On warm Friday evenings, people flock to the Carolina Inn lawn, some toting folding chairs, others with rolled-up blankets — all ready to enjoy music and conversation as part of the Fridays on the Front Porch series.

In the fall, football weekends bring huge crowds of alumni, parents and other fans to campus, many of whom choose to stay at the Carolina Inn because of its special meaning to them.

People of all generations, from current students to alumni returning for their 50th class reunions, seem to feel a connection to the inn. UNC President Emeritus William Friday even called it “the University’s living room.” (See photo above.)

Built in 1924 by alumnus, businessman and University trustee John Sprunt Hill, the inn was originally intended “to provide for the special wants and comforts of the University alumni ... and University visitors.” Hill, who was instrumental in campus expansion during the early 20th century, hired architect Arthur Nash for the job. Nash was already involved in building Wilson Library, Graham Memorial Hall, Kenan Stadium, and several residence halls as part of the 1919 campus master plan, and he incorporated some of the same architectural touches in his plans for the inn.

Senate budget would be favorable for higher education

When Dwayne Pinkney, assistant vice chancellor for finance and administration, looks at current budget proposals for the new fiscal year, he sees neither a glass half full nor one half empty.

What he sees, with relief, is a revenue gap about one-third the size of the $3 billion gap that confronted legislators last year.

What he also sees — in terms of possible budget cuts affecting the University — is that the Senate budget calls for a 4 percent reduction.

The Senate approved its $19 billion spending plan last Thursday, closing a revenue gap that is now estimated at around $800 million with a combination of spending cuts that would give local officials the ability to order furloughs to save money.

“A 4 percent reduction would challenge the University to set priorities, but we think we could manage at that level and still protect the classroom,” Pinkney said. “As Chancellor Thorp has emphasized this spring, prolonged budget cuts would affect the University’s ability to provide the quality education that is synonymous with Carolina.”

The Senate budget provides for financial aid funding, tuition hikes and enrollment growth. Under the Senate proposal, $8.19 million for need-based financial aid would come from the
Board of Governors seeks input from UNC system alumni and friends in search for Bowles’ successor

The UNC Board of Governors is seeking suggestions and nominations as it searches for the next president of the UNC system.

Earlier this year, UNC President Erskine Bowles announced his plans to retire after five years of service at the end of 2010, or whenever a successor can be in place.

“We are intent upon finding the very best candidates in the nation, and we welcome your suggestions and nominations for this critically important leadership role,” BOG Chair Hannah Gage said in a May 14 letter to alumni and friends of the 17-campus UNC system.

Earlier this month, the board hired Bill Funk of R. William Funk & Associates to assist in the recruitment and selection process. The Dallas-based firm specializes in conducting searches at the senior leadership level for major universities and university systems around the country.

Funk was involved in the search process that led to Holden Thorp being named Carolina’s 10th chancellor in 2008.

“The next president must be an experienced and visionary leader who understands and appreciates the unique relationship the university shares with the state and its citizens,” Gage said.

“More than ever before, North Carolina’s economic future will depend on the teaching, research and public service our UNC campuses provide, so the importance of this presidential search cannot be overstated.”

The UNC system has a total budget of $7.4 billion, enrolls more than 220,000 students and employs more than 47,000 faculty and staff.

The BOG invites input about the personal characteristics, type of prior experience and skill sets needed for the next president as well as feedback on the greatest challenges and opportunities facing the UNC system.

To learn more about the search process and to provide feedback or make a nomination, refer to www.northcarolina.edu/2010presidentialsearch/index.htm.

EMERGENCY SIREN SYSTEM TESTED MAY 11 DURING SUMMER SCHOOL

While the University tests the emergency siren system at least once a semester, the most recent test, on May 11, marked the first time the sirens were tested during Summer School.

“It is important that people who are on campus at different times during the year become familiar with how the sirens sound and know what to do in an actual emergency,” said Jeff McCracken, director of public safety.

The sirens sounded around 10:25 a.m., followed by a text message sent to people who had registered their cell phones for emergency notices. The text message was delivered to 60 percent of the more than 41,000 registered cell phone numbers within 90 seconds, with 84 percent of the text messages delivered within three minutes.

Just before 11 a.m., the test concluded with the all-clear siren signal.

The test also confirmed that all five emergency sirens worked properly and that a problem uncovered during the University’s April 21 emergency drill, in which only two sirens sounded, had been corrected.

The sirens are intended to be heard by people who are outside — not in buildings or vehicles. Sirens are located at Hinton James Residence Hall, the Gary R. Tomkins Chilled Water Operations Center, Winston Residence Hall, near Hill Hall behind University Methodist Church and near the Giles Horney Building off Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Other than during a test, the sirens will sound for an armed and dangerous person on or near campus, a major chemical spill or hazard, a tornado sighting or a different emergency, as determined by the Department of Public Safety.

If the sirens are activated, people should be prepared to go inside or take cover immediately, close windows and doors, and stay until further notice.

For additional information about the emergency sirens, refer to alertcarolina.unc.edu.
Among the most vexing challenges facing scientists today is diversifying the ranks of the research community.

Now, thanks to a $1.3 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the University will encourage some students in its Carolina Covenant Scholars Program to pursue biomedical research.

The grant will extend the Carolina Covenant Scholars Program, which attracts high-achieving students from low-income backgrounds to the University with the guarantee of being able to graduate debt free.

The HHMI Undergraduate Research for Future Scientists and Clinicians Program will help 12 Covenant Scholars undertake original research in biology or chemistry each year as part of a broader science educational initiative.

Most summer undergraduate research opportunities last for a single season, but participants in the new Carolina program will continue their work the following summer.

Patricia Pukkila, project director and director of the Office for Undergraduate Research in the College of Arts and Sciences, said extending research beyond a single summer heightens students’ dedication and performance.

“The result, she is convinced, will be improved confidence that will lead, in some cases, to a commitment to a career in science.

“What students produce in that second summer is mind-boggling,” said Pukkila, who is a professor of biology. “They’re presenting at prestigious meetings, they’re winning scholarships, and they’re co-authoring publications in top journals.”

Students will work alongside faculty and graduate student mentors, who will provide research support and career guidance. In their second year of the program, students will be expected to assist and advise first-year students.

The goal is to build a support system to ensure that students have every opportunity to succeed.

“When we can provide empowerment, information and the means to pursue science, students can begin to imagine themselves in science careers,” Pukkila said. “They realize the benefits. And that is incredibly invigorating.”

HHMI awarded 50 research universities in 30 states and the District of Columbia $70 million to develop creative, research-based courses and curricula, to give more students vital experience working in labs and to improve science teaching from elementary school through college.

An additional $9 million from HHMI was awarded to 13 professors in schools across the country that want to put their innovative ideas for science education into practice.

“[We are] committed to funding education programs that excite students’ interest in science,” said HHMI President Robert Tjian. “We hope that these programs will shape the way students look at the world — whether those students ultimately choose to pursue a career in science or not.”

New $1.3 million grant will fund undergraduate biology and chemistry research opportunities for Carolina Covenant Scholars

Tony Waldrop is named UCF provost and vice president for academic affairs

Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development, will leave the University this summer to become provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of Central Florida.

Waldrop, a Morehead Scholar and track star at Carolina in the 1970s, has led graduate studies and the University’s research enterprise since August 2001.

In a letter to colleagues, Waldrop said his new position would become effective Aug. 1 and that his wife, Julee, a clinical associate professor of nursing at Carolina, would join the UCF faculty in the College of Nursing.

“Both of us are very excited by these new opportunities at what is a growing and vibrant university,” Waldrop said. “It has been very rewarding to have worked with such a great group of people. Thanks for all your support during my time at Carolina.”

Chancellor Holden Thorp said Waldrop has led the growth of the University’s research enterprise from $438.7 million when he arrived nine years ago to $716 million last year.

“While this is a huge loss for us, it is a great move for Tony and for higher education,” Thorp said. “UCF is an exciting university and undoubtedly will benefit from Tony’s extensive skills and experience.”

As head of the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, Waldrop led efforts to support and promote the research needs of faculty, staff and students and to promote Carolina’s economic development activities. He has been responsible for 12 University-wide research support offices and 15 research centers.

Toward that end, Waldrop also encouraged interdisciplinary activities across campus and promoted excellence within all graduate programs.
im Crothers was looking for anything that could help him find a full-time job as a sports journalist. The 24-year-old was at the residence of celebrated sports writer Walter “Red” Smith, looking for insight into the life of a man he sought to emulate.

As Crothers walked through the backyard seeking inspiration, he wondered whether he had wasted precious money to travel hundreds of miles to Connecticut. Crothers, a 1986 Carolina graduate, was working as a freelance sports writer at the Durham Morning Herald.

Some of Smith’s artifacts had been moved to his alma mater, Notre Dame, after his death in 1982, but his office in a small shed behind the house had not been disturbed. The last person to touch many of the belongings was Smith himself.

Crothers caught sight of something too good to be true. Smith’s last article was sitting untouched in his typewriter, and for an up-and-coming journalist that was as good as gold. Crothers wrote an article and submitted it to Sports Illustrated.

“I wrote it about three pages in length, and it ended up as a tiny little 6-inch story that I could barely recognize,” Crothers said. “But it ran and that was my ticket in.”

Crothers knew he had been lucky, but he had no idea similar incidents would shape his career.

Three years later, Crothers worked as a fact checker for Sports Illustrated. “There were about 20 people or so who were all reporters, and I would say 15 of them had the goal of becoming writers,” Crothers said. “So we were all competing against each other to work our way up the ladder.”

Then, in 1991 he received a tip about a young golfer who was defeating much older competition on the junior golf circuit. With the permission of his editor, Crothers flew to California with the hope that this young golf prodigy would give him a story worth publishing.

The golfer’s name was Eldrick Woods, better known today as Tiger. Little did Crothers know that he was interviewing someone who would become one of the most famous athletes in the world.

With Crothers’ invaluable connection to Woods, Sports Illustrated promoted him to full-time staff writer.

**HARD WORK PAYS OFF**

Crothers said he was able to use “a reasonable amount of writing talent” to compensate for not being a great student. During his junior year at Carolina, he discovered his passion for journalism.

While studying abroad in France, Crothers was frustrated that he had to wait days before discovering the score of the latest Carolina basketball game. So he submitted an article about his frustration to The Daily Tar Heel.

Soon afterward, he received a copy of the paper with his article. “I saw my byline for the first time and I was hooked,” said Crothers, who now teaches two sports writing classes in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

As he progressed from college newspaper to Sports Illustrated, where he became a senior writer, Crothers’ hard work began to pay dividends. But success came at a price.

The long hours and endless travel began to wear on him. For the first time, Crothers no longer enjoyed what he did, so in 2001, at age 38, he left his dream job and moved to Chapel Hill.

**CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT**

He set out to do something he had always thought about — writing a book. “I mean writing a book was the great white whale, and I wanted to see whether I could do it,” Crothers said.

He decided to chronicle what he considered one of the best-kept secrets in the sporting world: the UNC women’s soccer dynasty.

“I started interviewing players, and every player started saying, ‘Oh I have got some stories, but you need to talk to so-and-so; she will have incredible stories.’ And that person would tell me two other people I had to talk to,” Crothers said.

“It was just like pulling a thread, and before long I had interviewed 127 different players and all these other coaches, and I just kept going and going and going.”

Coach Anson Dorrance gave Crothers full access to the team, and one season turned into five. Published in 2006, “The Man Watching: A Biography of Anson Dorrance, the Unlikely Architect of the Greatest College Sports Dynasty Ever” is Crothers’ favorite journalistic achievement.

Last year, another opportunity presented itself — this time to help write a book about men’s basketball Coach Roy Williams. The timing was right, right after Carolina won the 2009 NCAA basketball title, but the time frame was very tight.

“It was literally two months from the first interview to the finished draft,” Crothers said. “Compared to five years, that is extraordinary.”

And this book, unlike the one about Dorrance, was an autobiography, so the writing and editing processes were very different. Crothers is proud of “Hard Work: A Life On and Off the Court,” which has already sold “The Man Watching.”

Crothers says it was his first book, however, that restored his love of sports writing.

“The Anson book is the most fun experience I have ever had in journalism,” Crothers said. “For years, I was covering professional athletes who didn’t want me to write a story about them and fought it the whole time. The beauty of the women’s soccer book was that it was a great story that had yet to be told and they were so thrilled to have it told.”

Like his discovery in Smith’s study and in an interview with a 15-year-old golfer from California, Crothers had uncovered another untold story.

**Editor’s Note:** Grant Fitzgerald, a junior who is majoring in journalism and mass communication, wrote this article.
Regan is named associate vice chancellor for research

Karen Regan has been appointed associate vice chancellor for research, effective May 1. She succeeds Neil Cauble, who retired this spring after more than 15 years at the University.

Regan has been director of the Office of Federal Affairs at Carolina since 2005, where she focused on advancing the University’s federal relations agenda.

In announcing her appointment earlier this month, Tony Waldrop, vice chancellor for research and economic development, said Regan would continue to oversee federal affairs, “where she has done an exceptional job advancing the University’s interests at the federal level. Her knowledge of external relations will be especially valuable in her new role.”

Having earned the respect of senior staff and a number of prominent research groups on campus, Regan is well-equipped to serve as a key adviser and as leader for a wide range of initiatives in support of research at Carolina, Waldrop said.

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Regan earned her J.D. degree from the School of Law and graduated with a B.A. with honors from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn.

Before coming to Carolina, she worked as an associate in the Federal Affairs Practice Group of DLA Piper Rudnick. In private practice, she represented clients before Congress and the executive branch and provided counsel on a variety of issues, including securing federal appropriations, privacy and e-commerce law, the regulation of the financial services sector and export controls.

She also advised clients on complying with the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Foreign Agents Registration Act and federal ethics rules. She provided guidance on the tax treatment of political organizations as well as on state and local laws governing lobbying, ethics and campaign finance.

Regan served as an assistant to the special counsel to U.S. Rep. Charlie Rose on the Committee on House Administration during 1993–94.

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Patterson leaving Carolina for WSU

Roger D. Patterson, associate vice chancellor for finance, has been named vice president for business and finance at Washington State University. He will leave Carolina at the end of June and assume his new post on or before Sept. 1.

Since coming to Carolina in 1994, Patterson has acted as an adviser to the chancellor and other senior administrators on resource management issues and has directed a number of finance and business offices.

“Roger brings with him a tremendous set of skills, having worked at a land grant university and now at the University of North Carolina,” said WSU President Elson S. Floyd. “I am pleased and excited that he has chosen to join us.”

Patterson previously served as associate vice president for financial planning and management at Clemson University, where he held a variety of positions for 10 years before coming to UNC.

“While I will always have Carolina in my mind, I have a burning desire to do more. One of my personal characteristics is to never stop learning as a person,” Patterson said in an e-mail to colleagues in the Finance Division.

“So while a part of me is saddened by leaving all my friends, colleagues and family, I am also extremely excited about the new opportunities that await me at WSU.”

He is an active member of the National Association of College and University Business Officers and served on the association’s Accounting Principles Council, which he chaired in 2005 and 2006. He is a certified public accountant as well as a certified internal auditor.

Karen Blase, a senior scientist at FPG Child Development Institute, has been awarded the 2010 Louis T. Benezet Award for her work promoting implementation science.

The award, sponsored by and awarded to alumni of Colorado College, recognizes extraordinary contributions and achievements that have improved people’s lives and exemplify the values of a liberal arts education.

University Mail Services has been selected as the In-Plant Printing and Mailing Association’s (IPMA) Mail Center of the Year. The department was cited for its efficient measures that included the addition of an OPEX Mail Matrix inbound mail sorter — the first installation of its kind in a university setting — and consolidation of campus delivery routes and speeding up the delivery of first-class mail.

The mail center will be recognized for its achievements at IPMA’s annual Awards banquet in Albuquerque in June.

To view a video produced by OPEX about the facility, visit www.opex.com/mailmatrix_video_unc_main.php.

Patrick Sullivan, Ray M. Hayworth and Family Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at the School of Medicine, has received a 2010 Distinguished Investigator Award from the National Alliance for Research on Schizophrenia and Depression for a comparison of genetics in schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. His project was one of 15 selected out of 170 proposals submitted by researchers worldwide. Each project will receive $100,000 annually in support of one year of research.

Warren P. Newton, William B. Aycock Distinguished Professor, chair of the Department of Family Medicine and executive associate dean of medical education at the School of Medicine, was elected chair of the American Board of Family Medicine (ABFM) at the group’s annual meeting in April and assumed the role of chair-elect. ABFM is the second-largest medical specialty board in the United States.

Benson Reid Wilcox, a heart surgeon and long-time chief of Carolina’s Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, died May 11. He was 77.

He joined the Department of Surgery faculty in 1964 and served as chief of cardiothoracic surgery from 1969 to 1998. After his retirement as chief, he remained on the medical school faculty as a professor of surgery.

Wilcox, who was especially interested in the training of future surgeons, was primarily a pediatric heart surgeon whose specialties were congenital heart disease, pediatric cardiac morphology, pediatric chest disease and pulmonary circulation.

He earned an A.B. in history in 1953 and an M.D. from the School of Medicine in 1957, both from Carolina. As an undergraduate, he was president of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and Rex of the Order of Gimghoul. At the medical school, he was president of his class and was inducted into the Alpha Omega Alpha medical honor society in 1957.

While a medical student in 1956, Wilcox helped conduct laboratory research on the application of newly developed heart-lung machines. A heart-lung machine was first used in the operating room at UNC in April 1957, beginning the era of open-heart surgery at North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

Wilcox served the University in a number of capacities. He was a member of the Selection Panel for newly developed heart-lung machines. A heart-lung machine was first used in the operating room at UNC in April 1957, beginning the era of open-heart surgery at North Carolina Memorial Hospital.

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Four receive distinguished service medals from alumni association

The General Alumni Association honored top Carolina administrator and three alumni during Commencement weekend for outstanding service to the University and to the association.

Recipients of the 2010 Distinguished Service Medals are Brenda W. Kirby, secretary of the University; Barbara Rosser Hyde, vice chair of the Board of Trustees; Karol V. Mason, former vice chair of the trustees; and Roy A. Williams, men’s head basketball coach.

The association has awarded the medals since 1978 to Carolina alumni and others.

KIRBY

Kirby, of Chapel Hill, has worked in the chancellor’s office for three decades. She arrived in 1980 with Christopher Fordham when he was chosen chancellor while he was medical school dean.

Kirby had worked for Fordham and a previous medical school dean and was an aide to campus Air Force ROTC commanders. She also is assistant secretary to the Board of Trustees. In 1996, Kirby received the C. Knox Massey Award, given to University employees to recognize exceptional service.

HYDE

Hyde, of Memphis, Tenn., is the president of J.R. Hyde III Family Foundation and director of the J.R. Hyde Sr. Foundation. A 1983 Carolina graduate, she began her career in the University’s development office, serving as executive director of the Arts and Sciences Foundation from 1987 to 1992.

She co-chaired the Women’s Leadership Council on campus and was on the Carolina First Campaign Steering Committee. Hyde has been a major supporter of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities and is on its external advisory board.

MASON

Mason, of Washington, D.C., is a 1979 graduate and served on the Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2009. Previously she was on the University’s Board of Visitors and the Arts and Sciences Foundation Board of Directors, as well as search committees for chancellor and medical school dean.

In 1991, she received the alumni association’s Distinguished Young Alumna Award. Mason was a partner with the Alston & Bird law firm in Atlanta before being appointed deputy associate U.S. attorney general in the Obama administration in 2009.

WILLIAMS

Williams, of Chapel Hill, earned two degrees from Carolina: a bachelor’s in education in 1972 and a master’s in teaching in 1973. He was an assistant coach for Dean Smith and returned to UNC in 2003 after 15 years as head coach at the University of Kansas.

Williams has coached UNC teams to national championships in 2005 and 2009 and was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 2007. He has supported many endeavors including the Carolina Covenant, the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and UNC Children’s Hospital.

BUDGET from page 1

general fund, with the remaining $26.6 million funded on a non-recurring basis from state lottery receipts.

The Senate also recommends that with the approval of the Board of Governors and UNC President Erskine Bowles, campuses could increase tuition rates by up to $750 per year, with revenue remaining on the campuses.

In addition, it calls for meeting the BOG’s priority to fund additional enrollment growth in the UNC system. “Access to higher education has been a priority for both the Board of Governors and the legislature,” Pinkney said.

The Senate also included $4 million in non-recurring funding for endowed professorships to match the Spangler Challenge Grants and reduce the backlog of professorships awaiting state matching funds. For Carolina, that would help ease a backlog of professorships waiting for a state match totaling about $17 million.

The budget proposal does not contain a pay raise for faculty or staff, and it does not include money to fund a new law school at Carolina North or to complete the planned renovation and expansion for the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center, Pinkney said.

“The Senate wants to fund planning for key science and engineering projects, but we have already received money to plan for the Morehead project,” he said.

The next step in the process will be for the House to develop and approve its budget proposal. The committee in charge of writing the House budget held a public hearing on Monday at N.C. State University as the Gazette was going to press.

“Higher education would benefit if we are able to maintain the level of cuts proposed by the Senate as much as possible in the House budget,” Pinkney said.

“Our legislature continues to be a tremendous source of support for the University. Our access to legislators underscores the importance of higher education in North Carolina and its broad base of support among legislative leaders.”

WALDROP from page 3

Thorpsaidthe $168 million in federal stimulus money the University has received to date also can be attributed to the instrumental role that Waldrop has played leading the faculty’s research endeavors.

“Dr. Waldrop’s leadership at the University of North Carolina has been outstanding, and we are pleased to bring this innovative academic leader and researcher to UCF,” said President John Hitt. “It speaks highly of UCF that so many qualified leaders from around the country applied for this position.”

UCF, near Orlando, has more than 53,000 students, 10,000 employees and external research funding of $121.7 million.

A native of Columbus in eastern North Carolina, Waldrop received both an A.B. in political science and a Ph.D in physiology from Carolina. He was a Morehead Scholar and track star here in the 1970s.

Before returning to Carolina in 2001, Waldrop was a professor of molecular and integrative physiology and vice chancellor for research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

There, he led the efforts to create a university-associated research park. At Carolina, Waldrop has been instrumental in efforts to plan and promote Carolina North, the academic and research campus that will be built north of the historic campus along Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

Thorpsaidhe would soon announce an interim vice chancellor as well as plans for a search committee.
The risks tied to investing, as the stock market collapse of 2008 demonstrated, are high and can prove to be costly. But there is another very real risk that currently affects a majority of University employees: failing to invest for retirement to supplement Social Security income and pensions.

Of the 12,638 permanent employees who are eligible to enroll in supplemental retirement plans, only 2,278 (18 percent) are enrolled in 403(b) plans offered by the University’s two vendors, TIAA-CREF and Fidelity Investments and TIAA-CREF.

Another 1,014 employees (8 percent) participate in the 401(k) plan sponsored by the State of North Carolina, and 650 (5 percent) take part in the North Carolina 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan. That leaves 8,696 eligible employees — nearly 69 percent — who are not enrolled in any employer-based supplemental retirement program. (A 403(b) account is similar to a 401(k) except that it is offered only to employees of nonprofit, civil and educational institutions.)

Recently, the University Gazette interviewed Louise Munn with TIAA-CREF and Katie Maxwell with Fidelity Investments to learn more about the risks associated with the stock market — and the potential cost of not participating.

Why should public employees who already have defined pension plans participate in such funds?

MUNN: Most people need to replace 80 percent or more of their final salary in order to maintain their standard of living in retirement. That income typically comes from three sources — defined benefit plans, Social Security and personal savings, such as a 403(b) plan.

Defined benefit plans and Social Security typically fall short of the amount needed to maintain a person’s current lifestyle. Saving in a 403(b) can be pivotal to meeting those retirement income needs.

Why is it smart to begin saving for retirement when you are young?

MAXWELL: The reason to start early is simple: The more time you have to save, the more time your money has to grow. By investing a little bit over time, you benefit from the power of compounding, and starting just 10 years earlier can make a huge difference.

Despite the logic, sometimes saving for retirement in the earlier stages of life can be hard since many are struggling with more immediate financial demands such as paying off college debt, saving for a first home or starting a family.

What lessons did the 2008 collapse of the stock market — and its significant recovery since — teach investors about the hazards of trying to time the market?

MUNN: If you moved out of stocks during the fall of 2008 you could have avoided most of the market losses. However, you also would have risked missing all or most of the run-up since March 2009 if you didn’t get back in at the right time.

The lesson is that it’s difficult to be right twice. A long-term investment strategy that is based on your time horizon, circumstances and goals will help optimize investment outcomes over time.

What is an investment strategy?

MAXWELL: It is an investor’s plan to guide and manage investment selections that will help the person reach his or her savings goals. Factors to consider in an investment strategy include things like when to start saving, how much to invest, where to invest and how to change your asset allocation as you get older.

No single investment plan is right for everyone. It’s important that your investment mix — the percentage of stocks, bonds and short-term investments in your portfolio — is appropriate for your age, risk tolerance and financial situation.

What do clients need to know about their tolerance for risk when formulating an investment strategy?

MUNN: Consider seeking guidance from an objective, non-commissioned adviser such as a retirement consultant to help you create a diversified portfolio based on your risk tolerance and time horizon to retirement.

Schedule additional meetings if you experience any life changes — getting married, buying a home, having a child, etc. And since investments will fluctuate with the market, meet with your consultant annually to review whether your investments are still allocated as you intended.

How does making an automatic contribution each month from your paycheck work to your advantage over time?

MAXWELL: First, it helps create discipline. By making your retirement contributions something that occurs automatically, you’ll be saving a set amount on a set schedule. This helps avoid the temptation of using the money for other needs.

Additionally, by investing a regular amount each month, you take advantage of an investment strategy known as dollar cost averaging. This allows you to spread your purchases over time and lessens the risk of investing a large amount in a single investment at the wrong time.

You’ll buy more units of an investment when its price is low and fewer units when the price is high. While there is no guarantee that you’ll have a gain when you sell, dollar cost averaging may help reduce investment risk and build investing discipline.

What is rebalancing and why should people do it?

MAXWELL: Rebalancing just means monitoring your asset allocation and diversification over time. Think of it as doing routine maintenance, like getting your oil changed, to help performance and protect against larger problems down the road. We recommend rebalancing every six months.

Within the past year, employees have been able to earmark payroll contributions to a Roth 403(b). Why should they consider doing this?

MUNN: When contributing to a Roth 403(b) account, taxes are due on that amount now, not when you withdraw the funds in retirement. This change could benefit you if you are concerned about being in a higher tax bracket or balancing taxable and tax-free income in retirement or estate planning for your heirs.

In addition, there are no income limits to participating in a Roth 403(b) account as there are with Roth IRAs. Not every situation is the same, so you should carefully consider the implications of contributing to a Roth and consult a tax adviser.

Explain the importance of diversification.

MUNN: Diversification means spreading your investment eggs among several different baskets to reduce risk and increase opportunities for growth.

Different types of investments are called asset classes — stocks, bonds, real estate or guaranteed accounts, for example. Generally these investments do not move up or down together. Within asset classes you can diversify even more — for example, within stocks by the size of the companies, or within bonds by different maturities. Spreading investments across the globe can also reduce risk.

Didn’t that strategy fail in recent years as a sound defense?

MAXWELL: It’s important to remember that diversification can only help reduce portfolio risk, not eliminate it. The 2008–09 bear market sent virtually every type of investment class falling at the same time.

While spreading out your investments among different investment types won’t completely shield you from a market meltdown, it may minimize the pain.

TIAA-CREF and Fidelity are the two investment firms available to University employees to open a 403(b) account and make contributions through payroll deduction. Both Maxwell and Munn are available to meet on campus by appointment for individual consultations with employees. To contact Maxwell, call 919-451-3047 or e-mail katie.maxwell@fmr.com. To contact Munn, call 800-732-8353 or schedule online at www.tiaa-cref.org/public/products-services/retirement-consultation/index.html.

For more information on all the University’s supplemental retirement options, including the 401(k) and 457(b) plans, refer to hr.unc.edu/benefits/benefit-plans/retirement-programs/index.htm.
OPENINGS REMAIN FOR JUNE 8 CAROLINA BLOOD DRIVE

The 22nd Annual Carolina Blood Drive will be held June 8 at the Smith Center from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Make appointments online: www.unc.edu/blood.

Among the special guests donors might meet during the day are Chancellor Holden Thorp; Chancellor Emeritus Paul Hardin; William Roper, dean of the School of Medicine and CEO of UNC Health Care; Butch Davis, head football coach; broadcaster Woody Durham; UNC’s mascot, Rameses; and Carolina alumni athletes Eric Montross and Carla Overbeck.

For an inspirational story about the value of blood donations, read about Davis De Clerque’s experiences as a “micro preemie” at UNC Hospitals: bit.ly/cbAyLz

SECOND TAR HEEL TREASURE A ‘GREAT SUCCESS’

Larry Hicks, director of housing and residential education, reports that the Tar Heel Treasure sale held May 15 at the Smith Center was a “great success” and grossed $13,000.

Tar Heel Treasure is the campuswide garage sale that sells what students leave behind when they move out of their residence halls at the end of the spring semester. The sale diverts much of what would have gone to the Orange County landfill. Most of what is not purchased can be donated.

For example, Hicks said that two truckloads of nonperishable food were donated to a food pantry, clothing was given to the Salvation Army, furniture was delivered to Habitat for Humanity’s Re-Store, textbooks were recycled, and other donations were made to the Orange County Animal Shelter.

Net proceeds from the sale — around $10,000 — will go to Habitat’s Build a Block program in Phoenix Place, an affordable green-certified subdivision under construction in Chapel Hill. tarheeltreasure.unc.edu

FREE VALET PARKING SERVICE EXPANDS DOWNTOWN

A popular valet parking service soon will expand to include all of Franklin Street in downtown Chapel Hill. Beginning June 1, free valet service will be available for patrons visiting East Franklin businesses in addition to the current service available to patrons visiting participating West Franklin businesses between 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Depending on demand, hours may be extended until 2 a.m., Thursday — Saturday nights.

Currently, cars can be dropped off and picked up at 440 West Franklin St., in front of the West End Wine Bar. The new service will include drop-off and pick-up on the north side of the 100 block of East Franklin Street in front of Kidzu Children’s Museum.

For more information, refer to bit.ly/9BoeY or contact the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership at 967-9440.

NOMINATIONS DUE OCT. 1 FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING AWARDS

Oct. 1 is the deadline to make nominations for 2011 University Teaching Awards.

Recipients will be selected for five types of awards: one Board of Governors’ Award for Excellence in Teaching; four Distinguished Teaching Awards for Post-Baccalaureate Instruction; seven Awards to Faculty for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching; five Tanner Awards to Graduate Teaching Assistants and one Mentor Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Submissions may be made online. For complete information about the awards and their criteria and to make a nomination, see provost.unc.edu/teaching-awards.

For additional assistance, contact Debbie Stevenson (962-7882 or debbie_stevenson@unc.edu).

HUMANITIES, HUMAN VALUES SEMINARS

The Program in the Humanities and Human Values will offer a seminar June 5 at the Center for School Leadership Development titled “Wilderness and the American Character.” The program will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. with an optional lunch available. Registration is required, with fee.

Topics and speakers will include: “James Dickey’s ’Deliverance’ and the Geography of Hope,” by Joseph M. Flora; “Depictions of American Wilderness: From the Hudson River School to the Film Western,” by Joy S. Kasson; “21st Century Views of Wilderness: From Beauty to Biodiversity and “Carbon Sinks,”” by J. Robert Cox; and “Americans and Wilderness,” including all of the speakers.

On June 11 and 12, the program will present a Distinguished Scholar Seminar featuring Bart D. Ehrman speaking on “The Greatest Stories Rarely Told: Scholars and the New Testament.”

The program will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on June 11 in Room 2603 at the School of Government, and will continue from 9 a.m. to noon on June 12. An optional dinner is available. Registration is required, with fee.

For more information, see adventures.unc.edu or call 962-1544.

CELEBRATE BILL FRIDAY’S 90TH BIRTHDAY ON JULY 13

As UNC System President Emeritus Bill Friday marks his 90th birthday, the University and General Alumni Association invite the Carolina community to attend an open house in his honor on July 13. It will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Hill Alumni Center’s Alumni Hall.

CELEBRATE NATIONAL TRAILS DAY AT BATTLE PARK

On June 5, join the trail-building efforts of the North Carolina Botanical Garden at Battle Park, which has more than 2.5 miles of pedestrian trails. There will be a short trail tour and orientation at 9:30 a.m., followed by a trail building work session led by park staff and volunteers. Tools and equipment will be provided. Call 962-0522 to register and for information.
JUNE 8 MINORITY HEALTH VIDEOCONFERENCE SET

The 16th Annual Summer Public Health Research Videoconference on Minority Health will be held June 8 from 1:30 to 4 p.m., with the topic “What Will Health Care Reform Mean for Minority Health Disparities?”

Howard Lee, executive director of the N.C. Education Cabinet, will moderate the meeting. Participants will include Mayra Alvarez, legislative assistant to U.S. Sen. Richard Durbin; Ralph Forquera, executive director of Seattle Indian Health Board and a clinical assistant professor with the University of Washington; and Tony Whitehead, professor of medical anthropology and founding director of Cultural Systems Analysis Group at the University of Maryland.

The interactive session will be broadcast with a live audience in the auditorium of the Tate-Turner-Kuralt Building and also will be streamed over the Internet. Questions will be taken from broadcast participants by e-mail and toll-free telephone.

Refer to www.minority.unc.edu/institute/2010.

FRIDAY CENTER’S COMMUNITY CLASSROOM SERIES

The Friday Center has openings in the following Community Classroom Series programs that begin June 2, both from 7 to 9 p.m., with a cost of $50:

• “Retirement Planning Today” — This course combines essential life planning concepts with more traditional retirement planning strategies; and
• “Write Your Life: The Sequel” — This course is for people who have taken a previous session of “Write Your Life,” or who have taken at least one writing class and wish to develop their memoir, novel or stories for publication.

For information about these and all the Friday Center programs this summer, see www.fridaycenter.unc.edu/pdep/ccs/index.htm or call Tyler Ritter (843-5836).

UNC-NCsu MEDICAL DEVICES SEMINAR

North Carolina TraCS Institute will sponsor a symposium on June 8 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. titled “Medical Device Technologies at UNC and NCsu.” The purpose of the meeting will be to bring together clinicians and basic and applied scientists to foster new collaborations in translational research and to identify opportunities for new programs, projects and funding opportunities.

It will be held in Room G100 of Bondurant Hall. For information, see bit.ly/9Dia55.

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR CCP GRANTS

The Community-Campus Partnership in the School of Government seeks proposals for projects that address challenges in the areas of community and economic development, education, infrastructure or public health in Caswell or Lenoir counties. Small grants from $500 to $20,000 are available to full-time Carolina faculty, staff or students.

The Community-Campus Partnership this week announced a grant of $20,000 to the UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention to support public health and poverty alleviation programs in Lenoir County. bit.ly/aUZ7x3

SUMMER MUSIC, MOVIE SERIES KICKS OFF JUNE 24

Locally Grown, Chapel Hill’s annual series of free movies and concerts, will begin June 24 with a concert by Southern Culture on the Skids at Wallace Plaza, on top of the Wallace Parking Deck at 150 E. Rosemary St. The concert will start at 6 p.m. with The Moaners providing the opening act.

Concert nights will feature a beer garden along with a selection of wines, as well as food from some of Franklin Street’s restaurants. On movie nights, the Varsity on Franklin Theater will offer concessions. www.locally-grown.com

FEDERAL WORK-STUDY ORIENTATION FOR NEW SUPERVISORS

The Office of Scholarships and Student Aid offers training sessions for full-time faculty and staff members interested in joining the Federal Work-Study program.

Training is mandatory and covers topics such as institutional and federal guidelines, student payroll, the job classification system, documenting student hours in TIM, creating job descriptions and marketing jobs online.

No registration is required; attend a session that works best for you.

Postdoctoral scholars and part-time employees are not eligible to serve as work-study supervisors.

All sessions will be held in Room 121 of Hanes Art Center on the following dates: June 15, 10 a.m.–noon; July 7, 10 a.m.–noon; and Aug. 5, 2–4 p.m.

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

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

Next issue includes events from June 17 to July 14. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Mon., June 7. 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.
Housekeeping job a stepping-stone to a better life for Burma refugee

Burma (officially the Union of Myanmar) is the largest country in Southeast Asia, bordered by China and India to the north, Bangladesh to the west and Thailand to the east, with the Andaman Sea defining its southern boundary. It is a land filled with Buddhist ruins, lush rice fields, golden pagodas and, for much of the past century, human misery. 

For centuries, the country was ruled by kings, and in the 19th century, it was conquered and turned into a British colony. The fragile democracy that emerged upon its independence in 1948 was crushed by an army coup in 1962, the same year Nihel Tial was born. 

For the next 26 years, the Burma Socialist Programme Party held power by brutally crushing all opposition. But the slaying of a student in 1988 led to mass demonstrations on Aug. 8 – known as “8-8-88” in which hundreds of thousands of protesters marched, demanding that the military government be replaced by an elected civilian government. In response, soldiers fired on the crowds, killing thousands. They arrived here as a family in February 2006. Everyone except Tial, a former high school chemistry teacher, is now a student. 

This fall, her husband will begin his final year as an electrical engineering student at N.C. State. Their eldest daughter is a student at East Chapel Hill High School. Their son is a seventh grader at Phillips Middle School. For now, Tial is the family’s sole breadwinner as a housekeeper at the University. It is a job she values dearly and does well – so well that students nominated her for a 2010 C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award. 

More than 80 students from the Joyner and Connor residence hall communities, five resident advisers, one young alumnus and a former Massey winner (also a housekeeper who emigrated from Burma) saw in Tial the same qualities meriting recognition: hard work, devotion and the kind of human warmth that can be spread with a simple smile.

She is more grateful for her job than any of the students could ever know, but it is only a stepping-stone on her long, steep climb to a better life. 

When Tial was the age of her oldest daughter, she went off to Rangoon University to study chemistry so she could become a teacher. Chancellor Holden Thorp pointed out to Tial that they had something in common. When he called her this spring to tell her she had won a Massey, he pointed out that he, too, had once been a chemistry teacher. 

One day soon, after Tial’s husband finishes college and gets a job, it will be her turn to return to college – no longer as the family breadwinner, but as a student.

Even though she has learned English well enough to speak and understand it, it continues to be a struggle. That is why she is thinking of pursuing accounting where the language used is primarily numbers. It will not be easy. But in this country, she knows it will be possible.

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* Next year, the New Year’s Day holiday will be celebrated on Dec. 31, 2010, because Jan. 1, 2011, falls on a Saturday. The holiday schedule and additional policy links are available online at hr.unc.edu/benefits/leave-and-holidays/index.htm.
Completed at a cost of around $250,000, the Carolina Inn opened with 52 rooms, each with a private bath, and cost its guests $3 per night for a single room, $9 for a suite.

In 1935, Hill donated the inn to the University with the stipulation that any profits were to be used for the maintenance and support of the University Libraries, particularly for the North Carolina Collection.

Since then, Carolina’s living room has gone through five major renovations or expansions, with a sixth currently under way. And for much of its history, the Carolina Inn has helped realize Hill’s wish to benefit the North Carolina Collection.

There have been some rough years, however. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Carolina Inn made little, if any, money and was not able to help the collection much, said Bob Anthony, curator of the North Carolina Collection. But by 2000, the situation had improved dramatically.

For the past eight years, the collection has received at least $100,000 per year from inn revenues — and $200,000 a year since 2005.

“With regular income from the Carolina Inn now more dependable, we’ve been able to do a number of things that have significantly enhanced the North Carolina Collection’s ability to meet the needs of the thousands of researchers who seek assistance from us each year,” he said.

Because the collection does not receive any state funds for acquisitions of research material, it relies on private funding for these purchases.

“Since July 2007, for example, we’ve used Carolina Inn funds to round out microfilm collections of North Carolina newspapers, helping make our holdings the most extensive anywhere of older and current North Carolina newspapers,” he said.

He also attributes inn revenue with helping to expand staffing and hours of operation for the North Carolina Collection Gallery.

“The Carolina Inn revenue has proved critical in making the North Carolina Collection Gallery the educational showplace it is today,” Anthony said.

Money generated by the inn funds other library positions as well, including a special projects and outreach coordinator and student assistants who work on Web projects to bring sections of the collection to a worldwide audience online.

For example, Anthony said, students have scanned more than 21,530 of the 500,000 images in the Hugh Morton Collection and have helped develop the “Read North Carolina Novels” blog that provides more than 600 descriptions of novels set in the state.

“The revenue we receive from the Carolina Inn is key to so many of the services and resources we offer that I cannot imagine the North Carolina Collection operating without it,” he said.

“We certainly would not have anything like the breadth and depth of North Caroliniana that we do today had John Sprunt Hill not provided for this support when transferring the Carolina Inn to the University. Nor would we be able to offer the level of outreach services that we do.”

[Left] During its 85-year history, the Carolina Inn, as seen today from the entrance facing Pittsboro Street, has been through five renovations or expansions, with the sixth currently under way.

[Lower left] Architectural plans for the Carolina Inn, created by Arthur Nash, show a section of the building adjacent to the carriage porch. This image is from the Records of the Physical Plant #45102, University Archives, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library.

[Below] This early 1940s postcard, courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, depicts the Carolina Inn as seen from the corner of Cameron Avenue and Columbia Street.

Committee for the North Carolina Fellows Program, the UNC Faculty Committee on Athletics — serving as chair from 1977 to 1985 — and the Morehead Foundation’s Central Selection Committee — serving as chair from 1989 to 1992.

He was a member of the executive committee of the Atlantic Coast Conference from 1978 to 1982 and was its president from 1980 to 1981. He also served on the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill from 1981 to 1999.

Wilcox held leadership positions in prestigious professional organizations, including chair of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and the Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery of the American College of Surgeons, and president of the Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Wilcox’s idea to start a support group for families of children who were undergoing heart surgery became the inspiration for the Carolina Parent Network, begun in 1986.

A student of history, especially medical history, Wilcox helped establish the Bullitt Club for the study of the history of medicine when he was a medical student. As a faculty member, he began collecting old and rare books about the history of medicine, and in 1984, he began presenting a rare book to the Health Sciences Library each year in honor of his chief resident. Eventually, he donated most of his collection to the library.

Memorial gifts may be made to the TSDA Benson R. Wilcox Award. Refer to www.med.unc.edu/ct/news/Wilcox-obit.
For archaeologist Steve Davis, digging into history began at an early age

Most little boys enjoy digging in the dirt before they get bigger and start digging other things. Sports. Girls. Cars.

Steve Davis eventually got around to discovering all those things, too, but his interest in dirt stayed with him.

Davis, an adjunct professor of anthropology and associate director of the University’s Research Laboratories of Archaeology (RLA), traces his lifelong fascination back to a class field trip to the Town Creek Indian Mound the summer after fifth grade. He was there, he said, that he was transfixed watching a team of archaeologists from Carolina gently prodding and picking at the raw earth in search of some buried prize.

The mound, located near Mount Gilead, served as the ceremonial center of a village built by the Pee Dee, the group of Indians who thrived in the Carolinas between 1100 and 1400 AD.

From that day forward, Davis knew he was going to be an archaeologist. He even took a stab at it in 1970 when his Charlottetown high school let seniors spend their last month before graduation working on a project of their choosing.

One classmate drove an ice cream truck. Others joined construction crews. Davis led a small group of classmates to the Catawba River in nearby York and Lancaster counties in South Carolina in search of Indian artifacts.

UNLOCKING A MYSTERY

Archaeology, in many ways, is a treasure hunt without a map showing an X marking the spot above the buried treasure. And more often than not, the treasure is of scientific, not monetary, value — information about the lives of ancient peoples and cultures.

Over the years, archaeologists have developed search strategies and hypotheses to determine where to look for these clues to the past, something akin to educated guesswork, Davis said.

For example, many Piedmont Indians built their villages along rivers and streams for easy access to water and agricultural fields. Therefore, archaeologists usually search for those sites along riverbanks.

But in the summer of 1970, Davis had the advantage of not knowing what he was doing. This freed him to search the ridges high above the river, places that a trained archaeologist likely would have dismissed.

And it was there that he and his classmates discovered pieces of pottery — the telltale signs of ancient habitations — in several unexpected areas.

“We were ignorant enough not to know that we weren’t supposed to be looking there,” Davis said. “As a consequence, we found sites that likely would not have been discovered otherwise.”

Davis said there was a lesson to his early success that he would not fully grasp until years later.

After Davis became an experienced archaeologist, he realized that the sites he discovered as a teenager were early 19th-century Catawba Indian towns called New Town and Turkeyhead.

Both sites have since been revisited as part of RLA’s Catawba Project, and New Town was excavated between 2003 and 2005 by UNC’s archaeological field school with support from the National Geographic Society.

“We as scientists sometimes get smug in our knowledge and may disregard what seems to be outrageous possibilities — such as finding a village site high on a ridge instead of along the nearby river terrace bank,” he said. “The danger in doing that is to deny ourselves the opportunity to learn the unexpected.”

RETRACING OLD STEPS

Davis did not have to look far in choosing where he was going to college. Both his mother and father were Carolina alumni, and his father said simply, “You can go to any school you want, but I am mailing the tuition check to Chapel Hill.”

His father’s insistence was based on more than alumni loyalty, Davis said. He knew Carolina was likely to have a good program for just about everything, including archaeology.

Davis did not stumble upon it, though, until early in his sophomore year when he noticed a little sign outside Person Hall that read: “Research Laboratories of Anthropology Museum.”

Inside, he found anthropology professor and RLA director Joffrey Coe, and staff archaeologist Bennie Keel, who was excavating at Town Creek Indian Mound when Davis visited the site as a fifth grader.

Coe, who began excavating there in 1937, would eventually spend 50 years directing the field research at Town Creek. It took Davis about two weeks to work up the nerve to ask him for a job in his labs.

Coe shook his head. “We are on a limited budget, and there is no money.”

“You misunderstood,” Davis responded. “I wasn’t asking to get paid. I just want to work here.”

He began the new job by going through grocery sacks of washed soil looking for small glass trade beads. The sacks came from Coe’s and Keel’s recent excavations at a historic Cherokee site in the western part of the state.

“Every couple of days you might find one,” Davis said. “I loved it and I spent every spare hour I could there.”

He never officially filled out an employment form, but eventually he started receiving a paycheck: $1.76 an hour for 10 hours a week. And that summer, they hired him as part of the excavation crew at a 17th-century Saura Indian town site in Stokes County.

He returned to the same site the following summer, and the summer after that, he was put in charge.

ENDLESS SUMMERS

Davis is spending this summer just like so many others before — excavating with RLA colleagues and students.

For 28 years now, Davis has taught or co-taught a five-week field school in North American archaeology that allows students to participate in excavation, recovery, recording and interpretation of archaeological remains.

Since its inception in 1983, the UNC field school has been a collaborative effort involving RLA staff. From 1983 until 2000, Davis collaborated with Trawick Ward, who is now retired. Since 2002, Davis has collaborated with Brett Riggs.

“Given the nature of archaeological field research, this team approach offers several advantages over that of the solitary researcher accompanied by his students,” Davis said.

This summer, the field school is being held in South Carolina, along the Catawba River at two adjacent sites — one containing the remains of ancient settlements partly contemporary with Town Creek Indian Mound, and the other a village of the Catawba Indian Nation that was occupied in the late 1700s.

Davis said students this summer will continue the ongoing investigation of the historic Catawba Indians and their ancestors begun by previous field schools. Past excavations have identified houses and recovered artifact samples, including native pottery, European-manufactured trade items, animal bone and botanical remains from five historic Catawba town sites.

This summer, students will identify and sample household refuse deposits from historic Catawba cabins and more ancient village occupations.

There is no better way for students to “get intimate with history” than by getting their hands dirty in search of it, Davis said.

“Here, you are living and breathing it,” Davis said. “It provides an experience that you simply can’t get in a library or a classroom.”

For Davis, archaeology is the one profession that allows his love of history and science to combine in an intellectual way with his love for physical work and the outdoors.

In a sense, archaeology is like working on a puzzle with most of the pieces missing. Part of the job is to find more of the missing pieces, and part is to figure out how all the pieces might fit together to tell a more complete and accurate story about the way people lived centuries ago.

“Experience counts for an awful lot, but you always need to maintain a certain level of humility and realize what you think you know may not be so,” Davis said. “That is why this work never gets old. It just gets deeper.”

Steve Davis (second from right in the above photo), adjunct professor of anthropology and associate director of the University’s Research Laboratories of Archaeology, joins students excavating the site of a 15th-century Indian village near Hillsborough several years ago. Part of their work included sifting through the dirt for any artifacts they might find.