

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## SBI will look into AFAM department

**UNC began looking into the department's issues in September.**

By Elizabeth Johnson  
Editor-in-Chief

Investigations into the African and Afro-American Studies Department at UNC are now out of the University's control.

A report released by the University earlier this month cites issues with record keeping and teaching practices within the department and could cause long-term problems for UNC.

"The implications for the University are very great," said

Jane Shaw, president of the John William Pope Center for Higher Education Policy — a conservative think tank based in Raleigh.

"It certainly will tarnish the reputation of UNC, which has always held academic quality to be very high," Shaw said. "It appears that this department was neglected and that there was very little oversight."

Orange-Chatham District Attorney Jim Woodall said he met with members of the State Bureau of Investigation Monday and asked them to do a probe into the department.

"The starting point I gave them was to look into academic and financial fraud, computer fraud or misuse, forgery, or conspiracy or attempt to conceal any

of those crimes," Woodall said.

Noelle Talley, public information officer for the N.C. Department of Justice, said in an email the SBI has accepted Woodall's request to open a criminal investigation into matters at UNC.

Talley said she could not comment on how long an investigation of this kind might take.

Chancellor Holden Thorp wrote in a statement that the University has pledged to cooperate fully with the SBI.

The University began its own investigation into the department in September following the revelation that former defensive end Michael McCadoo had plagiarized a paper for a class in the depart-



**Julius Nyang'oro**  
Former department chair of African and Afro-American Studies Department at UNC

ment, and the plagiarism had gone undetected.

The University's report detailing the findings was written by Jonathan Hartlyn, the senior associate dean for social sciences and global programs, and William Andrews, the senior associate dean for fine arts and humanities.

In the report, Hartlyn and Andrews wrote that irregularities within the department included

improper teaching practices occurring primarily in summer school courses taught between 2007 until 2009 and listed former department chair Julius Nyang'oro as the professor for the majority of those courses.

Nyang'oro stepped down as department chair in August but has stayed at the University as a professor. Nyang'oro will retire from UNC effective July 1.

Thorp wrote in a statement that he has asked the SBI to look into possible issues with Nyang'oro's salary from the University.

"After consulting with President Ross on Friday, I directed our public safety depart-

### TIMELINE OF INVESTIGATION

**August 2011:** AFAM Department Chair Julius Nyang'oro resigns as department chair.

**September 2011:** The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences launches an investigation into the department.

**January 1, 2012:** Eunice Sahle replaces Nyang'oro and begins her five-year term as AFAM Department Chair.

**May 4, 2012:** Hartlyn and Andrews' report finds evidence of nine aberrant classes from summer '07 to summer '09 and 43 additional classes that were taught irregularly. The investigation also found nine instances where faculty signatures appear to have been forged.

**Monday:** Jim Woodall, district attorney for Orange and Chatham counties, asks SBI to investigate academic and financial fraud in the department.

SOURCES: UNC NEWS & DTH ARCHIVES  
DTH/SUSIE MANN

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## GRADUATION BLUES



DTH/MELISSA KEY

A group of seniors spells 'Happy Mother's Day' with colorful letters at the class of 2012 Commencement in Kenan Stadium on Sunday.

**A Mother's Day commencement ceremony for the class of 2012 drew a crowd of 32,000.**

By Matthew Cox  
University Editor

The class of 2012 took almost 30 minutes to fill, and then overflow, the Kenan Stadium student section. With them they carried items ranging from a bright pink umbrella to a small planted tree.

Chancellor Holden Thorp presided over the ceremony and started by addressing the seniors.

"This is your day, and all of us join you

*"All of us in Chapel Hill arrived on the back of others. We hope you will come back, and come back often."*

**Wade Hargrove,**  
Chairman of UNC Board of Trustees

in a celebration of your academic achievement," Thorp said.

There were an estimated 32,000 in attendance, which Thorp compared to the small ceremony for UNC's first seven graduates in 1798.

Speaker Michael Bloomberg began his commencement address with several Tar Heel cheers, and said innovation will make graduating seniors successful.

"Light and liberty; that is the motto of

your university," Bloomberg said. "And that, I believe, will be the defining spirit of the 21st century."

Bloomberg said last week's passage of Amendment One in North Carolina — an amendment to the state constitution identifying marriage between a man and a woman as the only form of recognized union in the state — is an example of a restriction of liberty.

SEE **GRADUATION**, PAGE 5

## Courts likely to decide future of amendment

**The impact of Amendment One on families and businesses is still uncertain, experts say.**

By Vinayak Balasubramanian  
State & National Editor

After North Carolinians voted to amend the state constitution to define marriage between a man and a woman as the only union recognized by the state, there continues to be widespread disagreement over the effects the amendment might have on state businesses and families.

Many experts and opponents of Amendment One have expressed concerns that the amendment creates uncertainty for unmarried couples, since state courts have not yet ruled on how to apply the amendment to existing laws.

Potential court interpretation could range from business regulation in the state to laws concerning the finances of adoption, domestic violence and custody arrangements of unmarried couples — both same-sex and opposite-sex — said Maxine Eichner, law professor at the UNC School of Law.

Boone Turchi, an economics professor at UNC, said many large corporations are looking for a diverse workforce, and many highly-educated workers are looking for a diverse environment to work in.

Turchi said it is very likely that businesses may view this amendment as an obstacle to the creation of such an environment. He said this might lead highly-educated workers and some corporations to choose other states for their business.

"A passage of an amendment like this could have a significant impact on jobs in the state and on companies that would choose to relocate to North Carolina," said Ryan Butler, president of LGBT Democrats of North Carolina.

Turchi said private businesses will likely be able to continue offering benefits to same-sex couples, but there is less certainty surrounding whether public institutions will be able to do the same.

Many public institutions have sought legal advice to evaluate the impact of the amendment on their policies. Joni Worthington, spokes-

*"A passage of an amendment like this could have a significant impact on jobs."*

**Ryan Butler,**  
President of LGBT Democrats of N.C.

woman for the UNC system, said the system's attorney is looking at the possible implications of the amendment on UNC policies.

Julia Vail, spokesperson for the N.C. Department of State Treasurer, wrote in an email that the state does not anticipate any impact on health or retirement benefits for state employees, but that her department is awaiting further legal interpretation of the amendment.

Supporters of the amendment have argued that similar laws have been passed in other states without any economic harm.

Sen. Jerry Tillman, R-Montgomery, said the amendment will have no effect on recruitment or job benefits offered to unmarried couples by private and public institutions, although he said that the courts could interpret this differently.

The disagreement over economic impact between the two sides is also mirrored in legal matters concerning unmarried couples.

Many family law experts are concerned that ambiguities in the amendment may cause courts to reconsider legal doctrines that have been applied in similar matters.

Eichner said it is conceivable, though not likely, that a court could rule the domestic violence statute unconstitutional when applied to unmarried couples.

She said in Ohio, where a similar constitutional amendment was passed in 2004, a lower-court ruling led to the dismissal of indictments and overturning of convictions in at least 27 cases of domestic violence involving unmarried couples before the state supreme court intervened.

Eichner said courts might modify policies on granting custody of children if they conclude that unmarried relationships are not in the child's best interests.

SEE **AMENDMENT ONE**, PAGE 5

## Town amends towing ordinance

**After an injunction, the Town Council changed trucks' cellphone rules.**

By Kaitlyn Knepp  
Staff Writer

Despite an injunction that invalidates it, the Chapel Hill Town Council chose to amend a towing ordinance Monday to avoid conflict with the town's cellphone ordinance.

The council's change comes

nearly a week after Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson passed an injunction to block both ordinances.

The changes to the towing ordinance allow tow-truck operators to comply with the cellphone ordinance, which prohibits the use of both handheld and hands-free devices while operating a motor vehicle.

The council voted 7-2 in favor of changing a part of the towing ordinance that deals with how tow-truck operators respond to

calls from people whose vehicles have been towed.

The ordinance now provides a 15-minute period during which tow-truck operators can return a message left on their voice mail or answering machine.

Matthew Sullivan, staff legal adviser for the Chapel Hill Police Department, said even with the new changes, the injunction will continue to be in effect.

"We are still prohibited from enforcing the current tow ordi-

nance until after we resolve the injunction and the court action that we currently have pending in court," he said.

Council members Matt Czajkowski and Laurin Easthom voted against the ordinance change.

Czajkowski said the council should not be debating the issue just because it was hit with an injunction.

"I'm not voting to amend an ordinance to fix a problem with

SEE **CELL PHONE**, PAGE 5

## Inside 'BACK AT THE BOSH'

UNC seniors will play their final home series against Virginia Tech this weekend. **Page 9.**



### FOR DELIVERY

A UNC study found that almost half of minors who order alcohol online were successful. But don't expect it to be so easy in the future. **Page 6.**

### LOST COLONY

UNC's Brett Lane helped discover a hidden fort on a 425-year-old map from the oldest English colony, believed to have been the intended state capital. **Page 3.**

### This day in history

**MAY 17, 1995**

The General Assembly repealed the Speaker Ban Law — 27 years after it was declared unconstitutional.

### Today's weather



Partly cloudy, PM thunderstorms.  
**H 80, L 61**

### Friday's weather



Partly cloudy and less humid.  
**H 78, L 53**

“The short words are the best, and the old words best of all.”  
WINSTON CHURCHILL