the school’s board of visitors and an adjunct faculty member. Eshelman’s total contributions to the school amount to about $33 million, supporting cancer research, educational initiatives and research facilities as well as fellowships, professorships, doctor of pharmacy scholarships and funds for new initiatives.

GRAY-LITTLE
Gray-Little, a native of Washington, N.C., has served as executive vice chancellor and provost since 2006. Also a professor of psychology, she joined the faculty
Students to study language and history in Cherokee Nation this summer

Students to study language and history in Cherokee Nation this summer

Turning trash into cash makes lots of cents

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Turning trash into cash makes lots of cents

The mountain of items left behind last month by students as they moved out of residence halls became cash for worthy causes.

Tar Heel Treasure, the University-sponsored community yard sale held May 16, raised $10,000 and diverted 14.5 tons of material — the equivalent of 44 dumpsters — from the landfill (see chart at right). Items sold included futons, refrigerators, televisions, clothes and shoes, microwaves, and school and office supplies.

Proceeds will benefit the Eve Marie Carson Scholarship Fund, which supports leadership development in outstanding Carolina students who have strong records of engagement and achievement.

Items that remained at the end of the sale were donated to the N.C. Children’s Hospital, which raises money through the N.C. Children’s Partnership. The partnership purchased the items in bulk for resale.

After expenses, Tar Heel Treasure generated $7,000 for the scholarship fund and an estimated $1,000 for the children’s hospital, and it included vouchers provided in advance to the Inter-Faith Council to give to families in need to purchase clothes and household items.

“Since this was the first time we tried something like this, we didn’t know what to expect, and it was extremely gratifying to see 250 people waiting at the gate by 7:30 a.m. the day of the sale,” said Larry Hicks, director of housing and residential education.

The University and local communities worked together to make the sale a success, he said. Several hundred volunteers moved items from more than 16 donation stations to the sale site, sorted nearly 265 cubic yards of sale items, worked during the sale and cleaned up afterward.

“We have some improvements in mind for next year’s sale, but overall, we’re very pleased with our first shot at this,” Hicks said.

For information about Tar Heel Treasure, including photos of the sale, refer to tarheeltreasure.unc.edu.

MATERIAL | WEIGHT (IN TONS)
--- | ---
Furniture | 8.5
Clothing/shoes | 2.8
Athletic shoes | 1.1
Food | 0.8
Text books | 0.7
Office supplies | 0.3
Appliances | 0.2
Computer-related items | 0.1
Sustainable businesses aim beyond the bottom line

Powerful winds and an audacious dream once lured the Wright brothers to the beaches of Kitty Hawk to find out if the winged motorized contraption they brought from Dayton could really fly.

More than a century later, another dreamer has come to North Carolina to harness the wind and test how far his idea might go.

The inventor is Rob Creighton. His Durham company is Windlift.

His contraption is mounted on a truck and uses the aerodynamics of a kite to capture the wind’s energy and convert it into electricity.

Creighton plans to develop and market the device to power irrigation systems in remote regions of developing countries, far beyond the reach of a conventional electrical grid.

His idea, for example, has the potential to benefit small farmers in rural India who rely upon costly, high-polluting diesel-powered engines to power irrigation pumps.

But Creighton understands that he will need more than strong coastal winds to launch and propel his company to the far side of the globe. This is one reason he has sought support from BASE, UNC’s Business Accelerator for Sustainable Entrepreneurship, a program of the Center for Sustainable Enterprise at the Kenan-Flagler Business School.

A COMMON IDEAL

In January, Creighton and 20 others were selected for BASE’s first class of North Carolina entrepreneurs.

Another member company, Eastern Carolina Organics, has a mission to increase the supply of high-quality, local organic produce to regional and national buyers.

The Health Challenge uses social networking and mobile technologies to create a tracking, accountability and networking tool to improve health practices.

Showpiece Enterprises provides tradeshows displays, traveling exhibits, point-of-purchase displays and museum exhibits made from environmentally sustainable materials.

And Rain Water Solutions aims to sell rainwater-harvesting equipment to promote sustainable, socially responsible business practices.

Their ideas vary widely, but Jessica Thomas, BASE program manager, said all the entrepreneurs are driven by a common ideal: to build socially and environmentally sustainable businesses with objectives that go beyond the traditional bottom line.

Thomas, who studied other business incubators and built BASE from the ground up, believes it is the first incubator to specifically support businesses that answer to what she calls a “triple bottom line” — social equity, ecological integrity and financial profitability. They also are known as the three Ps: people, the planet and profit.

A sustainable business needs to be geared toward turning a profit and helping people without hurting the planet, she said.

Thomas wants to integrate sustainability into the core culture of the entire business school, much as leadership development has become fundamental to the school’s philosophy.

“I see a connection between leadership and sustainability,” Thomas said. “What has happened in the international economy and financial markets is a failure of leadership. In many cases, business schools have miseducated a whole generation of MBAs to focus on short-term and financially specific outcomes.

“Over the last 10 years, the Center for Sustainable Enterprise has worked to integrate sustainability into the core culture at Kenan-Flagler so that students learn about the triple bottom line and are equipped to incorporate those principles into their post-MBA careers.”

WINDLIFT PROTOTYPE

The original prototype for the wind-powered system, Creighton said, relied on an old swing set with a hockey stick as a rudder to fly the massive kite. He used those materials because he had no money as a graduate student and had to use whatever he could find.

Creighton and his wife moved from Madison, Wisc., to the Triangle area last June — to begin her residency at Duke University’s medical school, he to push forward with a company he formed with $100,000 in seed money he earned in a business plan competition while he worked on his MBA at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

They chose their location so both could continue with the next stage of their careers.

What Creighton saw in the Triangle was a culture of entrepreneurship spawned by the presence of three major research universities.

He also saw what the Wright brothers saw a century before: easy access to a windy coastline to try out his latest prototype.

Creighton conducted his first experiments last fall in Salvo, a town on the Outer Banks south of Kitty Hawk.

Creighton said the biggest obstacle to making his company viable is finding the capital to develop a system that could be sold in developing countries where the small amounts of electricity it produced would have the greatest impact on improving people’s lives. The system would have to be portable and affordable as well as dependable and simple to operate and maintain.

When he moved from Madison, Creighton learned quickly how much he had relied upon the network of friends developed during 12 years there. Friends included lawyers, engineers and accountants who were more than happy to provide free advice or help.

But when he had conversations about his business with people here, “they sent me a bill.” That is why being part of BASE has meant so much to him, Creighton said. In many ways, it has replaced his former network through a more formalized system of support.

BASE RESOURCES

In addition to customized business development expertise, BASE also offers workshops and training programs, information resources, networking and funding opportunities, pro bono business development resources and mentorship, Thomas said.

Just as importantly, Creighton said, the people at BASE are motivated by the same set of shared values to start businesses that can make a difference in the world in ways and places not yet imagined.

For information about Windlift, refer to www.windlift.biz.

To see a video of Creighton flying his device, refer to snipurl.com/isszr.

To learn more about other companies BASE is helping, refer to snipurl.com/isszr.
Mary Campbell, right, department manager for Marine Sciences, is the winner of the University Managers Association’s (UMA) 2009 Manager of the Year Award, and Theresa Stone-Phillips, left, department manager for the Department of Philosophy, is winner of the 2009 Outstanding Encouragement of Learning and Development Award (OELD), given by the Office of Human Resources.

Both honors were presented at UMA’s annual meeting on May 20 in Dey Hall’s Toy Lounge. Guest speaker was N.C. Central University Chancellor Charlie Nelms.

CAMPBELL

According to her award nomination, Campbell “doesn’t come to work to do a job, she comes to make things happen, to help others succeed, and to make the University a better place for students, staff and faculty alike.”

Her work skills — including her “initiative, organization and ability to work with the wide range of people at UNC” — were cited as major contributors to fulfilling the mission of Marine Sciences.

“All though our students and faculty carry out a significant portion of their research within North Carolina, we also work in remote corners of the world where the sun doesn’t set, the power doesn’t work and the time zones are very different,” the citation said. “We often need information, assistance and help dealing with bureaucracy, and Mary is the one we turn to so that our research, teaching and outreach activities keep running smoothly.”

STONE-PHILLIPS

As winner of the OELD award, Stone-Phillips was described as “an example of what a manager can do without the use of money or tangible resources, yet making a major impact on the development and lives of the staff.”

Her nominating materials described her as “an extraordinarily capable administrator. She has wrought a dramatic transformation, demonstrating every day that warmth and friendliness can not only coexist with tremendous efficiency but contribute to it.”

In particular, Stone-Phillips’ open and supportive supervision was noted, as well as her strong support of education and training. “She has always encouraged her staff to take advantage of the tuition waiver, allowing us to rearrange our work schedules, which in turn allows us the flexibility to take classes. She has also urged us to take advantage of any professional development workshops available through the HR Web site. It’s an important reason why I love working at UNC and in this department.”

HONORS

Mary Campbell, right, department manager for Marine Sciences, is the winner of the University Managers Association’s (UMA) 2009 Manager of the Year Award, and Theresa Stone-Phillips, left, department manager for the Department of Philosophy, is winner of the 2009 Outstanding Encouragement of Learning and Development Award (OELD), given by the Office of Human Resources.

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The Department of Music is in the unprecedented position of having two of its professors serving simultaneously as editors of two of the official journals of prestigious music societies. ANNEGRET FAUSER, professor of music, has been selected to serve as editor-in-chief of the Journal of the American Musicological Society. She begins her three-year term in January 2010. SEVERINE NEFF, Eugene H. Falk Distinguished Professor of Music, now serves as editor-in-chief of the Society for Music Theory’s publication, Music Theory Spectrum. She is the first female editor of the journal.

JEFF DANGL, John N. Couch Professor of Biology, has won two awards for his pioneering work in plant biology. He received the 2009 Stephen Hales Prize from the American Society of Plant Biologists as well as the 2009 award from the International Society for Molecular Plant-Microbe Interactions.

GREG MEARS, associate professor in the School of Medicine’s emergency medicine department, has been named one of the top 10 innovators in emergency medical services for 2008 by the Journal of Emergency Medical Services. The journal selected Mears, who is also medical director of the North Carolina Office of Emergency Medical Services, for his work in developing and obtaining grants for statewide EMS data systems.

JEFFERY BEAM, assistant to the biology librarian in the Biology/Chemistry Library and poet and poetry editor of Oyster Bay Review, recently received a finalist award in the Nazim Hikmet Poetry festival at N.C. State University for his poem “Immolation/Resurrection” from his work-in-progress “The Life of the Bee.”

The SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK on April 29 received the University’s 2009 Diversity Award for efforts to enhance diversity on the Carolina campus. The award, given by the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs, Student Government and the Multicultural Council, was given for contributions in creating an inclusive and diverse campus community.

CLIFTON JONES, a mason in Facilities Services’ masonry shop, captured the first-place trophy in the Eight-man Class of the 2009 Carolina Dogwood Festival Horseshoe Tournament in April. The annual tournament was held in Statesville with more than 1,000 participants from every state. No newcomer to the sport, Jones has been “pitching” against some of the best players at the national level for more than 20 years and has also competed in three world tournaments.

Virginia Tech honored JOE DESIMONE with its Graduate Alumni Achievement Award at its May 14 commencement ceremony. Desimone, Chancellor’s Eminent Professor of Chemistry, was cited as the embodiment of the “citizen-scholar model” and a “fine example of the outstanding individuals who earn graduate degrees at Virginia Tech.”
Furchgott, a pharmacologist whose work with the gas nitric oxide led to new research in cardiovascular functions, died May 19 at age 92.

Furchgott’s work brought him a share of the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1998 and helped lead to the development of the anti-impotency drug Viagra.

The colorless, odorless nitric oxide had been known as an air pollutant that contributed to smog and acid rain, but research by Furchgott and Louis J. Ignarro of the University of California, Los Angeles, and Ferial Murad of the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, proved that it acted as a key signal in the cardiovascular system that mediated blood pressure and blood flow.

The Nobel assembly praised the scientists for providing the first proof that a gas could perform important biochemical functions in the body.

Furchgott, who earned a degree in chemistry from Carolina and a doctorate in biochemistry from Northwestern University, worked at the State University of New York Downstate Medical Center in Brooklyn from 1956 to 1989. He was chair of the pharmacology department from 1956 to 1982 and continued as a professor until his retirement in 1989. Even after he left teaching, he continued doing research at Downstate.

Nitric oxide is being explored as a possible treatment for heart disease, shock, cancer, pain and pulmonary hypertension, a potentially fatal condition in premature infants.

It is different from nitrous oxide gas, the so-called laughing gas used in anesthesia, and from the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide.
Experience more enriching and satisfying than
in setting.

Serves the same misperception by faculty mem-
ber experience with current approaches to
on.

ince people how distance learning can expand
here in the world, convincing them about the
g experience has been a harder sell, she said.
ure of the experience has been the biggest sur-
not as they thought they would feel isolated,
opposite to be true. Faculty find the teaching
able.”

ast for anyone over 50, may be memories of
ince courses that came with a thick workbook
om an instructor.

ored among students in the public health doc-
cusing real-time, two-way video conferencing
ch makes it possible for all the students to be
act with each other and the instructor at the
zons.

ures-type video format, or the split screen
amily gazing across at each other. Then pic-
in a different part of the world and differ-
child sitting in his lap before bedtime, another
her pajamas while images of pets and spouses
bles the University to select mid-career health
the world. The program currently includes
an, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Uganda.
nanda, Switzerland and Papua New Guinea.

als, education, geographic location, age, gen-
es our admissions process,“ Hobbs said.”We
erts possible because it radically improves the
perience. No two students are alike within

to learn as much from each other as they do
from faculty. Each student comes at an issue from a slightly different per-
spective, and the discussions that result are just electric.”

Another benefit is that these professionals do not have to uproot their
families or discontinue the valuable work they are doing within their own
countries to earn a doctoral degree, she said.

The distance doctoral program also has the potential to build public
heath leadership capacity within underserved countries.

EQUITY OF ACCESS

A similar dynamic is at play with the foreign language offerings through
the virtual public school, Hobgood said.

The problem for high school students in poor, rural counties is that
there are neither adequate resources nor demand to justify hiring a full
complement of foreign language instructors for each high school.

There were nine students in five public school districts who took Chi-
inese I through the virtual public school when the course was piloted dur-
ing the 2007–08 school year. This spring, there were 38 high school stu-
dents taking Chinese I, 32 students taking Chinese II and eight students
taking Chinese III.

During the upcoming school year, courses in Chinese IV and AP Chi-
inese will be offered on a pilot basis, Hobgood said, along with courses
in Arabic I and Arabic II. The virtual school also offers online courses in
French, German, Latin and Spanish, from Level I to advanced placement.

The rapid expansion of these courses, Hobgood is convinced, is tied in
part to the quality of the student experience.

He said many teenagers who would be hesitant to speak in a classroom
do not have those inhibitions online. The students converse through a
combination of asynchronous discussions and synchronous (real time)
meetings using Skype, a free, voice-over Internet protocol technology for
live communication, Hobgood said.

“Since students do not see each other as they normally do in a face-to-
face classroom, they tend to feel more comfortable interacting and sharing
their opinions.”

Teachers benefit from the technology because everything said in class is
archived, allowing the teacher to track a particular student’s contributions.

“Teachers can easily monitor not only the frequency of contributions
by individual students, but perhaps more importantly, the quality and con-
tinuous improvement of student contributions,” he said.

The Chinese language program also allows three or four students to
work each semester with a “conversation coach,” a native speaker of the
language who can be anywhere in the country via Skype.

One Chinese conversation coach was a teacher in Kentucky who
wanted to learn more about teaching online and now is developing a simi-
lar course for the Kentucky Virtual School, Hobgood said.

Students who take online foreign languages courses tend to be very seri-
ously-minded, he said, partially because of the inherent difficulty of the lan-
guage and partially because they recognize the unique opportunity they
have been given to learn the subject.

The Mandarin Chinese courses were funded by a Foreign Language
Assistance Program Grant and an Advanced Placement Incentive grant
awarded to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

GROWING PAINS

Hobbs said the health leadership doctoral program was created out of
necessity. A long-standing on-site doctoral program in public health lead-
ership was disbanded because it could not attract enough qualified mid-
career professionals, who were reluctant to leave their jobs and families for
a full-time program.

The new program was created within health policy and management
with a new curriculum and courses developed from scratch. With time and
distance conquered, the program now receives far more quality applicants
from across the globe than it can accept, she said.

The current 12-member cohort was selected from a pool of 132 appli-
cants, compared to fewer than 80 the first year. “We interviewed 25 final-
ists, and they were so strong we could have taken every one,” she said.

However, the program accommodates only 12 students per cohort to
maintain the highly interactive quality of class discussion, a hallmark of the
unique program design, she said.

Hobbs and her colleagues are working to establish a global doctoral
health leadership consortium where other top-level universities around the
world can develop similar distance learning programs and coordinate
efforts, share best practices and allow exchanges among faculty and
students.

“We’d love to see an idea that began at Carolina take root around the
world,” Hobbs said. “The global doctoral health leadership consortium
could easily serve as a model for programs in other fields.”

CAROLINA TEAMS CELEBRATE OUTSTANDING SEASONS

At left, when the national championship men’s bas-
ketball team visited President Barack Obama at the
White House on May 11, they presented him with a
Carolina jersey, including his name and number: 1.
Obama congratulated the team for winning Carolina’s
fifth national championship and he specifically ad-
dressed the team’s excellence in academics and time
off-court spent in service to others. Such commitment
is a testimony to the character of Carolina’s program
and its coaching staff, Obama said.

At right, the women’s lacrosse team played in its
first NCAA championship game May 24 after previ-
ous trips to the Final Four, but lost to Northwestern.
At 16-5, the season marked the team’s best finish in
school history.

Also posting its highest NCAA finish in school his-
tory was the women’s golf team, which finished the
season in seventh place.

Just entering the NCAA tournament for its 24th
NCAA postseason appearance and record eighth
straight season is the No. 4 seeded UNC baseball
team. They host the Chapel Hill Regional in Boshamer
Stadium on Friday and play Dartmouth at 6 p.m.

Way to go, Tar Heels!
KURZWEIL, GIOIA GIVE ‘THINKTANK’ TALKS

Faculty and staff are invited to attend keynote addresses by "ultimate thinking machine" entrepreneur Ray Kurzweil and Dana Gioia, former chair of the National Endowment for the Arts, on June 2 in the Carroll Hall Auditorium. Gioia speaks at 9 a.m. and Kurzweil at 1 p.m.

The addresses are part of Lenovo’s 12th Annual ThinkTank conference, June 1–3. Both keynote addresses are free for faculty and staff who show their UNC One Cards at the door. To attend the keynote addresses, e-mail thinktank09@esg.us with the subject line “UNC Faculty/Staff attending keynote at ThinkTank.”

The ThinkTank conference is a gathering of colleges, universities and K-12 institutions from around the world that participate in one-on-one student computing programs. Institutions of all sizes, both public and private, will share best practices that showcase experiences, academic implementations, innovations and expertise in all aspects of academic technology.

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY ORIENTATION FOR NEW SUPERVISORS

The Office of Scholarships and Student Aid offers training sessions for full-time faculty and staff members interested in joining the Federal Work-Study program. Training is mandatory and covers topics such as institutional and federal guidelines, student payroll, the job classification system, documenting student hours in TIM, creating job descriptions and marketing jobs online. No registration is required; attend a session that works best for you.

Note that Time Information Management (TIM) administrators and TIM back-up personnel are not eligible to participate.

All sessions are held in Room 121 of Hanes Art Center on the following dates:
- June 9, 2–4 p.m.;
- July 14, 10 a.m. – noon; and
- Aug. 6, 2–4 p.m.

Contact Michelle Klemens for information (962-4176 or michelle_klemens@unc.edu).

STEAM TUNNEL PROJECT CLOSES PART OF RANSOM STREET

Both lanes of Ransom Street between Patterson Place and McCauley Street are closed as work continues on replacement of the steam tunnel that serves the campus.

Ransom Street is closed to through traffic from McCauley Street to Cameron Avenue until Nov. 1. Warning and detour signs for vehicles and pedestrians are posted along the affected route.

The original steam tunnel was installed in 1939 and requires replacement to avoid structural failure and to continue to provide steam service to campus.

EXPO FOCUSES ON WASTE REDUCTION

The Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling teams up with Orange County and the state of North Carolina to sponsor “The Hows and Whys of Construction Waste Management in Orange County” on June 9 from noon to 4 p.m.

The free event includes information about recycling, compliance with local ordinances and University recycling policies. It also plans to offer information on the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building certification.

For expo information, see snipurl.com/ifayb. To register, see snipurl.com/ifsas2.

MINORITY HEALTH VIDEOCONFERENCE FOCUSES ON EDUCATION, HEALTH


The conference is broadcast live online from 1:30 to 4 p.m. from the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Auditorium at the School of Medicine.
Social Work. Participation is free, but registration is required (www.minority.unc.edu).

Conference moderator is Howard Lee, executive director of the N.C. Education Cabinet and a past faculty member at the School of Social work.

UNC RANKS IN TOP FIVE FOR NANOTECH RESEARCH

Small Times magazine has ranked UNC fifth in the research category in its 2009 University Report and Rankings.

According to the magazine, its annual survey identifies which institutions are the “best of the best” in micro- and nanotechnology. Rankings are based on a questionnaire that aims to gauge universities’ capabilities and strengths in research and commercialization, as well as their standing among others via a peer review category.

The other institutions in the top five in the research category are Penn State, Washington, Maryland and Cornell.

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

Next issue includes events from June 18 to July 15. Deadline for submissions: 5 p.m., Mon., June 8.

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

Next issue includes events from June 18 to July 15. Deadline for submissions: 5 p.m., Mon., June 8. 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.

COLLAGE ON AN EPIC SCALE

The Ackland Art Museum presents the first major retrospective of collage and assemblage artist Aldwyth, May 31 – Sept. 13. The artist, now 73, has produced her work in relative seclusion in her octagonal house on the edge of a salt marsh on one of South Carolina’s sea islands. There she creates intricate collages and assemblages that recall the fantastical intricacies of Hieronymus Bosch. The free public reception with the curator Mark Sloan, director of the Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, is May 31 from 1 to 3 p.m. Read more: www.ackland.org

‘ALDWYTH WORK V./ WORK N. COLLAGE AND ASSEMBLAGE 1991–2009’

COURTESY THE ARTIST, HALSEY INSTITUTE OF CONTEMPORARY ART; PHOTOS BY RICK RHODES

STAR HEELS

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FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE GREATER GOOD

TIAA CREF
Loved one in need brings home the need for blood donations

Katrina Coble is a woman on a mission. Everyone who knows Coble, chair of the Carolina Blood Drive Committee, knows her unwavering dedication to blood donation.

With Carolina’s summer blood drive fast approaching on June 2, Coble is even more fired up than usual. UNC lost its title last fall as the largest single-day blood drive on the East Coast – to one of the UNC-system schools: Appalachian State. The goal of 1,100 units of blood is now personal for Coble: to beat ASU and reclaim bragging rights.

But blood donation for Coble has always been personal. The computer science department business manager, Coble grew up close by her maternal grandparents “Granddaddy Ira” Braxton and “Granny Gray.” Their attachment was so strong that Coble was always kidded about being “a third daughter” to them.

Braxton lived a life filled with challenges from the time he was a toddler, Coble wrote in an essay in honor of her grandfather. Thought to have polio, he was diagnosed years later with a form of muscular dystrophy, but still led a full and productive life. “Granddaddy Ira never won any races against his brothers and sisters,” Coble wrote, “but determination always got him to the finish line.”

He always wore leg braces that attached to his shoes. “He worked tirelessly in the garden to produce fruits and vegetables and thoroughly enjoyed keeping a beautiful lawn. Those leg braces enabled him to get around many years to do the things he loved,” Coble said. And when day turned to night and Grandaddy Ira took off the braces, Coble “tried to walk in them, to be like him.”

When Coble married in 1984, Braxton was still walking with his leg braces plus arm crutches, but by 1989, he progressed to a walker and then to a wheelchair. He could no longer garden, but lovingly tended his beautiful lawn.

“People often asked how in the world he could mow the yard with the riding lawn mower,” she wrote. “He couldn’t lift his legs to use the pedals and did not have hand controls. He learned how to make do with his cane, using it to push the pedals. He continued to mow his yard until the end of summer 1996.”

That year, at the age of 79, he was diagnosed with sideroblastic anemia and began requiring units of blood. The next year he was diagnosed with multiple myeloma — cancer of the white blood cells. Through blood donations — 64 units in all — Ira Braxton lived another 18 months.

Coble’s grandfather knew the value of blood donation, both as a recipient and as a donor himself. “He too decided to give someone the gift of life through blood donations when he was younger and in better health,” she wrote. “He knew then how important it was to donate blood.”

This year’s blood drive slogan is “Living the Carolina Way,” and Coble personally encourages faculty and staff to give the gift of life to the patients who so desperately need their help. “My family will certainly thank you as will countless others,” she said.

Read the rest of Coble’s story at www.unc.edu/blood/katrina.html.
Employees begin to feel effects of furloughs this month

The flexible furlough plan ordered by Gov. Beverly Perdue for all state employees began affecting Carolina’s SPA employees last week. Their May 22 paychecks reflected the initial portion of the overall .5 percent reduction in base pay, and the June 5 and June 19 paychecks will show the remainder of the reduction.

Faculty and non-faculty EPA employees will feel the initial impact in their May 29 paychecks and the remainder in their June 30 paychecks. These reductions are designated “Flexible Furlough Reduction” on each pay stub.

The furlough plan was implemented to reduce state employees’ pay to help balance the state’s budget for the current fiscal year, which ends June 30. The .5 percent reduction will be taken from current base pay, not including supplements, stipends or special one-time payments.

Salary reductions will be taken before taxes are withheld and will apply to all funding sources of the position. To the extent that positions are funded by trust funds, contracts and grants, facilities and administrative (F&A) receipts or other trust funds, these non-state funds will revert to their original funding source. Only state funds will revert to the state.

FURLOUGH IMPLEMENTATION

A campuswide e-mail last week from Bernadette Gray-Little, executive vice chancellor and provost, and Richard Mann, vice chancellor for finance administration, included additional details about the furlough implementation. Updates from the Office of State Personnel, the Office of State Budget and Management and UNC General Administration confirmed that the furlough provisions apply to all permanent University faculty and staff.

Specifically, the furlough applies to:
- Permanent part-time and full-time SPA and EPA non-faculty employees;
- Faculty (nine- and 12-month appointments, and temporary faculty);
- Faculty on phased retirement;
- Post-doctoral research associates;
- Employees holding an H1-B visa, if paid above the prevailing wage;
- SPA temporary employees; and
- SPA temporary employees (who will have their hours reduced in lieu of a pay reduction).

An e-mail from UNC Health Care to its employees last week said those employees also were subject to the flexible furlough program.

RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Because the N.C. General Assembly passed legislation this month to hold employees harmless on retirement contributions, the furlough will not reduce the amount contributed to employees’ accounts in the Teachers’ and State Employees’ Retirement System or the Optional Retirement Program.

The University will pay both the employer and the employee contributions (on behalf of employees) so retirement contribution amounts will not be reduced.

USING FLEXIBLE LEAVE

The Time Information Management system is being updated to allow employees to begin using their 10 hours of flexible leave beginning June 1. This leave must be used by Dec. 31.

All permanent faculty and staff—even those who do not typically earn leave—and EPA temporary employees will receive the 10 hours of flexible furlough time. Staff must schedule the time with supervisory approval, and faculty cannot use it at a time that would cause classroom instruction to be canceled.

“Because the time must be used by the end of this calendar year, employees may want to consider using it to cover the University Closed Day on Dec. 31,” said Brian Usiscon, senior director of benefits services in the Office of Human Resources.

MORE INFORMATION

The Carolina Budget Information Web site includes a collection of all information on the flexible furlough program, including the implementation e-mail message and a specific list of those who are not affected by the furlough. Refer to universityrelations.unc.edu/budget and click “Flexible Furlough Program.”

STATE HEALTH PLAN NEWS

STATE HEALTH PLAN ENROLLMENT DEADLINE IS FAST APPROACHING

The enrollment deadline for the State Health Plan is May 29.

Many changes have been made to coverage for the next plan year, which begins July 1. The changes were outlined in the May 13 Gazette (gazette.unc.edu/archives/09may13/working.html#1). For complete information about the changes, new rates and enrollment details, refer to hr.unc.edu/Data/benefits/health-dental/09shpenroll.

If you have questions about enrollment, contact your benefits specialist in the Office of Human Resources. To locate your benefits specialist, refer to hrconnect.unc.edu or call Benefits Services at 962-3071 or e-mail benefits@unc.edu.

The proposed tuition hike would generate an estimated $47 million in revenue that, unlike campus-based tuition increases approved through the Board of Governors, would go directly into the state’s general fund, he added.

The amount of need-based financial aid in the education subcommittee’s budget proposal is $11.5 million—not quite half the $23.4 million proposed in the Senate budget.

The House proposal would fully fund the $44.1 million requested for next year for enrollment growth across the UNC system but would offer no money for enrollment growth for 2010–11, Pinkney said.

Staff members who can now take up to three free classes per year would only be able to take two classes a year, and the waiver of tuition for senior citizens would also be eliminated under the House proposal, he said.

The severity of consequences the proposed budget would have on the UNC system provoked an immediate response from President Erskine Bowles.

“The proposed budget cuts are less than those in other states like Florida, there should be no question in anyone’s mind that the $337 million reduction in state funding proposed for our public universities would have a severe and lasting negative impact on student access and the quality of education our universities can offer our students,” Bowles said.

The proposed tuition hike, which represents an average increase of 10.3 percent, would price higher education out of reach for many North Carolina families who now are struggling, he added. Further, the cut in need-based aid in the House budget would leave the system unable to provide need-based aid to more than 9,700 eligible students.

Proposed cuts to the UNC system would also diminish quality in tangible ways, from larger classes to reduced student advising and counseling to reductions in library services and building maintenance, Bowles said.

Pinkney said there was no way to know how long it would take for a final budget to be approved, but historically, bad economic times have produced longer budget processes simply because hard choices have to be made.

Once the House approves its budget, which Pinkney expects no earlier than the first week of June, the Senate and House will appoint a joint conference committee to negotiate over a final state budget package. Legislative leaders have said they would like to have a final budget approved by July 1, the start of the new fiscal year, but Pinkney believes that could be optimistic, given the severity of the budget crisis. However, he remains hopeful the leadership’s timeline will be realized.

What is easier to predict, Pinkney said, is the likelihood that the debate will focus on enhancing revenue—from what form enhancements might take to who will have to pay for them.

The implementation of furloughs is a cost-saving strategy that Perdue has already implemented to help balance the 2008–09 budget in its final two months (see related story above).

The prospect of additional furloughs to help offset next year’s budget shortfall cannot be ruled out, Pinkney added.
Scholarly work meets REAL-WORLD challenges

Everyone knows what happens when you toss a pebble into a pond: The ripples start out small and grow larger, reaching farther. That’s how Diane Berry, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, describes her work with Carrboro’s El Centro Latino — a nonprofit organization that provides educational and social services and cultural activities to help improve the quality of life for Latinos living in and around Orange County.

Hispanics or Latinos now represent 12 percent of the population of Carrboro and almost 6 percent of Orange County. "Chapel Hill/Carrboro as well as areas in and around Orange County have seen significant growth in their Hispanic populations, particularly among migrant workers and other laborers and their families, who tend to be vulnerable to isolating factors," Berry said.

"The transitory lifestyle, limited education, language barriers and challenges to accessing services create a sort of ‘silence’ among these populations. My goal is to help give them a voice and access to support both from the community and Carolina."

Berry has worked with El Centro Latino directors, community health educators and a core group of Spanish-speaking women in the area from Mexico to implement health education classes focused on topics they select. Berry and her team have examined the women’s concerns regarding immigration, weight gain, nutrition and decreased physical activity in themselves and their children.

Using Community-Based Participatory Research and working with this core group of women during a three-year period, they refined, adapted, translated and tested a weight management intervention designed for Spanish-speaking women and their young children. They delivered a feasibility study in the community and included 12 weekly two-hour classes followed by three monthly two-hour classes, after which the women and children had three months on their own to see how they did. Overall, results were positive. These women lost weight and decreased their body fat percentage, improved nutrition and physical activity knowledge, and developed eating and exercise self-efficacy. The children stabilized their weight gain.

Berry’s efforts contributed significantly to her selection by the University as one of eight 2009–10 Faculty Engaged Scholars (FESP), an initiative launched in October 2007 by the Carolina Center for Public Service and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Service and Engagement. The two-year program enables scholars to connect their faculty work with the needs of a community and apply their skills to make a difference. Scholars receive an annual stipend of $7,500, have opportunities to interact with like-minded faculty from a variety of disciplines to address relevant issues through service and engaged scholarship, and participate in workshops, panels and case studies by experts to help scholars get the most from their experiences.

A grant from Strowd Roses Inc. of Chapel Hill to the Center for Public Service is helping fund Berry’s stipend, which is using to further the partnership she has developed with El Centro Latino and community health educators and expand it to other communities with large Spanish-speaking populations.

In only its second year, the FESP is gaining local and national recognition as an innovative, effective program to further faculty involvement in the scholarship of engagement.

Lynn Blanchard, the center’s director, has presented FESP to more than 20 universities through the national project Faculty for Engaged Campus supported by Community-Campus Partnerships for Health, with a grant from the Fund for Post-Secondary Education of the U.S. Department of Education. There has also been Canadian interest in learning how this program fosters faculty and community partnerships to create positive change.

Berry has partnered with El Centro Latino for several years to help bring the University’s knowledge and resources to bear on critical issues in the community.

Berry’s weight-management intervention is helping community health educators and Latina participants improve nutrition and physical activity within their families. The goal is to reduce the incidence of overweight and obesity, and slow the development of type 2 (non-insulin dependent) diabetes.

"Many of the women and children we work with are uninsured and have limited access to health-promotion programs," Berry said. "Preventing type 2 diabetes will ultimately decrease healthcare costs in the long-term, but more importantly will empower families to take charge of their health."

Berry said her involvement with El Centro Latino has added dimension to her work, inspired her teaching and enriched her perspective.

"I have always had a passion for public service, and to be able to directly apply my scholarly work in the field is tremendously rewarding to me, my team, and beneficial to my students," she said. "It is extremely exciting when you start with a clinical problem, like type 2 diabetes, and begin to address it at the core, and maybe even prevent it, long before we have to intervene clinically."

As a Faculty Engaged Scholar, Berry said she has learned as much or more from her experience as those she is working to serve.

"I have gained so much more than just advancing my research or collaborating with scholars outside the confines of our campus," she said. "I have seen firsthand that Carolina, or any institution, can and should partner equally with its surrounding community to bring contributions to the table that will ultimately affect positive change."

Through the FESP, Berry and Carolina have set the ripples in motion. Their partnership with El Centro Latino is broadening horizons and creating solutions.

For more information about the Faculty Engaged Scholars Program, refer to www.unc.edu/~cps/faculty-engaged-scholars.php. ||