Just as the sky over Chapel Hill is always Carolina blue, each incoming class seems to surpass previous ones in terms of academics and extracurricular activities.

And the Class of 2014, which began arriving on campus last week and started classes yesterday, is the latest case in point.

Of the 23,275 students who applied to Carolina, 7,547, or 32 percent, were admitted and an estimated 3,990 students were expected to enroll.

Of the admitted students, 94.3 percent volunteered in their communities while in high school, while 54.5 percent have traveled outside the United States and 17 percent achieved fluency in another language.

In addition, 48.1 percent served as presidents of classes or clubs and 27.2 percent conducted research outside the classroom.

The average combined reading and math SAT score was 1304, and 41.9 percent of students who reported class rank were 10th or higher in their graduating classes.

The state budget for the current fiscal year included both good and bad news for the state’s universities.

Although budget cuts were not as deep as had been predicted early on, the University had to absorb permanent state reductions of $26.4 million, or about 5 percent — the amount University officials began planning for earlier this year.

Funds from the Budget Committee have reduced the cuts to campus units by $3 million, leaving a $23.4 million reduction.

When coupled with last year’s one-time cuts, components of which now have become permanent, the University’s total reduction was $42 million.

Throughout the budget process, Chancellor Holden Thorp and Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bruce Carney emphasized the University’s commitment to protect the quality of education. Increasing tuition was the only way to do that, Thorp explained to students and parents in a July 21 e-mail message (www.unc.edu/chan/chancellors/thorp_holden/100721-tuition.php).

Revenue generated from the $750 tuition increase helped offset total reductions to campus units and avoided having to offer fewer classes, increase class sizes, cut library services, provide fewer faculty advisers for undergraduates and...
THORP DISCUSS IMPACT OF TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES
In a talk with The Chronicle of Higher Education, Chancellor Holden Thorp discusses recruiting and retaining faculty members in this economy and about ways the recent Bain & Company study has helped Carolina begin to streamline campus operations.


FLYING 3-D TOUR OF THE STATE
Take a flying tour of North Carolina through a new video that combines historic North Carolina maps with a Google Earth 3-D tour. The video is the work of the North Carolina Maps digital collection that includes a comprehensive online collection of more than 3,000 historic maps of the Tar Heel State.

http://bit.ly/dLkVc8

TAR HEEL MED STUDENT AIMS TO SURVIVE REALITY TV SHOW
Among three North Carolinians who will take part in “Survivor: Nicaragua” on Sept. 15 is Kelly Bruno, a UNC medical student and Ironman triathlete. Unlike her “Survivor” teammates, though, Bruno will be competing with a prosthetic leg.


Cousins Properties shares vision of 123 W. Franklin St.

More than 100 people, including tenants and the public, came to University Square shopping center on Aug. 18 to hear the plans developed by Cousins Properties Inc. for the 12-acre tract, which also includes Granville Towers student housing.

In July 2009, the University Square tract was purchased by Chapel Hill Foundation Real Estate Holdings Inc., a not-for-profit corporation founded by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Foundation to assist with real estate projects for the University and its affiliated organizations.

The foundation selected Cousins Properties, a national developer based in Atlanta that specializes in mixed-use projects, for the redevelopment project, and Cousins hired Elkus Manfredi Architects of Boston to plan and design the project.

The design’s first phase includes plans to move retail businesses closer to Franklin Street along a widened, 25-foot sidewalk, several floors of office space, a parking garage, a 1-acre interior green courtyard, and a large space on Franklin for a “cultural” destination that has yet to be determined. A wooden model of the plan was on display during the presentation.

“We’re all about ‘place-making,’” McColl said. “Art is pervasive through all our projects. The arts help craft the spirit of the community.”

That spirit is missing in the property’s current configuration of buildings surrounded by asphalt. Martin called it “suburban” and a “very unsustainable way to develop land,” and added, “We have a chance to reverse that.”

The first phase of the development would span the 6 acres closest to Franklin Street and would include two buildings on the street, one to the east of Church Street that would be primarily retail and the other to the west of Church that would combine cultural, retail and office space. A third building in the interior of the site would be a parking garage with office space and townhomes.

The first phase would include: 40,000 square feet of retail space; 78,000 square feet of cultural use; 275,000 square feet of office space; 120 market housing condominiums; four flats/townhomes; and 980 parking spaces (garage and surface).

Two areas of interest were mentioned at both public meetings but were not likely to be part of the first phase — a child-care center (there is not enough street-level open space for a play area) and a grocery store (because the current Chapel Hill market is too saturated). Granville Towers will remain as they are, probably for the next decade.

In accordance with the Development Action Plan that the consulting firm, KlingStubbins, is preparing for the Town of Chapel Hill and the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership, the 123 W. Franklin St. plan includes possible routes that could break up the current “superblock” into more accessible, smaller chunks.

The KlingStubbins study recommends extending Pittsboro Street north through the property to Franklin, but that is not part of the current concept plan because the connection to Pittsboro Street is off-site. The plan includes a vehicle entry on Cameron Avenue, which some participants thought was important but raised some concern among neighbors in the nearby historic districts along Mallette Street and McCauley-Cameron.

Cousins expects to submit a concept plan to the Town of Chapel Hill in September. The town review process could take as much as two years before construction could begin.

“I hear a lot of enthusiasm and some concern,” said Gordon Merkel, executive director of real estate development for UNC, at the close of the meeting. “We’re really excited about this project. I hope it’s a catalyst to keep momentum going downtown.”

To see the presentation, visit www.123westfranklin.com.

Carolina ranks as fifth best public university for the 10th year in a row

The University ranks fifth among the nation’s best public universities for the 10th consecutive year, according to U.S. News & World Report magazine. The rankings appear in the 2011 “America’s Best Colleges” guidebook and are posted at bit.ly/rVWzm.

UC–Berkeley ranked first among public universities, followed by UCLA and Virginia (tied for second), Michigan (fourth) and UNC (fifth).

Among national public and private universities, Carolina ranked 30th. Other top publics ranked overall between 22nd (Berkeley) and 29th (Michigan). Last year, UNC tied for 28th overall with Tufts and Wake Forest. Overall scores of all five top publics remained identical to last year, ranging from 76 to 70.

U.S. News rankings, long dominated by private campuses, reflect a formula using opinion survey responses about academic quality from peer campus presidents, provosts or admissions directors. This year U.S. News asked high school guidance counselors to participate for the first time.

Objective data cover up to 16 indicators of academic quality including graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, class size, selectivity and financial resources.

Other U.S. News rankings assess affordability, undergraduate business programs, views of high school guidance counselors and innovative programs. UNC’s results included the following:

• First among public universities for the sixth consecutive year and 14th overall in “Great Schools, Great Prices,” based on academic quality and net cost of attendance for a student receiving average need-based financial aid in 2009–10.

• Fourth among publics for “least debt” and 10th overall — up from 16th and 24th, respectively. The average student debt at UNC was $14,262 for the class of 2009; 28 percent of graduating seniors borrowed money, down from 32 percent the prior year.

• A 97 percent average first-year retention rate — the same as last year.

And Carolina was listed among outstanding undergraduate programs with “A Strong Focus on Student Success.” Carolina was cited for exemplary first-year experience, undergraduate research/creative projects, and service-learning and study abroad.
Hettleman Prize winners span the arts and sciences

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

They are James Bear, associate professor of cell and developmental biology in the School of Medicine; Yufeng Liu, associate professor of statistics and operations research; Garyk Papoian, associate professor of chemistry, and Krista Perreira, associate professor of public policy, all in the College of Arts and Sciences. The recipients will be recognized during the Sept. 10 Faculty Council meeting.

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

BEAR
When Bear joined the faculty in 2003, he established a research program focused on the molecular basis of cell motility. His work, which department chair Vytas Bankaitis called "simply meteoric," has been focused on a family of motility proteins, the Coronins.

In 10 papers, including two in the prestigious journal Cell, Bear demonstrated that Coronins are instrumental in a fundamental process of controlling the actin cytoskeleton, the cell’s internal framework. This groundbreaking research has changed the direction of the field, Bankaitis said.

Bear, a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, recently received a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Early Career Scientist Award supporting his research into proteins associated with cell motility and melanoma.

The scientist’s work has contributed significantly to the translational research of the Lineberger Center’s melanoma and brain tumor teams, said Shelley Earp, center director and Lineberger Professor of Cancer Research.

“He is an exemplar of a new breed of cell biologists who are devising new cellular and molecular biological methods to study fundamental processes,” Earp said. “In addition to providing stunning images, these novel techniques are often performed in live cells and allow dynamic measurements to be made.”

LIU
With research interests in high-dimensional data analysis, bioinformatics, cancer research and developing statistical methodologies for general machine learning problems, Liu holds a joint appointment with the Center for Genome Sciences. He is also a member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. His position was created to help foster interdisciplinary collaboration between the mathematical sciences and genome sciences, said faculty nominators J.S. Marron and Ed Carlstein. Carlstein is chair of statistics and operation research.

“His work is a sterling example of how serious biological challenges can motivate the development of novel statistical methodologies, which in turn lead to changes in how bioinformaticians understand complex data sets, while simultaneously generating advances in fundamental statistical theory,” they said.

The nominators described Liu’s groundbreaking research as truly synergistic. He has developed and analyzed cutting-edge statistical and computational methods for prediction, classification and clustering, they said, and he has brought current, promising tools and concepts of statistics and computation into the “practical repertoire” of genome sciences.

Liu has been a faculty member since 2004 and received early tenure and promotion last year. He recently earned a National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development (CAREER) Award and serves as associate editor of the Journal of the American Statistical Association.

CONNECTING TO CAROLINA NORTH BY BIKE

Since Carolina North has been designed to be a model of sustainability, alternative transportation is an important part of that plan. The more commuters can be persuaded to take two wheels to work or class instead of four, the smaller the University’s carbon footprint.

But the main traffic route connecting Carolina North to the rest of campus — busy, steep Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard — is not exactly amenable to cyclists. That’s why the Carolina North development agreement calls for the University and Town of Chapel Hill to collaborate on a pathway other than MLK to connect the two campuses by bike. The project is called the Campus-to-Campus Connector, or C2C for short.

At an Aug. 12 meeting at the Chapel Hill Public Library sponsored by the University and town, about 30 citizens came to give their feedback on a draft report that recommended Route A, the westernmost route along an existing bike pathway in Carrboro and parallel to the railroad corridor.

University and town staff members working on the project selected the 3.27-mile route even though it was the longest because previous meeting participants favored its flatter grade. Other points in its favor were that it is located entirely on public property, significant portions are off-road and it would cause the least environmental impact.

The other routes were B, a central route through University Square and up Church Street, and C, the easternmost route that includes Hillsborough Street. Staff members and volunteers walked each route, snapping photos along the way and evaluating the pathways based on the steepness of the grade, the existence of greenways or bike routes and other criteria. Posters with the photos and charts describing the routes segment by segment hung on the walls of the library meeting room for attendees to view.

After a presentation by Mary Jane Nirdlinger, the town’s special projects coordinator, participants asked University and town staff about making the route more accessible to adjacent neighborhoods, increasing lighting for security and the best way to cross Estes Drive Extension.

Funding for the connector was another key concern. If viewed as a commuter route and not a recreational trail, the connector would be eligible for some kinds of federal and state funding, according to the draft recommendation.

The final report will be edited based on feedback at the meeting and then included as part of the first Carolina North Annual Report, which the University will submit to the town by Sept. 1.

The draft recommendation, comments and maps are available online at www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.aspx?page=1356.
Q&A WITH STEVE MATSON

The state of graduate education at Carolina

In its report outlining the role of graduate education in maintaining the strength of U.S. competition and innovation, the Commission on the Future of Graduate Education focused on some of the challenges U.S. graduate programs face.

Steve Matson, dean of the Graduate School, spoke with the Gazette about the state of graduate education at Carolina and where it is headed. In this second part of the conversation, Matson discusses how Carolina is addressing these challenges.

The report acknowledged the growing number of non-traditional students who are older, involved with work and family, and may already have had a first career. How does this affect graduate education?

Education doesn’t end the day you walk out of school, and opportunities for education shouldn’t end that day either. That’s an important part of the Graduate School’s mission in terms of educating the workforce of the state.

I want to give a shout-out to the Gillings School of Global Public Health for its distance education programs and other programs that reach out to non-traditional students and give people already in the workforce an opportunity to gain additional training.

I don’t think anyone does it better than public health. They’re constantly creating new programs, and the standards they apply to distance-learning programs are very impressive.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication also is creating some good distance-learning programs for the working journalist who wants to go into new areas of the profession.

Not every graduate program is well suited to reach out to non-traditional students, though. I wouldn’t want to turn the University on its head and focus on that kind of learning exclusively. Both types of graduate programs can coexist.

Will we offer more dual bachelor’s/master’s programs?

They aren’t right for every discipline but we believe that programs like the new five-year BS/MS program in computer science will proliferate in other disciplines.

One way to look at it is whether there’s pretty good job placement for a master’s level student, and when I look at computer science, the answer is absolutely yes! Other groups thinking about this are linguistics and environmental science and engineering.

The Graduate school has spent the last year preparing a set of guidelines for groups that want to create this type of program.

To be admitted into a bachelor’s/master’s program, students have to accomplish several things, and it’s important to be clear about what the program requires. For example, admission to the master’s degree occurs in the third or fourth year after the student has demonstrated capability in the discipline.

There are many conversations involved in making the transition from undergraduate to graduate student. One of the most interesting pieces is financial aid. The financial aid package that students may have in place when they come in as undergraduates doesn’t necessarily apply when they become graduate students. The rules change, so there’s a lot of coordination between the Graduate School and the Office of Financial Aid.

ConnectCarolina gives faculty valuable tools for back to school

Beginning this semester, ConnectCarolina will play a key role in the classroom.

Faculty members and teaching assistants will use PeopleSoft, the software that underpins ConnectCarolina, to access their class rosters and download them to Excel spreadsheets, view and print photos, e-mail the students and ultimately post final grades. And ConnectCarolina is the only way they can do these things.

First, though, they have to pass the online FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act) quiz with a 100 percent score. They can take the test as many times as necessary to answer all 10 questions correctly.

Most — but not all — of the 2,400 faculty members and teaching assistants who are scheduled to teach this fall have taken and passed the quiz, said Bobbi Owen, senior associate dean for undergraduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Until instructors take that necessary step, they will not be able to access essential information about students in their classes. And access is not immediate; it takes 48 to 72 hours after passing the quiz for access to ConnectCarolina to be activated.

The requirement is based on University policy to make sure that people who have access to student data understand FERPA regulations (regweb.unc.edu/resources/ferpa.php).

Under FERPA, personally identifiable information cannot be released from a student’s educational record without the student’s prior written consent. The FERPA online training (connectcarolina.unc.edu/training/home/erp-training.html) explains what constitutes an educational record, who has access to educational records, what information can and cannot be disclosed, and how students can restrict information contained in their educational records.

The timing for moving to a new student information system provided a good opportunity for the University to implement the FERPA training requirement, Owen said.

“It is so important that people who are involved with student records understand what they can and cannot communicate and know exactly what a ‘restricted directory’ means,” she said.

FLEXIBILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Shielda Rodgers, clinical associate professor of nursing, has become a ConnectCarolina believer.

The School of Nursing began using ConnectCarolina as a pilot program for the admissions process last year. Committee members were skeptical at first, Rodgers said, but virtually everyone has come to embrace the new system because it is much easier to view pertinent information online instead of passing around paper files.

“And we can write comments and notes directly online,” she said. “I absolutely love it.” During the summer Rodgers used the new system to monitor class enrollment and information about her students for a course she is teaching this semester.

“People should adopt the mindset that this will be a good thing and go ahead and use ConnectCarolina,” she said. “Before long, they’ll find that it really enhances their work.”

FEEDBACK IS WELCOME

As with anything new, there is a learning curve in using ConnectCarolina, said Chris Derickson, assistant provost and University registrar.

Becoming accustomed to the different look for class rosters and method for e-mailing students takes a little time, he said, but the online grading system is very intuitive.

Within six to nine months, what is new today will become the norm, and people will start thinking about new possibilities for ConnectCarolina, he said. That was the case when American University, where Derickson worked before coming to Carolina, implemented its new system.

“Then, we truly will be able to make the system ours,” he said. In the interim, Derickson wants feedback and suggestions about the best way to use ConnectCarolina and how it can be adapted to fit the University’s needs.

“We’re all in this together, and while we may not be able to make the system perfect, we will do what we can to help our faculty and staff serve our students,” he said. “Listening to what people say is the best way I can serve our campus.”

Debra Beller, information communications specialist for ConnectCarolina, said feedback and suggestions could be submitted to connectcarolina_info@unc.edu.

“We know that change isn’t easy,” she said. “The ConnectCarolina team wants to do everything it can to address people’s concerns and provide guidance.”

Faculty resources also are included online at unc.edu/connectcarolina/facultyguide.
Wood honored with Johnson Prize for lifetime achievement

Julia T. Wood, professor of communication studies and Lineberger Distinguished Professor of Humanities, can add another accolade to her long list of honors for teaching and scholarship. Wood is the 2010 recipient of the George H. Johnson Prize for Distinguished Achievement.

Presented by the Institute for the Arts and Humanities (IAH) in the College of Arts and Sciences, where Wood serves as the associate director of the Faculty Fellows Program, the Johnson Prize is a “lifetime achievement” award for IAH Fellows, said IAH Director John McGowan.

In 2000, Wood was a Chapman Family Faculty Fellow, recognizing outstanding undergraduate teaching, and two years later became an Academic Leadership Fellow, supporting current and emerging academic leaders.

Wood literally wrote the textbook on gender and communication, “Gendered Lives,” when she set out in 1989 to create a course on the topic and could not find a suitable text. She finished editing the 10th edition this summer.

Wood’s work questions basic assumptions about gender. Her research examines such intimate topics as how gender differences shape domestic violence, bullying among adolescent girls and — her current research interest — domestic equity, or the division of household labor between partners and how those roles are communicated and negotiated.

“The Johnson Prize honors both significant scholarly achievement and exemplary service to UNC,” said McGowan. “Julia is such a great choice because her work on gendered communication was path-breaking in her field of communication studies even as her mentoring of students, her departmental service, her participation on countless University committees and her stellar work as associate director of the IAH and as director of the Graduate School’s Royster Society marks her as a key faculty leader on campus.”

In July 2009, Wood became the first Caroline H. and Thomas S. Royster Distinguished Professor for Graduate Education. In that role, she directs the Royster Society of Fellows, a prestigious group of outstanding doctoral students from across the University.

“Julia Wood has brought her passion for the work of the academy to the task of providing guidance for our most accomplished graduate students,” said Steve Matson, dean of the Graduate School. “The Royster Society of Fellows is flourishing with Julia at the helm.”

Whether she is working with exceptional graduate students or first-semester undergraduates, Wood is dedicated to establishing a connection with her students. Even in classes of 75 to 150 students, she pushes students to take part in a conversation.

“If I can’t get the students engaged, we’re failing each other somehow,” she said. “I want to see my students wrestling with the kinds of issues that are part of their lives. Students want that level of engagement, too.”

In her 35 years at Carolina, Wood has published 25 books and has garnered a long list of honors, including the Donald C. Ecroyd Award for Outstanding Teaching in Higher Education from the National Communication Association, the UNC Board of Governors’ Award for Teaching Excellence, the N.C. Professor of the Year Award from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and CASE, and the University’s Tanner Teaching Excellence Award.

The Johnson Prize, which carries a $7,500 award, honors substantial contribution to scholarly or creative work in the arts, humanities or qualitative social sciences by IAH Faculty and Leadership Fellows. IAH created the biennial award in 2007 to pay homage to longtime supporter George H. Johnson of Atlanta. The inaugural award in 2008 honored Trudier Harris, professor emeritus of English.
Doctoral student invents new polyesters that could help develop artificial organs

Someday, having a polyester pancreas, or heart, or kidney isn’t out of the question, given the work of such scientists as Devin Barrett.

More than 100,000 people in the United States need organ transplants. More than 3,000 in North Carolina are on waiting lists. The problem: There just aren’t enough human organs to go around.

Barrett, who recently completed a doctorate in chemistry at Carolina, invented new polyesters to create a material that someday might be used to make artificial organs. It’s just too early to tell which ones.

“Some of it is the polyester of leisure suits and other ’70s attire, he is quick to point out. This field, inventing new materials for use in the human body, is called tissue engineering.

In a petri dish, samples of the spongy material look like Chiclets floating in water.

In creating the material, Barrett sought to solve problems with similar materials already approved by the Food and Drug Administration. For instance, Barrett’s material is all natural and biodegradable, an idea he said he got from Valerie Ashby, Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor of Chemistry.

He took Ashby’s polymer synthesis class the first year of his doctoral studies. “She introduced that, and I was immediately fascinated by it,” he said.

Barrett said his material is also easier to make and use than some materials on the market. It won’t melt when exposed to the temperature of the human body, and it can be manipulated to control whether cells stick to it, depending on the need.

The next step is further study of all aspects of the materials, with a future goal of FDA approval.

Barrett is a 2010 recipient of an Impact Award, sponsored by the University’s Graduate Education Advancement Board. Impact Awards recognize graduate students whose research provides special benefits to the citizens of North Carolina. He also had a one-year dissertation fellowship in the Royster Society of Fellows, which provides financial support, professional development and learning opportunities to outstanding doctoral students.

With his dissertation adviser, Muhammad Yousaf, assistant professor of chemistry, Barrett has had his research published in several journals.

“His research can help the field of tissue engineering become a more reliable alternative for patients suffering from organ failure,” Yousaf said.

Barrett had already begun researching tissue engineering before his father died less than a year ago and had his organs donated to eight people.

“That gave me a better perspective on what I’m doing — bringing it down to a personal level and giving me a new appreciation of the work,” Barrett said.

reduce support in key student service units.

To minimize the effect on economically disadvantaged students, the University dedicated nearly 40 percent of the total tuition increases for need-based financial aid.

“We tried to keep the University whole this year but only after we took out enough money for need-based aid,” Carney said. “Not all universities do that, but I think it is an important part of who we are.”

The Aug. 11 Gazette (gazette.unc.edu/archives2/10aug11/budget.html#1) includes additional information about the tuition increases, including Carney’s July 22 presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Like last year, this year’s budget does not include state-funded salary increases across the University.

It does, however, provide some latitude in addressing increased job duties or responsibilities.

Matt Brody, associate vice chancellor for human resources, said that departments should scrutinize any requests for staff salary increases very carefully.

“Before any increase is proposed, departments should exercise maximum care in ensuring that the amounts are proportionate and are clearly articulated and defensible,” he said.

For faculty members, salary adjustments are allowed for promotions, tenure, increased job duties or as part of a counter-offer for retention purposes as long as non-state funds are used.

In the current economic climate, faculty retention battles can be harder to win.

“We have retention fights every year, and up to a year ago we won more than we lost,” Carney said. “But it’s when you lose more than you gain that the alarm level goes from green to yellow. Last year, my sense was that it was amber — not quite red, but the trend showed that we were losing more people.”

It is a trend that has to be reversed if the University is going to regain lost ground.

“If we have another year of no raises, then promotions or increases in duties alone are not going to keep our very best faculty,” Carney said. “We’ll be at a greater risk of losing the people we can least afford to lose.”

Through a technical correction to the budget, non-state funds can be used to retain staff and to provide a salary increase for EPA faculty members deemed by a chair or dean to be at serious risk of being hired away.

Non-state funds also can be used to provide raises for post-doctoral students if the raises were included in the grant proposal or within the flexibility of the grant itself.

“A number of our best faculty have substantial research grants,” Carney said. “My intention is to give the faculty the ability to give the raises they feel are necessary for their research.

“I know that seems unfair for people who are paid by the state and won’t get raises — and it is unfair. I can fix part of it, but unfortunately I can’t fix all of it.”

Protecting the University’s research enterprise benefits the state as a whole, he said. Research grants make up the biggest source of University income, and the impact of those dollars goes far beyond Carolina. “Research dollars from our university alone support 20,000 jobs in North Carolina,” he said.

For additional information about permissible salary increases, refer to universityrelations.unc.edu/budget.
the District of Columbia and 27 other countries. And 19 percent are first-generation college students.

Both incoming and returning students faced a significant tuition hike, which was necessary to maintain the quality of education, Chancellor Holden Thorp explained in a message to students and parents last month.

During the summer orientation sessions, administrators described Carolina as a combination of the best features of a small liberal arts college with the vast advantages of a leading research university.

Thorp and other campus leaders have emphasized that the University owes much to the people of North Carolina whose taxes help support Carolina, since state appropriations represent about a fourth of all University revenue. Private gifts, research grants and foundation support are also essential for the University to fulfill its teaching, research and public service missions.

And as Executive Associate Provost Ron Strauss explained to students at a recent orientation session, they have their end of the bargain to fulfill as well.

“Plan to graduate in four years or eight regular semesters — and we look forward to seeing you in the sea of Carolina blue caps and gowns in May 2014.”
Mentors may be second-year graduate students, faculty or staff members. No previous knowledge about leadership is required. The program orientation will be either Aug. 31 or Sept. 1. E-mail lead@email.unc.edu for complete information.

The program is sponsored by Carolina Leadership Development (leadership.unc.edu).

ACCESSIBILITY MAP POSTED ONLINE
A map that displays disability access information for the main campus buildings is online (bit.ly/axRgcC) and gives coded information for the location of power doors, elevators, restrooms and ramps.

The map was compiled by the Equal Opportunity/ADA Office in partnership with Disability Services and Facilities Planning and Construction.

Mentors Sought for Carolina Leadership Portfolio
Carolina Leadership Portfolio, a pilot program that gives students a framework in which to make their campus experiences more meaningful, is seeking mentors who have an interest in student leadership development and reflection and about five hours per semester to devote to the project.

‘Hurricane Katrina, Five Years Later’
A series of free events, scheduled Sept. 8-10, will mark the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina and explore the human impact of the storm through workshops, storytelling, photography, singing and songwriting.

The events are sponsored by the Center for the Study of the American South and the UNC Center for the Study of Natural Hazards and Disasters, in partnership with the Center for Poverty, Work and Opportunity, the School of Government and the School of Law.

The schedule of events follows. For complete information, refer to bit.ly/bidERX.
- Sept. 8 – Panel discussion, Room 2603 School of Government, 2 p.m.
- Sept. 9 – Panel discussion, Gerrard Hall, 2 p.m.
- Sept. 9 – Opening reception for the photography exhibition “40 Days and 40 Nights” and musical performance, Center for the Study of the American South, 6 p.m.; and
- Sept. 10 – Lunchtime roundtable discussion, Center for the Study of the American South, noon (call 962-5665 for reservation).

Photographer Donn Young lost his home and studio in Katrina, including a 35-year archive of more than 1.35 million images. The mud-clad cameras, below, were in Young’s studio and sat under 10 feet of water for more than a month. Above, “Sunrise 9th Ward New Orleans” by Young.

Matinees Added for ‘Islands Unknown’
Paperhand Puppet Intervention’s summer production at the Forest Theatre is drawing to a close, but two Sunday matinees have been added to accommodate interest in the shows. The last performances will be held Aug. 27-29 and Sept. 3-6 at 7 p.m., with 3 p.m. matinees on Aug. 29 and Sept. 5. There are different pre-shows each night at 6:20 p.m., and pre-shows for the matinees will begin at 2:20 p.m. paperhand.org

‘Inside Agitators: Civil Writings in Mississippi’
Noel Polk, professor emeritus of English at Mississippi State University, will present the Center for the Study of the American South’s first Hutchins lecture of the year on Sept. 7 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Polk will look at novels by two Mississippians — Jack Butler’s “Jujitsu for Christ” and James Whitehead’s “Joiner” — which take as their subject not so much the Civil Rights movement itself as its effect, as it spirals out away from the movement into the civilian ranks where whites and blacks attempted to come to terms with its meaning for them and their relationships.

The talk will be held at the Hill Alumni Center’s Royall Room. www.uncsouth.org/content/static/noel_polk

Carolina Soul Music Topic of Lecture
Jason Perlmutter, founder of Carolina Soul, an online encyclopedia of soul music from the Carolinas, will present a lecture Sept. 10 in the Wilson Special Collections Library.

The free public program, sponsored by the University Library’s Southern Folklife Collection, will begin at 5:45 p.m., following a reception at 5 p.m.

Perlmutter began collecting local soul recordings in 2002 while he was a student at Carolina, where he served as a disc jockey and station manager at the student-run radio station WXYC-FM. After graduating in 2003, Perlmutter became employed as a chemist, but he has continued to collect local music. He researched and compiled the 2007/2008 Jazzman/Now-Again release “Carolina Funk: First in Funk, 1968-1977,” and has disc jockeyed soul music at spots throughout the Carolinas as well as Virginia, Washington, D.C., and New York City.

For information, contact Liza Terll, (liza_terll@unc.edu or 962-4207).

Leloudis, Korstad Book Subject of Exhibit and Lectures
“To Right These Wrongs: The North Carolina Fund and the Battle to End Poverty and Inequality in 1960s America,” released in 2010, was written by James L. Leloudis, associate professor of history, and Robert R. Korstad, Kevin D. Gorter Professor of Public Policy and History at Duke, with photos by Billy Barnes.

Barnes was public relations director of the North Carolina Fund from 1963 to 1969. Many of his photos are part of an exhibit at the North Carolina Collection in Wilson Library through the end of September, “The Poor Among Us: Photography of Poverty in North Carolina.”

Leloudis and Korstad will lead a program on Aug. 31 at the Wilson Special Collections Library titled “The Battle Against Poverty: Writing a History of the North Carolina Fund.” Free
and open to the public, it will begin at 5:45 p.m., preceded by a reception at 5 p.m. For more information on the exhibit and program, refer to bit.ly/bvFKse.

In addition, Leloudis and Korstad will speak about North Carolina’s efforts during the 1960s in America’s War on Poverty in a Sept. 9 program at the Hill Alumni Center, sponsored by the General Alumni Association. It will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m., with a fee of $10 for non-members. Learn more and register online: bit.ly/d0esqk.

KRISTOF SPEAKS ABOUT INVESTING IN THE HEALTH, ECONOMY OF WOMEN

Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner and New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof will discuss “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide” on Sept. 14 when he delivers the Frank Porter Graham lecture, sponsored by the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. The talk will be held in Memorial Hall from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

In his book, “Half the Sky,” Kristof and his co-author and wife, Sheryl WuDunn, argue that investing in the health and economy of women worldwide is a requisite to raising countries in the developing world out of poverty. For more information, call 966-5110 or visit www.johnstoncenter.unc.edu.

FAULKNER SUBJECT OF LIBRARY TALK

Sally Wolff-King, an English professor at Emory University, will discuss her new book, “Ledgers of History: William Faulkner, an Almost Forgotten Friendship, and an Antebellum Plantation Diary,” on Sept. 15 at Wilson Library. The author recently discovered a link between Faulkner and a plantation journal that is preserved in the Southern Historical Collection.

A reception in the library’s lobby will begin at 5 p.m.; the talk will take place at 5:45 p.m. in the Pleasants Family Assembly Room. For information, contact Liza Terll (liza_terll@unc.edu or 962-4207).

SILVER LECTURES ON FEDERAL REGULATIONS FOR THE MEDIA

Media reformer Josh Silver will speak about federal policy’s role in shaping journalism in a Sept. 15 lecture sponsored by the UNC Center for Media Law and Policy. It will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. in 111 Carroll Hall.

Silver is chief executive officer of Free Press, a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to reform the media. He will discuss major regulatory issues facing U.S. media, including how to expand broadband Internet service to all American homes, whether to continue to allow Internet service providers to censor customers’ communications and how best to fund professional news reporting. medialaw.unc.edu

NOT THE ‘HAPPY DAYS’ WE REMEMBER

Nobel Prize-winner Samuel Beckett’s absurdist comedy “Happy Days” kicks off PlayMakers Repertory Company’s PRC2 series Sept. 8-12.

Not to be confused with the 1950s adventures of TV’s Richie, Potsie and the Fonz, this comic yet poignant masterpiece is a challenging exploration of life and perseverance.

“Happy Days” is the story of Winnie, a woman inexplicably buried to her waist in a large, and mounting, mound of earth and her insistence, even as the mound begins to consume her, that today is going to be a good day.

Rumored by his contemporaries to be Beckett’s attempt at writing a “happy play,” “Happy Days” has become an iconic exploration of hope against insurmountable odds.

Shows will be at 7:30 p.m. nightly and 2 p.m. on Sept. 12, in the Elizabeth Price Kenan Theatre in the Center for Dramatic Art. Tickets are $10–$35 and may be purchased at www.playmakersrep.org or by calling 962-PLAY (7529).

This season, Sunday evening performances during each PRC2 production will become part of PlayMakers’ Community Nights Series, with all tickets being $10 general admission.

YIELD TO HEELS DAY

Yield to Heels, a pedestrian safety awareness event implemented by the Department of Public Safety and the Highway Safety Research Center, will be held Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at four heavily traveled pedestrian crosswalks around campus. Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians will be reminded of the basic tenants: be aware; be safe; be considerate.

www.hsrc.unc.edu/y2h

CAROLINA INNOVATIONS SEMINARS

The Office of Technology Development’s Carolina Innovations Seminars pick up for the fall semester on Sept. 2 with “Biological Targets to Novel Therapeutics — Translational Efforts of the UNC Center for Integrative Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery.”

The meeting will be held in 014 Sitterson Hall from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Networking will follow from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Top of the Hill Restaurant’s Tank Room.

Refer to bit.ly/d31mfv for more information and dates for the 2010–11 series.

USING THE GENOME TO GUIDE THERAPY

Howard McLeod, Fred N. Eshelman Distinguished Professor and director of the Institute for Pharmacogenomics and Individualized Therapy, will give a talk Sept. 14 at the Hill Alumni Center that explores the way patients’ genetic information can inform the choice of medicine, drug dose and patient management. It will be held from 2:30 to 4 p.m., with a fee of $10 for non-members. Learn more and register online: bit.ly/acQuhZ.

ACTIVITIES AT THE GARDEN

■ The N.C. Botanical Garden’s annual Sculpture in the Garden show opens Sept. 11 through Nov. 15. Get a sneak preview during the show’s reception on Sept. 10 at 7 p.m.

■ Joanne Marshall will lead a special guided tour to explore local flora in “Yield to Heels,” a pedestrian safety awareness event implemented by the Department of Public Safety and the Highway Safety Research Center, will be held Sept. 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at four heavily traveled pedestrian crosswalks around campus. Drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians will be reminded of the basic tenants: be aware; be safe; be considerate.

■閂 The Program in the Humanities and Human Values will host a new series of Humanities in Action short lectures and discussion programs this fall in partnership with Flyleaf Books.

John McGowan, Ruel W. Tyson Jr. Distinguished Professor of Humanities, kicks off the series on Sept. 1 with “Our Polarized Political Culture.” The program begins at 3 p.m. at Flyleaf Books on Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. and will be followed at 5 p.m. with a wine reception and hors d’oeuvres. Registration is required, with fee. See adventuresinideas.unc.edu or call 962-1544.

‘ESSE QUAM VIDERI: MUSLIM SELF-PORTRAITS’

For two years, photographer Todd Drake traveled through North Carolina to collaborate with Muslims from a variety of backgrounds, creating their portraits and capturing their stories to share with a wider audience. The result is the exhibit that Drake tagged with the state’s motto: ‘Esse Quam Videri — Muslim Self-Portraits.’

The closing reception for the exhibit will be held Sept. 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the FedEx Global Education Center.

www.muslimselfportrait.info

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

Next issue includes events from Sept. 16 to Sept. 29.
Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Fri., Sept. 3. E-mail gazette@unc.edu. Fax: 962-2279; 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.
A passion for making a difference led to psychology professor Steve Reznick’s sterling record of service

In 1969, three weeks before he came to Carolina as a first-year student, Steve Reznick attended Woodstock. More than four decades later, he can still say with a straight face, “I went for the music.”

Music, in his hometown of Winston-Salem, was the family business. His father built Reznick’s Records into a downtown institution and his mother operated a branch in a shopping center.

Even though he had helped in the store since he was a small boy, Reznick knew that he would never be coming back to it. His father told him he would not allow it.

“I remember him telling me, ‘I will burn down the store before I let you come back and take it over,’” Reznick said. “The mall had opened and my father saw the handwriting on the wall for the future of independent retail stores.”

Instead, Reznick thought he might want to study to become a professor when he was an undergraduate at UNC in the lab of Vincent LoLordo, a psychology professor studying operant behavior in pigeons.

At the time, he was also taking note of the life of graduate students who worked in the lab with him. “What? They actually pay you to get a degree?” he asked in disbelief.

**A NOSE FOR SERVICE**

On his faculty homepage in the psychology department, Reznick details the professional path he took from graduation in 1973 to returning to Carolina in 1998.

“I came back to Chapel Hill for my 25th reunion and just stayed,” Reznick likes to tell friends.

But the truth is, no matter where his career took him — from Wake Forest University where he received his master’s degree, to the University of Colorado where he got his Ph.D., or to Harvard University to conduct his dissertation on infant categorization and language, or to Yale as an assistant and associate professor — Chapel Hill had always been home.

He is a leading research scientist in the field of infant cognitive development, particularly in the area of short-term working memory.

At Carolina, he has collaborated with fellow scientists and clinicians to develop a system for parents to watch for and record patterns of behavior in their babies that could be early warning signs for autism.

Early diagnosis, Reznick said, allows for experimenting with treatments for early intervention. He recently received a three-year grant of more than $400,000 from the Autism Speaks Foundation to continue improving the system.

Even though Reznick has his hands full with research and teaching duties, whenever someone asks him to do something, he has an unshakeable habit of saying yes.

That’s what happened in 1999, when psychology department chair Peter Ornstein asked him to serve as director of the Developmental Psychology Program. Or recently, when he launched Child Development Perspectives, the newest journal of the Society for Research in Child Development.

As a member of the Faculty Athletics Committee, Reznick invested hundreds of hours leading the task force that developed a comprehensive priority registration process that addressed scheduling conflicts for various groups including student-athletes, student teachers, Robertson Scholars and ROTC students.

He joined the advisory board of the Faculty-Staff Recreation Association, known as The Farm, and has served as its president for seven of the 12 years he has been a member. Benjamin Allred, the director of The Farm, said Reznick was the driving force behind recent efforts to replace a rundown farmhouse with a modern building and to update the pool area.

**PAPIOAN**

Since he came to Carolina in 2004, Papoian has been on what chemistry chair Matthew Redinbo described as “the fast and certain track to international recognition.”

With research interests in theoretical chemistry, biophysics and signal transduction, Papoian has developed a biochemical theory research program that uses advanced computational methods to study biological processes at multiple scales.

His work in developing detailed computational models of the way eukaryotic cells move around and sense their environment helps shed light on key processes in human biology and disease such as embryonic development, wound repair and cancer metastasis.

Papoian has already garnered some of the most prestigious awards in the country, including the Beckman Young Investigator Award, Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar Award, NSF Career Award and the American Chemical Society’s Hewlett-Packard Outstanding Junior Faculty Award.

Recently he was asked to write an opinion paper for The Proceedings of the National Academy of Science on a paper published by an established scientist. “To be asked at this early stage in his career is a clear indication of Garyk’s trajectory,” Redinbo said.

Effective this month, Papoian has accepted a position at the University of Maryland with a joint appointment in chemistry and Institute for Physical Science and Technology.

**PERREIRA**

Perreira, a health economist who is considered a pioneering researcher on the demography of immigrant youth and families, has been a public policy faculty member and fellow of the Carolina Population Center since 2001.

Her research focuses on disparities in health, education and economic well-being and the interrelationships among family, health and social policy, specifically the health and educational consequences of migration.

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of her research and its emphasis on original data collection, Perreira’s contributions have extended beyond public policy to demography, education, psychology, public health and sociology as well, said Pete Andrews, professor and department chair.

“Dr. Perreira’s research record places her as a groundbreaking scholar on the Hispanic immigrant population as well as on cross-cultural research methods, as a rising star in her field and well beyond the normal research expectations for someone at this stage of her career,” he said.

Among her most recent national recognitions, Perreira received an award from the American Sociological Association for her research on mental health, and she was selected as a visiting fellow of the prestigious Russell Sage Foundation in New York City.
Membership dues were not raised to make the improvements, something Reznick takes as much pride in as he does in the improvements themselves. He likes to joke (with a hint of seriousness) that if Kiplinger’s Magazine ever compiled a list of best values for recreation clubs, The Farm would be a candidate for the cover.

“We don’t do fancy,” Reznick said. “People who want a country club look and feel should go someplace else. People who want a fun, affordable place to stay in shape with their families should join The Farm.”

In addition, he serves as associate dean for first-year seminars and academic experiences and co-chairs with admissions director Stephen Farmer the Enrollment Excellence Implementation Committee.

And Reznick took it upon himself to develop a 30-minute overview of the undergraduate curriculum during CTOPS orientation for new students and parents.

It is that enduring spirit of activism and sense of full-scale engagement with campus life that led Ornstein and others to nominate Reznick for a 2010 C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award.

In his nomination letter, Ornstein wrote, “In my 35 years as a member of the Carolina faculty I have never met another colleague whose commitment to university service comes close to matching that of Dr. Reznick.”

SAYING YES TO CAROLINA

There is a danger in trying to do too much, he knows, and he tries to limit his service to only things that he is passionate about. The problem is that there is very little that happens at Carolina that is he not passionate about — now more than ever.

His nephew is starting his junior year here and Reznick helped his daughter move into her sorority house for the start of her sophomore year. He still remembers what it was like when he was in his shoes and thinks about what he needed to hear when he first came here 41 years ago.

“I think of myself as a meliorist,” Reznick said. “I believe the world can be a better place, and with that belief comes an obligation to do what I can to make it better.”

The more he sees, the more he develops creative ideas to make something that is already good become even better. Like CTOPS.

Last Thursday, as the CTOPS orientation leaders ran off the stage at the Great Hall after singing the alma mater, parents and students heard each one smacking high fives with a bearded man sitting in the front row.

It was Reznick, of course, getting pumped to go to the stage to tell students all that Carolina has to offer — and remind them to go after every opportunity they can.

Scholarships and Student Aid.

We have worked to create what we hope to the student will appear a pretty seamless process.

The report talked about the need for professional development. Why is that important?

I don’t think we have the data we need to fully understand where our students go when they leave UNC. To gather that data, the Graduate School will put in place, I hope by December, an exit survey for our students. And we’re going to develop a much more focused effort to track alumni.

The exit survey will help us gauge students’ satisfaction with the program and learn what we can do better. Another part of it is to understand where our students go, what kind of jobs they take and if we’re providing the right kind of professional development for them. I’m pretty sure the answer will be that we can do more.

That’s where the alumni also come in. In the sciences, we know that most of the students who leave here with a Ph.D. will do a post-doc, but I’m also interested in what they do after the post-doc.

That’s the piece we’re missing. I think our students go in many directions, all of which are positive, but we just don’t know. So we’re really going to try to track alumni more than we’ve done in the past.

If we take the sciences again as an example, I believe there are a number of our students who leave here with a Ph.D. and want to go to a four-year college or university where their main focus will be teaching. I don’t think we provide them with as much training as they need to be competitive.

Experience as a TA is a piece of that training, but it isn’t training in total, so we’re working with the Center for Faculty Excellence toward creating additional programming for our doctoral students who know that they want to teach.

Now, in the humanities, I would make the same set of arguments, but the focus would be providing these students the skill sets they need to succeed in jobs they may take outside of the traditional realm of academia. And there, I think we know even less about exactly what they’re doing because there are many places they can go.

I recently spoke with two people who are graduates of one of our humanities departments. Both were in jobs you would not have predicted for someone with a Ph.D. in humanities. Both took unusual routes to their positions, and both felt the training they received as Ph.D. students was absolutely critical to success in their positions.

But I can assure you we didn’t provide the professional development that might have made them more competitive as they walked out the door.

So the question is: What does that professional development look like? It may be training in public communication skills or basic business skills. It’s also important to make it clear that there are multiple things people could be well suited to do.

What did you take away from the report?

We really need to focus on the issue of professional development and where our students are going.

Our faculty know exactly how to prepare students to succeed in Research 1 careers. For us to expect the faculty to change the way they train students, or to provide training in unfamiliar areas, is not fair. We need to provide that training as a supplement.

This isn’t a directive from the Graduate School that every student will be trained in this way. And I’m not advocating taking away resources to create another track.

This is value added for the students who need it and it’s incumbent on the Graduate School to find ways that we can fill this need.
Nourishing good will is the seed of inspiration for the Carolina Campus Community Garden

Diane Webster grew up poor, but she cannot remember ever going hungry. She was the 14th of 15 children her parents raised in Rougemont, a small community in northern Orange County. The family also raised most of what appeared on their kitchen table. Webster, like her older siblings, found herself working in the vegetable garden and tobacco fields by the age of 6.

A longing for simpler times long past is part of the reason Webster has regularly volunteered this spring and summer in the Carolina Campus Community Garden. It also has been a learning experience of sorts, a way to rekindle skills that once were passed down from generation to generation in order to survive.

Webster, a social research specialist at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, now has three grown children. Her oldest daughter Briana, a 2004 Carolina graduate, recently joined Webster to work in the garden while visiting from Washington, D.C.

When Briana asked her mother to teach her to can vegetables from a garden, Webster had to admit that although she watched her mother can years ago, she did not know how. Now, with their renewed interest in gardening, it is a skill Webster hopes mother and daughter can learn together.

But the primary reason Webster is a regular in the Community Garden became even more real to her on a recent Thursday afternoon when she helped Claire Lorch haul tubs of vegetables for distribution at the Kennon Cheek/Rebecca Clark Building on Cameron Avenue.

Lorch championed the idea for creating the garden and for the past year has served in the part-time position as garden coordinator through the North Carolina Botanical Garden, which serves as the University’s official sponsor for the initiative. The botanical garden is responsible for fiscal oversight and supervision of the project.

Lorch said campus support for the garden has never wavered since March when some 75 people, including faculty and staff members, students and community neighbors, spent a large part of one weekend working the soil to create 25 plant beds in the 8,000-square-foot garden, which is located at the end of a University-owned vacant lot on Wilson Street near the western edge of campus.

Lorch relies on the steady help of volunteers who work during two-hour blocks of time on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons to tend to necessary watering, weeding and picking.

Since early summer, there have been twice-a-week food distributions directed primarily toward the University’s housekeepers, traditionally among the lowest-paid employees.

As Lorch and Webster set the tubs on the back loading dock, housekeepers formed a queue in the parking lot and waited to take a turn filling a plastic bag with food.

Most recipients show up to pick through the crates of fresh vegetables once in a while. Not Patricia Noell, a housekeeper at the Environmental Tech Building.

“I’m here every time she (Lorch) comes,” she said. And as Noell walked to her car, she stopped to see what goodies Randy Barbee, who works in her building as a member of the floor crew, stuck in his. Barbee’s bag contained apples from a tree on the lot and tomatoes, which provoked a teasing commentary from Noell: “He’s a man, he don’t know how to cook. Women know how to cook. I’ve got basil, tomatoes, squash and okra.”

Noell said these free fresh vegetables spare her the expense of buying them at the grocery store. And a day or two before payday, when her refrigerator is nearly as bare as her wallet, Noell has more than once turned half a squash into a full meal.

“You can eat squash with anything,” Noell said, although she prefers it with eggs.

As Webster has learned, you don’t have to get vegetables from the garden to take something good from working in it. There is a shared purpose, a bond that grows from joining hands to make a small difference in the lives of others.

“You don’t have to be born with a silver spoon to enjoy healthy foods,” Webster said. “The Community Garden provides the opportunity for everyone, regardless of their income, to experience a healthy lifestyle.”

Noell said she wants people to know that their efforts are appreciated.

“Sometimes, it is hard for us to eat good because we can’t afford to eat good,” she said. “This right here helps and I am glad they are doing this for us.”

In addition to the botanical garden, partners for the Community Garden are the Employee Forum, Gillings School of Global Public Health and Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. For information about the garden and how to be involved, refer to sites: google.com/site/uncgarden/home.