When it comes to harmful bacteria, Scott Singleton sees no reason to fight fair.

After all, more than 2 million patients each year contract bacterial infections in U.S. hospitals, and 90,000 of those patients die as a result. That’s because in 70 percent of the cases, doctors’ best weapon has been taken away from them – the antibiotic. These lethal bugs have developed a resistance to the drugs that used to kill them. But Singleton has figured out a way to fix this fight.

“Antibiotics versus bacteria is a one-on-one fight, and bacteria are getting bigger and stronger,” said Singleton, an associate professor in the medicinal chemistry and natural products division of the Eshelman School of Pharmacy. “Adding a RecA inhibitor makes it two on one. The inhibitor holds the bacterium down while the antibiotic beats it up.”

Singleton didn’t set out to bully bacteria. At first, he had a purely academic interest in how bacteria become resistant to antibiotics so quickly. But he discovered something singular about bacteria: They can evolve much more quickly when they are under stress.

He found that stress not only speeded up the bacteria’s metabolism, it also triggered an emergency response in certain enzymes that acted to protect and repair the organism’s DNA.

DNA damage caused by antibiotics is what enables them to kill disease-causing bacteria. But since antibiotics are a major form of stress for bacteria, the drugs designed to kill the bugs actually trigger the process that speeds up their evolutionary resistance.

That same day, Thorp said, “We concur with President Ross in expressing gratitude to Gov. Perdue for once again recognizing the important role that higher education and the University play in moving North Carolina’s economy forward.”

Addressing the Faculty Council on Feb. 18, Thorp said the University had acted prudently in taking the equivalent of a 5 percent campus-wide

Classroom instruction feels the effect of budget cuts

In laying out her proposed budget for 2011–12, Gov. Beverly Perdue tried to shield education from the most severe cuts.

The proposal, released last week, included a 6 percent reduction for the UNC system, a 4.9 percent reduction for community colleges and a 3.8 percent reduction for K–12 public schools.

It left intact the tuition increases approved by the Board of Governors on Feb. 11, allowing universities to keep that revenue on campus – something both UNC President Tom Ross and Chancellor Holden Thorp have said was critical to the academic mission. And it provided partial funding for enrollment growth and financial aid.

“All of us in the university appreciate the challenges she faced and are grateful that she identifies potential ways to avoid even more severe cuts that certainly would cause permanent damage to our institutions,” Ross said in a Feb. 17 statement about Perdue’s budget.
Carolina represented at national digital town hall on jobs, economy

Carolina’s innovative spirit was in the national spotlight at a live digital town hall event Feb. 9 when some of the nation’s brightest minds came together to talk about the future of the American economy.

Chancellor Holden Thorp and University students shared experiences from Washington, D.C., and Chapel Hill, and the forum aired a video about research on synthetic blood cells developed by doctoral student Tim Merkel, working with Joe DeSimone, Chancellor’s Eminent Professor of Chemistry.

Carolina was one of two universities to be featured in the discussion sponsored by The Atlantic. The conversation, “Finding Work, Finding Our Way: Building the Economy & Jobs of the Future,” opened with U.S. Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner and featured a broad panel of participants. Judy Woodruff, senior correspondent with PBS “NewsHour,” moderated the event.

To watch a video of the forum, refer to www.jobsandeconomy.com.

SHOPPING FOR A CAUSE

A new boutique on Franklin Street is also a four-month independent study project for seniors Taylor Walters and Chelsea Crites. 4 Boutique, located on the second floor of 149A E. Franklin St., sells spring handbags, jewelry and scarves. A grant provided the start-up costs, and all profits will be donated to four local charitable organizations.

HEALTH CARE NOT LOST IN TRANSLATION

Assistant professor of journalism Paul Cuadros has written a story about the UNC Center for Latino Health at the Ambulatory Care Center. Unlike clinics that rely on a limited pool of translators for non-English speaking patients, this clinic is entirely staffed by those fluent in Spanish.

‘JOURNAL OF A UFO INVESTIGATOR’

It’s been in the works since 1997, but based on reviews it appears that the time was well worth it for retired religious studies professor David Halperin. His new novel, “Journal of a UFO Investigator” has a protagonist who slips in and out of reality, and he talks about that in a Q&A with News and Observer correspondent Glenn McDonald.

May Commencement debuts new Carolina ‘true blue’ regalia and change in venue plans

Award-winning colorist and fashion designer Alexander Julian — Chapel Hill native and UNC alumnus — was determined that his son, Will, was not going to graduate in May wearing an aqua gown.

Julian, most famous for his clothing line Colours and for putting argyle on the Tar Heels’ basketball uniform, knows a little something about color. And he knew that the regalia in use for the past several years were not true Carolina Blue.

“As a colorist, ever since Holden Thorp was inaugurated as chancellor, I have been on him like a wet, dirty T-shirt to let me try to improve the true blueness of the robe color,” Julian said.

The robe also wasn’t green, as in sustainably made.

At the first home football game of the 2010 season, Julian got approval from Thorp to go ahead with his idea for true blue, truly green regalia. He then worked closely (and gratis) with Oak Hall Cap & Gown, supplier of UNC regalia for decades; Carolyn Elfeland, associate vice chancellor for campus services; and John Gorsuch, interim director of campus merchandising for Student Stores; to create the first designer regalia in the country.

Julian added fashion details such as white piping along the yoke and two white panels in front. He also removed one of the pleats in the gown for a more flattering fit for most figures. The tassel is 75 percent blue and 25 percent white instead of solid blue, topped with an Old Well medallion that is colored silver instead of gold.

But the fabric was manufactured in Asia, which didn’t fit the chancellor, I have been on him like a wet, dirty T-shirt to let me try to improve the true blueness of the robe color,” Julian said.

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Most important, after many dye tests, the cloth is finally what the Tar Heel-trained eye of Carolina’s “unofficial color czar” judges to be the perfect shade of Carolina blue. At the same time, the team worked hard to make sure the new gown was also truly green.

Oak Hall offered a fabric made from 100 percent post-consumer recycled plastic bottles. (It takes 23 plastic bottles to make each gown.) But the fabric was manufactured in Asia, which didn’t fit the UNC team’s idea of sustainable, so Oak Hall found a manufacturer with mills in North and South Carolina, and the fabric will be sewn.
BOG APPROVES TUITION AND FEE INCREASES

As state coffers continue to shrink, universities have to rely increasingly on tuition to help protect academics.

The Board of Governors on Feb. 11 approved campus-based tuition increases and fees that would provide revenue to help preserve the quality of existing programs while meeting the needs of growing student enrollment. Those recommendations will be forwarded to the N.C. General Assembly.

If approved by the legislature and governor, resident and non-resident undergraduates would see their tuition increase by 6.5 percent.

For Carolina’s resident undergraduates, that would mean $300 more, with a new tuition rate of $6,153, while non-resident undergraduates would pay $24,953, an increase of $1,523 over the current year.

Graduate and professional schools also have an option to request additional school-based tuition.

At Carolina, 12 schools made that request, and the BOG approved them all, which would bring in another $6 million to $7 million across campus, Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, told the Faculty Council on Feb. 18.

Even with the approved tuition increases, Carolina remains at the bottom quartile when compared with its national peers, Carney said. “This is a bargain university in many respects.”

Ten-year comparison of scholarships and financial aid awards to all students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000–01</th>
<th>2009–10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL AID AWARDED</td>
<td>$128.1</td>
<td>$257.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Students</td>
<td>11,501</td>
<td>16,903</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average Award</td>
<td>$11,136</td>
<td>$15,252</td>
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</table>

Funds by source

<table>
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<th>Source</th>
<th>2000–01</th>
<th>2009–10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Federal</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutional/Private</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funds by type

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>2000–01</th>
<th>2009–10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships/Grants</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work-Study</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loans</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The University designates 38 percent of campus-based tuition increases for need-based financial aid. Maintaining that practice in the current economic climate is both a challenge and a necessity, Charles Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, told the Faculty Council on Feb. 18.

Printing Services to be scaled back effective April 29

At the end of the semester, Printing Services will be reorganized, and in-house printing capabilities will be downsized to reflect the business Printing Services supports.

All services currently offered by Printing Services will still be available to the campus community after the April 29 reorganization, said Carolyn Elliland, associate vice chancellor for campus services.

Printing Services will continue to provide full design and prepress, printing, mailing and other ancillary services and will continue to contract out jobs it is unable to produce.

The copy centers will be eliminated effective April 29, but Student Stores is expanding its custom publishing department to provide services previously offered by the main campus copy center.

“The decision to downsize was not made lightly,” Elliland said. “In making the difficult decision to downsize, we want to continue to meet the printing and copying needs of campus units, but we have to do that in a financially sustainable way,” Elliland said.

A team of University employees who manage printing for their departments along with representatives of departments who provide related services, such as Mail Services and Purchasing, was asked to identify how the campus printing needs could be met most efficiently.

The team felt strongly that an on-campus printing service was needed to assist departments without their own printing expertise and to protect the University’s visual identity, Elliland said. These recommendations were key to the decision-making process for Printing Services, she said.

Unlike many other financial decisions University administrators are forced to make as a result of the ongoing economic situation, this decision is not the result of state budget cuts. It is because of market forces, Elliland said.

While the national printing market has seen a steady decline since 2002, Printing Services worked diligently to sustain the volume of business, but many departments have eliminated printed materials, Elliland said. As a result, Printing Services must cover all its expenses while remaining competitive with outside commercial vendors.

Unfortunately, she said, the reorganization means a reduction in force, with nine currently filled permanent positions being eliminated in Printing Services and one in Carolina Copy, effective April 29.

Staff were told about the reorganization in one-on-one meetings with administrators on Feb. 11.

Both Printing Services and the Office of Human Resources are working with the affected employees to provide resources and support to help them find new jobs. “We are making every effort to help these employees find new jobs — and to ensure that there is no disruption in service to the University community,” Elliland said.

Carolina has maintained a large in-house facility for many years, whereas data from the S.T.A.R. study shows that most peer universities no longer have large in-house print shops. And only 18 of the 100 largest universities have more than 11 employees in their in-house printing facilities.

To cope with its declining work volume, Printing Services has downsized several times since 1997. The University shut down four copy centers between 2002 and 2004 and abolished the offset printing function in 2007.

But net losses between 2000–01 and 2009-10 were $2.1 million, and in December 2010 alone, Printing Services lost more than $118,000, Elliland said.

Units can place printing orders online at www.printing.unc.edu, which also provides electronic pricing and job tracking.

See TUITION page 11

SPA layoff policy outlined by OHR

The University’s layoff policy for SPA employees is designed to ensure equitable treatment of permanent employees when a department determines that a reduction is necessary for business reasons. The policy covers all permanent employees, both full- and part-time.

“It’s an unfortunate reality in this budgetary environment that we will have layoffs,” said Brenda Richardson Malone, vice chancellor for human resources. “Our job is to ensure that the process is followed correctly, and that we provide as much assistance as we can to the affected employees.”

The first step happens when department management decides that a layoff is necessary based on business needs; they then develop a layoff plan. That plan is submitted to the Office of Human Resources, which reviews each plan to make sure it is consistent with state and University policies.

“For example, our policy at Carolina states that employees can be laid off only after the department considers all other available alternatives, such as terminating any temporary employees and delaying the filling of any vacant positions,” said Noreen Montgomery, director of employment and staffing.

After the department’s plan has been approved, the department has to provide affected employees with at least 30 days notice. Those employees then meet individually with an OHR staff member to discuss benefits and get answers to their questions.

The office also advises employees where they can turn for help in finding another job, including opportunities within the University.

All SPA employees who are laid off from the University are eligible for career transition services through the outplacement firm Lee Hecht Harrison. In addition, employees receive 12 months of employer contributions for health coverage through the State Health Plan; priority re-employment consideration for state positions for either 12 or 24 months, depending on layoff date; and pay-out of vacation, bonus and other eligible accumulated leave. They may be eligible for severance pay based on total state service.


SPA non-faculty employees are not covered by the layoff policy. Since most EPA non-faculty employees are employed “at will,” their appointments can be ended at any time. A small number of EPA non-faculty employees hold term appointments.

At-will appointments require either a 30- or 90-day notice for discontinuation for any reason. Term appointments generally end early only if an applicable funding contingency arises or there is dismissal for cause. End-of-appointment benefits for EPA positions include leave payouts. Depending on the circumstances, they could also include health insurance continuation and career transition counseling services.

For information about EPA non-faculty end-of-appointment procedures, see http://bit.ly/0J9ZK0.
Six employees have been selected by Chancellor Holden Thorp to receive 2011 C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Awards, one of the most coveted distinctions the University gives faculty and staff.

The late C. Knox Massey of Durham created the awards in 1980 to recognize “unusual, meritorious or superior contributions” by University employees. In 1984, he joined the families of his son, Knox Massey Jr., and daughter, Kay Massey Weatherspoon, in creating the Massey-Weatherspoon fund. Income from the fund supports the Massey Awards and Carolina Seminars.

Thorp will honor the recipients, who were chosen from nominations from the campus community, at an awards luncheon on April 9. Each will receive a $6,000 stipend and an award citation.

This year’s recipients are:
- Jane D. Brown, James L. Knight Distinguished Professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication;
- Ruben Gonzalez-Crespo, interpreter in the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center;
- Helen M. Marsh, environmental technician in Housekeeping Services;
- Mark Meares, director of corporate and foundation relations in the Office of University Development;
- Karen Shelton, head coach of women’s field hockey in the Department of Athletics; and
- Tom Sudderth, landscape installation supervisor in Grounds Services.

BROWN
Praised as “the epitome of a University citizen,” Brown has made a tangible difference at Carolina since she joined the faculty of the journalism school in 1977. Her impact also has been felt beyond campus, with committee service spanning from the local community to the White House.

A former chair of the faculty (1994–97), Brown has served as director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities’ Academic Leadership Program. She has also chaired the UNC Task Force on Future Promotion and Tenure Policies and Practices, the University Child Care Committee and the Faculty/Staff Development Campaign. Brown currently serves as a member of the Chancellor’s Naming Committee.

She developed and now leads the journalism school’s undergraduate honors program and has earned national renown for her research into the media’s influence on teen tobacco and alcohol use, aggression and sexual behavior.

GONZALEZ-CRESPO
Gonzales-Crespo has been praised for bringing comfort, care and compassion to the Hispanic community through his work as a Spanish interpreter in UNC Lineberger and the N.C. Cancer Hospital.

By helping patients and their families overcome language and cultural barriers, he is an important advocate for Latino health, increasing the number of minority cancer patients participating in clinical trials, directing patients to the emotional, therapeutic and financial resources available to them, and helping non-Spanish-speaking physicians understand their patients’ needs and concerns.

“The Hispanic patients feel welcomed into the UNC Hospitals system and are well-supported because of his efforts,” a colleague wrote. “Patients are able to effectively communicate their needs to the medical staff and likewise receive treatment with a clear understanding.”

MARSH
In appreciation of her warmth, friendliness and outstanding work ethic, 20 residents of the Teague/Parker and Avery residence hall community nominated Marsh, praising her ability to create a “home-away-from-home” in their residence halls.

“Ms. Helen goes far beyond what’s expected to form personal relationships with our students,” wrote one nominator. “As a residential adviser, I know the trouble many students have in adjusting to life away from home. Ms. Helen has significantly eased this transition for many. Her positive attitude and compassion are truly contagious.”

Marsh’s high standards and excellent attitude motivate those around her. “She is always willing to go the extra mile,” wrote one student.

MEARES
Meares’ commitment to securing funding for Carolina expands opportunities in every area of the University experience.

Nominated by two deans, two associate provosts and an associate dean, Meares has been described as “… a tireless and extremely effective advocate of the University’s mission to serve the people of North Carolina, the nation and the world.”

Currently, he is working to acquire funds for Innovate@Carolina, an initiative to make Carolina a world leader in launching University-born ideas that benefit society.

Among Meares’ other achievements in his 13-year Carolina career, he has helped raise funds supporting low-income students, encouraging community college transfer students, stimulating private enterprise and promoting civil rights.

SHELTON
“Heels on three … one-two-three … Heels!” School spirit and teamwork: For Carolina’s field hockey head coach, this post-game cheer is as much work ethic as it is inspiration.

Nominated by colleagues and the parent of a student-athlete, Shelton has led Carolina to six NCAA championships, 16 ACC championships and 27 winning seasons. Her leadership and success have led to five national Coach of the Year awards and eight ACC Coach of the Year awards.

“Coach Shelton knows no boundaries,” wrote a colleague. “She always sees a higher level and is perpetually working to be better and greater. She shines as a beacon of greatness for the University and is as dedicated as anyone can be to the Tar Heel tradition.”

SUDDERTH
For 26 years, Sudderth has contributed to the beauty of Carolina’s campus.

“Tom’s knowledge of plant material and site preparation and his dedication to detail have transformed the UNC campus into a world-class leader,” wrote a colleague. “When you see the beautiful plantings on campus, Tom saw the vision first.”

In recent years, Sudderth implemented landscaping for a campus master plan, conserving landscapes around building renovations and creating harmonious installations on new construction.

“He is a creative master landscaper who treasures the past and innovates to keep the campus looking beautiful,” a nominator said. In addition to his work at Carolina, Sudderth served as president of the N.C. Landscape Association in 2000.

HUNT TRIBUTE
This year’s ceremony will include a tribute to the late Douglass Hunt, who collaborated with Massey and former Chancellor Christopher Fordham to create the awards. Hunt served as chair of the Massey Awards committee from its inception in 1980 to 2002 and was a recipient. He died Jan. 1.
Three honored with UNC women’s advancement awards

Three people received University Awards for the Advancement of Women on Feb. 14 in honor of their dedication to the empowerment of women. The ceremony took place in the Campus Y.

The awards, created in 2006, honor individuals who have mentored or supported women on campus, elevated the status of women or improved campus policies for them, promoted women’s recruitment and retention, or promoted professional development for women.

The three winners — one faculty member, one staff member and one student, graduate student or postdoctoral scholar are eligible — receive a monetary award. The faculty and staff winners receive $5,000; the student scholar, $2,500.

This year’s honorees are Caroline Fish, an undergraduate psychology major; Lillie Searles, an associate professor of biology and associate chair for academic affairs in the department; and Robert Pleasant, an interpersonal violence prevention coordinator.

Fish, a recipient of the Eve Carson Scholarship, has demonstrated her commitment to ending violence against women as co-chair of Project Dinah, Carolina’s safety and empowerment organization on campus.

She led the first-ever Carolina Violence Awareness week, created a documentary about sexual violence at UNC and

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HONORS

JACQUELINE OLICH, associate director of the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies and adjunct assistant professor of history, has been named to the BRIDGES Advisory Board. BRIDGES is an intensive professional development program for women in higher education.

DELLA POLLOCK, Distinguished Term Professor of Communication Studies, has been recognized with a Robert L. Sigmon Service-Learning Award, presented annually to a faculty member who has made significant contributions toward furthering the practice of service-learning. The award was presented during the 2011 Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement Conference on the campus of Elon University.

CAREY ANDERS, assistant professor of medicine and member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, and KATHERINE HODALEY, research associate at UNC Lineberger, were recently selected as the first two recipients of the new Weatherspoon Family Brain Tumor Research Award. Each received a cash prize of $2,500 to be used for professional development and will have their names engraved on a plaque that will be displayed at UNC Lineberger.

ELIZABETH MAYER-DAVIS, professor of nutrition at the Gillings School of Global Public Health and professor of medicine, has been appointed by President Barack Obama to a new health-care advisory panel. The Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health was established last June, along with the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council. The advisory group reports to the Surgeon General, who chairs the council.

“The Boy Who Loved Tornadoes: A Mother’s Story,” written by RANDI DAVENPORT, executive director of the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence and an adjunct faculty member in the Department of English and Comparative Literature, has received the 2011 Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award. Davenport will visit association member colleges as part of the award and speak to students and faculty about the book.

JOSEPH M. DESIMONE, Chancellor’s Eminent Professor of Chemistry, has received the 2010 Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The award honors association members who have mentored significant numbers of underrepresented students — such as women, minorities and persons with disabilities — toward a Ph.D. degree in the sciences. The association is the world’s largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal Science.

DeSimone was recognized for his dedication to advancing the diversity of doctoral-level chemists entering the workforce. He has mentored at least nine African American students, one Hispanic American student and 24 women through the completion of their Ph.D. degrees in chemistry.

He also teamed up with former advisee Valerie Ashby — now Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor of Chemistry — to launch a Chapel Hill-based chapter of the National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers.

He received the award Feb. 19 at a ceremony at the association’s annual meeting in Washington, D.C.
‘Distinctive’ Chapel Hill aims to be Fan Favorite

Being named one of a dozen “distinctive destinations” is a fine honor, but Patti Thorp is aiming higher. She wants to make Chapel Hill the 2011 Fan Favorite in the month-long online contest that follows being named a 2011 National Trust for Historic Preservation Distinctive Destination.

“Holden and I are determined to win this,” the wife of Chancellor Holden Thorp told the audience at the Feb. 15 announcement ceremony. She held up a men’s basketball championship ring hanging on a chain around her neck. “This is a town that loves competition, especially in March.”

She encouraged all in the audience to “make your voice count” by voting online at www.preservationnation.org/ddd through March 15. Participants can vote for their favorite destination once a day throughout the contest after registering on the website.

Chapel Hill and the University have been connected by history since their twin births in the late 18th century, so it was only fitting that they shared the honor of becoming one of a dozen “distinctive destinations” selected for 2011 by the National Trust.

The event was set at the Carolina Inn, which is on the National Register of Historic Places and built on the site of the original chapel from which the town took its name. Before the announcement, a Dixieland trio entertained guests who nibbled on such traditional Southern delicacies as fried green tomatoes with pimiento cheese, bite-size barbecue sandwiches and miniature sweet potato cheesecakes.

Photos of well-known campus locations — the Old Well, the Bell Tower and Morehead Planetarium and Science Center — alternated on a continuous-loop display with shots of a bustling Franklin Street, the outdoor murals and quiet tree-lined sidewalks.

Nominated by the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, Chapel Hill was cited for its two centuries of architectural grandeur and its citizens’ dedication to historic preservation as well as a lively nightlife scene, celebrated restaurants and cultural destinations, from the Ackland Art Museum to the North Carolina Botanical Garden, that have broad appeal to visitors.

John Hildreth, director of the National Trust’s Southern Office, congratulated the Southern Part of Heaven on being a great place to live and a great place to visit. “Clearly Chapel Hill is a place that matters to people all over the world,” he said.

Sally Greene, member of the Chapel Hill Town Council and associate director of Carolina’s Center for the Study of the American South, accepted the award plaque on behalf of the town.

All the speakers at the event emphasized the importance of the delicate balance of past and future. “We honor our past as we wrestle with change,” Greene said, pointing to the successful renovation of Memorial Hall and Playmakers Theatre as examples of ways to make the past new again.

Patti Thorp credited Chancellor Emeritus James Moeer for leading the creation of a campus master plan that would allow the campus to grow while preserving historic buildings.

The 11 other “distinctive destinations” in the competition are Alexandria, Va.; Colorado Springs, Colo.; Dandridge, Tenn.; Muskogee, Okla.; New Bedford, Mass.; Paducah, Ky.; San Angelo, Texas; St. Paul, Minn.; Sheridan, Wyo.; and Sonoma and Eureka, Calif.

A particular enzyme called RecA both controls the emergency response and repairs DNA damage caused by antibiotics.

“It’s astounding the diversity of roles played by RecA,” Singleton said. “It’s like an employee for a small, regional airline who does every job in the airport: taking your ticket, loading your luggage and serving drinks. RecA is like that for bacteria.”

But, the scientist figured, if bacteria can turn the switch on for this busy little enzyme to protect itself, then chemists should be able to turn the switch off. Once the enzyme has been set up an Epsilometer test (or E-test) in a dish played by RecA, “It’s like an

DNA damage caused by antibiotics.

Singleton and Singleton’s team set out to find out which of those compounds would stop RecA in specific disease-causing bacteria.

Doing that requires putting 96 different molecules that are RecA inhibitors into a grid-like stock plate and testing each against live bacteria from notoriously resistant diseases like E. coli and staph infections.

Once it’s determined that a certain molecule can inhibit RecA in bacteria, it’s time to pair the inhibitor with an antibiotic. Singleton sets up an Epsilometer test (or E-test) in a dish by inoculating a plate with the bacterium and placing a strip with the antibiotic and the RecA inhibitor on top of it.

The drug diffuses into the bacterium and after 24 hours of incubation, Singleton can see how effective the antibiotic-RecA inhibitor one-two punch has been. It turns out that combining the RecA inhibitor with the antibiotic at the same strength nearly wipes out the population of E. coli; only one in a million bacteria survive.

New antibiotics can take a decade or more to develop, and only about three have been introduced in the last 40 years.

But Singleton is not creating antibiotics. His work with RecA inhibitors makes already-established antibiotics more effective, and that has attracted interest from pharmaceutical companies fairly quickly.

To be in a position to partner with companies to develop these new antibiotic compounds and bring them to market, Singleton started Synereca Pharmaceuticals (note that RecA is part of the name) in July 2009. He is the company’s president and chief scientific officer.

In March 2010, Synereca became the first UNC research spinoff company to use the Carolina Express License, designed to help the process for starting a company based on technology invented at the University by offering a standard set of terms that usually need only minimal negotiation.

The company also won a competitive Small Business Research Loan from the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, a state-funded nonprofit dedicated to developing the state’s biotechnology industry.

And it was boosted by the new Carolina KickStart program, part of the University’s NC TraCS Institute, that connected company leaders with an entrepreneur in residence, Joel Shaffer, who helped them make some important contacts in the business and scientific arenas.

“Synereca is off to a great start,” Singleton said. “We look forward to re-arming antibiotics to help save lives.”
Running to benefit UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center

Since Jason Lieb was a graduate student, he’s been studying events in the cell’s nucleus, where DNA is stored. DNA is packaged so it can fit into the nucleus, and Lieb’s research focuses on how that packaging affects decisions about what genes are turned on and off in a cell. It turns out that understanding DNA packaging is important for understanding how genes interact with the environment, and how these interactions can lead to human diseases like cancers, diabetes and other health issues.

Lieb, a professor of biology and member of the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, stays busy. He is an investigator on four grants from the National Institutes of Health and a prolific author of peer-reviewed findings, and he mentors 10 graduate students and postdocs. A method developed in his laboratory that probes DNA packaging is in the early stages of being translated into the clinic and is being tested for its ability to more precisely diagnose cancers.

Despite all these demands on his time, Lieb is one of a group of about 20 faculty and staff members who will take part in a 10-mile run in Chapel Hill on April 9. The Wachovia Tar Heel 10-miler will benefit UNC Lineberger, and Lieb is joining his colleagues for the event — and looking forward to the chance for some fun and exercise for a worthy cause.

An occasional runner since college, Lieb got out of the habit when he became a faculty member.

“I spent all of my time getting the lab set up and writing grants and papers, so I didn’t do much physically,” he said.

“I was out of shape and didn’t like it, so I started biking at first. That led to a triathlon in 2007, and the running has become more regular since then.”

Like many recreational runners, Lieb finds the benefits aren’t all physical.

“I do a lot of thinking on long runs,” he said. “I like to do one on Saturday morning where I can think about one single problem or another for a while.”

So he jumped at the chance to run the Tar Heel 10-miler for a third time. He sees a natural link between running and health-related causes and looks forward to seeing his colleagues from “Team Lineberger” on the course.

To participate in the Tar Heel 10-miler or to volunteer for the event, refer to www.tarheel10miler.com for additional information.

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launched a photography campaign to give voice to students who have survived interpersonal violence.

During the summer, Fish traveled around the world meeting with women’s rights activists.

Searles organized and led a series of discussions among female biology department faculty members focusing on issues women face in primarily male-dominated sciences.

As a result of these discussions, the department formed a standing committee dedicated to the improvement of the lives of female faculty and students. The department has created ways to become more friendly to women faculty and students and has changed the way faculty searches are conducted, leading to a stronger overall climate for women.

Pleasants, a Carolina alumnus, has led several initiatives to prevent violence against women. He encouraged students to start the organization “One Act” to train people to intervene in potentially violent situations, and he applied for, and received, a state-sponsored grant that allowed the University to hire a full-time sexual assault prevention coordinator.

Pleasants teaches a violence-prevention course in the women’s studies department, is a co-sponsor of Helping to Advocate for Violence Ending Now and chairs a University task force on preventing interpersonal violence.

COMMENCEMENT from page 2

into gowns at the company’s facility in Virginia. The information that the gown is sustainable is printed directly on the cloth, rather than on a label.

The new regalia will make its debut at Commencement Information Day on March 17 in the Great Hall of the F.P.G. Student Union. At $54.99, the true blue gown will cost students $5 more than last year’s aqua model. (Students with old gowns can bring them in for a $5 credit on the new gown.)

KENAN, RAIN OR SHINE

Whether the sky on Commencement morning, May 8, is a bright Carolina blue or a cloudy gray, the place for the ceremony will be the same — Kenan Stadium.

Thorp has reversed a policy that had May Commencement shifting inside to the Dean E. Smith Center in the event of rain.

While the weather never necessitated a change in venue, each year graduating students were urged to secure Smith Center tickets for guests in advance. About 30,000 people attend Commencement annually in Kenan Stadium, whereas the seating capacity in the Smith Center for graduation is 20,000 or less.

“Moving the ceremony to Smith Center was never a good option because the seating capacity is so limited for an event of this magnitude,” Thorp said. “This way, graduates won’t have to limit the number of guests they invite.”

If it rains during Commencement, the chancellor and organizers will shorten the ceremony, but it will not be relocated. If severe weather threatens and attendees’ safety is at risk, the ceremony will be canceled.

The change in policy eliminates confusion about where graduates and guests should go for the ceremony when the weather is questionable. It ensures that all the family members who travel to Chapel Hill will be able to attend Commencement. And it will save thousands of dollars in ticket distribution and in staff time for workers who would have to be on call at the Smith Center.

For information about Commencement, see http://bit.ly/guAES52.

Winners of the 2011 University Awards for the Advancement of Women pose with Chancellor Holden Thorp. From left are, Caroline Fish, Thorp, Robert Pleasants and Lillie Searles.
VICE CHANCELLOR FOR RESEARCH FORUM

An open forum has been rescheduled for David Lee, vice president of research with the University of Georgia, on Feb. 28 from 4 to 4:45 p.m. in Room 3411 of the F.P.G. Student Union.

He is one of three candidates for the position of vice chancellor for research.

Forums for the other candidates — Kimberly Espy, associate vice chancellor of research at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Barbara Entwisle, interim vice chancellor for research at Carolina — have been held. http://bit.ly/ePquKL

CHANGE IN CAMPUS DRINKING WATER

During the month of March, OWASA will temporarily change its disinfection process from chloramines to chlorine to help ensure a high level of disinfection in the community’s network of water mains. This may change the taste or smell of campus water.

Also during the month of March, OWASA crews will be releasing water from some fire hydrants. The purpose of this flushing of water mains is to ensure that water with chlorine goes through the entire water system.

This flushing may cause discoloration or air bubbles. If this happens, run cold water for about five minutes to clear it up.

Customers with fish or amphibians in aquariums filled with OWASA water should continue to use chemicals as recommended by pet supply stores to neutralize chlorine and ammnonia. http://bit.ly/dIgYup

DEADLINES TO WATCH

- March 1 — Juniors, seniors, graduate students, faculty and administrators are eligible to be nominated for the Order of the Grail-Valkyries. The organization recognizes individuals of outstanding character who have made significant contributions to the University’s academic climate through excellence in scholarship, leadership and service. http://bit.ly/hwJqqP
- March 2 — Nominations are open for the Annual IT Awards that recognize individuals or teams for outstanding technical support. itawards.unc.edu
- March 4 — Nominations are open for the Carolina Women’s Center’s 2011 Women’s Advocacy Awards. The awards recognize those who have made a substantial contribution to the climate for gender equity on campus as a result of their leadership in advocating for women. womenscenter.unc.edu
- March 4 — Nominations are open for University Diversity Awards that recognize significant contribution to the enhancement and support of diversity on campus and in the community. www.unc.edu/diversity/divawards.htm

Inaugural Oliver Smithies Nobel Symposium

Oliver Smithies, Excellence Professor of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Nobel Prize winner, has created an annual symposium at Carolina that will feature a Nobel Laureate speaker. It is scheduled for March 8 and March 9.

On March 8, the First Annual Postdoctoral Research Poster Forum will be held from noon to 2:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Medical Biomolecular Research Building (MBRB).

On March 9, Thomas A. Steitz, Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry and Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at Yale, will give the Oliver Smithies Nobel Lecture in the MBRB auditorium from 3 to 5 p.m. Steitz, the 2009 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry, will speak on the topic “From the Structure and Function of the Ribosome to New Antibiotics.”

Also in conjunction with the symposium, the biochemistry department will host its Mary Ellen Jones Distinguished Women in Science Lecture with guest speaker Joan Steitz. Steitz, also a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator and Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale, will give two talks, “Noncoding RNAs: with a viral twist,” on March 8 at 11 a.m. and “Beyond Bias and Barriers: challenges for women in science,” on March 9 at 11 a.m. Both talks will be held in the MBRB auditorium. For information, refer to http://bit.ly/fmD8q

‘Walk with Nature’

An exhibition of watercolors by Mary Margaret Pipkin will open at the DeBerry Gallery for Botanical Art and Illustration at the North Carolina Botanical Garden on March 2. A reception for the exhibit, “Walk with Nature,” will be held March 20 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Pipkin, whose work has been exhibited in one-person shows across the country, is known for her large-scale paintings — from flowers and fallen leaves to the Blue Ridge Mountains and forests.

Among all the classes and activities planned for spring, the garden is introducing a new series of home gardening workshops in late February. The first to be offered will be “Organic Rose Gardening,” on Feb. 27 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Other workshops in the series will include “Native Azaleas” (March 6), “Soils, Water and Site Conditions for Home Landscaping” (March 12), “Container Gardening” (March 13), “Get Going Growing Vegetables” (March 26), “Taking Good Care of Your Body: Healthy Gardening Practices” (March 26), and “Weeds 101” (March 26).

Advance registration and a fee are required for all workshops. For information, visit ncbg.unc.edu/pages/26 or call 962-0522.

Also at the garden, on March 13 Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, associate professor of ecology and environmental science at Brevard College, will lead a free lecture, book signing and nature walk at 3 p.m. Author of “Mountain Nature: A Seasonal History of the Southern Appalachians,” Frick-Ruppert will talk about the ecology of the Southern Appalachians, extending from north Georgia to northern Virginia. Register by calling 962-0522. ncbg.unc.edu

In brief

Applications are open for the 2011 Mahatma Gandhi Fellowships — two summer grants of up to $3,000 each to develop and implement independent civic engagement projects in one of eight South Asian countries. www.wix.com/uncmgf/home

Nominations are open for the 2011 IT Awards that recognize significant contribution to the enhancement and support of diversity on campus and in the community. www.unc.edu/diversity/divawards.htm
CUSTOM REGALIA SALE
Student Stores will hold a custom regalia sale on the third floor of the Daniels Building March 14–18. A sales representative from Oak Hall Cap and Gown will be available each day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; orders placed during these dates will receive a 10 percent discount. Contact Eve Bradshaw for information (ebradsha@email.unc.edu or 962-2427).

SKYWATCHING
The Morehead Planetarium and Science Center will hold Skywatching sessions on March 4 at Little River Regional Park in Rougemont (7–9 p.m.) and on March 12 at Jordan Lake State Park (8–10 p.m.). The events are free and open to the public, but check the planetarium’s website or call 962-1236 to be sure weather conditions will permit viewing. http://bit.ly/OdUu

Build skywatching skills with a six-session beginner’s course that starts March 23. It will be held Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m. Fee is $90 for non-members. http://www.unc.edu/ccjs/events.html

LECTURES, SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA
- Feb. 25–26 — The Program in the Humanities and Human Values will present a seminar on “Literary Lions: Authors as National Icons.” In this seminar, four professors will examine key authors who have become synonymous with their national contexts, including Goethe, Zola, Milosz and Hemingway. The program will begin Feb. 25 at 4:30 p.m. and continue through Feb. 26 until 1 p.m. at the Center for School Leadership Development. Registration is required, with fee. See adventuresindeas.unc.edu or call 962-1544.

- Feb. 28 — A forum on “Innovation, Engagement and the Humanities: Models and Methods” will be held at Hyde Hall from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The forum will offer an invitation to explore some of the ways in which the practice of the humanities on the Carolina campus exemplifies innovation, engagement and entrepreneurship. http://bit.ly/N8K06

- Feb. 28 — Ethan Bronner, Jerusalem bureau chief for The New York Times, will discuss “The Israeli-Palestinian Dispute: A Report from the Field.” Free and open to the public, the lecture is sponsored by the Carolina Center for Jewish Studies and will be held at the Friday Center at 7:30 p.m. www.unc.edu/ccjs/events.html

- March 1 — “Secret School” artist Huong Ngo, who teaches design at Parsons The New School for Design and Pratt Institute, will give a talk at the Hanes Art Center auditorium at 5:30 p.m. as part of the Hanes Visiting Artist Lecture Series. art.unc.edu

- March 3 — Sabrina Burmeister will talk about “The Biology of Love: Sensory Neurobiology and the Search for a Mate” in a free Carolina Science Café event sponsored by the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center. Burmeister’s talk will be held at 7 p.m. at the Top of the Hill’s Back Bar.

- March 4–5 — The Program in the Humanities and Human Values will present the Vanderwoude Family Seminar on “The State of Health Care Reform.” National and state experts will discuss the basic economic forces at play, workforce issues, challenges to medical practice and the prospects of implementing reform in the current political climate. The program will begin March 4 at 3:30 p.m. and continue through March 5 until 1 p.m. at the Center for School Leadership Development. Registration is required, with fee. See adventuresindeas.unc.edu or call 962-1544.

- March 9 — Goodloe Sutton, the photographer of the Ackland Art Museum’s exhibit “The Oldest Paintings in America,” will share his insights at 2 p.m. on Utah’s rock art and his techniques for creating visually enhanced photos that help researchers see faded images of humans, animals and spirit figures. The talk will be held as part of Tea at Two, with a fee for non-members of $10. R.S.V.P. to apartronw@email.unc.edu.

- March 10 — The speaker for the next Carolina Innovations Seminar will be Michael Meehan, attorney with Knobbe Martens Intellectual Property Law. The meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m. in 014 Sitterson Hall. http://bit.ly/d31mFv

- March 16 — Brent Callinicos, vice president and treasurer of Google Inc., will speak as part of the Dean’s Speaker Series at 5:30 p.m. in the Koury Auditorium. http://bit.ly/0OzYEN

- March 16 — The Weil Lecture on American Citizenship will be delivered by Imam Feisal Abdul Rauf at 7:30 p.m. in Hill Hall. The talk will be free and open to the public, but tickets will be required. http://bit.ly/geUDuc

- March 19 — Registration is open for the Global American South Conference, “Globalization, the Economic Crisis and the Future of North Carolina.” Keynote speaker will be Gavin Wright of Stanford, who will deliver the Alfred Dupont Chandler Jr. Lecture. The conference will be sponsored by the Center for Global Initiatives, the Global Research Institute and the Center for the Study of the American South. http://bit.ly/hWMSTH

WORLD VIEW SEMINARS
Register now for World View’s spring seminars, to be held at the Friday Center. Registration for each event is $175.

The “Latin America and Carolina Seminar” (March 22–23) will offer insights into Latin America and support for educators facing the challenges and opportunities of a growing Latino population. http://bit.ly/IBdnWx

The “Understanding Russia and its Neighbors Seminar” (March 23–24) will examine social, economic and political institutions in Russia as well as its influence in Central Asia and Eastern Europe. http://bit.ly/gg4Evn

LEGO-PALOOZA
Members of the N.C. LEGO Users Group will bring hundreds of LEGO models to the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center as part of the seventh annual LEGO-Palooza March 6–7. The free event will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 5 and from 1 to 4 p.m. on March 6. http://bit.ly/gJfIQp

PAUPER PLAYERS PERFORM
The Pauper Players’ Winter Cabaret will be held Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. at the F.P.G. Student Union Cabaret. Tickets for the talent showcase are $3; the fundraiser will support the Graham Johnson Cultural Arts Endowment.

KIDS ROCK!
Get ready for March Madness Feb. 26 with a morning of Kids ROCK! — Basketball. The Rams Head Recreation Center will be the location from 10 a.m. to noon for children to sharpen their basketball skills in a variety of games and contests. R.S.V.P. to ajstem@email.unc.edu.

CELEBRATE AFRICAN DIASPORA CULTURE
The Carolina Black Caucus will sponsor the Inaugural Carolina Black Caucus Read-In Feb. 25 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Stone Center. The event will feature readings related to or written by descendants of the African Diaspora, read by members of the University community. www.unc.edu/cbc

NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS
Next issue includes events from March 17 to March 30. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Mon., March 7. E-mail gazette@unc.edu. The Gazette events page includes only items of general interest geared toward a broad audience. For complete listings of events, see the Carolina Events Calendars at events.unc.edu.
Overton promotes civility, ensures all viewpoints are heard

Jackie Overton is not afraid to admit it: She likes her job and the people she works with at the Department of Public Safety.

No one understands her more than Cheryl Stout, who has been Overton’s colleague for 22 of her 27 years with the department. And no one is more supportive than her supervisor, Ollie Bowler.

For that reason, when Overton began thinking about running for chair of the Employee Forum last June, she sought their permission first.

And that is why she invited them to be part of the ceremony when she was sworn in as chair the next month. Also present was Jeff McCracken, director of public safety, who told forum members that they were lucky to have Overton as their chair.

Overton is in charge of annual training for all public safety employees who are not sworn officers.

“She has been with our department through tough times, and her training and education and experience have helped us get through those times,” McCracken said.

FACING A HARD REALITY

People who meet Overton quickly sense a hard-earned wisdom that comes from life’s experiences.

Overton grew up in Hertford, a sleepy coastal town of about 2,000 people, where Cypress trees draped in Spanish moss stand sentry along the Perquimans River.

Her parents did their part to add to the town’s population. “They had two boys, then me, another two boys, then my baby sister,” Overton said.

Overton was 12 when her father, a career Army man, died in 1969.

She came to Carolina in 1975 as a scared first-year student who lived in a residence hall where there were almost as many people as she had known in her life. And all were strangers.

“It was a whole new world,” Overton said, “and I did not understand why I was there.”

Back home within a year, Overton found a job working as a teacher’s aide. But that first paycheck — $400 after a full month’s work — was the slap in the face she needed to understand why she had to finish her college degree.

It took another eight years, but she did it. And in May 1985, a week after she graduated from Carolina with a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in African-American studies, Overton enrolled in a master’s program in education and counseling, which she completed by the following August.

As a graduate student and intern for a guidance counselor at a Chapel Hill elementary school, Overton got her first job with the Department of Public Safety writing tickets for illegally parked cars.

It was also during that time she realized that she hated being a guidance counselor. That led to her decision to take another job in public safety supervising a staff of five people who handled parking ticket appeals. And here Overton unexpectedly found her niche as a training officer.

She noticed how inattentive her staff were to the people who came for help. “If they were painting their nails, they would keep on painting their nails even if there were people in line waiting,” she said.

So Overton instituted a training program based on the tenet, “We are going to treat these people the same way we would like to be treated.”

INSTILLING A TONE OF RESPECT

During the past eight months as leader of the forum, Overton has hammered the same message. In fact, when she decided to run for chair, she determined that her mission was getting that message across.

The turning point came in June 2007 when, during a forum meeting, a longtime friend who worked in student housing was grilled for close to an hour about cost overruns for new construction.

Afterward, Overton sent him a letter of apology, ending with the promise — to herself as much as to him — “Never again.”

She has no problem confronting hard issues in a free and open exchange; that is what the forum exists to do, she said. But she does have a problem with being deliberately confrontational.

The forum is not a courtroom where people are put on trial, especially when speakers come willingly to share information and hear concerns.

“I saw a lot of potential in the forum to get back to being the organization it was set up to be,” Overton said. “It has to be a place where information can flow from the top down, and bottom up. But it also has to be a place where respect flows in both directions, too.”

Last summer, Overton put her belief to the test when she tread into the dispute that had erupted between housekeepers and their managers over a memo that forbade housekeepers from taking unauthorized breaks.

Overton made a point of inviting both sides to the table, from the writers of the memo to the housekeepers who were most unhappy about it. The discussion proved to be intense, but as Overton had insisted, there were no personal attacks. Afterward, those involved agreed the forum had performed its job well.

A MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION

In June, when Overton completes her first term as chair, she may decide not to run again, confident that she will have accomplished what she set out to do.

“When I came back in 2006, oh my Lord, I was there.”

The Office of Human Resources is accepting nominations for the 2011 Outstanding Encouragement of Learning and Development (OELD) Award for a deserving manager or supervisor. Nominations will be accepted through March 25.

The Chancellor’s Task Force for a Better Workplace created this award to recognize supervisors who encourage their staff to engage in learning activities within the framework of an effective workplace.

The OELD Award is open to both SPA and EPA managers who have at least one year of continuous University service. The award is presented annually to one manager and includes 24 hours of paid time off, automatic nomination for a Chancellor’s Award in the category of human relations and a plaque.

The nomination form is available at hr.unc.edu/n/CCM1_029858. For questions, comments or a copy of the nomination form, contact William Frey in the Office of Human Resources, 962-9685 or will_frey@unc.edu.
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cut, effective July 1.

“It’s early, but it’s fair to say that if the gov-
ernor is contemplating a 6 percent cut, going ahead with 5 percent cuts was a smart thing to
do,” he said. “We will continue to work with the governor and the N.C. General Assembly to reassert them we understand the difficult choices they’re facing, but also to reassert the importance of the University to the future of North Carolina.”

He added that he had never seen the UNC system, University and UNC Health Care System “on the same page” as much as they are now, which should help yield the best possible results.

BIANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW

Cuts affecting the classroom across the UNC system became tangible this month.

On Feb. 11, the BOG voted to eliminate 60 academic programs system-wide. The action, which was recommended by the Committee on Educational Planning, Policies and Programs, was based on a biannual campus review that identified underperforming programs that failed to meet the BOG’s criteria for the number of degrees awarded within the past two years.

Of the 60 programs, 36 were baccalaureate, 22 were master’s degree programs and two were doctoral programs.

At Carolina, the bachelor’s degree program for Slavic languages and literatures will merge with the German degree program, and both the Slavic languages and literatures and the linguistics doctoral programs will be discontinued.

In addition, the bachelor’s degree program for recreation administration will be discontinued. (That master’s degree program has already been discontinued.)

The BOG also authorized the creation of two new programs, including a bachelor’s degree in business journalism. The program, to be offered by the School of Journalism and Mass Communication in conjunction with the Kenan-Flagler Business School, will be the only such program in the eastern United States.

The cuts are part of a regular review by the BOG and do not include other possible cuts in academic programs that the BOG will consider later this year. Ross announced the upcoming review of academic programs last month as a means to achieve greater operational efficiency.

IMPACT AT CAROLINA

In planning for its 5 percent reduction in state funding for next fiscal year, the School of Nursing is decreasing undergraduate enrollment by 25 percent. The change affects students in the six-semester bachelor of science in nursing program and the four-semester accelerated bachelor of science in nursing program.

“I commend Dean Swanston for making a very careful analysis of the situation and deciding that the quality of the degrees they offer was more important than the number of students in them,” Thorp told the Faculty Council.

Simply increasing class sizes was not an option because the nursing accreditation process mandates the maximum number of students a faculty member can supervise during the clinical component of training, explained Shielda Rodgers, clinical associate professor of nursing.

“It’s unfortunate because of the demand for nursing we’re likely to see, but it emphasizes what we’ve been saying — that if we continue to face the kinds of reductions we’ve been facing, these are the kinds of choices we’ll need to make,” Thorp said.

Similarly, the School of Social Work decided not to accept two new classes of master’s degree students in distance education programs serving western North Carolina. That decision affects 41 applicants.

“Other cuts to a greater or lesser degree throughout the University are affecting instruction,” said Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost. “We’ve gone, frankly in my opinion, about as far as we can go with the cuts.

“We’ve cut HR and finance and administration, and at this point we’re jeopardizing the operations of the University. The instructional mission is at risk.”

PRESIDENT’S BUDGET

President Barack Obama unveiled his federal budget proposal last week.

The NIH and NSF show slight gains, which

is consistent with the president’s message about innovation, infrastructure and investment in the capabilities of the United States, Thorp said.

“Along with the other AAU presidents, we thank President Obama for his commitment to faculty research and science, and so many of the things that are important to us,” he said.

He added his hope that the proposal for the Pell Grant, as the foundation of federal student aid, would remain at the maximum award level.

EXCEEDING OUT-OF-STATE CAP

The BOG cut Carolina’s budget for the current year by $1,582,225 for exceeding the 18 percent cap on out-of-state students.

The change in residency status of 38 incoming students occurred last summer — after the students had been admitted — when the legislature repealed part of a law allowing out-of-state students on athletic scholarships to be classified as in-state students.

The challenge raised the number of out-of-state students in the first-year class to 726 — 13 more than permitted under the 18 percent cap.

“I told the Board of Governors we didn’t maliciously or intentionally go over the cap, and we didn’t even know we had gone over it,” Thorp told the Faculty Council. “It was, as someone said, like going 70 miles per hour, and they lowered the speed limit to 55 later, but we still got a ticket for speeding.”

Money from the fine will be distributed throughout the UNC system for need-based aid.

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what I saw was disrespect,” she said. “I saw the forum trying to be the tail that wagged the dog, with the University being the proverbial dog.”

After being a part of Carolina for 35 years, both as an employee and a student, Overton has learned to view all that is wrong with the University in the context of all that is right. And she has brought that perspective to the forum.

“I have been underpaid and passed over for promotions, and I have worked for bad managers and even been openly discriminated against,” Overton said.

“Given all that, I have 100 reasons to hate Carolina, maybe more.

“But at the end of the day, I feel like I’ve got 50,000 reasons to absolutely love this place. Some of the people who work here, who teach here and who attend school here are the finest people you will meet anywhere.”

And when there is a problem, she said, “I know I don’t have to shout at people to get their attention. I believe I can get their attention just by having a meaningful conversation. Go figure.”

TUITION from page 3

Daye, chair of the Scholarships, Awards and Student Aid Committee, told the council.

The need-based portion of the financial aid package has been increased measurably by state funding, which was not available a decade ago, Daye said. “And that’s why the risk of losing some of this [state funding] is such a problem,” he said.

In 2009–10, 37 percent of Carolina’s undergraduates received need-based aid. Of the total 16,903 undergraduate, graduate and professional students who received awards from the Office of Scholarships and Student Aid that year, two-thirds were undergraduates. The office disbursed more than $257 million in aid.

During the last decade, the portion of students’ needs being met through grants and scholarships, which do not have to be repaid, has increased from 54 percent in 1999–2000 to 70 percent in 2009–10. The net effect has been to lower students’ cumulative debt at graduation.

“Our committee commends the University and its leadership on doing something that recognizes both access and equity in getting a Carolina education while supporting a merit-based program,” Daye said.

The committee also has advocated augmenting merit-based aid and creating programs to enrich students’ educational experiences as ways to attract top-quality students, he said.

Two new programs will help meet that need as some 80 first-year students receive one-time awards for summer enrichment experiences — in the form of research or study abroad opportunities.

“These programs help recruit students and really enrich their intellectual and personal experiences once they get here,” said Steve Farmer, associate provost and director of undergraduate admissions.

He credited Pat Pukkila, professor of biology and director of the Office for Undergraduate Research in the College of Arts and Sciences, and Bob Miles, associate dean for study abroad and international exchanges, as instrumental in creating these new summer opportunities.
Six pilot projects offer community-based approaches to prevent and treat cancer

Marilyn Allicock, left, research assistant professor at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, has joined Barbara Alvarez Martin to launch the Health-E-NC (Health for Everyone in North Carolina) grants program. Martin serves as project director and Allicock, faculty director.

It is both the nature and business of research scientists to explore in the realm of the theoretical, to probe the edges of what is already known to discover something new.

In that regard, the six pilot projects funded under Health-E-NC (Health for Everyone in North Carolina) are something new, too. The end goal is not only to push the frontier of science, but also to expand the University’s reach across the state. Sponsored by the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center and the University Cancer Research Fund, the aim of the projects is to find out what really works in the areas of cancer prevention, detection, diagnosis and treatment, said UNC Lineberger director Shelley Earp.

“Circles of Care is a concept that has already been successful in offering support to African-Americans facing advanced cancer. Laura Hanson, an associate professor in epidemiology, is leading that project.

Another project, which will be based in Cumberland County and led by Linnan and Bryan Weiner, a professor in health policy and management, will try to identify the best settings for reaching African-Americans and Hispanics, who together have a higher incidence of cancer than the population as a whole. These settings could range from beauty shops to grocery stores to churches.

“The project seeks to figure out the best way to reach people where they live, work, play and socialize,” Martin said. “This will help researchers understand how to create opportunities to position information in a range of settings to ensure it gets to the entire community rather than just a part of it.”

REACHING UNDERSERVED AREAS

The teams began implementing their projects in January, said Barbara Alvarez Martin, project director for Health-E-NC.

The six projects focus on areas of the state where cancers — particularly breast, lung and colorectal cancers — place a burden on the health of North Carolinians, she said. Many of the projects target the state’s underserved areas and populations.

Martin and Marilyn Allicock, faculty director for the project, have worked closely with an interdisciplinary leadership team of faculty members who developed the initiative. Members include Andrew Olshan (chair of epidemiology); Marci Campbell (nutrition); Kurt Ribisl, Laura Linnan and Deborah Tate (health behavior and health education); and Cathy Melvin (maternal and child health).

“By design, these grants will allow researchers to test new ideas, and just as importantly, try out ideas in a different context that has already worked in other settings,” Allicock said.

One example of this approach is the project led by Stephanie Wheeler, an assistant professor in health policy and management, to serve breast cancer survivors by replicating the successful medical home program initiated in the 1990s to improve primary care for vulnerable populations served by Medicaid.

Another benefit is that the projects put research scientists from different disciplines on the same team, with a shared purpose, Martin said.

“The really great thing about Health-E-NC is how it encourages researchers to collaborate,” she said. “We believe this interdisciplinary team approach holds great promise to improve — and extend — people’s lives.”

The project is based in Buncombe, New Hanover and Wake counties and will be led by Ribisl and Kelly Evenson, a research professor in epidemiology.

GETTING THE WORD OUT

Two School of Medicine faculty members, Michael Pignone and Carmen Lewis, are leading a project based in Buncombe, Cumberland, Guilford, New Hanover and Wake counties to increase the number of people who undergo colorectal cancer screening.

Colon cancer screenings are covered under Medicaid but are underutilized for many reasons, including lack of awareness about the benefits of screening, poor communication between providers and patients, transportation barriers and competing demands, Allicock said.

The project will offer a DVD and written materials mailed to patients along with telephone-based assistance from a patient navigator. The researchers believe that combining these types of interventions will increase screening rates, Allicock said.

CREATING SUPPORT

The final project, “Circles of Care,” seeks to establish a stronger network of support for African-Americans with advanced cancer. Laura Hanson, an associate professor in epidemiology, is leading that project.

“Circles of Care is a concept that has already been successful in offering support to African-Americans facing other health issues,” Martin said. “It is a way of providing peer support to help the patient navigate a range of challenges, big and small.”

EXPANDING ACROSS THE STATE

The six projects were awarded a total of $488,000 in support for 2011, with each project receiving between $50,000 and $100,000. The project teams will seek outside funding to expand their work further.

“The seed money provided will allow each team to work on a small scale,” Allicock said. “The next step will be to expand successful projects to other communities across the state.”

A new round of Health-E-NC funding will focus on the role interactive technology can play in improving cancer outcomes. Applications will be due in April.