Oscar "Skipper" Coffin was a prototypical old-style newspaperman who could not stand pretension. The way he ran the journalism department from 1926 to 1950, plus another three years as the School of Journalism’s first dean, reflected that disdain, said Tom Bowers, the school’s senior associate dean from 1979 to 2005.

Coffin, who also was known as “O.J.” or “Ock,” typically began each day with breakfast at a tavern on Rosemary Street — a glass of beer and a cigar, Bowers said. After work, he returned to the tavern to hold court with students and townspeople.

He had no use for graduate degrees and refused to hire anyone who had a graduate degree in journalism, Bowers said. “He believed his job was to produce newspapermen and he did not even like to use the word ‘journalist,’” Bowers said. “His idea of a journalist was somebody who would borrow $5 from you and never intend to pay it back.”

Coffin was one of the dominant and more colorful figures in the 100-year history of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication — a history that Bowers captures in his new book, “Making News.”

The business of journalism has steadily evolved through the past century, and several new developments have been honored by peers. Gitterman is a current health-care expert, and WU is a Carolina steward.

University’s emergency sirens to be tested Sept. 22

The University will test the emergency sirens and text messaging on Sept. 22 between noon and 1 p.m. Public safety officials test the sirens each semester as part of the Alert Carolina safety awareness campaign.

Anyone outside on or near campus, including downtown, is likely to hear the sirens during the test, which is designed to remind students, faculty and staff what to do in an emergency.

No action is needed. As the test begins, the sirens will sound an alert tone in conjunction with a brief pre-recorded public address message. When testing is complete, a different siren tone and voice message will signal “All clear. Resume normal activities.”

During an actual life-threatening emergency, the sirens would sound if:

- An armed and dangerous person is on or near campus;
- A major chemical spill or hazard has been reported; or
- A tornado has been sighted.

If the sirens sound, people should go inside or take cover immediately, close windows and doors, and stay until the “all clear” message sounds.

During next week’s siren test, the University will also send a test text message to the more than 20,000 cell phone numbers registered by students, faculty and staff in the online campus directory.

For more information about the emergency sirens and other means of emergency communication, as well as how to register your cell phone number so you can receive Alert Carolina text messages, refer to alertcarolina.unc.edu.
H1N1 is following expected pattern

As health officials predicted, the start of the academic year has seen a rise in the number of flu-like illnesses, including H1N1, around the country. Fortunately, the viruses seem to be milder to moderate and affect people for three to five days on average.

Mary Covington, assistant vice chancellor for campus health services, said health officials now know more about the H1N1 flu than they did during the spring and summer.

The most recent guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) call for testing only people who have been hospitalized, she said the Faculty Council at its Sept. 4 meeting. “It is not recommended that the average person be tested or necessarily treated with antiviral medications,” she said.

What is key, Covington said, is for people to self-isolate until their fever has been gone for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications like Tylenol or Advil. Until that point, they should stay home from school or work.

People who become ill and are at high risk for flu complications should speak with their healthcare provider (or Campus Health Services for students) as soon as possible, she said. Information about high-risk groups is included in the vaccination clinics.

Employee seasonal flu shot registration is open now; clinics begin Sept. 22

Seasonal flu shot clinics for University faculty and staff begin Sept. 22 — nearly four weeks earlier than last year’s clinics — to provide the vaccine to employees as soon as possible.

Registration for employees for seasonal flu shots began online Sept. 14 and can be made by visiting ehs.unc.edu. Employees without Internet access should ask their supervisors or administrative assistants for help in making an appointment.

There will be 19 clinics at convenient campus locations during the last two weeks of September and every week in October. See the box below for the schedule.

Because of parking and staff limitations, these clinics are for University employees only. (Seasonal flu clinics for students will be held Oct. 6, Oct. 13 and Oct. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Room 3206 A&B of the FPG Student Union.) Family members, retirees, volunteers and others who do not qualify as employees can find a local flu clinic by going to Find a Flu Clinic on the Web site of the American Lung Association (snipurl.com/3tybt).

There is no charge for flu shots for employees enrolled in the State Health Plan, but they must bring their State Health Plan card and a photo ID to the appointment. Cost of shots for those not on the State Health Plan is $30. After vaccination, a form will be provided to file a claim with other health insurers.

This seasonal influenza vaccine will not provide protection against the H1N1 flu. A vaccine for H1N1 is being developed. As soon as it is released for general public distribution the campus community will be notified. For additional information about the H1N1 flu, see the related story above.

Employee seasonal influenza vaccination clinics

- **SEPT. 22** Hooker Building — Lower Level Atrium
- **SEPT. 23** Giles Horney Building — Magnolia Room
- **SEPT. 24** FPG Student Union — Room 2518
- **SEPT. 29** Medical Biomolecular Research Building (MBRB) — 2nd floor lobby
- **SEPT. 30** Friday Center — Azalea Room
- **OCT. 1** FPG Student Union — Room 2518
- **OCT. 5** Person Hall — Recital Room
- **OCT. 6** MBRB — 2nd floor lobby
- **OCT. 7** Giles Horney Building — Persimmon Room
- **OCT. 8** FPG Student Union — Room 2518
- **OCT. 13** Hooker Building — Lower Level Atrium
- **OCT. 14** Friday Center — Willow Room
- **OCT. 15** FPG Student Union — Room 2518
- **OCT. 20** MBRB — 2nd floor lobby
- **OCT. 21** Giles Horney Building — Magnolia Room
- **OCT. 22** FPG Student Union — Room 2518
- **OCT. 27** Hooker Building — Lower Level Atrium
- **OCT. 28** Student and Academic Services Building (SASB) — Upendo Lounge (morning); McCall — Loudemilk Foyer (afternoon)
- **OCT. 29** FPG Student Union — Room 2518

![ON THE WEB](snipurl.com/ggax)

**40 YEARS OF PROJECT UPLIFT**

Journalism student Kirstin Garriss produced a video featuring Project Uplift, the student recruitment program that has helped increase diversity at UNC. Among those featured is Terri Houston, left, director of recruitment and multicultural programs in the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs.

**‘MEET ME ON FRANKLIN STREET’**

Chapel Hill’s landmark thoroughfare has joined the likes of Paul Green, James Taylor and Alexander Julian with its own permanent exhibit at the Chapel Hill Museum. The flower ladies and long-gone restaurants like the Rat join the parades, protests and celebrations to give exhibit visitors a taste of life on Franklin Street.

**DECODING THE HIV GENOME**

As reported on the Arts and Sciences’ Web site, the structure of an entire HIV genome has been decoded for the first time by UNC researchers, led by chemistry professor Kevin Weeks. The study opens the door for further research that could accelerate the development of antiviral drugs.

**PLEASE WASH YOUR HANDS!**

Washing for at least 20 seconds is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of flu (including H1N1) and other viruses.
Lensing recognized by peers with Jefferson Award

The peers of longtime faculty member and student mentor George S. Lensing have honored him with the prestigious 2009 Thomas Jefferson Award. Chancellor Holden Thorp presented the award at the Sept. 4 Faculty Council meeting.

Lensing, the Mann Family Distinguished Professor of English in the College of Arts and Sciences, is a scholar of 20th-century British and American poetry whose books on the poet Wallace Stevens have earned national acclaim.

The annual Jefferson Award was created in 1961 by the Robert Earl McConnell Foundation to recognize a Carolina faculty member who, through personal influence and performance of duty in teaching, writing and scholarship, has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Thomas Jefferson. UNC faculty members nominate candidates for the honor, which carries a cash prize; a faculty committee chooses the recipient.

Throughout 40 years at Carolina, Lensing has taken on various administrative roles, both within the English department and across the University. Since 2003, he has served as director of the Office of Distinguished Scholarships, where he is responsible for recruiting and developing student applications for prestigious national scholarships, including the Rhodes, Truman and Churchill awards.

"Like Thomas Jefferson when he left the White House, George at Carolina, the citation said, "and savvy administrators quickly surmised that Lensing had a gift for working with colleagues as well."

Within the English department, he served for many years as director of junior-senior English and has advised honors students for more than three decades. Outside the department, Lensing has been assistant dean of honors in the college, secretary of the faculty, chair of the division of humanities and faculty sponsor of the Order of the Golden Fleece, a campus honorary society. Since 1974, he has been a member of the Committee on the Chancellor's Awards Ceremony for recognizing outstanding undergraduates in academics, leadership and service.

"Tellingly, he has not sought released time for administrative

See LENSING page 4

UNC’s decision to close early for Oct. 22 football game was made to help employees

Next month the University will play football in Kenan Stadium on a Thursday night for the first time. And like any first, there are some unknowns.

One given, though, is the influx of traffic on campus beginning late in the afternoon on Oct. 22 as fans get ready for the 8 p.m. kickoff against Florida State University. To help employees avoid the worst of the traffic congestion, the University will close at 3 p.m. that day.

Employees have several options for making up the time including adjusting their work schedules during the week or using available vacation, compensatory time, or bonus or flexible furlough leave.

The decision to close early was a major topic of discussion at the Sept. 2 Employee Forum meeting. Delegates’ reactions ranged from thinking the early closure was a good way to support Carolina’s student-athletes to feeling that employees’ family time would be compromised.

"People would be far more concerned if they couldn’t get home to take care of their family needs," said Brenda Richardson Malone, vice chancellor of human resources. "Our focus is on egress so our employees can leave campus in a more orderly fashion."

Chancellor Holden Thorp agreed to schedule the game that evening because it is during fall break. With students and most faculty members gone at that time, game-related traffic will affect staff primarily, Malone said.

"A lot of thought went into this and the decision was made with employees in mind," she said.

She asked that people approach the early closure with an open mind. "We communicated this change well in advance, and we are asking people to be flexible this year," she said. "Afterward we will do a post-mortem and take the information back to the athletics department."

Parking and transportation officials will modify bus schedules to accommodate heavier than usual ridership around 3 p.m., Malone said. The Department of Public Safety will send detailed information to the campus community closer to game day.

OTHER BUSINESS

Noreen Montgomery and Chris Chiron of the Office of Human Resources briefed the forum about planned changes to the University’s EPA non-faculty grievance policy and updates to the EPA non-faculty employment policies.

The grievance policy is being updated to make the process clearer and easier to use for employees, better define the deadline for filing grievances, encourage use of the University’s mediation program as an alternative to filing a grievance and clarify how the EPA non-faculty grievance committee will handle grievances.

The EPA non-faculty employment policies were revised to reflect recent changes in UNC system policies and clarify the policies

See FORUM page 11

Thor: Faculty help maintain Carolina’s morale

Although higher education fared well overall in the state budget that was approved last month, the effects of budget cuts are still rippling through Carolina. At the Sept. 4 Faculty Council meeting, Chancellor Holden Thorp put the budget picture in perspective.

He reminded council members that the University implemented a 5 percent cut in March to be able to reap some savings by the July 1 start of the new fiscal year. At the beginning of July, UNC President Erskine Bowles asked state universities to take another 5 percent cut because the budget had not yet been finalized.

"Those 10 percent cuts we announced are what we have implemented or are in the process of implementing," Thorp said.

Carolina administrators have been able to hold down reductions to instructional units, and the University is optimistic about weathering the additional 5 percent holdback in state appropriations Gov. Beverly Perdue authorized, Thorp said.

"We have just as many seats in classes this year as we did last year, and I thank you for all that you do to protect academics here," he told faculty members.

He also thanked faculty for maintaining morale at Carolina and asked that they reinforce that employees are a valued part of Carolina’s teaching, research and service mission. "We have to carry out the administrative work of the University, and we need our employees to do that," he said.

The current scrutiny UNC system administrators are under is indicative of what is happening across the country, Thorp said. "It is perfectly appropriate because our objective is to provide research, education and service in the most cost-effective manner we can."

The good financial news, he said, is the $716 million in faculty-generated research last year — exceeding the $500 million the University receives in state appropriations.

In addition, private fundraising brought in $271 million in gifts in fiscal 2009, the University’s second highest total ever. "We are not in a campaign and we are in a terrible market, so this is very impressive," Thorp said. "We only know of one peer that had its second best year ever."

He emphasized the importance of the recent Bain & Company study, particularly in light of the current financial situation. Thorp said he commissioned the study because Carolina was due for a permanent qualitative change “in the way we do education.”

"I’m glad we had the sense to start on this when we did," he said. "The thing we
LENSING from page 3

work; he loves teaching too much,” the citation said. “Few have served in so many posts, so ably, asking not what the department, the college, the University could do for him!”

Through the years, both colleagues and students have recognized Lensing’s example in leadership and service. Among his University teaching honors, he received the Bowman and Gordon Gray Professorship, the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching and the John Sanders Award recognizing excellence in teaching and service. He also received the General Alumni Association’s Faculty Service Award.

Lensing was chosen to give the December commencement address in 2004 and the prestigious E. Maynard Adams Lecture in the Humanities and Human Values in 2006. “When he is not teaching or confering with students or colleagues, he is usually in his library carrel reading or writing. There is always work-in-progress,” the citation said.

“Like Jefferson, Lensing looks for the next ethical core: to produce accurate, credible information in a timely, useful way. Folksert said the pursuit of objectivity too often has produced stories that offer formulaic balance rather than penetrating depth. The reporter’s job is to get inside a story well enough to be able to tell it with both honesty and depth.”

“You can write a story that quotes three Democrats and three Republicans and not contribute any information for a good story,” she said.

Bloggers now enjoy such a wide audience, she believes, because many readers have grown tired of the formulaic, objective stories produced by newspapers during the past half-century.

NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Upon his retirement from the journalism school faculty in 1957, Coffin captured that enduring sense of purpose for the profession when he told Chancellor Robert House that he and his colleagues had been “consecrated to the common good.”

Although the journalism school was accredited before Coffin’s departure, and in the decades to follow won acclaim as one of the top journalism schools in the country, the spirit of Coffin endured through another legend, Jim Shumaker. The gruff newspaperman inspired former student Jeff MacNelly to create the comic strip “Shoe” featuring a stodgy, cigar-smoking bird who banged out a newspaper on an old typewriter while perched on a tree limb.

Bowers, who joined the faculty in 1971, remembers the faculty luncheon that then-Dean Jack Adams held when he was considering hiring “Shu” in 1973.

Adams’ problem, Bowers said, was that Shumaker failed to take a first-year hygiene class that was required for an undergraduate degree. By the early 1970s, an undergraduate degree was the base requirement as an academic credential to teach at the school, not the ceiling Coffin advocated.

Bowers said most of the faculty came to the luncheon, along with Shumaker and then-UNC President William Friday, to review Shumaker’s hiring. Adams held an object in front of Shumaker and asked, “What is this?”

“It’s a bar of soap,” Shumaker said.

“Good,” Adams told him. “You just passed your hygiene course.”

Soon afterward, Shumaker got the teaching job, which he kept until his death 27 years later.

To learn more about events planned during the school’s centennial celebration, and for a link to Bowers’ history of the school, refer to centennial.jomc.unc.edu.

Notable graduates

Among the most familiar names and faces in communications nationally, many studied in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and the former Department of Radio, Television and Motion Pictures, which became part of the school. They include:

- Nelson Benton, CBS News
- Furman Bisher, Atlanta Journal Constitution
- Wendy Bounds, Wall Street Journal
- Horace Carter, Pulitzer Prize winner
- Woody Durham, the voice of the Tar Heels
- Peter Gammons, ESPN
- Karen Jurgensen, USA Today
- Carl Kasell, NPR
- Larry Keith, Sports Illustrated
- Jason Kilar, Hulu
- Charles Kuralt, CBS Sunday Morning, On the Road
- Sharon Lawrence, actress
- Charles McKinney and Michael Silver, McKinney and Silver ad agency
- Jeff MacNelly, cartoonist
- Hugh Morton, photographer
- Allen Murray, Wall Street Journal
- Eugene Roberts, The New York Times,
- Philadelphia Inquirer
- Vermont Royster, Wall Street Journal
- Ed Yoder, Washington Star

Right, current journalism and mass communication students (left-right) Christina Monseratte, Lauren McGaha and Jeremy Spearman work on a feature for Carolina Week in the school’s broadcast studio. In the photo below from the school’s archives, a newswriting class is taught by Kenneth Byerly in Howell Hall at the end of the fall semester 1961.

In the photo below from the school’s archives, a journalism student checks the AP teletype in Howell Hall during the spring semester 1962.
Faculty/Staff

Patil named program director for Bain response

Mike Patil, associate dean for integrated business management in the Eshelman School of Pharmacy, has been named full-time program director for the University’s response to the Bain & Company report.

Patil will join Joe Templeton, past faculty chair and former chemistry chair, in managing the University’s efforts to improve the efficiency of its operations. The recently completed Bain report pinpoints key problems and outlines options for addressing them.

“Mike’s expertise in business processes complements Joe’s extensive knowledge of Carolina and our culture,” said Chancellor Holden Thorp in announcing Patil’s appointment. “Mike will help prioritize projects, develop a methodology to evaluate the options identified in the Bain report, and monitor progress. His work will aim to encourage broad participation on campus and to identify related policy issues.”

Patil, who has been at Carolina since 2006, has more than 25 years of experience as a senior executive leading and managing business process, information technology, and organizational and strategic consulting for corporations including Ericsson, IBM and corporations including Ericsson, IBM and organizational and strategic consulting for corporations including Ericsson, IBM and


SHaffer, advocate for children, dies Sept. 4

Gary L. Shaffer, one of the state’s leading experts on social work practice and a staunch advocate for children, died on Sept. 4. He was 62.

Shaffer, who dedicated more than half of his life to social work and to preparing students for social work practice, joined the School of Social Work in 1986 as director of the field education program. He was later named director of the school’s summer program.

Although he battled colon cancer for several years, the associate professor remained extremely active at UNC and within the North Carolina community. He became a recognizable voice against the use of corporal punishment within North Carolina’s public schools.

He served as a member of the N.C. Professional School Social Work Standards Committee and supervised more than 300 master’s students within North Carolina school districts. With responsibility for licensing school social work practitioners through the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, he helped more than 500 practitioners earn state licensure.

Gary put his heart and soul into his work and into achieving his goals,” said Jack M. Richman, social work dean. “I have heard from former students and faculty colleagues from across the country, all of whom have noted what a great loss is being felt at Gary’s passing. He was a real gentleman who cared deeply for his students, family, friends, colleagues and profession. I will miss him mightily.”

Shaffer’s work throughout North Carolina earned him the title of “Dr. School Social Work,” said Anna Scheyett, associate dean for academic affairs at the school. “Social work always came first for him.”

Editor’s note: Read the entire story at gazette.unc.edu/facstaff.html.

Hayden Renwick, longtime advocate for black students, dies Sept. 2

Hayden Bently Renwick, a pioneer in Carolina’s efforts to increase the enrollment of African-American students, died Sept. 2 at Presbyterian Medical Center in Charlotte. He was 74.

When Renwick became assistant director of the Office of Undergraduate Admissions in 1969, Carolina had only about 100 African-American students. His commitment to increase that number was evident when four years later, black student enrollment topped 900.

The General Alumni Association recognized Renwick for the pivotal role he played during this transformative period when it awarded him the 2006 Harvey E. Beech Outstanding Faculty/Staff Award.

Michael Moseley, a 1974 graduate who Renwick recruited, said when Renwick received the award, “Bennie [as he was known to students, family and friends] was committed to seeing black students get in, flourish and graduate. It was a personal effort.”

That effort took him to high schools and junior colleges around the state to recruit black students. If he could not make a trip, he sent Carolina’s African-American students in state cars to speak in his stead.

In her 2008 December commencement address, Valerie Ashby, the Gordon and Bowman Gray Distinguished Term Professor of Chemistry, singled Renwick out as “one of the most outspoken champions for students that I have ever known.”

Harry Jones, a 1972 graduate and one of the first students Renwick recruited, said Renwick put as much effort into helping students succeed as he did getting them here. It was not unusual for Renwick to appear at the dorm room door of a student who was struggling, Jones said.

Editor’s note: Read the entire story at gazette.unc.edu/facstaff.html.
University uses new federal categories to collect race and ethnicity information

The University collects information on the race and ethnicity of all employees and students for use in providing reports to state and federal agencies that require demographic data. Employee’s information is gathered when the person is hired, and students provide the information when they apply for admission.

Collection of race and ethnicity information is governed by state and federal guidelines. In October 2007, the U.S. Department of Education created new categories for collecting and reporting race and ethnicity data at higher education institutions and required that educational institutions comply with the changes by July 1, 2010.

Beginning Sept. 30, applicants and newly hired employees will use the new collection categories.

Current students and employees also may re-identify themselves based on the new categories, said Ann Penn, equal opportunity/ADA officer.

Under the new system, the information is collected in a set of two questions.

The first question asks about ethnicity — whether or not the individual is Hispanic/Latino. The second question asks the individual to identify his/her race by selecting one or more race categories from a list (American Indian or Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or White or Caucasian).

Faculty and staff were e-mailed a brief survey that asks for updated information about race and ethnicity, as well as information about disability and veteran status that the University collects and reports. Hard copies of the survey were made available to employees who do not work with computers.

Anyone who has not received a survey by the end of September can contact Ann Penn, equal opportunity/ADA officer, at annpenn@email.unc.edu or 966-3576.

Students can access the new collection categories through the MyUNC portal (my.UNC.edu) by updating their personal information in the University directory. They will have to log in first. Prospective students will use the new categories when they create a MyUNC account and/or when they apply for admission.

For additional information, contact Penn, at annpenn@email.unc.edu or 966-3576.

Additional information about the new collection categories is also available on the U.S. Department of Education Web site, www2.ed.gov/about/offices Ed/d/opea/qandaImplementation.html.

**New Collection Categories**

1. **Ethnicity:** Are you Hispanic or Latino?
   - Yes
   - No

2. **Race:** Select one or more that apply:
   - American Indian or Alaska Native
   - Asian
   - Black or African American
   - Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander
   - White or Caucasian

**Old Collection Categories**

What Ethnicity/Race Do You Consider Yourself?

- White/Caucasian (Not Hispanic): Origins in Europe, North Africa, or the Middle East.
- Black/African American (Not Hispanic): Origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa.
- Hispanic: Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish culture of origin, regardless of race.
- Asian or Pacific Islanders: Origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian subcontinent or the Pacific Islands. This area includes, for example, China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Samoa.
- American Indian or Alaskan Native: Origins in the original peoples of North America and who maintain tribal affiliation or community recognition.

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**North Carolina Literary Festival**

**A CELEBRATION OF READING AND WRITING**

William Ferris, Joel Williamson Eminent Professor of History, signs a copy of his new book, “Give My Poor Heart Ease,” for Miriam Kennard during the North Carolina Literary Festival. At far right, Katie Rucker and her daughter, 3-year-old Catherine, create a mask during the festival, which was hosted Sept. 10–13 by the University. The libraries of Carolina and Duke and N.C. State universities, with additional support from N.C. Central University, organize and sponsor the festival, which rotates biennially among the Carolina, Duke and NCSU campuses. (Photos by L.J. Toler)

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**H1N1 from page 2**

Having fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit with cough, congestion or sore throat in the absence of a known cause.

The numbers reported by Campus Health Services (CHS) reflect only a snapshot of surveillance data and are a marker for measuring the extent of ILI in the student community. But they are not a comprehensive account of all flu cases among UNC students.

As of Aug. 31, CHS began seeing a marked increase in the number of patients with flu-like symptoms. During the week ending Sept. 12, the number was 314, down slightly from the week before. There have been no hospitalizations and no deaths. Every Tuesday, CHS will report summary statistics about cases of ILI seen in its clinic during the previous week (refer to www.piersonsystem.com/go/doc/1395/322436/), which are reported to the State Health Department, UNC General Administration and the American College Health Association.

**Preparation is Key**

Currently the University is operating at Level 1 of its four-level pandemic plan, indicating a limited hazard to students, faculty and staff, Mary Beth Koza, director of environment, health and safety, told the Faculty Council.

To reach Level 2, at least 20 percent of the campus community would have to exhibit signs of illness. At that point, the University would remain open but events and social gatherings might have to be closed. A public health emergency would move the University to Level 3, when classes would be suspended or the University could close.

“We want to be proactive so we won’t have to reach the point of closing the University,” she said.

Within the last couple of weeks, the University has communicated extensively with faculty, staff, students and parents of undergraduates. (All the University’s communications about H1N1 flu are posted on Alert Carolina, alertcarolina.unc.edu/go/doc/1395/281157.)

From an academic standpoint, the biggest issue is the possibility of a student or faculty member being out of class for up to five days, Ron Strauss, executive associate provost, told the Faculty Council.

“You have received a guidance document and that’s our best statement at the moment,” he said, referring to the Sept. 3 campus e-mail from the provost’s office. “Our policy is a very general plea to be compassionate, thoughtful and kind. Think about how you would like to be treated under these circumstances.”

People who are sick should not come to work or class. If they do, they should be encouraged to go home, Strauss said.

“If you are sick, ask your department chairs to seek substitutes when possible, and ask your students to let you, the Dean of Students office or your department know if they’re sick,” Strauss said.

Faculty Chair McKay Coble advised council members to plan ahead for how they would teach if they had to be out for three to five days.

**Flu Vaccines**

Seasonal flu vaccines will be available for faculty and staff beginning Sept. 22. A list of clinics and registration information is available at ehs.unc.edu (see related story on page 2).

The U.S. Government, through the CDC, is testing a vaccine for H1N1 and as soon as it is released for general public distribution, the University will notify the campus community.

Updated information about the H1N1 flu, including a list of frequently asked questions, is included on Alert Carolina. Refer to alertcarolina.unc.edu/go/doc/1395/281157.
Gitterman pursues health-care reform in small steps

Daniel Gitterman arrived at Carolina fully aware of the tension within academia between pure scholarship and real-world solutions. But he also had reason to believe, based on the example set by his department chair, that the culture at Carolina permitted its faculty to delve into the real world in order to make a difference in people’s lives.

The former chair was Michael Stegman who taught planning and public policy at Carolina for more than 40 years, and from 1993 to 1997 served as assistant secretary for policy development and research at the Department of Housing and Urban Development under President Bill Clinton.

Stegman’s example demonstrated to Gitterman that it was possible to strike a balance between serious scholarship and real-world engagement. It is why Gitterman agreed to serve as a senior policy adviser on health and human services to Gov. Beverly Perdue while continuing his full duties as associate professor of public policy.

One of the first things he did in his advisory role was to organize a White House-sponsored regional forum on health-care reform that was held in March at N.C. A&T State University. The forum, which Perdue moderated, was the fourth held in the country and shed light on the issue from the eyes of North Carolinians.

In many ways, North Carolina had become a poster child for the need for health-care reform. With the near collapse of the banking system and the state’s dwindling manufacturing jobs, countless families had lost insurance coverage through the loss of jobs or the elimination of employer-sponsored health insurance.

Gitterman made sure some of those people spoke at the forum.

“I have learned from teaching public policy that sometimes there is nothing more powerful than a personal story to illustrate a large policy point,” Gitterman said. “It was also important to illustrate some of the innovations that were going on in North Carolina.”

LITTLE STEPS COUNT

Then Gitterman found himself doing something uncharacteristic of someone who had devoted his adult life to studying federal health and social policy reform. As the debate heated up — and unraveled — throughout the country, Gitterman began to focus more of his time and energy on some of the statewide innovations here.

An example is Community Care of North Carolina, a not-for-profit system of managed care for Medicaid patients under which a network of physicians not only provide care but get a monthly fee for coordinating care. Gitterman sees this as a unique collaborative system that could serve as a national model to control costs and improve the quality of care.

Gitterman has applied for money from the federal stimulus package to develop a health information technology exchange to create a data bank of critical patient information that includes safeguards to protect patient privacy.

When Perdue ran for governor, she identified as a top priority making sure all children in the state had health care. Gitterman helped write her health-care roadmap.

At the heart of that issue are the thousands of children currently eligible for Medicaid and the State Children’s Health Insurance Program — or SCHIP — who are not enrolled.

As a means of reaching those children, Gitterman helped with the development of a pilot project, which recently received federal funding, to extend low-cost coverage similar to Medicaid to the parents of uninsured children.

The program’s goal was to test the proposition that enrolling parents in a health-care program could help enroll more children, Gitterman said.

Even if that premise proved false, he said, the immediate and practical effect of the program would have been to extend coverage to working adults who were not covered.

Another promising project is his work to create an online system for North Carolina residents to choose and enroll in an array of public benefits, from food stamps to Medicaid. The project is modeled after a program begun in Ohio called The Benefit Bank and is now being spearheaded by MDC, a think tank in Chapel Hill.

“These are all examples of programs inching in the right direction rather than sprinting in the right direction,” Gitterman said.

PROSPECTS FOR NATIONAL REFORM

In assessing the political calculus of national reform, Gitterman is confident a bill will be passed since President Barack Obama has put health-care reform at the top of his legislative agenda and the Democrats control both houses of Congress.

However, between Republicans’ growing interest in defeating the measure and the development of warring factions between advocates of universal coverage and fiscal conservatives within the Democratic Party, the prospect of passing the sweeping, bipartisan legislation that Obama pushed for in the spring now appears less likely, Gitterman said.

“President Obama and the Democrats need something, and my guess is that even if they pass something small and incremental they can claim it as a first step toward universal coverage,” Gitterman said.

Whatever bill ultimately passes, Gitterman hopes it addresses regulation of private insurance companies to end the practice of denying coverage to individuals because of pre-existing conditions.

SMALL STEPS TO MAJOR STRIDES

Incrementalism is the art of reaching for what you want and settling for what is politically possible, Gitterman said.

The late Sen. Ted Kennedy advocated fiercely for universal health care for more than four decades, but he settled time and again for legislative compromises to “make incremental steps on the margins.” And this succession of small steps generated major strides, Gitterman said.

Gitterman also wants people to understand that the little steps at the state level can make a real and immediate difference in people’s lives.

It was Kennedy’s home state of Massachusetts that in 2006 became the first state to extend health-care coverage to all its citizens through a combination of methods that apportioned costs among businesses, individuals and the government.

Gitterman said North Carolina has a long record of achievement in health and public health. He is hopeful that state government, UNC policy experts and foundations working together will bring new innovation.

He affirmed Perdue’s statement: “Put simply, a national health-care system must provide the right care, at the right time, at the right place — and at a price that people, and states, can afford.”

As they delve into the issues and recommendations in the Bain report and how that can inform future University operations, Templeton and Patil will be in touch with people in schools, units and departments across campus, Thorp said.

“This type of initiative involves thoroughly examining and streamlining organizational structures, processes and work routines to allow people at the level where actions are initiated to make decisions quickly, transparently and confidently,” Patil said. “One goal is to empower our faculty and staff, who will need to work as a team to meet the University’s new challenges.”

Information about the Bain report is available at university-relations.unc.edu/budget. In addition, the University’s e-mail address for cost-saving ideas is budgetideas@unc.edu.
UPCOMING READINGS
The Bull’s Head Bookshop hosts the following readings at 3:30 p.m.:

- Sept. 17 — Mac McCaughan and Laura Balance, founders of indie record label Merge Records and the pop-punk band Superchunk, will play a few songs and read from their new book “Our Noise: The Story of Merge Records, the Indie Label that Got Big.”

- Sept. 21 — Amy Lanou reads from her new book “Building Bone Vitality: A Revolutionary Diet Plan to Prevent Bone Loss and Reverse Osteoporosis — Without Dairy Foods, Calcium, Estrogen or Drugs.”

- Sept. 24 — Erica Eisdiser, longtime manager of the Bull’s Head, will read from her new novel, “The Wet Nurse’s Tale.”

- Oct. 1 — Nic Brown, director of communications at the Ackland Art Museum, will read from his new novel “Floodmarkers,” which was selected as an Editor’s Choice by The New York Times Book Review.

- The Creative Writing Program presents the Armfield Poetry Reading on Sept. 22 with poet Gibbons Ruark in Donovan Lounge of Greenlaw Hall, also at 3:30 p.m.

SKYWATCHING
The Morehead Planetarium and Science Center will hold a Skywatching Session Sept. 19 from 8 to 10 p.m. at the Ebenezer Church Recreation Area at Jordan Lake. Check Web site for directions, weather conditions.

NEW UNIVERSITY PORTAL IS NOW CALLED ‘MYUNC’
Carolina’s new portal that launched in July will now be called MyUNC (my.unc.edu). It serves as a gateway for gaining access to online applications and services based on whether the user is a prospective student, current student or member of the faculty or staff.

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PINK FLOYD, LED ZEPPELIN, U2
Experience your favorite rock music with your eyes as well as your ears when the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center hosts five laser shows on Friday and Saturday nights this fall, through Nov. 22. The lineup each night will be: Laser Classic Rock, 7 p.m.; Laser U2, 8 p.m.; Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon, 9 p.m.; Laser Zeppelin, 10 p.m.; and Pink Floyd’s The Wall, 11 p.m. Tickets for each laser show are $9.50 for adults and $7.50 for students or Morehead members. Season tickets also are available at $39 for adults and $34 for students. Discount coupons, passes and free admission membership benefits are not valid for laser shows.

FREE PROSTATE CANCER SCREENINGS
The Urology Clinic at UNC Hospitals will offer free prostate cancer screenings from 1 to 7 p.m. on Sept. 23 and Sept. 24 for all men over 40 years old or with a family history of prostate cancer. The screenings include a blood test and digital rectal exam. No appointment is necessary. See www.med.unc.edu/urology or call 966-1315.

LOOK TO CAMPUS REC FOR HELP STAYING HEALTHY AND ACTIVE
Campus Recreation’s Employee Intramural Sports Leagues are getting under way for the semester with registration open for volleyball now and racquetball registration opening Oct. 5. Campusrec.unc.edu/innamurals

In addition, Kids ROCK!, the ongoing Recreation Opportunities for Carolina Kids, has activities geared for children and their parents. On Sept. 26, join the women’s soccer team at Hooker Fields for basic skills training from 10 a.m. to noon. R.S.V.P. at least two days ahead to meghannm@email.unc.edu. Campusrec.unc.edu/employee_rec

‘OPUS’ OPENS MAINSTAGE SEASON AT PLAYMAKERS
In the play “Opus,” talent and temperament collide in a behind-the-scenes look at the personal discord and professional harmony of the world’s finest string quartet. PlayMakers Repertory Company will open its 34th mainstage season Sept. 23 – Oct. 11 with the premiere of the play by Michael Hollinger in the Paul Green Theatre.

Show times will be 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays, with an additional performance at 2 p.m. on Oct. 3, and 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are $10 to $40. Call 962-PLAY (7529). www.playmakersrep.org

In addition, PlayMakers is offering faculty and staff 10 percent off the cost of single tickets for the 2009–10 season. www.playmakersrep.org/tickets/facstaffdisc.aspx

REGISTER FOR HAVEN TRAINING
The HAVEN program (Help Advocate Violence Ending Now) provides ally training for students, faculty and staff to learn how to respond in a meaningful way to sexual and relationship violence. HAVEN allies serve as “safe spaces” for students who need information, referrals and support. E-mail fogle@unc.edu. snipurl.com/rphyl8
DEADLINES TO WATCH

- Submit applications by Sept. 30 for Performing Arts and Special Activities Fund (PASAF) grants. Send proposals to Carol Tresolini, associate provost for academic initiatives, CB# 3000. The PASAF supports projects and activities that provide quality performing arts and cultural programming that enhances the creative and cultural environment at UNC. https://provost.unc.edu/announcements/pasaf

- Nominations are due Oct. 1 for University Teaching Award nominations. provost.unc.edu/teaching-awards

- Register by Oct. 1 for the free Joanne E. Roberts Tribute Symposium, hosted by the FPG Child Development Institute. Until her death in November 2008, Roberts was a senior scientist at the institute as well as a professor of speech and hearing sciences and a research professor of pediatrics. The symposium will be held Oct. 30 at the Carolina Club. snipurl.com/rpp8

- Applications are due Oct. 12 for the University Research Council’s Small Grant Program supporting both research grants and publication grants with awards of up to $5,000. research.unc.edu/red/interval.php

- Nominations are due Oct. 14 for nominations for Distinguished Alumni and Alumnus Awards to be presented at the Oct. 12, 2010, University Day ceremony. Nominees will have made an outstanding contribution to humanity in any walk of life. Send biographical information of the nominee and statement in support of the nomination to: Office of Faculty Governance, CB# 9170 or FAX to 962-5479 or e-mail annel_whisnant@unc.edu. snipurl.com/rggh

REMOVE VEHICLES FROM SPECIFIED LOTS ON GAME SATURDAYS

Certain campus lots are reserved for home football games on Sept. 19 (ECU), Oct. 3 (Virginia), Oct. 10 (Georgia Southern), Oct. 22 (Florida State), Nov. 7 (Duke) and Nov. 14 (Miami). On these days, vehicles must be removed from designated lots or risk being ticketed and/or towed beginning at 8 a.m. To see the list of lots reserved on game days, refer to www.dps.unc.edu/SpecEvent/Football.pdf.

The page also includes information about driving on South and Ridge roads on game days and information about park-and-ride service and Touch DownTown shuttles. For information not available on the Web site, call 962-3951.

UPCOMING PRESENTATIONS

- Sept. 17 — Daniel E. Reichart, associate professor of physics and astronomy, will present a slideshow, “UNC Telescopes Discover the Invisible Universe,” at the Robert Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Rd., at 2:30 p.m. — free and open to the public.

- Sept. 17 — Joseph A. Joseph, professor of the practice of public policy studies at Duke and who served as ambassador to South Africa from 1996 to 1999, will deliver the Thomas Willis Lambeth Lectureship in Public Policy, “Remaking America: Higher Education and Civic Engagement,” in Gerrard Hall at 5:30 p.m. Call 843-5011 or e-mail pete_andrews@unc.edu.

- Sept. 17 — The Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity, the Center for Banking and Finance and the Center for Civil Rights will hold a Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) panel that will reevaluate the role of the CRA in the mortgage meltdown. It will be held in Room 5042 of the School of Law from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Call 843-8796 or e-mail poverty_center@unc.edu. www.law.unc.edu/centers/poverty

- Sept. 17 — A performance and lecture by Kip Fulbeck will be held at 7 p.m. at the FedEx Global Education Center, based on his exhibition, “kip fulbeck: part asian, 100% hapa.” snipurl.com/rpt8v

- Sept. 22 — Games4Learning will present a talk by Elizabeth Lyons, a doctoral student in health behavior and health education, who will give an overview of current video game theory and research into how personal and game characteristics affect motivation and how motivation affects gameplay. It will be held in Toy Lounge in Day Hall at 1:30 p.m. The free event is sponsored by ITS Teaching and Learning and the Center for Faculty Excellence. Registration is required: snipurl.com/ripky.

- Sept. 22 — The Center for the Study of the American South with support from the General Alumni Association will present Theodore Rosengarten, lecturer at the College of Charleston and the University of South Carolina, in a discussion of “The Holocaust and the Spirit of Colonialism” in the Hill Alumni Center at 4 p.m. 962-5665

- Sept. 24 — The School of Information and Library Science will offer the 2009 Lucile Kelling Henderson Lecture with Tom Blanton, director of the National Security Archive, speaking about “The Secrecy Hangover” at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of the FPG Student Union. A screening of the documentary “Secrecy” also will be shown. R.S.V.P. to mpenny@email.unc.edu or call 962.8366. snipurl.com/roel1

- Sept. 25 — The Center for Sustainable Enterprise at Kenan-Flagler Business School will present adjunct professor Kellie McElhaney and Wal-Mart senior vice president of sustainability Matt Kistler in conversation: “Leadership, Innovation and Consumers of the Future” at Koury Auditorium from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. R.S.V.P. to cse@unc.edu.

- Sept. 26 — The Program in the Humanities and Human Values will offer “Southern Comfort: Cultures of Food in the South,” including discussion of Southern cuisine as an expression of a unique regional identity and a case study of barbecue. An optional lunch will be available. The program will be held at the Center for School Leadership Development from 9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Preregistration with fee is required. Call 962-1544 or see adventuresinideas.unc.edu.

- Sept. 29 — ITS Teaching and Learning, the Center for Faculty Excellence and the GrantSource Library will present a workshop given by Elizabeth Allen from the GrantSource Library on how to search for and identify funding sources that support the use of technology in teaching and learning. Participants will take a tour of various funding resources available through the GrantSource Library and learn to shape customized searches and funding alerts that are tailored to specific goals. It will be held in the Davis Library Computer Lab at 3 p.m. Registration for the free event is required: snipurl.com/rpino.

- Oct. 1 — The Office of Technology Development will present a Launching the Venture course titled “Lessons from UNC Entrepreneurs,” to be held in 014 Sitterson Hall at 5:30 p.m. snipurl.com/rpslc

AWFP HOLDS FALL RECEPTION SEPT. 17

The Association for Women Faculty and Professionals (AWFP) invites all women faculty and professionals to its fall reception on Sept. 17 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Anne Queen Faculty Commons at the Campus Y. The AWFP offers women...
Anna Wu considers herself fortunate to be at Carolina

Since she was named University architect in 2001, Anna Wu has presided over one of the biggest construction campaigns in Carolina history. University leaders say she did it with a style and grace equal to the task.

S
he is an architect by trade who arrived at Carolina just in time for a decade-long capital construction program that would eventually reach $2.1 billion — and become one of the largest building programs of any major U.S. university ever.

She considers herself lucky because she came to the Triangle in 1987 as “a trailer spouse.” Her husband is a biomedical engineer who landed a faculty position at Duke, which he still holds.

She started a small architectural firm in Durham that eventually led her to Carolina in 1995 after the firm completed a project for an autistic adult residence center at the University.

She began as a project manager and became intimately involved with the three-year process of crafting a new master campus plan that, when it was approved in 2001, was considered the roadmap to Carolina’s future. That summer, she was named University architect and director of Facilities Planning and Construction, nominated Wu for a 2009 C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award.

Moeser said Wu, more than anyone, is behind the high-caliber work on the University campus. Since coming to Carolina, Wu has managed more than 12 projects, including the renovations of Memorial Hall, Lenoir Hall and Carroll Hall.

“It doesn’t take more money to build really good buildings,” Moeser wrote. “It just takes the determination to do so, the tenacity to resist temptation to take the easier path, and the eye to know the quality when you see it.”

Moeser said Wu had all these qualities, plus one that truly sets her apart: her “quiet, modest way” of dealing with people that generates their trust and confidence in her.

“Whether it is a highly temperamental architect or a trust with a very critical point of view, Anna is always patient and kind,” Moeser said. “She listens to criticism, and she never lets her ego get in the way of solving a problem. With the trustees, her task is to get to ‘yes,’ and if that means going back to the drawing board with the architect, that is what she does.”

In describing Wu’s breadth of contributions, former Board of Trustees Chair Roger Perry, said: “Her vision, intellect and brilliant understanding of land planning and architecture are resulting in a campus of extraordinary quality in terms of its utility, efficiency and beauty.”

FAMILY TIES

Wu suspects she was drawn to the drawing board by her father, who along with Wu’s mother, emigrated from China to go to school in upstate New York. They eventually settled in Cincinnati to raise their family.

“My father was a mechanical engineer, but he really loved architecture and he took us to see a lot of buildings when I was growing up,” Wu said. “I’m sure that started it. Actually, I think a lot of people who go into architecture have some family tie to the trade.”

After receiving a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, Wu earned her master’s degree in architecture from the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Of all the books she has read about architecture, she thinks “The Fountainhead,” Ayn Rand’s 1943 novel about an individualistic young architect who chooses to struggle in obscurity rather than compromise his artistic vision, harmed the nature of architects most.

Sure, Wu said, there are some architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright who view themselves as infallible, godlike figures whose perfect designs reveal their creative genius and are inalterable.

She, like most architects, knows better. A good building is always patient and kind.

Chancellor Emeritus James Moeser cited Wu’s “careful stewardship” of the University’s campus when he and Bruce Runberg, associate vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, nominated Wu for a 2009 C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award.

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Update given on the State Health Plan prescription drug benefit

One of the best pieces of advice for health-care consumers is to shop around for generic prescriptions, said Brian Usichon, senior director of benefits services.

Many national and local retail pharmacies now offer generics at discounted prices. Most of the lower-cost prescription programs offer generic medications at $4 for a one-month supply or $10 for a three-month supply.

As of Sept. 1, Medco, the State Health Plan’s pharmacy provider, will begin offering members lower cost generics when prescriptions are filled using mail order. Medco’s mail-order pharmacy has more than 400 generics at $10 or less for a 90-day supply, with free shipping.

Members who use local drugstores should know that each pharmacy has a specified list of generics that are included at the discounted prices — and most are limited to the more common generics that have been available for a few years.

Many of the newer, more expensive generics such as the allergy medication fexofenadine (generic Allegra), cholesterol medication simvastatin (generic Zocor) and heartburn medication omeprazole (generic Prilosec) may not be included on these lists. However, it is worth checking regularly to see if these generics are included since pharmacies constantly update the lists. Also, some pharmacies require a fee to join their discount prescription program.

State Health Plan members can take advantage of any available discounted generic program, and Medco will process the claim accordingly, Usichon said. For a list of the discounted pharmacy programs and Medco discounts, refer to www.shpnc.org/pharm-lower-cost-generic-prescription.html.
Workplace Violence Policy is revised

The Office of Human Resources (OHR) has updated the University’s Workplace Violence Policy to include state policy revisions. The revised policy, which became effective Sept. 1, is available at hr.unc.edu/Data/SPA/employeerelations/harassment/violence.

The major changes to the policy include:

- The addition of definitions and coverage for domestic violence, stalking and bullying;
- Language regarding coverage of off-duty violent conduct that may have an adverse impact on the University and its employees, students, vendors and guests;
- Contact information for reporting a possible incident of violence; and
- Revisions to the workplace violence reporting form and clarification that the forms should be completed and sent to the OHR Employee and Management Relations Division as soon as practicable, generally within two business days of the incident.

In addition, the revised policy includes language about reasonable support the University will offer to victims of workplace violence to ensure that their needs and the University’s are appropriately addressed.

For information, contact Employee and Management Relations at 843-3444.

In other human resources updates, Malone explained that the approved state budgets for 2009–10 and 2010–11 included no funding for salary increases or legislative bonuses. Salaries can only be adjusted for changes in the scope of an employee’s job duties, she said.

In response to questions about recent layoffs, Malone reminded forum members that she had shared updated numbers with them.

The University is operating on a 10 percent cut in state funding, she said, and so far around 100 people have been laid off. (See current information on the Carolina Budget Web site, univsysrelations.unc.edu/budget.)

BRIEFS from page 9

faculty and professional women opportunities for fun, networking and learning through social activities, seminars, discussion groups and other events. www.unc.edu/awfp

MAKE UNSUNG HEELS NOMINATIONS BY OCT. 15

Recognize Carolina faculty or staff members whose volunteer efforts make our communities better by nominating them as Unsung Heels.

Whether they volunteer at the local shelter, give up time on Saturdays to be a big brother or big sister, visit the sick or perform any other community service, the Employee Forum Awards Committee wants to recognize their efforts.

Submit nominations by Oct. 15 to Teena Burton (CB# 7487) or e-mail tbarton@med.unc.edu. A nomination form is available on the Employee Forum’s Web site at forum.unc.edu/documents/UnsungHeelsNominationForm.doc.

CAROLINA ATHLETICS

■ The Department of Athletics will honor UNC One Cards and UNC Hospitals ID cards for admission to qualifying sporting events during the 2009–10 season in lieu of distributing faculty and staff sports passes. No admission policies will change under this system for complimentary admission for employees and their immediate families.

In the case of games with an anticipated strong turnout, employees will use their ID cards to obtain a hard ticket through a faculty and staff distribution. www.tarheelsblue.com/faculty

■ The athletics department’s Faculty/Staff Family Day events, which include free game tickets, conversations with coaches and “meet and greet” sessions with student athletes, will resume Sept. 27 when Carolina’s women’s soccer team plays Wake Forest at 5 p.m. at Fetzer Field. tarheelblue.cstv.com/facultystaffevents

COURSE BRINGS ‘LIVING WRITERS’ TO UNC

Creative writing students will study with notable authors during a new “Living Writers” course offered this semester. The writers also will give free public readings of their works.

Through the course, students pursuing a minor in creative writing are reading the works of contemporary writers Tobias Wolff, Cary Holladay, Stuart Dybek and Andrea Barrett. The writers will visit the class, lead discussions and answer questions.

Wolff’s visit took place during the North Carolina Literary Festival earlier this month. The other writers’ free public readings, all at 5:30 p.m., will be:

■ Cary Holladay — Sept. 29, University Room in Hyde Hall;
■ Stuart Dybek — Oct. 15, Dialectic Hall in Old West; and
■ Andrea Barrett — Nov. 5, University Room in Hyde Hall.

The course is made possible by a gift from Sallie Shuping-Russell to the College of Arts and Sciences. A Carolina alumna, Shuping-Russell serves on the Board of Trustees.

UNC’S CONSTITUTION DAY OBSERVANCE

To commemorate the day the U.S. Constitution was signed in 1787, the School of Law will host Carolina’s Constitution Day celebration on Sept. 17 at noon in the Van Hecke-Wettach Hall boardroom.

Professor Eric Muller will facilitate a discussion about Korematsu v. United States, a U.S. Supreme Court case that considered an executive order that led to the Japanese-American “relocation camps” during World War II. His talk will follow a 20-minute video featuring current Supreme Court justices who reflect on the continuing significance of Korematsu.

www.law.unc.edu

OPEN FORUMS SET FOR PROVOST SEARCH

Public forums will be held to allow members of the campus community to share the qualities they would like to see in Carolina’s next provost:

■ Sept. 29 — Dey Hall, Toy Lounge, 2–4 p.m.; and
■ Oct. 5 — Wilson Library, Pleasants Family Assembly Room, 2–4 p.m.
Solar fuels: Leaving the wood for the trees

If Tom Meyer’s plan works, we won’t need trees.

More precisely, we won’t need to rely on trees for what’s known in scientific circles as “solar fuel production from biomass” — a fancy term describing the age-old method humans have used for their energy supply since pre-historic times: burning wood.

“If you think about it that way, humankind has been harnessing the power of the sun for many, many millennia,” said Meyer, the Arey Distinguished Professor of Chemistry in the College of Arts and Sciences.

“Sunlight helps grow trees. People burn wood, a form of fuel, to generate energy. For eons, firewood has been the only option we’ve had for being able to ‘store’ solar energy until we need to use it. But now it’s time to take the middle man — the plants — out of the solar fuel equation.”

Meyer is referring to a still-budding area of solar energy research called “artificial photosynthesis,” a process that uses sunlight to create potential fuel sources — such as oxygen and hydrogen from wastewater, or even hydrocarbons like methane from water and carbon dioxide. If artificial photosynthesis works, it would help solve the biggest obstacle preventing solar power from playing a major role in meeting the United States’ — and the world’s — energy needs: storing it away for later use.

“The main problem with current solar power technology is that if the sun’s not shining, you’re out of luck,” Meyer said. “Solar fuels give us the ability to collect and stockpile that energy.”

Finding ways to create solar fuels is one of the focuses of the new UNC-based Energy Frontier Research Center, one of 46 such centers recently established by the U.S. Department of Energy with funding that includes American Recovery and Reinvestment Act support. Headed by Meyer, the $17.5 million, five-year initiative includes a multi-campus coalition of researchers who form what he describes as a critical mass of scientists collaborating on energy-related research.

“This is going to solidify North Carolina’s role in the energy sciences,” Meyer said. “As a team, the center’s members will leverage off each other’s strengths. N.C. State brings its chemistry and materials science expertise to the table. Duke has great analytical resources. UNC boasts fantastic basic science capabilities.”

And John Papanikolas believes it is advances in basic science — the nuts-and-bolts research at the heart of all discoveries — that will really underpin what takes solar power to the next level and beyond. Papanikolas is associate professor of chemistry and co-principal investigator of the new center.

“Basic science is the key,” he said. “In terms of the technology currently available, many people think that if we all put solar panels on our roofs, we’ll be fine. But that’s so far from the truth it’s not funny. We really need technology that we haven’t even thought of yet.”

That’s where solar fuels come in, as well as another focus of the center’s work — developing next-generation photovoltaics, a technology and research field related to converting sunlight directly into electricity, using devices such as solar panels and solar cells.

Photovoltaics is an area brimming with potential — a polite way of saying the current technology, processes and materials are still bulky, inefficient and expensive. For example, Papanikolas estimates that generating enough solar power to meet the equivalent of the U.S.’s electricity needs would require a solar panel 10,000 square miles in size (i.e., slightly larger than Vermont) and costing $10 trillion.

So the UNC team and their colleagues are exploring avenues that could result in the creation of inexpensive “solar shingles” on roofs and other such applications.

Either way, energy research is an area that the university and the larger world cannot escape, Meyer said. “The energy future will be driven by a shift to new energy sources that minimize environmental impacts. Hydrocarbons such as coal and oil currently provide about 85 percent of the country’s energy, but they are a finite source.”

The center will support a mix of about 30 postdoctoral fellows and graduate students, and provide opportunities for undergraduates to try their hand at cutting-edge research.

“The students entering college today are probably going to be the generation of scientists who actually solve these problems,” Papanikolas said.

Along with UNC, Duke and N.C. State, N.C. Central University and the University of Florida are also partners in the Energy Frontier Research Center.