In its most ambitious undertaking ever, PlayMakers Repertory Company is presenting "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" by David Edgar, on stage at the Paul Green Theatre through Dec. 20. The play, adapted from Charles Dickens' third novel, uses 25 actors who play more than 150 roles to portray the journey of the Nickleby family. Their story takes nearly seven hours of theater to tell — and is presented in two performances in rotating repertory. The photos above, from the “Nickleby” artists’ blog, show some of the extensive work behind the scenes. At left, one of four welders for the project works on set construction; at right is an early drawing of the set from McKay Coble’s sketchbook, which provides a backdrop for her completed model, with paper characters added for scale. Coble is professor of design in the Department of Dramatic Art and serves as Carolina’s faculty chair. The Gazette recently spoke with Joseph Haj, producing artistic director of PlayMakers, about what goes into producing such an epic work. The interview with Haj follows on page 12.

Lisa Carey, associate professor of medicine and UNC Breast Center medical director, will continue Carolina’s tradition of faculty speakers at December commencement when she delivers the address during the 2 p.m. ceremony on Dec. 20 in the Dean E. Smith Center.

Carey will speak about things she has learned about life in a talk tentatively titled “Bedside Learning: My Education Since the 29th Grade.”

“I remain honored and perplexed by my choice as speaker,” she said. “However, I will be happy to talk about what I’ve learned — largely from my patients and my children — about choosing to spend your time doing things that are meaningful (not just to you!), about never feeling that you have it quite right (and that that feeling is OK) and about how the curve balls in life are the norm.”

People are better and stronger than they think they are, she said.

“I am a researcher, so I’m constantly reminded that what I don’t know far exceeds what I do know; a cancer doctor, so I’m constantly reminded of the importance of perspective and that people can and do handle the hardest things; and a mother, so I’m constantly hoping my kids accomplish what these kids at Carolina already have,” she said.

“Hope they take the time to congratulate themselves and don’t just rush off to the next challenge.”

Carey joined the faculty in 1998 and has served as the director of the breast center since 2003. After graduating from the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine in 1990, Carey was a resident in internal medicine and then a fellow in oncology at the school. She earned her master of science in clinical research at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health in 1998. Her research focuses on breast cancer.
Goodale to lead the refocused Citizen-Soldier Support Program

The University is significantly restructuring the Citizen-Soldier Support Program to focus primarily on the behavioral health needs of returning combat veterans and their families. Bob Goodale, a retired Harris Teeter chief executive officer and former deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Commerce, will lead these efforts as director of the program, based in the University’s Howard Odum Institute for Research in Social Science. He has directed the Citizen-Soldier program’s behavioral health initiative since 2007.

The Citizen-Soldier program develops approaches for engaging communities to support National Guard and Reserve members and their families before, during and after deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan. It has received several federal appropriations totaling about $9.8 million since 2004. The University has been reviewing the program since early this year after U.S. Rep. Sue Myrick (R-NC) requested the Department of Defense conduct a review of the program.

The program’s efforts include training providers across the state in mental health interventions and directing the Citizen-Soldier program’s behavioral health initiative since 2007. The program also helps citizens provide support to service members and their families experiencing behavioral health needs.

The program is led by the Citizen-Soldier program’s director, Tony Waldrop, and the program’s director of operations, Joe Murphy. The program’s behavioral health initiatives have expanded since 2007 to include the Citizen-Soldier program’s behavioral health initiative since 2007.

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See CITIZEN SOLDIER

Send us your favorite Tar Heel basketball memory

THE CAROLINA WAY

She had only lived in North Carolina for a couple of years and was unaware of the significance of Carolina basketball. The first time she walked into Carmichael Auditorium, all that changed.

It was the early 1970s. Top prospect Tom McMillen had committed to Carolina, but changed his mind at the last minute and went to the University of Maryland instead. Understandably, Carolina fans felt betrayed.

The day Maryland was slated to play in Chapel Hill, the Daily Tar Heel ran a story asking Carolina fans to be ultra courteous when McMillen’s name was announced at the start of the game. True to form, everyone in Carmichael gave him a standing ovation. McMillen, who had expected to be heckled, was completely nonplussed and had a horrible game.

So this is Carolina basketball, she thought. How cool!

DASHED HOPES

He remembers the joy he felt in March of 2001 at the prospect of taking his 9-year-old son (a diehard fan since he was old enough to sit in front of a TV and keep score) to a Duke-Carolina game in the Dean Dome. Two weeks before, Caro-

line beat Duke in overtime at Cameron and both he and his son expected to be to witness to a classic battle in Chapel Hill and a memory of a lifetime.

Some Tar Heel fans view the rivalry with Duke as a bat-

tle between good and evil. This night, it turned into a mas-

sacre between good and mediocre — and a Duke blowout by halftime.

The father’s most vivid memory of the night was of his son treading back to the car 10 feet behind him, with his arms crossed and his face frozen in a devastated pout.

DEAN’S GENIUS

Her earliest memory of Carolina bas-

ketball was watching games against N.C.

State at the beginning of the Valvano era. To her astonishment, her mild-mannered husband — who worked at State — would literally jump up and start screaming epi-

thets at the team, and in particular at Dean Smith. “Four corners: What’s wrong with that?” became her favorite line to push him even farther over the edge.

Submit your own memory

Do you have a favorite Tar Heel basketball memory of your own to share? Send it to us for inclusion in our December issue — either in print or online — and you will become eligible for a drawing for prizes that will include a pair of men’s basketball tickets or a selection of basketball-related books and merchandise.
UNC RECEIVES ONGOING H1N1 VACCINE SHIPMENTS

Carolina Counts aims to make Carolina the country’s most collaborative, well-managed university

Linda Plunkett of Maxim administers the H1N1 nasal vaccine to postdoctoral research associate Guang Yang during a Nov. 3 clinic. To date, the University has received around 5,000 doses of the nasal vaccine and has held 13 clinics in various locations around campus (see www.ehs.unc.edu/ueohc/h1n1flushot.shtml for clinic information). The nasal vaccine is indicated for healthy individuals between the ages of 2 and 49.

Based on recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the University has established clinics to vaccinate pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age, health-care and emergency medical services personnel, people between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old, and people ages 25 through 64 who are at higher risk of H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.

“We want to encourage people in these groups who are able to receive the nasal form of the vaccine are also encouraged to make an appointment,” said Mary Beth Koza, director of the Department of Environment, Health and Safety.

Employees and students not in a high-risk group and who are otherwise eligible to receive the nasal form of the vaccine are also encouraged to make an appointment, she said. The University has received a limited supply of the shot form of the vaccine for people who should not receive the nasal spray.

As additional doses of the vaccine arrive, the University will send the campus community details about how and when people can be vaccinated. Check Alert Carolina, alertcarolina.unc.edu/go/site/1395/, for the latest information.

EMPLOYEE FORUM

Carolina Counts’ 10 improvement project areas and champions are:

- Space planning and utilization — Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for facilities planning;
- Centers and institutes — Elmira Mangum, senior associate provost;
- Energy services — Carolyn Elfand, associate vice chancellor for campus services;
- Facilities and campus services — Richard Mann, vice chancellor for finance and administration;
- Finance — Roger Patterson, associate vice chancellor for finance;
- Human resources — Brenda Richardson Malone, vice chancellor for human resources;
- Information technology — Larry Conrad, vice chancellor for information technology and chief information officer;
- Organizational strategy and layers — Bruce Carney, interim executive vice chancellor and provost;
- Procurement — Richard Mann, vice chancellor for finance and administration;
- Research support and compliance — Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development.

Templeton said it was important for people to understand that Carolina Counts was limited to presenting options for the project champions, who will be charged with the task of weighing options from the final Bain report that apply to their respective areas of responsibility.

The champions will work closely with an “improvement team” that will develop ideas for their assigned areas. Templeton and Patil will work in concert with the champions to select the members for each team.

The champions will be called upon to provide objective assessments about the implications of various ideas, maintain a staunch commitment to get the job done and keep the project team focused on open-minded thinking that challenges the status quo, Templeton said.

Champions will also be asked to navigate around or through any roadblocks to keep the project on track and on schedule, he said.

Within South Building, all facets of this process will be monitored and reviewed by an oversight committee that consists of Thorp, Templeton, Mann and Mangum.

“We believe that the work we all do at the University matters, and the Carolina Counts name was selected to help convey both the importance of our activities and the idea that the project would be driven by measurable benchmarks,” Templeton said.

He stressed that it would take time to develop the trust and consistency necessary for changes to be accepted, take root and eventually to become part of the campus culture.

“We are not in this for a short time and then out,” Templeton said. “It’s going to take a while to get where we want to go. If we are on the right track, we will keep going, and if we are not, we will reorient the project and go from there.”

Information about the Bain report is available on the Carolina Budget Information site, universityrelations.unc.edu/budget. A new Carolina Counts Web site is being developed to provide updated information about the initiative.

N.C. is poised to ride out the fiscal year

Planning for the worst seems to be paying off. Although the state’s first-quarter revenue report shows collections falling behind projections by about 1 percent, it looks as if North Carolina is favorably positioned to weather the rest of the fiscal year — even if the revenue picture worsens.

That was what Chancellor Holden Thorp told the Faculty Council at its Nov. 6 meeting. With state budget cuts and the 5 percent holdback Gov. Beverly Perdue authorized as the fiscal year began, the state is prepared to get through the rest of the fiscal year, he said.

“The first-quarter projections are about as good as we could hope for,” Thorp said. “Nationally, we’re in good shape; many other states are 8 percent to 10 percent behind in their collections. And the third quarter has even more optimistic projections than we have right now.”

Thorp expressed gratitude to the legislature for its conservative revenue projections and said that by April state leaders would have a better idea about the next fiscal year.

The legislature’s short session, which begins in May, will address the permanent 2 percent cut in the state’s biennial budget, he said.

“We hope that will be the cut we have, and it might be a little better, but that’s what we’re planning on,” Thorp said. “But it’s worth reminding everyone than while the worst might be behind us, it definitely isn’t over.”
ConnectCarolina is becoming an integral part of campus infrastructure

The University’s transformational endeavor to replace its aging computer infrastructure, known as ConnectCarolina, is on schedule even though the most complicated applications systems — those dealing with student services — are being tackled first.

ConnectCarolina is the University’s new integrated administrative computer system that replaces disparate 20-year-old systems managing student services, human resources, payroll and finance.

It is a colossal undertaking that has taken several years to plan and is being implemented in stages.

Already, the undergraduate admissions, new MyUNC portal and online campus directory components have gone live, with student records, financial aid, graduate admissions, student financials (the Cashier’s Office) and academic advising all slated to be live by October 2010.

ConnectCarolina has also provided an opportunity for the University to examine its business practices and find ways to improve them. Jerri Bland, project director, told an audience in Gerrard Hall during a Nov. 9 town hall presentation.

For example, she said, the admissions office has already gone to a paperless application system by scanning hard-copy documents such as transcripts and recommendations and storing them online with the application. Now the ConnectCarolina stakeholders are looking at student records to determine which aspects could become paperless.

As additional facets of ConnectCarolina are developed, it is becoming a key component of the campus infrastructure, said Larry Conrad, vice chancellor for information technology and chief information officer.

PeopleSoft, the software that underpins ConnectCarolina, provides several advantages for the University, including one interface for all administrative systems, greater user control and a common data and reporting infrastructure, he said.

While the ConnectCarolina team completes changes to the student services systems, it will begin the process to develop new systems for finance and human resources.

As a result of areas identified in the Bain & Company report, the timeline for restructuring Carolina’s finance system has been stepped up to help business offices reduce significantly the personnel expenses required to get the job done,” he said.

At N.C. State, Hoit cited advantages in business continuity if either campus experienced a technology emergency. “Since we will share development, common systems and distribution across both campuses, we can have a significant improvement in our disaster recovery ability at no additional cost,” he said.

The joint work also has positive implications for increasing the technology purchasing power of both campuses by improving discounts, Conrad and Hoit said.

And the changes come at the same time as a new state law covering certain purchases by UNC system campuses.

Improvements in purchasing are timely since the University has just launched ConnectCarolina Counts in response to recommendations from a privately funded study by global consulting firm Bain & Company to make the University more operationally effective.

Campuswide procurement is one of 10 priority areas within that initiative.

Top financial and human resources administrators from both campuses will help guide teams dedicated to developing common business practices.

From the information technology offices, Gwen Hazlehurst from N.C. State and Jerri Bland from Carolina will lead the collaboration. Bland is project director for ConnectCarolina and has extensive experience implementing PeopleSoft projects.

Four task committees are exploring the collaboration possibilities for the technical infrastructure, the chart of accounts and the overall human resources and financial systems. One example being considered for early implementation is PeopleSoft’s eProcurement module, which includes a commodity tracking system that may help support efforts to negotiate better prices.

The University plans to begin this work next month. N.C. State already uses eProcurement, and that experience will help the Carolina team fast track the project.

See CONNECTCAROLINA page 11

Thornton broadcasts weather before UNC-Duke kickoff

Chancellor Holden Thorp, center, is interviewed by Adam Berg from The Weather Channel as freelancer Richard Campbell films the segment. The Weather Channel came to campus on Nov. 7 to do cut-ins from Chapel Hill before the kickoff of the Carolina-Duke football game. Thorp did the forecast — not only here but also for the FSU-Clemson and USC-Arizona State games. The chancellor wrote about the experience on his blog, holden.unc.edu.
Oettinger, longtime public servant, dies Oct. 29

Elmer R. Oettinger, professor emeritus of public law and government, was known as a man of music, theater, letters and law. The Wilson native was born in 1913 and died on Oct. 29 after a long career of service to North Carolina.

Oettinger entered Carolina to study dramatic art but he said Albert Coates, founder of the Institute of Government, regularly exhorted him to choose a new direction: "Albert would say, 'You've got to get rid of all this drama business, and when you do and become a good lawyer, I want you in the Institute of Government.'"

Oettinger earned four degrees from UNC — a bachelor’s degree in 1934, a law degree in 1939, a master’s degree in drama in 1952 and a doctorate in English in 1966. He studied dramatic art in graduate school at Columbia University, acted on and off Broadway, and wrote a full-length play, "The Pied Piper," based on the life of Huey Long, Louisiana governor and U.S. senator.

Because of health problems, Oettinger returned to North Carolina, where he "rested" by entering law school. After working frequently for Coates as a law student, he joined the institute staff just after graduation. His first assignment was to cover the 1939 General Assembly as part of the institute’s Legislative Reporting Service.

After serving in the U.S. Navy during World War II, Oettinger returned to Wilson where he practiced law and then worked as a radio news director and commentator.

In the 1950s he was recruited to help plan and moderate "IDEAS," a program that ran on the University’s new WUNC-TV, as he earned his master’s degree and taught in the departments of English and Radio, Television and Motion Pictures.

In 1960, Oettinger returned to the institute as a specialist in free press and fair trial, open meetings, privacy, copyright, libel and what was then known as newspaper’s privilege. As his career progressed, he also covered criminal justice and auto insurance law and taught in the institute’s Highway Patrol School.

One of his major contributions was development of the nation’s first News Media/Administration of Justice Council beginning in 1964. Oettinger guided the groups involved from a contentious beginning to a national model in which people sought and found common ground.

After he retired at age 65, Oettinger continued in emeritus status to teach a law course and work with the American Bar Association on freedom of the press issues.

In 1977, Gov. James B. Hunt appointed Oettinger to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws (ULC). He was reappointed by four succeeding governors and continued to be an honorary member. In 1978 he chaired the ULC’s special committee to draft a uniform privacy act for state governments.

In 1990 Oettinger received the North Carolina Press Association’s prestigious William C. Lasitter First Amendment Award. A nomination letter described Oettinger’s News Media/Administration of Justice Council as "the force which brought about a stable and workable relationship in press-bar matters in North Carolina."


OETTINGER

Mangum leaves UNC

Elmira Mangum, senior associate provost at Carolina since 2001, will become Cornell University’s new vice president for budget and planning effective Feb. 1, 2010. Mangum’s nomination was approved by Cornell’s Board of Trustees last week.

“Elmira Mangum brings an extraordinary range of experience to this key administrative role at Cornell,” said Provost Kent Fuchs. “She has held positions of executive leadership in planning and finance at one of our nation’s finest public universities and also at a leading campus in our own outstanding state university system, making her well suited for her new role at Cornell.”

At Cornell, Mangum will serve as the senior administrator responsible for managing the university’s resources and the annual budgeting process. Her duties will include serving as a key liaison with the Cornell trustees.

Before coming to Carolina, Mangum held administrative and management posts at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the State University of New York at Buffalo. Immediately prior to her arrival in Chapel Hill, she was vice provost at the University at Buffalo and on the faculty of the graduate school of education.

She won Carolina’s 2008 Mary Turner Lane Award, given by the Association for Women Faculty and Professionals, for her contributions to the lives of women at Carolina.

HONORS

MICHAEL RUBINESTEN, John P. Barker Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, has been awarded the 2010 Polymer Prize from the American Physical Society. The $10,000 prize recognizes outstanding contributions in polymer physics research. Barker will receive the award at the society’s March 2010 meeting.

Pianist MAYRON TSONG, associate professor of music, was invited by the White House Nov. 4 for a full day of classical music events as part of the administration’s arts education series. She was the guest of pianist Awadagin Pratt, who participated in the presentation with fellow classical music stars Joshua Bell, violinist; Alisa Weilerstein, cellist; and guitarist Sharon Isbin. The event ended with a concert by the featured artists in the East Room. Refer to snipurl.com/6f6v1 to see video of Pratt performing.

ADAORA ADIMORA, professor of medicine in the School of Medicine and clinical professor of epidemiology in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, has been selected by The Root magazine as one of the top 100 African-American leaders. The Root 100 is a new honor that highlights the leadership and service of African-American men and women whose work impacts their communities and the world.

BLOOD DONATIONS: GIFTS FROM THE HEART

A teenager with sickle cell anemia, a cancer sufferer, an accident victim, a child born with heart defects.

Tar Heels can put color back in the cheeks of an accident victim, a child born with heart defects.

BLOOD donation is considered work time with sickle cell anemia, a cancer sufferer, an accident victim, a child born with heart defects.

Walk-ins will be welcomed, but appointments are requested. They help the American Red Cross know in advance how many technicians to send to the drive, and appointments will help cut the process to about an hour. Most of that time is spent on Red Cross screening to protect the blood supply and make sure each donor is healthy enough to give.

Blood donation is considered work time with supervisors’ approval. Free parking will be available in the Cobb Deck off Country Club Drive.

Donors will receive snacks afterward, aluminum water bottles and chances to register for two free Delta airline tickets to anywhere in the continental United States. The drawing for the tickets will include donors from across the Carolinas Blood Region of the Red Cross.

Visit www.unc.edu/blood to make an appointment, to volunteer and for more information.

MANGUM

BLOODB Donation Gift: from the Heart
A biomedical research lab is a magnet for smart, driven people drawn together by their passion for discovery.

But those labs are also small businesses, with university budgets that range from $250,000 to $2 million. And therein lies the rub, said Cam Patterson, chief of cardiology at UNC Hospitals and founder of the UNC McAllister Heart Institute.

“These labs are run by people who are not trained in business so they are, by definition, poorly run small businesses,” he said.

Patterson said he recognized this problem even before he came to the University nine years ago to direct the heart institute, the research arm of the School of Medicine that joins clinicians with basic scientists to unravel the causes of cardiovascular disease.

Patterson said it made no sense to him that research labs on the cutting edge of science should be run with archaic, disjointed business practices. To find a solution to that problem, he asked software development specialist Rob Lineberger and senior lab technician Holly McDonough to come up with an inclusive program capable of “simply keeping track of what was going on.”

In 2005, McDonough and Lineberger developed a Web-based program called BlitZEN that provides a common interface platform for all aspects of the research process, from grant management to data collection to inventory management.

BlitZEN moves beyond the spreadsheet feel of typical lab software to create a visually based virtual laboratory, Lineberger said. To find out what is in a box in a freezer down the hall, for instance, users can navigate their browsers to the virtual freezer and click “open.” On the screen will appear complete information about the item in the box – from who ordered it to how it was paid for to what data was generated from it.

The program’s capacity to perform multiple functions simultaneously helps eliminate duplicate ordering, saves hours of time searching for items and ultimately helps improve the quality of the science produced, Lineberger said.

Best of all, Patterson said, the software was quickly embraced by people in the lab. “Without them knowing it, we are forcing them to function the way a business would function,” he said.

Patterson understood that with BlitZEN, Lineberger had created an indispensable management tool for his lab. But there was no eureka moment when it dawned on either one that they had a viable commercial product that could be sold to research laboratories across the country.

That realization, Lineberger said, came when the phone started ringing from labs as far away as the University of Colorado and as close as Duke. People had heard about this new management system through word of mouth.

But turning a business idea into a business plan is a daunting challenge, so the idea sat dormant until spring 2008 when Patterson, who was then completing his MBA at the Kenan-Flagler Business School, joined with Lineberger in a course called “Launching the Venture.”

The course, designed and taught by Ted Zoller, executive director of the Center for Entrepreneurial Studies at Kenan-Flagler, helps people like Patterson and Lineberger figure out whether they have an idea that can be turned into a business and the steps involved in developing it.

By the time the class ended, Patterson said, they had developed a business model and a name for their company: Dyzen.

Then, last fall, they heard about Carolina Launch Pad, a new pre-commercial incubator for University faculty, staff and students — a joint effort of the Office of Technology Development, Kenan-Flagler and the Renaissance Computing Institute (RENCI).

They quickly jumped at the chance and won an inaugural one-year spot.

“Carolina Launch Pad gave us almost the perfect space to go and do design work,” Lineberger said. “You step off the elevator directly into the RENCI incubator and it’s just you and your idea. If you can’t make it happen in that kind of space, it’s not going to happen. It’s just a calming place to compose your thoughts.”

Of even greater value, Lineberger said, is the supportive atmosphere established by Launch Pad director David Knowles.

“They have basically come to us and said, ‘What do you need to be successful?’” Lineberger said. “I’ve been involved in other collaborations where people have asked that question, but with the Launch Pad, when you tell them what you need, they provide it — not the next week or the next month, but that day.”

An example of that kind of support came when Lineberger asked about marketing BlitZEN, and Launch Pad responded by having Web designer Josh Coyle develop a Web site. In addition, Coyle shot photos for an advertising campaign, while public relations specialist Karen Green created a media plan.

Knowles also worked with them to review potential executives for Dyzen, while Cathy Innes, director of the Office of Technology Development, provided constant encouragement and support.

In December, Dyzen will make way for the new class of five Launch Pad ventures. Patterson said he has already begun to search for a CEO with software experience as he evaluates the money necessary for start-up costs.

The founders of Dyzen have just learned that they are among 10 finalists for a grant from NC IDEA, an organization that fosters economic development in North Carolina by helping young startups commercialize their innovations. This week, they will pitch their company to a panel of investors and entrepreneurs.

“Our fingers are crossed,” Lineberger said. “But whether we’re awarded the grant or not, getting this far speaks to the viability of our idea and the strength of support we’ve received thus far.”

For more information on Carolina Launch Pad, refer to www.carolinalaunchpad.org.

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**Citizen Soldier from page 2**

- Phase out its own “Building Community Partnership” efforts and redirect that funding to expanding the behavioral health initiative;
- Move a training program for the Army One-Source initiative, “Building Community Partnerships,” to the Jordan Institute for Families in the School of Social Work under the leadership of Gary Bowen, Kenan Distinguished Professor; and
- Reduce three staff positions and re-engage its National Advisory Council in support of the program’s work.

The changes follow a report by Chancellor Holden Thorp to the Board of Trustees in September, as well as recommendations and ongoing deliberations of an internal review committee created by Waldrop earlier this year. The committee, which initially worked for six months in producing its report, and a financial audit by the University, were prompted by the complaint received earlier this year.

The committee was reactivated in August and continued to deliberate about the program into last month. Committee members included two retired military officers who were familiar with the program and its goals, as well as administrators from Carolina and UNC General Administration.
Food Network serves a ‘Dinner Impossible’

Winston Crisp loves the Food Network. A hardcore fan, he eschews the copycat “Iron Chef America,” for example, in favor of the inscrutable Japanese version.

“I’m a purist about its pageantry, its drama and the different style of food,” he said. “It’s almost like a Godzilla movie was crossed with ‘The Galloping Gourmet.’”

When the Food Network’s “Dinner: Impossible” asked to film an episode at Carolina just before Homecoming weekend, Crisp, assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, was therefore delighted to be asked to take part as one of the show’s guest chefs, along with Patti Thorp and Anoop Desai.

Thorp is the wife of Chancellor Holden Thorp. Desai is the bluesy alumnus who competed on “American Idol” and was in town to perform at the Homecoming concert.

The premise of the show is that the irascible English chef Robert Irvine arrives at a mystery location and is assigned to prepare a meal that includes multiple challenges. He is typically given inexperienced helpers, sketchy ingredients and a major time crunch, and he is famous for creating an atmosphere of tension as he does his best to complete his assignment on time.

The crew arrived on campus Nov. 4 and set up in the courtyard area of the Student Academic Services Building (SASB). The actual taping began on Nov. 5 when Student Body President Jasmin Jones and Doug Dibbert, president of the General Alumni Association, issued Irvine his challenge at the Old Well.

Irvine’s mission was to create a meal for 100 “homesick” first-year students using ingredients gathered by raiding their living quarters.

Crisp and Thorp had about 90 minutes with little to do while Desai and Jones “rushed the dorms” with Irvine. But Thorp and Jones then staged a raid of their own on the Alpha Chi Omega house when they were shy of some much-needed ingredients. “Chef, you’re going to love us,” Thorp announced when they returned with baskets full of food.

“Once the supplies showed up,” Crisp said, “and we started building the menu, we were nonstop and it was frenzied from then on.”

From that point, there was little interaction among chefs because they were so intent on their assigned tasks.

At Crisp’s station, for example, “There were a ton-and-a-half of ramen noodles, bags of Cheetos and Vienna sausages,” he said. “I was looking at the stuff when they came back and wondering, what in the world?”

Once the cooking began, Crisp said, “We pulzerized the Cheetos and used that as a breading for the Vienna sausages, which we fried.”

As unlikely as that sounds, he said, the students loved it. Plus, he added, “It showed Irvine’s creativity and his ability to be nonplussed.”

When asked if the mood around SASB was as tense as the show portrays, Crisp said it was more of a “fun mad dash to get the meal done.”

There was an initial encounter with Irvine, though, in which he asked Crisp, “What do you cook?” Crisp answered back, “Stuff.” Irvine said, “What stuff?” and Crisp replied, “A lot of stuff.” “I can see that,” Irvine snapped.

Look for the Tar Heel episode of “Dinner Impossible” to air tentatively in March.
Upcoming Performances

- Nov. 20–21—StreetSigns Center for Literature and Performing Arts will present a Process Series performance, “Downriver,” about bluesman Lemonhead Harris. Dana Coen, who teaches screenwriting in the Writing for Stage and Screen Program, wrote the show’s screenplay. “Downriver” will be held in Gerrard Hall at 8 p.m. eda.unc.edu/node/252

- Nov. 20–21—UNC Opera will perform Cavalli’s “L’Egisto” with the UNC Baroque Ensemble in Hill Hall at 8 p.m. Call 843-3333 or see music. unc.edu.

- Dec. 10—The N.C. Jazz Repertory Orchestra will perform “My Favorite Things: Holiday Jazz Concert” in Memorial Hall at 7:30 p.m. Call for tickets: 843-3333.

Upcoming Lectures and Seminars

- Nov. 19—Michael Renov, professor in the School of Cinematic Arts at the University of Southern California, will deliver the inaugural lecture for UNC’s new Interdisciplinary Program in Cinema. Renov’s talk will be titled “Civil Rights on the Screen.”

- Dec. 2—Alumna Suzy Barile will read from her new book “Undaunted Heart: The True Story of a Southern Belle and a Yankee General” at 3:30 p.m.

- Dec. 3—Omid Safi, professor of religious studies, will read from his book “Memories of Muhammad: Why the Prophet Matters” at 5:30 p.m.

- Dec. 2–5—The Program in the Humanities and Human Values will offer a seminar on “The Victorian World” that will focus on Victorian life, examine costumes as an expression of class, gender roles and conspicuous consumption, and consider Dickens’ depictions of children and the Victorian nostalgia for childhood innocence. snipurl.com/t6cyb

- Through Dec. 6—The Ackland Art Museum has selected rian nostalgia for childhood innocence. snipurl.com/t6cyb and consider Dickens’ depictions of children and the Victor -
sion of class, gender roles and conspicuous consumption, will focus on Victorian life, examine costumes as an expres -
tular Consciousness.” His talk is part of the Lunch with One

- Nov. 23—Hans Hahn, professor at Frankfurt University in Germany, will speak at the Carolina Seminar in African Ecology and Social Processes from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Room 4003 of the FedEx Global Education Center. E-mail Barbara Anderson (b_anderson@unc.edu).

- Dec. 3—Chouki El Hamel, associate professor at Arizona State University, will speak at the Carolina Seminar in African Ecology and Social Processes from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Room 4003 of the FedEx Global Education Center. E-mail Barbara Anderson (b_anderson@unc.edu).

Readings at the Bull’s Head

- Nov. 22—The Institute for the Study of the Americas will host a talk by Enver Casimir titled “Legacy of a Champion: Kid Chocolate and Sport as Nationalist Expression in Cuba.” The film will be presented following the talk, which will be held in the Stone Center’s Mandela Auditorium at 6 p.m.

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- Dec. 3—The Carolina Innovations Seminar will be held from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in 014 Sitterson Hall with the topic “Top Ten IP Mistakes Made by Emerging Companies” presented by Randy Whitmeyer of Hutchison Law Group. snipurl.com/6x30

Textile Collage Artist

Elaine O’Neil was commissioned to “paint” the Carolina Inn on a snowy night using tiny pieces of fabric and thread as part of its Twelve Days of Christmas celebration, which begins Nov. 29 with the Community Open House from noon to 5 p.m. Sand sculptors Damian Hoffman and Ed Moore also will begin work Nov. 29 on what is now their annual rendering of the Twelve Days theme. carolinainn.com

Twelve Days of Christmas at the Carolina Inn

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- Dec. 9—Professor emeritus Tom Stumpf and George Morgan, a textbook buyer in Student Stores, kick off the holidays in traditional Carolina style by reading “How the Grinch Stole Christmas” in English and Latin, respectively. It is always a favorite: the Grinch, free cookies and hot chocolate. The fun starts at 4 p.m.

Exhibitions

- Artist Bryant Holsenbeck led the creation of a mandala of recycled materials on the Peacock Atrium floor in the FedEx Global Education Center Nov. 16–18. Opening for the exhibit will be Nov. 19 at 7 p.m. with remarks by Holsenbeck and discussion by participating students.

- The Center for Global Initiatives’ amateur photography exhibit to celebrate International Education Week also will be on display at the center through January 2010 in the galleries on the second and third floors.

Books for Pediatric Cancer Patients

Donate books through Dec. 10 on behalf of Book Fairy, an organization that donates children’s books to the Pediatric Oncology Clinic at UNC Hospitals.

All new or gently used books for ages 1 through mid-teens are welcome. The need is especially great for Spanish-language books at the preschool level and picture books or easy readers in English.

Drop-off locations are located in the lobbies of the following libraries: Davis, House Undergraduate, Wilson, Health Sciences and Law, as well as in the lobby of Manning Hall, Peabody Hall and the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building.

In addition, the Bull’s Head Bookshop will offer a 25 percent discount on books purchased for donation to the book drive. At the time of purchase mention the Book Fairy book drive to the staff. A list of suggested books is available at www.librarything.com/catalog/bookfairy_unc.

Friends of the Library will wrap up
EDUCATION SET FOR NOV. 21

For information about the drive, contact Rebecca Vargha (962-8361 or vargha@ils.unc.edu).

AWARD NOMINATION DEADLINES

- Nominations are due Nov. 30 for 2010 University Awards for the Advancement of Women, sponsored by the offices of the Chancellor and the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost. The awards recognize contributions to the advancement of women at the University and may be given to three individuals each year: one faculty member, one staff member and one undergraduate/graduate student/postdoctoral scholar. Nominations may be made online (snipurl.com/snsmak) with separate submission of supporting letters. For more information, contact Donna Bickford, director of the Carolina Women’s Center (dbickford@unc.edu or 843-5620).

- Nominations are due Dec. 9 for the 2010 Oliver Max Gardner Award, presented by the UNC Board of Governors to a UNC system faculty member “who, during the current scholastic year, has made the greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race.” Complete nominating information is online: snipurl.com/7d40e.

SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ADDED BY TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

- The UNC student body has funded a $30,000 project to install blue emergency call boxes on Chapel Hill streets, the first not located on campus. They are installed at 407 Merritt Mill Rd., the corner of Church and Short streets and on Mallette Street at Colony Court.

- The Town of Chapel Hill also installed a new type of street imprint material on a crosswalk on Country Club Road at Boundary Street and Battle Lane. The location was selected to be a demonstration site by a private contractor working with the town.

EVE CARSON MEMORIAL 5K FOR EDUCATION SET FOR NOV. 21

The second annual Eve Carson Memorial 5K for Education race will be held on Nov. 21 at 10 a.m. Check-in for the race, which begins on Polk Place in front of South Building, will start at 8 a.m.

Named for Carolina’s former student body president in honor of her commitment to service, the race is designed to bring together the campus and local communities to benefit education. Participants of all ages and skill levels are welcome, and walking is an option.

HONORING SERVICE ON VETERANS DAY

More than 100 ROTC cadets and midshipmen assembled in dress uniforms on Nov. 11 for the University’s annual Veterans Day ceremony, held in the Tate-Turner Kuralt Building on campus. A color guard representing all three UNC ROTC programs – Air Force, Naval/Marine and Army – assembled outside Gerrard Hall before presenting the colors. From left are color guard representatives Army Cadet Christian Rudd, Army Cadet Calvin Lewis, Army Cadet Paisley Osprea, Navy Sgt. Peal Winston, Midshipman Benjamin Keilman, Air Force Cadet Richard Elliot and Midshipman Erin Hayes. Veterans Day, formerly Armistice Day, falls on the anniversary of the armistice signing by the Allies and the Germans in 1918 that ended World War I.

Two-thirds of the proceeds will go to the Eve Carson Scholarship Fund and the remainder will be split between the First Book literacy organization and Frank Porter Graham Elementary School, where Carson volunteered as a science instructor.

For more information and to register, refer to www.educationforeve.com. The registration fee is $15 before Nov. 21 and $20 on race day.

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS
Next issue includes events from Dec. 17 to Jan. 13. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Mon., Dec. 7. 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.
Language of pictures gives fresh voice to scientist-storyteller

Rachel Willis is a labor economist trained to view the world through the lens of the social sciences. But she discovered years ago that a picture could be worth a thousand regression coefficients.

Numbers, of course, have a special place. They can be used to measure things, to quantify and track. But a picture can capture broader truths that sometimes are hidden in a

It is important to understand Willis’ appreciation of photography as a central documentary instrument to understand why she decided to apply for an unpaid position as a staff photographer for the Yakety Yack for the 2008-09 school year.

She is a faculty member at the University since 1982 and holds dual positions as Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Associate Professor of American Studies and an adjunct professor of economics. She is also the 2009 GSK Faculty Fellow at the Institute for Emerging Issues at N.C. State University.

Her service within the University community included being on committees ranging fromAPPLES (from its start in 1990) to Building and Grounds (since 1997) to the Johnson Center for Undergraduate Excellence Student-Faculty Advisory Board (since 2003).

The first question on the application asked why she wanted to be on the yearbook’s photo staff. In response, Willis described herself as a “26-year participant and observer of the campus’ physical, intellectual and cultural development” who had found that “an image is frequently the most effective way to describe the University community, its past and the transitions to its future.”

She also explained that she had called upon her students in various courses to use pictures, video and oral histories to better “understand the challenges, opportunities and context of Carolina at a point in time.”

She added that she believed that is the role of the yearbook as well.

Willis said she is not quite sure what surprised her more — getting the job or surviving it — but she had no regrets, including being pushed to the ground by a Smith Center security person when she got in the way of a video shot during the national telecast of the Carolina-Evansville basketball game.

In anticipation of an important time out, still photographers were asked to dash in front of the visiting bench and slide to the floor. Television and video camera operators would follow, but could stand.

The problem arose when, during the 30-second timeout, Willis failed to take the instruction literally. "I walked past the sidelines and started to slowly lower my old body and the pair of 300-mm Yack lens to the court floor," she said.

“A floor official grabbed my shoulders and pushed me to the ground fast. I was blocking the video shots. 'Slide' meant slide into position! He was no doubt wondering to himself who had let this old lady down on the floor with cameras.”

But moments later, after the official discovered that the woman was a credentialed photographer and a faculty member, he

See Willis page 11

Human Resources Briefs

The Office of Human Resources is available to work with departments to address individual leave situations and identify all available options to cover the University Closed Day with pay.

Employees can contact Benefits Services at 962-3071 if they have any questions about the holiday schedule.

INPUT SOUGHT FOR SPA GRIEVANCE POLICY

The Office of Human Resources is revising the SPA Dispute Resolution & Staff Grievance Policy and is seeking input from staff employees.

Employees can provide input:

• By e-mail to hr@unc.edu;
• Through a confidential, anonymous online form, available at hr.unc.edu/Data/SPA/employeerelations/griev-input;
• By campus mail to Employee & Management Relations, CB# 1045; or
• In person at 104 Airport Dr., Suite 1100.

Be sure to submit your thoughts no later than Dec. 4.

UNIVERSITY HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The University’s holiday schedule for the remainder of this year and the beginning of 2010 is:

- Thanksgiving — Nov. 26-27 (paid holidays);
- Christmas — Dec. 24–25 (paid holidays);
- New Year’s Eve — Dec. 31 (University Closed Day — employees use accrued leave); and

Thursday, Dec. 31 has been designated as a University Closed Day for permanent employees.

Employees do not report to work (unless critical University operations must be maintained) and are expected to use available leave for the absence (annual vacation leave, bonus leave, flexible furlough time or accrued compensatory time).

If it has not been used by Dec. 31, an employee’s flexible furlough leave will expire. Employees who have flexible furlough leave remaining on Dec. 31 must use it to cover that day before they can code vacation, bonus or comp time.

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Willis said. “These are the unseen heroes who are necessary to make the University work each other’s work.”

What she hoped to reveal through her pictures, she said, is “why we all need to value our work.”

Her 15-year-old son punctured her pride as she walked into the house. He asked, “Mom, did I just see you knocked down on national television?”

“Yes, Willis told him, “but wait until you see the photos I got!”

The only thing Willis doesn’t like about this particular story is that it represents the opposite of what she sought to accomplish during the year she served as a Yack photographer.

Hansbrough would get his picture taken enough times with or without her, she said. But as a longtime teacher and student of the University, what she wanted to capture and share through her pictures was a deeper understanding — and appreciation — for all the people whose contributions are made outside the spotlight.

Most people who work, study or teach here experience the campus through a fixed lens of their own routines. As a photographer, Willis was able to capture the changing rhythms and pulse of the place beyond those boundaries, to see the hands and feet that make a million things happen — things that are necessary for the campus to work.

Through her pictures, she found a way to deepen her appreciation for a campus she had come to love years before.

“It is the ordinary folks — the people who paint the fences, make the coffee and enter-...
Q&A with PlayMaker’s Joe Haj

What makes this production so appealing?
I’ve wanted to do this production since I came to PlayMakers in July of 2006. First, I wanted to put rotating repertory back into our season, so in my first year we added it back.

And it has always been my intention that rep could be one big story told over two nights as opposed to two discrete plays — with the same company being part of the entire endeavor.

This play is rarely done because of its scale, but we have an 18-member classically trained resident acting company and are one of the few places that can take it on.

What is the main theme of “Nicholas Nickleby”?
The engine of the play is money: Who has it? Who doesn’t have it? What are people willing to do to get it? And what is the terrible price exacted by a culture on those who don’t have any money?

When David Edgar wrote this piece 30 years ago, I think it was a peek into a world that had long since passed. But now it feels really immediate that you can wake up to find that your job is gone or your fortune is gone or you have an illness of some kind. You can end up broke in a culture that ranges from indifference to contempt for those who can’t get by.

In the opening narration there is a section that says, “Speculate Mr. Nickleby, go ahead and speculate.” And Mr. Nickleby did speculate but a mania prevailed, a bubble burst, four stockbrokers bought villa residences in Florence, 400 nobodies were ruined and one of them was Mr. Nickleby.” That’s the engine that starts Nicholas on his journey. Money is the central theme, although that’s not what the play is all about.

Can you talk about the scope and challenges of this production?
“Nicholas Nickleby” is the biggest play PlayMakers has ever produced. I venture to say it’s the biggest play any theater has ever produced. We have a 25-actor ensemble playing well over 150 different roles. Part 1 is probably three hours and 15 minutes; Part 2 is probably three-and-a-half hours. It was really clear that if we were going to take it on, we couldn’t treat it like any other play.

I’m co-directing with my great colleague and friend Tom Quaintance, who has directed for us here in the past. Even with an extended rehearsal time, we had 350 pages of text to stage so we had two separate rehearsals going on at once.

We have spent months and months in preparation so that if he’s upstairs doing scene A and I’m downstairs working on scene B, we better be in agreement what the geography is so that when we knit these scenes together they will actually fit.

How many staff members are involved?
Around 130 people are mobilized to make this play come off. Everybody in the building is working unbelievably hard. But the costume shop has worked heroically. I think we have well over 700 costume pieces in this show.

Our costume designer Jan Chambers and her associate Jade Bettin spent all summer sketching hundreds of costumes, rendering what would go to the shops so that the costumes could be made, rented, or pulled from stock. The logistical challenges are enormous.

Did you have any input from the playwright?
One of the great things was that David Edgar came here from England and spent the first week of rehearsals with us. It was an honor for a spectacular artist and incredible collaborator — a guy who won the Tony and Olivier awards for this show — to be willing 30 years later to sit at the table with us and say, “Oh I know, maybe we can reorganize these scenes, we can put this here. I can rewrite this piece and maybe that will work better.”

Why did you decide to use original music for this production?
We have a fantastic resident composer and sound designer, Sarah Pickett. And very early on, we talked about not just having her compose the music for the piece, but being on stage live playing the music and making the sounds as opposed to having them piped in over the speakers. It makes the performance so much more theatrically rich.

Is performing “Nicholas Nickleby” on a thrust stage challenging?
The Paul Green Theatre is not just a thrust stage, it’s a very deep thrust, practically a U-shaped stage. When you’re staging work in a proscenium, you’re making work inside a window frame.

Once you get into a thrust, it’s like going from chess to 3-D chess because you have audience all around. The show one person is seeing is a different play from the show another person is seeing. If you’re doing a scene with two good actors on stage, it can pretty much stage itself. If you have three expert actors, it can almost stage itself, and for every actor you add after that, you’re basically adding an hour of rehearsal time going forward.

We have at least 10 or 12 scenes that have 25 people on stage. So just figuring out how to get the story told in a meaningful way, how to make it physically beautiful in the room, how to get the focus where you want it is an inordinate challenge that we spent a lot of time working out.

How do you think you’re going to feel on opening night?
I can’t know. Sometimes, I sit there effortlessly and enjoy the work of a fantastic company of actors; sometimes it’s far more anxious than that.

As an actor, you start from first rehearsal with minimal responsibility and your level of responsibility increases until you get to opening night, when you’re holding the play in your hands. The director’s work is something of the inverse. The first day you’re holding the whole thing in your hands and sharing it with the company; you’re giving it away. And if you do that well enough, by the time you get to opening night, you’ve handed it off.

The feeling is like one of a proud parent whose child is off to college; you know that the story is in expert hands.

Editor’s Note: To see a video of Haj and read more of the conversation, refer to gazette.unc.edu/nickleby.html.