December graduates celebrate academic milestone

Cheers rang out in the Dean E. Smith Center last month as 2,330 students processed for their graduation from Carolina.

Friends and families with cameras and bouquets had anticipated the Dec. 19 winter Commencement ceremony with pride. Students marched in to “Procession of the Nobles” by Nikolay Andreyevich, played by the 50-member UNC Ceremonial Band before a stage decorated with ferns and poinsettias.

“This is your day, and all of us join you in this celebration of your academic achievement,” Chancellor Holden Thorp told the graduates.

Speaker Geoffrey Sayre-McCord, Morehead Alumni Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and department chair, reminded the graduates that they always will be surrounded by invisible, intangible, odorless Carolina Faculty and Staff News

State and university leaders are doing what they can now to help offset the challenges that lie ahead in coping with an estimated $3.7 billion revenue gap for the 2011–12 fiscal year.

Gov. Beverly Perdue and the Office of State Budget and Management recently directed state agencies to reduce state spending by an additional 2.5 percent in one-time cuts, to hold state-funded jobs vacant and to limit purchase orders, travel and training. That is on top of a 1 percent management flexibility reduction directed last August, Chancellor Holden Thorp said in a campus e-mail message on Monday.

Although the freeze did not specify the UNC system, President Tom Ross and Erskine Bowles endorsed adopting the same state cut targets and the hiring freeze on state-funded positions last month. On Jan. 3, the University announced how the freeze affects positions here.

At Perdue’s request, UNC campuses submitted permanent state funding cut scenarios of 5 percent and 10 percent to General Administration, Thorp said. Chancellors also have been asked to consider potential cuts of up to 15 percent.

Thorp said he hoped cuts would not reach that level. “Postponing inevitable cuts for next year until later this spring or summer will only make things worse later,” he said. “For three years, we’ve been well served by taking proactive steps, and it’s more important than ever to do that again.”

Thorpe announced cuts in programs, operations and staffing equal to a campuswide 5 percent permanent state budget reduction — about $26 million — effective July 1.

See BUDGET page 11

See COMMENCEMENT page 4
ON THE WEB

‘REAL DOCTORS, REAL PEOPLE’: CYNTHIA BULIK
In a recent installment of UNC Health Care’s series “Real Doctors, Real People,” eating disorders specialist Cynthia Bulik, professor of nutrition, talks about her other life as a dedicated ice skater — and how both those worlds have intertwined.


CGI LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE
The Center for Global Initiatives unveiled its redesigned website this week with additional features. Look for the gallery from last fall’s Global Photo Contest. The exhibit closed last week, but the photos are posted there with accompanying captions by the photographers, such as the one at left by Sarah Saul.

http://cgi.unc.edu

‘SOUNDS OF WAR’
Music professor Annegret Fauser is working on a new book, “Sounds of War: Music in the United States during World War II,” and she spent a few minutes last fall with Dee Reid, director of communications with the College of Arts and Sciences, to talk about her research.


Carolina ranks as #1 best value for 10th time

For the 10th time in a row, Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine has ranked Carolina the best value in American public higher education. The ranking appeared in the magazine’s February issue, which hit newstands last week.

Kiplinger’s editors say their top 100 public campuses deliver “a stellar education at an affordable price.”

The universities of Florida, Virginia and the College of William and Mary ranked second, third and fourth, respectively, followed by the University of Maryland-College Park, Binghamton University, the State University of New York-Geneseo, and the universities of Georgia, Wisconsin-Madison and Washington.

N.C. State was ranked 15th; UNC-Wilmington, 27th; and Appalachian State University, 35th.

“We’re so fortunate at Carolina because our students are terrific, and they come from almost every imaginable background,” said Chancellor Holden Thorp. “The top Kiplinger’s ranking resonates for us because it recognizes our passion for providing the highest-quality education possible to these students at an affordable price.”

Kiplinger’s rankings story focuses on how the global economic downturn has forced sweeping changes in U.S. public higher education because of state budget cuts and reduced federal funding.

“The takeaway for soon-to-be matriculating students: Look for schools that deliver an outstanding, affordable education in good times and bad,” the story said. “The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, ranked Kiplinger’s number-one best value for public colleges and universities for a remarkable 10 times running, is a prime example.

“Carolina’s admission rate remains among the lowest on our annual list; its students are among the most competitive; and its in-state cost, at $17,000, is not much higher than the average price ($16,140) for all public universities. For students who qualify for need-based aid, the total price for this top-tier university drops to an average of $7,020.”

About two-thirds of the Kiplinger’s ranking is based on measures of academic quality including SAT or ACT scores, admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, and four- and six-year graduation rates.

Then Kiplinger’s ranks each school based on cost and financial aid.

To read the full article, including more about the criteria for the rankings, refer to www.kiplinger.com/reports/best-college-values.

Wilson to speak at spring Commencement

Edward Osborne Wilson Jr., Harvard University professor and two-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize for nonfiction, will deliver the spring Commencement address. Chancellor Holden Thorp will preside at the ceremony on May 8 at 9:30 a.m. in Kenan Stadium.

“Ed’s work in entomology and ecology made biodiversity an important topic,” Thorp said. “He has inspired countless young people to learn more about humans, other species and the fragile, complex relationship that links all of us with this planet.”

Thorp chose Wilson in consultation with the Commencement Speaker Selection Committee, which is made up of an equal number of students and faculty. Wilson is the Pellegrino University Research Professor in Entomology for the department of organismic and evolutionary biology at Harvard.

Wilson’s works on entomology are significant in the scientific community, and he has written extensively on sociobiology and biodiversity. He bridges the gap between science and the humanities, making science accessible to the general public and presenting the case for conservation of the natural world.

An Alabama native, Wilson began his career studying ants in the South Pacific and the southern United States, using what he learned from these tiny creatures to formulate theories that have become cornerstones of the study of conservation biology and sociobiology.


He received his second for “The Ants,” with Bert Holldobler, in 1991. Wilson has also been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, the National Medal of Science and the Crafoord Prize, which recognizes researchers in scientific fields not eligible for the Nobel Prize.

More recently, Wilson has focused on environmental and biodiversity issues, agreeing to lend his name to a nonprofit foundation that implements business and educational strategies for conservation. The E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Foundation reflects Wilson’s own journey from boyhood exploration of Alabama’s wildlands to a career at the forefront of science at Harvard University.

The University Gazette is a University publication. Its mission is to build a sense of campus community by communicating information relevant and vital to faculty and staff and to advance the University’s overall goals and messages. The editor reserves the right to decide what information will be published in the Gazette and to edit submissions for consistency with Gazette style, tone and content.

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Academic Plan continues to evolve

In 2003, when the University crafted its first Academic Plan, money from the 2000 Statewide Higher Education Bond Referendum and the record-setting Carolina First Campaign combined to fuel sorely needed campus repairs and renovations, infrastructure upgrades and new construction for classrooms and research facilities.

As the University revises the Academic Plan for 2011, it faces a very different financial climate, the result of three consecutive years of significant budget cuts.

What remains unchanged is the goal of the Academic Plan: to provide both a framework for Carolina’s academic future and a guide for the allocation of resources.

The 2011 plan, subtitled Reach Carolina, is designed to inspire as well as direct the University’s vision for the next decade.

Although April tax revenues will help determine the final figures.

“Of our objective is to protect the academic quality of the University, the academic experience of students and financial aid,” he said.

The University will do whatever it takes to protect those priorities, including possible enrollment growth funding and tuition revenue, he said.

This year, Carolina Counts will be part of the overall campus budget planning process.

The campuswide initiative to implement the key recommendations from the privately funded 2009 study by Bain & Company is led by Joe Templeton and Mike Patil.

Thorp described Carolina Counts as an important approach to help reduce administrative costs and protect academics in an era of shrinking budgets. The goal is to help administrators manage upcoming budget reductions wisely.

Carolina Counts began focusing on the 10 areas identified by Bain for major improvements. The first year concentrated on campuswide savings and efficiencies in three central areas: Information Technology Services, Finance and Human Resources.

This year, the focus will turn to the academic units and seven central areas, to identify ways to reduce administrative costs at the unit level.

“I realize these are painful things to contemplate,” Thorp said, “but part of our strategy with the public is to show that we have the gumption to take some of the reductions ourselves. We need to work together to do that.”

Carney said administrators wanted to begin these discussions early to understand a connection between the Academic Plan and the idea of innovation,” Andrews said. “Engagement is one aspect of innovation.”

The steering committee based the plan’s six priorities on enhancing the quality of the educational experience for all Carolina students through:

- Transformative academic experiences that will attract, challenge and inspire students;
- The recruitment, development and retention of a faculty that is second to none;
- Interdisciplinary teaching, research and public engagement;
- Advancing diversity, equity and inclusion at Carolina;
- Enhancing scholarship with real-world application that links the University’s intellectual resources with society’s issues and problems; and
- Expanding the University’s global presence in research, service and teaching.


People may submit suggestions to academicplan@unc.edu.

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY ALWAYS IN EFFECT

The rare class cancellation earlier this week is a reminder that the adverse weather policy is always in effect. Any time an employee cannot attend work due to a weather-related event, the policy applies. This includes having to stay home to care for a child who could not attend school due to adverse weather.

The University’s adverse weather status is designated by three condition levels:

- **CONDITION I** — “Normal” weather conditions up to moderate snow accumulations, power outages, etc. Staff can navigate the campus and local areas safely; classes are in session and University offices are open. Unless otherwise stated, the University always functions at a Condition Level I for adverse weather.

- **CONDITION II** — More severe weather including heavy snow or ice with heavy accumulations; public transportation and parking are limited and sidewalks are in poor condition. Classes are canceled, but University offices are open. Emergency employees must report to work, and other employees are strongly urged to consider conditions on campus and in their residential areas, plus law enforcement reports of road conditions, before deciding whether to come to work.

- **CONDITION III** — Extremely bad weather with unusually large accumulations of snow, ice or sleet. Roads are impassable, public transportation is canceled, and parking lots and sidewalks cannot be navigated. The University is closed because of the weather or other hazardous conditions; classes are canceled and offices are closed. Emergency employees must report for work, and other employees must not attempt to come to their work sites.

The Office of Human Resources has detailed information on its website, hr.unc.edu/faculty-and-staff/adv-wx-land, including a link to the public safety website and access to portions of the SPA and EPA non-faculty adverse weather leave policies.

Information about Carolina’s current conditions is available on the Adverse Weather and Emergency Phone Line, 843-1234, or on the UNC homepage, www.unc.edu, or Alert Carolina, alertcarolina.unc.edu.
Research activity will change dramatically over the next two years at the Bingham Facility in rural Orange County and the Frances Owen Blood Research Laboratory in Carrboro, William Roper, dean of the School of Medicine, announced in late December. The facilities currently house dogs and swine used to support biomedical research of genetic diseases such as hemophilia, muscular dystrophy and heart disease.

Both facilities would have required extensive and expensive renovations to meet required standards for long-term use. Recent budget cuts and the poor economy have caused administrators in the School of Medicine to rethink previous plans to expand and consolidate the University’s large animal research at the Bingham Facility and instead gradually scale back that research.

The change was first signaled last July, when Roper relinquished $14.5 million in funding from the National Institutes of Health to expand the Bingham Facility. In this latest modification, the University will phase out the housing of dogs at the Bingham facility by May 2012.

The facility will return to its historic purpose of providing space for confirming the health status of newly acquired animals and as swing space and overflow space for housing smaller research animals, primarily mice.

Likewise, an extensive renovation of the Frances Owen facility has been scaled back to a list of the most urgent repairs and upgrades necessary to meet accreditation standards that can be funded with $750,000 already budgeted for the purpose. No new money would be required for changes at either facility.

“While there can be no question that the research being done with large animals has been historically significant at UNC, the costs of renovating and expanding, as well as operating and maintaining, these specialized facilities would be prohibitively high in a time of economic constraints,” Roper said.

The Bingham Facility in particular experienced several failures of a wastewater treatment system installed there in 2008. Leaks of treated wastewater from a holding pond and from broken pipes resulted in two notices of violation from the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Bingham changes at a meeting Jan. 12.

Because of the problems, the University has temporarily shut down the wastewater treatment system on the site and is hauling the facility’s wastewater directly to the Orange Water and Sewer Authority.

Phasing out the housing of large animals at the site means water use and wastewater production at the facility will decrease dramatically. This reduction will enable the University to scrap plans for a larger wastewater treatment system and instead rehabilitate the previously permitted system on site.

This new plan also addresses the concerns the facility’s neighbors and the activist group Preserve Rural Orange had concerning water usage and treated wastewater spray irrigation on the site. Neighbors are scheduled to hear the details about the Bingham changes at a meeting Jan. 12.

The overall use of large animals in research at the University is still being studied by administrators across campus. It has not yet been determined where the dogs and swine currently housed at these two facilities will be housed in the future.

Lately, increased incidents of campus computers running fake antivirus programs have been detected by Information Technology Services (ITS) Office of Information Security and the ITS Response Center.

Collectively called “scareware,” these programs scare users into believing their computers are at risk or badly damaged. Then follows an offer for a generally useless software application, supposedly to restore computer function. Recent scareware applications seen on campus pose as defragmenting programs, ITS officials said.

While defragmenting is a good computing practice that improves computer function, the fake defragmenting programs entice users into purchasing ineffective software that offers a false sense of security, officials explained.

Scareware often appears after users visit social networking sites or click on Internet ads.

If a user sees a pop-up window that shows a scan of the hard drive being performed by an unknown application, this may be a sign that scareware is in the process of being installed or has already been successfully installed on a computer.

Users should never enter credit card information in response to a pop-up from an unknown program, ITS officials said. They also advise the campus community to use software and services from reputable sources instead of seeking products from unfamiliar people or companies.

Anyone who is in doubt about whether a pop-up message regarding a malware infection or the need to perform hardware maintenance — such as defragmentation — is genuine can call 962-HELP for information. Tools, software and service are available from the ITS Response Center (help.unc.edu) and campus shareware (https://shareware.unc.edu).
Mann plans to retire June 30

Dick Mann, who has served as vice chancellor for finance and administration since 2006, announced his plans to retire effective June 30. Mann has spent the last 40 years in finance and information technology at four universities. He came to Carolina from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, where he had been vice president for administration.

Before going to SUNY in 1997, Mann worked for many years at the University of Kansas, serving as university director of administration from 1993 to 1996 and director of information resources from 1976 to 1993. Previously, he was director of the University Office of Management Information Systems at the University of Illinois system for six years.

"Dick has been an invaluable member of our team as we’ve faced the challenges of budget cuts since the downturn and the long-term promise of improved efficiency through Carolina Counts,” Chancellor Holden Thorp said.

Thor praised Mann for his instrumental role in helping the University launch Connect Carolina, designed to integrate and manage administrative data and business systems,

Evans retires after four decades of service

Jack Evans has said yes to seven Carolina chancellors.

In 1974, four years after Evans came to Carolina, the late Chancellor Ferebee Taylor selected him as assistant to the chancellor. Then followed posts working for successive chancellors Christopher Fordham, Paul Hardin, Michael Hooker, Bill McCoy, James Moeser and Holden Thorp.

“I’ll take that lineup anywhere, and I feel privileged to work with each of those people,” Evans said at the Dec. 20 retirement reception held in his honor.

Evans, executive director of Carolina North and the Phillip Hettleman Professor of Business Administration in the Kenan-Flagler Business School, retired at the end of December after four decades of University service.

An expert in operations, technology and innovation management, Evans amassed a reputation as the go-to person for complex problems.

A former dean of Kenan-Flagler from 1979 to 1987, he helped shape the school’s M.B.A. curriculum. Outside Carolina, he led teams of examiners who evaluated organizations competing for the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige Award and served as president of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business, where he chaired a two-year project to redesign its accreditation process for business schools.

“If only Jack played ping pong or had a shrimp boat, he would be the University’s answer to Forrest Gump,” James W. Dean Jr.

See MANN page 11

HONORS

CHANCELLOR HOLDEN THORP has been invited to join the Chemical Heritage Foundation’s (CHF) Board of Overseers. An independent, nonprofit organization, CHF aims to inspire a passion for chemistry, to highlight chemistry’s role in society and the economy, and to acknowledge the contributions of individuals representing 16 states and the District of Columbia who were selected for the program.

NICOLE FARMER HURD, founder and executive director of the National College Advising Corp — based at the University — was recently awarded an American Marshall Memorial Fellowship for 2011. She is one of 44 emerging American leaders representing 16 states and the District of Columbia who was chosen for the program.

CINNAMON WEAVER, administrative manager for the Department of Classics, has won the College of Arts and Sciences Award in Management for outstanding accomplishments in leadership and management.

The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education have named CHRIS ROUSH the 2010 North Carolina Professor of the Year. Roush is the Walter E. Hussman Sr. Distinguished Scholar in business journalism and the founding director of the Carolina Business News Initiative.

SCOTT MADRY, research associate professor of anthropology, recently presented at a four-day Workshop on GIS in Archaeology at the Braamfontein campus of the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Madry’s participation was made possible by an appointment with the Fulbright Senior Specialist program.

ARJUN DEB, assistant professor of medicine and cell and molecular physiology, has been awarded the Louis N. and Arnold M. Katz Basic Science Research Prize for Young Investigators. The award is offered by the American Heart Association.

The Carolina Women’s Center has announced its Faculty Scholars for the fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters. They are MIRIAM LABBOK, director of the Carolina Global Breastfeeding Institute, and MINROSE GWIN, Kenan Eminent Professor of English and Comparative Literature.

ROBERT C. ALLEN, joint professor of American studies, history and communication studies, and the UNIVERSITY LIBRARY have been honored with the Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History.

Allen and the library received the prize for two projects, Going to the Show, which documents movie-going in North Carolina between 1896 and 1930, and Main Street, Carolina, an interactive Web archive that will enable users to explore the history of North Carolina towns over the past century.

The 2010 Friday Center Awards were recently presented to center staff and associates in recognition of outstanding service. BRIAN THORNBURG, technical operations supervisor, received the Best All-Around Award; RENEE EAVES, cashier, received the Extra Mile Award; JENNIE BROOKS, academic adviser, and ANNE BISESE, distance education program assistant, received the Sunshine Award; and ERIK NYSTROM, Carolina Dining Services location manager, received the Center Service Award.

RENEE LOPEZ, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, is part of a team of scientists that recently received a $100,000 innovation award for solar energy research. The Scialog Collaboration Innovation Award will support the team’s work in photovoltaics.
JANUARY

KIPLINGER STREAK REMAINS INTACT — The University has ranked first on Kiplinger’s Personal Finance magazine’s list of schools that “deliver strong academics at affordable prices” since 1998 when Kiplinger’s began its analysis. That streak continued in 2010.

CHANCELLOR CONVENE INNOVATION CIRCLE — Chancellor Holden Thorp assembled the Innovation Circle — a group of alumni and friends who have led innovation in science, business, medicine, nonprofits and academia — to help Carolina create a culture on campus that allows faculty, students and staff to turn the ideas they generate into real-world solutions — and to do it faster than ever before.

FEBRUARY

BOWLES ANNOUNCES HIS RETIREMENT — Erskine Bowles, president of the UNC system since Jan. 1, 2006, announced during the Feb. 12 meeting of the UNC Board of Governors that he would step down at the end of the year. Part of Bowles’ legacy is UNC Tomorrow, the system-wide initiative to determine how the 17 member campuses can best respond to the 21st-century challenges facing North Carolina in the next 20 years.

MARCH

EVE MARIE CARSON GARDEN IS PLACE FOR REMEMBRANCE, CELEBRATION — The Eve Marie Carson Garden, located on Polk Place behind the Campus Y, was dedicated on March 4 as a place for the entire campus community to celebrate the life of Carolina’s former student body president who was killed on March 5, 2008.

“This spot will help us remember Eve Carson, who inspired us to reach out and engage with our community and our world,” Thorp said.

FRIDAY CENTER PASSES 1-MILLION MARK — Two decades ago, UNC President Emeritus William Friday described the William and Ida Friday Center for Continuing Education as “the citizens’ classroom.” On March 30, Friday’s vision was realized as the Friday Center welcomed its 1-millionth conference participant since opening its doors in 1991. Bobbi Earp, who attended a conference held by Triangle Research Libraries Network, earned the distinction.

VOLUNTEERS PLANT COMMUNITY GARDEN — Some 75 people, including faculty, staff, students and community members, devoted a weekend to begin work on the Carolina Campus Community Garden on an 8,000-square-foot patch of land on the west side of campus. By early summer, the garden generated enough produce for twice-a-week distributions directed toward the University’s lowest-paid employees.

APRIL

UNIVERSITY CONDUCTS EMERGENCY DRILL — As part of ongoing efforts to enhance campus safety, the University conducted an emergency drill off campus on April 21. The Department of Public Safety, which coordinated the drill, simulated the University’s response to a shooter on campus and collaborated with local law enforcement and response agencies in the emergency response.

MAY

DATE SET TO END COAL USE ON CAMPUS — With the national director of the Sierra Club’s coal campaign on hand to endorse the decision, Thorp announced on May 4 that the University would end its use of coal in the next decade. The chancellor spoke from the green rooftop of Rams Head Plaza, within sight of the solar panel array on the Morrison Residence Hall roof.

GRISHAM URGES GRADUATES TO FIND THEIR ‘DISTINCTIVE VOICE’ — Author John Grisham, master of best-selling legal thrillers, told an estimated 5,630 graduates at spring Commencement that writing is like life and that it’s important for each person to find his or her voice. “Each of you has a distinctive voice. When you find it, your story will be told,” he said. “You will be heard. The size of your audience doesn’t matter. What is important is that your audience is listening.”

JUNE

CAROLINA WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN COLLEGIATE JOURNALISM — The School of Journalism and Mass Communication finished first overall in the Intercollegiate Competition of the 50th anniversary of the Hearst Journalism Awards, often called the Pulitzer of college journalism.

FOUR GRADUATES RECEIVE HONORS FROM USA TODAY — USA Today named four Carolina graduates to its first-ever All-USA College Academic Team, which was recognized in the June 9 issue of the newspaper. Two of the four Carolina students named to the 20-member team were Rhodes Scholar Elizabeth Blair “Libby” Longino of Dallas, and James Joseph “Jimmy” Waters of Morehead City.

STATE BUDGET IMPOSES DEEPER CUTS — On June 30, Gov. Beverly Perdue signed a $19 billion budget for fiscal 2010-11 that called for a $70 million reduction in the operating budget for the UNC system. Carolina’s share of the reductions amounted to $26.4 million, or about 5 percent.

When coupled with some one-time cuts in 2009 that were made permanent, the University’s total state reduction amounted to $42 million.
That same day, Thorp announced a $125 million fundraising drive to support the University’s.

**JULY**

- HOUSEKEEPERS’ DISPUTE GAINS ATTENTION — Seven housekeepers received unpaid five-day suspensions and a temporary worker was let go in connection with taking unauthorized breaks. The resulting controversy among housekeepers led to the suspensions being rescinded because Facilities Services had not done an adequate job of communicating the policy. Later in the year, Thorp started the RFP process to hire an outside consultant to identify and address problems in Housekeeping Services.

**AUGUST**

- CLASS OF 2014 IS MORE THAN NUMBERS — Seven percent of the incoming class ranked first in their high school class, 5 percent ranked second and 42 percent ranked in the top 10, but Steve Farmer, admissions director, said statistics were only part of the picture.

- NCAA LAUNCHES PROBE OF FOOTBALL PROGRAM — NCAA investigators visited campus to launch a two-pronged investigation, with the University, into academic misconduct and agent violations. During the season, assistant coach John Blake resigned and 16 players were held out for at least one game in connection with the review. In November, Coach Butch Davis resigned and 16 players were held out for at least one game in connection with the review.

- CAROLINA COUNTS MARKS YEAR OF PROGRESS — Joe Templeton updated Employee Forum members on Carolina Counts, the campuswide initiative to implement the key recommendations from the privately funded 2009 study by Bain & Company to streamline campus operations and gain efficiencies.

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- CAROLINA PHYSICAL SCIENCE COMPLEX NEARS COMPLETION — With the dedication of Venable and Murray halls on University Day, the vision for the five-building Carolina Physical Science Complex became a reality. The $250 million complex is the largest construction project in the history of the University. By design, it not only features high-tech laboratories and classrooms, it also enhances Carolina’s longtime strengths in collaboration and interdisciplinary inquiry by pushing units beyond their traditional “silos.”

Once funding becomes available, the final phase will include two buildings to be constructed in what is now the parking lot next to the Murray Hall side plus the site of the current ROTC building.

**SEPTEMBER**

- INNOVATION RECEIVES BOOST WITH $125 MILLION DRIVE — On Sept. 23, Lowery Caudill, chair of the Innovation Circle, unveiled to University trustees the roadmap of key recommendations contained in “Innovate@Carolina: Important Ideas for a Better World,” Carolina’s 21st-century vision for using innovation to solve pressing problems.

- That same day, Thorp announced a $125 million fundraising drive to support the University’s ambitious plan.

**OCTOBER**

- CAROLINA CHALLENGED ‘TO DO GOOD, BETTER’ — Heather Munroe-Blum, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, spoke at the University Day Convocation.

- “Today, we are being asked to examine how we can all do more to make our world a safer, more equitable, healthier and more prosperous place,” she said. “We are being challenged to do good, better.”

- Thorp said Carolina stands ready — “with the brainpower and talent and ideas” — to answer that call.

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**NOVEMBER**

- STUDENT ORGANIZERS BEGIN BUILD A BLOCK — UNC Build a Block, a student-led volunteer initiative, officially kicked off in October a project to complete 10 houses for University families in Chapel Hill’s Phoenix Place subdivision by spring 2011.

- In addition to UNC Habitat and the UNC Greek community, which each committed $70,000 to champion two houses, other donations came from individuals or private sources affiliated with Kenan-Flagler Business School, UNC Health Care, the School of Medicine, UNC Athletics and The Rams Club, the School of Information and Library Science and University Libraries, Friends of Erskine Bowles and the Employee Forum partnering with the Board of Trustees.

A Nov. 6 work day brought together faculty, staff and students, who joined hands and hammerers for the Building Blitz for Build a Block.

**BUSINESS SCHOOL ANNOUNCES ONLINE M.B.A. PROGRAM** — The Kenan-Flagler Business School announced a new master of business administration program in an online format designed for working professionals around the world. “What will be radically different is how we deliver the program. This exciting new approach will transform Kenan-Flagler as we define the direction of global business education,” said James W. Dean Jr., school dean.

- TWO SENIORS NAMED RHODES SCHOLARS — Laurence Deschamps-Laporte and Steven Paul Sharkey Jr. won prestigious Rhodes Scholarships, marking 47 winners from Carolina since the program began in 1904. They will begin graduate work at the University of Oxford in England this fall — Deschamps-Laporte in development studies and Sharkey in psychological research and neuroscience.

**DECEMBER**

- WORK ON ACADEMIC PLAN NEARS COMPLETION — A group of University administrators, faculty members, students and staff spent more than a year collaborating on the draft of a new academic plan focusing on the quality of Carolina’s educational experience. The plan, called Reach Carolina, updates the previous academic plan, which was adopted in 2003. The group is tweaking the final version based on feedback from various Carolina constituents and will continue gathering student feedback as the spring semester gets under way.

- EARLY SEASON SNOW BLANKETS CAMPUS BRIEFLY — An afternoon of heavy snow covered the campus on Dec. 4, but thanks to the warm ground, the roadways and paths remained clear — and the white stuff disappeared quickly.
DEADLINES TO WATCH

- Jan. 21 — Nominations are open for honorary degrees to be awarded at Commencement 2012. Categories for nominees are: service to humanity, contributions to knowledge in the arts or devotion to and support of UNC. http://bit.ly/gNUE3v
- Jan. 28 — Nominations are open for Faculty Mentoring Awards, sponsored by the Carolina Women’s Leadership Council. The awards will honor faculty-to-student mentoring and faculty-to-faculty mentoring, with one award given in each category. Each recipient will receive $5,000. http://bit.ly/dR1n9T
- Feb. 18 — The Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost and the APPLES Service-Learning Program are soliciting proposals for Ueltschi Service-Learning Course Development Grants. Five $8,000 course development grants and three $1,500 service-learning mini-grants will be awarded to help develop or enhance a service-learning course that benefits the University and campus community. For complete information, see http://bit.ly/dLIO6T.
- March 4 — Entries are sought for two-dimensional art with hygiene as its theme for Carolina’s new Water Institute. Launched last fall in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, the institute provides academic leadership in water, health and development in North Carolina and the world. Any two-dimensional art that captures water through the theme of hygiene and practices that promote health and healthy living will be considered. http://bit.ly/hY3e4n

‘DEFYING SWEATSHOPS’

Joe Bozich, founder, CEO and chair of Knight’s Apparel, and Kellie McElhaney, professor in the Haas School of Business, will present “Defying Sweatshops: Can It Be Good Business?” in a Jan. 27 program presented by the Center for Sustainable Enterprise. The talk will be held at 6 p.m. in the business school’s Koury Auditorium. R.S.V.P. to cse@unc.edu to attend the free event.

REGISTER NOW FOR HAVEN TRAINING

The HAVEN program provides support for student survivors of sexual violence, abusive relationships and stalking, and furthers the University’s efforts to prevent interpersonal violence.

Two dates have been set for faculty and staff to attend a four-hour HAVEN training session to become HAVEN allies: on Feb. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; or on April 5, from 1 to 5 p.m. HAVEN allies provide safe spaces for students to discuss interpersonal violence issues. To register, e-mail dos@unc.edu.

‘Tradition in Clay: Two Centuries of Classic North Carolina Pots’

A reception will be held Jan. 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. for “Tradition in Clay: Two Centuries of Classic North Carolina Pots.” The exhibit, on display through March 20, includes more than 100 pots and pottery vessels from North Carolina and celebrates the state’s most famous indigenous art form. Included are works by the state’s master potters.

The exhibition focuses on two major traditions in North Carolina pottery: utilitarian pots of the 19th and early 20th centuries and artistic vessels created in the 20th century. Although produced for everyday food storage and fired with inexpensive salt and alkaline glazes, the stoneware jars, jugs, churns and crocks made from the 1820s to the 1940s exhibit a surprising beauty in their forms, colors and textures, said exhibition curator Terry Zug.

In contrast to the muted, earthy hues of these earlier pots, the new art pottery of the early 20th century began to take on brighter colors and more elaborate shapes as potters began to produce wares that were intended to be seen as well as used. “One of the great strengths of North Carolina pottery lies in its continuity,” Zug said. “In contrast to most other states, North Carolina’s potters did not cease work when the older wares were superseded by products of the industrial revolution. Instead, they stayed at their wheels and gradually transformed the craft.”

Zug, author of “Turners and Burners: The Folk Potters of North Carolina,” is a UNC professor emeritus of English and former chair of the folklore curriculum.

In addition to “Tradition in Clay,” visitors may preview the exhibitions “At Work in the Wilderness: Picturing the American Landscape, 1820-1920” and “The Oldest Paintings in America: Utah’s Rock Art Photographed by Goodloe Sutler,” both opening Jan. 14.

On Jan. 16, Mary Lewis, Brian Lewis and Nancy Bierman will perform country music from the 1920s through the 1950s from 2 to 4 p.m.

And on Jan. 20, third-generation potter Ben Owen III — whose work is included in “Tradition in Clay,” will discuss the evolution of his own work and his appreciation of family history.

For more information on programming related to “Tradition in Clay,” refer to www.ackland.org/visit/calendar.php.

BOTANICAL GARDEN NEWS

- Paintings and illustrations by five North Carolina artists who share a love of nature are on display at the North Carolina Botanical Garden’s DeBerry Gallery for Botanical Art and Illustration through Feb. 28. “Nature ... the way we see it” features the distinct styles of Marcy Lansman, Jean LeCluyse, Claire Miller, Dale Morgan and Maryann Roper, who met through the botanical illustration classes at the garden.
- Last month the garden staff received the good news that the Education Center had been given LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Platinum certification from the U.S. Green Building Council — the highest level of certification for green architecture. The building, which was designed to be the first public building in North Carolina to secure that status, was dedicated on University Day in 2009.

TIMES COLUMNIST BROOKS TO GIVE WEATHERSPOON LECTURE

David Brooks, author and columnist for The New York Times, will give the Kenan-Flagler Business School’s Weatherpoon Lecture on Jan. 24. Free and open to the public, the talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Koury Auditorium, followed by a reception in the Kenan Center. To register, refer to http://bit.ly/hXRqZ0.

The talk will be held Jan. 13 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. in Hyde Hall’s University Room.

‘Tradition in Clay,’ ‘Nature ... the way we see it’ and more at UNC Botanical Garden
NOTED CHINESE ART HISTORIAN HUNG TO GIVE KEYNOTE LECTURE

The Southeast Conference Association for Asian Studies will hold its 50th annual meeting at Carolina Jan. 14–16. The event’s keynote lecture will be presented Jan. 15 by art historian and curator Wu Hung, a professor at the University of Chicago. His free talk will be held at 5 p.m. in the Mandela Auditorium in the FedEx Global Education Center.

For information, see http://bit.ly/hHfLCI.

PRESENTATIONS SET FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS FINALISTS

The Division of Student Affairs has announced its finalists for two key leadership positions, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Dean of Students. The University community is invited to the following open presentations for each of the candidates, which will be held in Room 3413 of the F.P.G. Student Union:

- The Dean of Students forums will be held 3:15–4:30 p.m. on the topic The Role of the Dean of Students and the Contemporary University. Presentations will be held Jan. 13, Jan. 18 and Jan. 20. The first forum was held Jan. 11.
- The forums for the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will be held 2–3:20 p.m. on the topic Excellence for Everyone: Inclusivity and Accessibility in Student Affairs. Presentations will be held Jan. 12, Jan. 19, Jan. 21 and Jan. 24. The first forum was held Jan. 10.

To learn about the candidates and the search process, refer to studentaffairs.unc.edu.

CAROLINA LAUNCHES MASTER’S PROGRAM IN UNITED STATES LAW

The School of Law will soon offer foreign lawyers an opportunity to improve their knowledge of U.S. law and legal process through a one-year master of laws degree (LL.M.) program. Acquiescence of the American Bar Association to the program is expected this month, according to the school’s website.

Michael L. Cerrado, Arch T. Allen Distinguished Professor of Law, will serve as program director. The program is expected to launch this fall with an initial class of three to seven students and an eventual student population of 25.

“Our J.D. (juris doctor) and LL.M. students will benefit by studying together and by engaging in discussions about comparative legal issues, policies and judicial processes,” said John Charles "Jack" Boger, dean and Wade Edwards Distinguished Professor of Law.

Boger supported the development of the LL.M. program as part of an ongoing effort to help train lawyers who will practice in the global economy. More than 100 U.S. law schools currently offer an LL.M.

To learn more, see uncnews.unc.edu/content/view/4147/1.

CAMPUS RECREATION EVENTS

- Jan. 13 — Spring into Fitness will highlight Campus Recreation and Carolina Fitness programs and services. It will be held from noon to 7 p.m. at the Student Recreation Center. campusrec.unc.edu
- Jan. 15 — Kids ROCK! will introduce children to dance and movement from 10 a.m. to noon at the Rams Head Recreation Center. L.D. Burris of the Triangle Center for Contemporary Dance will combine modern dance forms with African dance and story play. R.S.V.P. for the free event to ajstern@email.unc.edu.
- Jan. 20 — How to Write a Research Statement for the Academic Job Market will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in 318 Wilson Library;
- Jan. 20 — Let’s Talk about Grant Writing will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in Wilson Library’s PRC, Alumni Assembly Room.
- Jan. 27 — Assessing and Evaluating Student Performance will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in 318 Wilson Library;
- Jan. 28 — Engaging Large Classes will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in 318 Wilson Library.

To register and for more information about additional workshops, see cfe.unc.edu/events.html.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY EVENTS

- Jan. 13 — Classroom Management will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in 318 Wilson Library;
- Jan. 19 — Let’s Talk about Grant Writing will be held from noon to 2 p.m. in Wilson Library’s PRC, Alumni Assembly Room;
- Jan. 20 — How to Write a Research Statement for the Academic Job Market will be held from noon to 1:30 p.m. in G010 Bondurant Hall;
- Jan. 20 — Developing Critical Thinking will be held from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in 318 Wilson Library;
- Jan. 27 — Assessing and Evaluating Student Performance will

PLAYMAKERS TO PRESENT ‘ANGELS IN AMERICA’ IN ROTATING REPERTORY

PlayMakers Repertory Company will stage Tony Kushner’s landmark duo of Tony Award-winning plays “Angels in America” from Jan. 29 to March 6. Both plays that make up the contemporary masterpiece will be presented in rotating repertory, with Part 1 “Millennium Approaches” and Part 2 “Perestroika.”

The two plays take place during the first wave of what would become the AIDS epidemic, set against the backdrop of the Reagan era in New York, Utah and Heaven, among other locales.

“These are among the most important plays of the last 50 years, and together they form a soaring theatrical epic by one of America’s most visionary playwrights,” said PlayMakers producing artistic director Joseph Haj. “In a time when AIDS has become a silent pandemic, and gay marriage, gay bashing and discussion of our government’s ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy fill the news, Kushner’s masterworks are as relevant today as when they debuted in the 1990s.”

There are three opportunities to see both plays back-to-back: on Feb. 5 and 26 and March 5. On these dates, Part 1 will be performed at 2 p.m. and Part 2 at 7:30 p.m.

On Jan. 19 at 6:30 p.m., PlayMakers will host The Vision Series: Directors in Conversation with director Brendan Fox as well as "Angels" scenic designer Narelle Sissons and costume designer Jan Chambers. Those interested in the creative process are invited to the Paul Green Theatre to share wine, coffee and other refreshments, along with a behind-the-scenes preview of the production.

“The Vision Series” is free and open to the public. Reservations are encouraged; call PlayMakers’ box office (962-7529) to R.S.V.P.

To buy tickets and to learn more about related programming, call 962-PLAY (7529) or visit www.playmakersrep.org. Tickets are $10 to $45. With the purchase of a ticket to Part 1, a ticket to Part 2 may also be purchased at 25 percent off.

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NEWS IN BRIEF SUBMISSIONS

Next issue includes events from Jan. 27 to Feb. 9. Deadline for submissions is 5 p.m., Fri., Jan. 14. 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.
**Marine Corps training prepares Brink for new leadership role**

When people meet Chuck Brink, there are certain things they notice about him right away. The high-and-tight crew cut that is now nearly white. The neatly pressed clothes. The erect posture.

But what they remember most about him is the forthright way he speaks his mind.

Often people peg him as a former Marine, which Brink said is all right with him, because he is one — and proud of it.

He described himself as “a 17-year-old piece of clay” when he went into the Marine Corps. Eight years later, he came out of the corps molded to lead.

“Once you become an NCO, and you are tasked with a mission, you learn soon enough that the only way you are going to be able to complete it is to look out for the welfare of your people,” said Brink, who is an electrician with Facilities Services.

“You’ve got to train them, but you have also got to take care of them. You’ve got to make sure their needs are being met.

“If the people you are responsible for know you’ve got their back — and they know you are going to go the distance with them by your example — they will follow you.”

In October, Brink will be tasked with a new leadership responsibility when he takes over as chair of the Staff Assembly, the body created by former UNC President Erskine Bowles in 2006 to represent the concerns and interests of staff members across the UNC system.

He feels both humbled and ready, despite the daunting challenges ahead as state leaders deal with a budget deficit now estimated at $3.7 billion.

**TOURS OF DUTY**

Brink earned his high school diploma while in the Marines, and afterward he used the G.I. Bill to start college. But while working construction jobs, he found his second vocation as an electrician.

In August 1996, he signed up for what has been a 14-year tour of duty with the University. He became involved with the Employee Forum, he said, at the urging of former Chair Tommy Griffin.

He began his involvement in 2001 as an alternate delegate, and in 2002, began his first two-year term. He started his second term in 2004 and his third term last year.

And it was through his service on the forum that he met fellow delegate Dixie Bloom, who is now his wife.

The forum job comes without training, and it took Brink a while to figure out what the forum does, and what his mission within it should be.

“It starts with believing in what you are doing,” he said.

“If you really want to be a delegate, and a member of the Employee Forum, you have to believe in the Employee Forum and what it stands for.”

For him, it stands for treating people fairly by applying rules consistently to everyone.

“The controversy that erupted last year over housekeepers taking breaks, he said, is about protecting the rights of all employees, regardless of their station, to be treated with dignity and respect.

“That begins with an even application of policy,” Brink said.

When co-workers at his shop confront him with the question, “What has the Employee Forum ever done for me?” he responds: “It’s not about you and me. It’s about us.”

**SOLVING PROBLEMS AFFECTING EVERYONE**

That inclusive mind set will guide Brink as he grapples with the challenge of representing — and unifying — 17 different UNC system campuses.

So will Bowles’ words to the inaugural class of delegates, of which Brink was a member. “Don’t just bring me an individual problem,” Brink said Bowles told them. “Bring me a problem that affects everyone. And when you bring me a problem, bring me a solution that is reasonable, doable and affordable.”

Brink will take those words to heart in the years ahead as he works with new UNC President Tom Ross and other members of the Staff Assembly.

The charge Brink has assigned himself is to remind UNC system leaders that staff play a vital role in carrying out the overall university mission.

To do that, he said, he will call upon the words of his Marine drill instructors, who got him to believe he could overcome any obstacle if he learned to improvise, adapt and overcome.

“The task that lies ahead comes down to lessening the impact of budget cuts on staff,” Brink said. “That has to be the main thrust.

“At the same time, we as staff have to become more efficient and accountable, and not just rely on existing laws and God’s good graces to protect our jobs. We have to do what is necessary. We have to do our part.”

To learn more about the Staff Assembly, refer to www.northcarolina.edu/staffassembly. **»**
“We’ll try to shield teaching and research and protect our ability to provide need-based financial aid,” he said. “Admittedly, however, that will be harder to do moving forward because of the cumulative effects of the cuts we’ve taken so far.” The provost’s office will send instructions soon about specific reductions for each unit and ask the vice chancellors, deans and unit leaders to share information about their decisions regarding the cuts.

Units that rely most on state funding will likely have to eliminate positions and lay off or terminate staff, Thorp said, but the University does not expect to eliminate tenured faculty, cancel fixed-term contracts in the middle of terms or change tenure decisions because of budget cuts. Each dean will make decisions about renewing contracts for fixed-term faculty as the contracts expire.

Last year the N.C. General Assembly permitted UNC campuses to retain the revenue from the $750 tuition increase to help offset the impact of budget cuts, which Thorp said was key in protecting Carolina’s instructional mission.

“Keeping the revenue on campus for any future tuition increase set by the General Assembly is critical, and we appreciate the support demonstrated by House and Senate leadership on this issue,” he said.

Thorp said Carolina Counts, now in its second year, is instrumental in discussions with vice chancellors and deans and will help guide future decisions (see related story on page 3). For budget-related messages and background, refer to universityrelations.unc.edu/budget.

and for his leadership in Carolina’s efforts to protect its teaching mission during such a difficult economic period.

“Dick has overseen a division that has made significant progress in better serving the needs of the University community while recognizing the critical importance of being excellent stewards of North Carolina taxpayers’ investment in Carolina,” he said.

A search committee to identify Mann’s successor will be appointed soon, Thorp said.

what would happen if state cuts exceeded the University’s ability to absorb them operationally.

“Where does it begin to affect students?” he asked. “I think it will be less than 10 percent that we can absorb without affecting the instructional budget, but we’ll give it our best shot.”

Steve Bachenheimer, professor of microbiology and immunology, asked whether the University might lose revenue from overhead receipts, the portion of federal research money that supports the indirect costs associated with research projects. These facilities and administrative costs are known as F&A funds.

Carney and Thorp said the University was preparing for legislators to scrutinize all aspects of the University’s budget. They said F&A funds, tied to the faculty’s success in bringing in more than $800 million in research funding last year, were a critical revenue source.

In the 1970s, all F&A funds were turned over to the state. Through the years, the portion of these funds UNC research universities could keep has increased, reaching 100 percent in the last decade.

Historically, the correlation is strong between the University’s retention of F&A funds and a surge in the ability to tackle research problems and create new jobs, Carney said. In reality, the University will likely face a drop in overall research funding next fiscal year because the federal stimulus package is ending.

“By any measure, Doug Hunt was one of Carolina’s model citizens. His love for and knowledge of the University was especially intense. The University community has lost an incredible resource,” said Chancellor Holden Thorp.


Private gifts add leverage to recruitment efforts and yield 18 new faculty members

The ability to recruit outstanding new faculty members is definitely more challenging in a lean economy, but a boost from private funds made it a reality at Carolina last year.

Two gifts to the University from the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and an anonymous donor provided $5.5 million for three years of support and yielded 14 new faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences, two new positions in the Kenan-Flagler Business School and one new position each in the schools of Education and Nursing.

“The impact of these gifts is immense, immediate and extremely important to the college [and UNC], especially as we continue to face significant state budget cuts due to ongoing economic challenges,” said Karen M. Gil, dean of the college.

The influx of private funds gave Carolina a competitive edge in recruiting.

“With these gifts, we have been able to move nimbly and strategically into a buyer’s academic job market,” said William Andrews, senior associate dean for fine arts and the humanities.

Among the new faculty joining the college are:

■ Florence Dore, in English and comparative literature, who has studied the novel and American censorship and is exploring issues of privacy and race in fiction;

■ Elizabeth Havice, in geography, whose multidisciplinary research examines the effects of international economic and environmental dynamics on tuna fisheries in the Pacific; and

■ Laura Moore, in geological sciences, who is noted for her research on the impact of climate change on the geology and ecology of coastal areas and barrier islands.

EVANS from page 5

the Atlantic Coast Conference and NCAA, earning Evans the Department of Athletics’ Priceless Gem Award last year.

“Jack’s patience, thoughtfulness and thoroughness informed his work as our faculty athletics representative,” Thorp said.

Since 2006, Evans headed the development of Carolina North and brought town and gown together in an unprecedented way, which led to the adoption of a development agreement in 2009.

“In case anyone is worried about what is going to happen to Carolina North, you don’t need to worry because we have a comprehensive plan titled ‘Carolina North Responsibilities effective 1-1-11,’” Thorp said. “It should be called ‘1-1-11’ because we need 11 people to do what Jack was doing.”

As he presented Evans with a UNC lamp, Thorp said, “I could rack my brain but I couldn’t think of someone who cares more about this institution and has done more than you. Thank you, Jack, for all you have done.”

Evans, characteristically, thanked the University community.

“I’m very grateful to each of you for being here because each of you represents some interaction that I’ve had the opportunity to be involved in during my time at the University,” he said. “I thank you for all that you do for Carolina.”

He then quipped: “Pat and I intend to be around for a long time so we’ll be watching you carefully.”
MALAWI REPORT

Mixing medicine and music

The Republic of Malawi is a land of rolling hills and mountain peaks. Skinny from east to west and proportionately long from north to south, it is located in southeast Africa and tucked in between Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique. Its capital city is Lilongwe.

It is also a country that has significant health-care needs. UNC researchers were invited to work in Malawi more than 20 years ago. In that time, faculty and students have helped tackle challenges such as HIV, malaria and a lack of basic health infrastructure.

In December, Chancellor Holden Thorp visited UNC Project–Malawi to see Carolina’s involvement firsthand: from participation in an international trial of the world’s most promising candidate for a malaria vaccine and various projects that aim to curb the impact of AIDS, to a host of other research, clinical care and training initiatives.

The work in Malawi is not only for humanitarian reasons but also benefits the citizens of North Carolina. UNC’s facilities in Malawi allow the University to keep track of emerging infections that could affect North Carolinians. The development of diagnostic assays and prevention and treatment plans there also helps advance care in North Carolina.

During December’s Faculty Council meeting, Thorp said, “I understand now why everyone who has gone there has come back and said it was a life-altering experience. It is an extraordinary example of research and service being totally synergistic. … We are also training people in Malawi to become Carolina faculty to carry out that research there.”

Thorp documented many of his experiences on his blog (holden.unc.edu) with text, photos and audio links. Excerpts are shown at left and below.

DECEMBER 13 — “This afternoon we landed in Lilongwe, Malawi. … We heard about a number of important research projects in HIV and malaria. The researchers here have been able to study many aspects of HIV and how it is transmitted and managed. And our surgeons have developed a surgical residency to train surgeons who are likely to stay in Malawi. I was inspired and moved by the passion that the folks on the ground here and the UNC folks have for the work that we do here. After 15 years in Malawi, they clearly have figured out what works.

After the research talks, we had a goat roast for all the folks working here, which included students from all over the world doing research and working in the clinics. The goat was delicious, and the enthusiasm that the students and faculty have for what they’re doing here was palpable. A Malawian band played at the goat roast. I love African music and they let me sit in for a couple of songs.”

DECEMBER 15 — “What a day in Lilongwe. … At the beginning of the day, the pregnant women and the mothers with newborn babies come to Bwaila. Because it’s so hard to get tests done on the fathers, if they bring the father, they go to the front of the line. The rest go into a large waiting area where they are led in song by the nurses. The songs have lyrics about living with HIV set to tunes of well-known Malawian folk songs. The lyrics say things like “get the father tested” and “fight the virus to make our nation strong.”

The head nurse, known as the matron, took us inside her office to sign the guest book. I asked her what was the best part of her work, and she said it was seeing how happy the mothers were when they found out that — thanks to following the instructions they got at the clinic — their baby did not have HIV.

As we toured the different facilities, I was frequently surprised at how upbeat the adults and children were as they were getting their treatments. There were very few screaming babies or fussing children, even though many of the families who came at 8 a.m. for the opening of the clinic were not seen until after lunchtime. One of the residents explained to me all the things they do to create that environment in Lilongwe. Most of it has to do with the compassion of the caregivers, but the open-air design of the buildings and the flow of the patients through them make a big difference.

At the end of the day, one of the doctors reminded me that despite the beautiful upbeat singing that began the day, three of the mothers in the waiting area did not lose their babies. The attitude of the patients and caregivers during the day defied these facts dramatically. …

The challenge in this kind of work is to avoid what is sometimes called helicopter medicine — where a university team comes in, gets data for a study and then leaves without really improving the community’s health.