

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Four seniors to compete in public relations competition

Students from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication will design, execute, and evaluate a public relations campaign for the 2011 Bateman Case Study Competition this February.

The four UNC seniors, Stacy Merrick, Hannah Harrill, Amy Dobrzynski and Elizabeth Graper designed the “Grow Your Green” campaign.

The campaign aims to promote financial literacy and environmentally friendly money saving tactics.

The campaign targets female students and female heads-of-household in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Community. It uses a financial education program made by Ally Financial, the company that is sponsoring the competition.

The students will host five community and campus financial literacy sessions. The sessions will be led by local finance experts and will be open to anyone.

Funding renewed for Search for Diabetes in Youth study

UNC researchers working on the nation's largest study of childhood diabetes have had their funding renewed for an additional five years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases will provide \$3.6 million for the Search for Diabetes in Youth study, led by nutrition professor Elizabeth Mayer-Davis.

The study has assessed the impact of diabetes on youth health for 10 years and has collected data on type 1 and type 2 diabetes from five racial/ethnic groups — non-Hispanic whites, African Americans, Hispanics, Asian/Pacific Islanders and American Indians.

So far, the study has made findings on diabetes complications, how types 1 and 2 differ, the different types of care and medical treatment children received and how diabetes affects children's everyday lives.

Researchers have studied the prevalence, incidence and clinical characteristics of diabetes in more than 10,000 young people under age 20 at six study sites in California, Colorado, Hawaii, Ohio, South Carolina and Washington.

CITY BRIEFS

Hillsborough names beech as its third ‘Treasure Tree’

The Hillsborough Tree Board selected an American beech as its third Treasure Tree.

The tree, located at 103 E. Queen St., was nominated by its owner, Cindy Pacchiana.

Pacchiana will receive a Treasure Tree certificate from the Tree Board in recognition of her native tree.

The board selected it for its size, foliage and bark.

The Tree Board encourages citizens to look around Hillsborough for trees with exceptional qualities.

Hillsborough police officer will receive MADD award

Mothers Against Drunk Driving will present the 2010 Eastern North Carolina Police Hero Award to Hillsborough police officer Douglas Hemingway Feb. 11 at a banquet in Raleigh.

In the past year, Hemingway's traffic stops have resulted in 33 driving while impaired arrests.

The group's honorees have shown dedication and involvement in their community, innovative and creative program involvement, belief in the organization's message and dedication to law enforcement and criminal justice.

Commissioners select key legislative issues for 2011

The Orange County Board of County Commissioners voted to place county responsibility for roads, revenue options for local government, waste disposal and broadband capability high on its priority list for the coming legislative session.

The commissioners selected these four items from a list of six issues to be presented to the North Carolina General Assembly during its 2011 session.

Commissioner Barry Jacobs emphasized the importance of powerful local government.

“I am strongly of the belief that local governments should have more autonomy and not less,” Jacobs said.

See dailytarheel.com for the full story.

-From staff and wire reports

Cooper primed for politics

Advocates student travel grants

BY DANIEL WISER

STAFF WRITER

At an early age, Mary Cooper proved she was ready.

When her father, U.S. Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., started to campaign for political office, 4-year-old Mary tagged along for his speeches.

Before these speeches, family friend Harold Segroves would often lift Mary onto his shoulders and ask if she was “ready for action.”



At one of the initial staff meetings for her student body president campaign, Cooper once again issued a call to action, said Walt Peters, one of Cooper's five campaign managers.

“She looked at us and said ‘You are the Harold, and I want to let you know I’m ready for action,’” he said.

But being student body president wasn’t always on Cooper's radar. Peters said that he met with other members of student government to discuss their ideal candidate, and Cooper's name came up. The group then decided to show up on her doorstep at The Warehouse

Candidate profiles

Monday: Brooklyn Stephens

Tuesday: Ian Lee

Thursday: Rick Ingram

on a whim.

“We told her that we didn’t know what her plans were, but we would love to see her as student body president,” Peters said. “She told us that she had been thinking about it but wasn’t going to do it without a team behind her.”

But beneath her enthusiastic demeanor lies a commitment to service, her friends said.

“She’s a force to be reckoned with,” said Abby Nix, Cooper's roommate.

Cooper helped to raise more than \$160,000 during a two-year span as philanthropy chairwoman for the Kappa Delta sorority, she said.

She also served as the co-chairwoman of HOPE Garden, which employs Chapel Hill's homeless population and teaches self-sufficiency through growing food. The student-designed garden speaks to her true passion — the environment.

“I’ve had several environmental geek moments,” she said. “I enjoy getting people involved in the environment and contributing to the cross-pollination of cultures.”



DTH/ERIN HULL

Mary Cooper, a student body president candidate, is advocating for expanded CCI printing, a student enrichment fund and flat-rate taxis.

Cooper's cabinet will also seek ‘green certification’ by the Office of Waste Reduction and Recycling in an effort to meet UNC's goal of becoming coal-free by 2020.

Cooper would also pursue a student enrichment fund, using a model similar to the Eve Carson Scholarship to give grants to students to attend conferences, lectures or seminars and gain exposure outside Chapel Hill, she said.

Expanding Carolina Computing Initiative printing to unconventional locations, such as Graham

Memorial or Greek houses, and providing a flat-rate taxi service to transport students safely off-campus would further her administration's goals of helping students in whatever capacity possible, she said.

“I want to help you do your job better,” Cooper said. “Whether the barriers are policies or a lack of publicity, we are there to help you and really highlight the resources in student government.”

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/BAILEY SEITTER

Howard Lee, 22, graduated from the Kenan-Flagler Business School last December and is promoting his newest hip-hop album, “State and Soul.” Lee planned to study business at UNC and will start a banking job this summer, but he has remained involved in music.

IT’S ALL BUSINESS

Kenan-Flagler student markets his hip-hop

BY KATHERINE PROCTOR

STAFF WRITER

Howard Lee leads a double life.

A recent graduate of the Kenan-Flagler Business School, Lee will start a banking job in New York this summer. Until then, he’ll be promoting his latest electronic hip-hop album, “State and Soul,” on two continents.

Despite the vast differences between his two areas of interest, Lee found them to be compatible.

“At first, business and music seemed separate, but the more I worked on this solo project, they interlinked,” Lee said.

“You have to do so much marketing and promotion when you make an album, so a lot of what I learned in school helped me to package this project a lot better.”

High school friend and fellow musician Allen Mask agreed that Lee's unique background will help him with his foray into the music industry.

“Having multiple interests and talents

contributes to the ability to bring perspective to anything that you do,” he said.

Born in Korea, Lee began playing the piano at age 5. His musical focus narrowed to rap when his older brother started a Korean hip-hop group in Chapel Hill.

“I tried to find opportunities to do freestyle rap at school,” Lee said.

During his senior year of high school, Lee formed a hip-hop group with Mask.

Lee said that he continued to collaborate with Mask throughout high school and later at UNC, where, Lee said, they “took it to another level.”

Mask went on to co-found UNC's Vinyl Records during his time at the University.

Throughout college, Lee pursued his business degree while building his rap career.

“Howard is very intentional and very serious about his craft,” Mask said. “He takes his work just as seriously as he wants other people to take it, and I think that’s really important.”

Lee's producer and friend, UNC alumnus Eric Sim, said that working with Lee is both productive and enjoyable.

“We’re friends, so it’s just people getting together and doing what we love doing,” Sim said. “But it’s very efficient too. Howard

always comes ready to record.”

Half of the songs on Lee's new album will be in English and the other half in Korean, allowing Lee to demonstrate his versatility in both languages.

Lee said that much of his music's subject matter comes from his own experiences.

“There’s one song, ‘Great Escape,’ that’s about my experience working in a 100-hour-week death trap,” he said, referring to an internship. “There’s certainly a storytelling aspect to my music.”

In the spring, Lee will travel to promote his album in Korea.

“It’ll be a rough process, trying to book all these gigs,” Lee said. “But I went through this type of painstaking experience with my job hunt and I learned that nothing good ever comes easy.”

Lee said he hopes that his listeners won’t focus too much on his experience in business.

“It’s not about the background you have,” he said. “It’s how you can use that to find a really good way to deliver your message to your listeners.”

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

Queen City to host ‘12 DNC

Charlotte picked for ‘big hearts’

BY TARINI PARTI

STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The Obama family is a fan of North Carolina barbecue, southern charm and warm hospitality.

In an e-mail announcing Charlotte as the host city for the Democratic National Convention in 2012, first lady Michelle Obama said Tuesday those were some of the reasons for the selection.

“Vibrant, diverse and full of opportunity, the Queen City is home to innovative, hardworking folks with big hearts and open minds. And of course, great barbecue,” Obama said.

Charlotte beat Cleveland, Minneapolis and St. Louis for the bid.

The convention will not only highlight the growing political significance of the state but also boost the economy.

President Barack Obama has visited North Carolina at least four times since taking office. He addressed the employees of a company called Celgard last April in Charlotte and students and faculty of Forsyth Technical Community College in Winston-Salem in December.

“He does seem to have an affinity for the state of North Carolina,” said Jason Roberts, political science professor at UNC.

Roberts said Charlotte is a strategically better choice for Democrats than the other cities, and logistics such as the cost of hotels also could have played a part in the decision.

The convention, which will start on Sept. 3, 2012, is expected to bring more than 35,000 delegates and visitors to the city and generate more than \$150 million in economic benefits, McClatchy News Services reported.

“Today’s decision is fantastic news for North Carolina regardless of your political party,” said Gov. Bev Perdue in a statement. “A national political convention is a keystone event that will boost North Carolina’s economy, while showcasing Charlotte and our state to the nation and the world.”

Anthony Dent, chairman of UNC's College Republicans, said although Charlotte's selection is good news for the state, he was surprised by the Democratic National Committee's choice.

“Choosing North Carolina rather than Missouri seems like a gamble to me,” Dent said.

“Each party usually tries to chose a city that would help pick off a state from the opposition.”

Republicans announced last May that their convention will be in Tampa, Fla.

In the 2008 elections, North Carolina elected a Democratic presidential candidate for the first time in 32 years and helped Obama win the presidency.

The convention in Charlotte will bring Obama and the Democratic Party back in the minds of North Carolinians, improving his chances for re-election, said Burton Peebles, co-president of UNC's Young Democrats.

“Being that Obama narrowly won the state in 2008, it will be a good opportunity for the party to show that North Carolina is important,” Peebles said.

Democratic officials say this convention will be different from previous ones. They are calling it the “People’s Convention” and encouraging participation and planning from average North Carolinians.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

Union renovation needs 1,000 signatures

UCommons petition due at 5 p.m.

BY CAITLIN MCCABE
AND AARON MOORE

WRITERS

With just six days left before student elections, volunteers are rushing to collect signatures to breathe life into a Student Union renovation, requiring a student fee increase.

Because Student Congress rejected the referendum on Jan. 18, Union officials must collect a minimum of 2,939 signatures from the student body before 5 p.m. Feb. 2 for UCommons to appear on the Feb. 8 ballot. The project is intended to transform the bottom

floor into a more appealing space for students, featuring more meeting rooms and rehearsal space.

Tyler Mills, president of the Carolina Union Activities Board, said the petition had about 2,000 signatures Tuesday. Though there are nearly 1,000 signatures left to collect, Mills said he is confident the referendum will make the ballot.

“Yesterday I think we ended up collecting about 800 signatures; so, I think it’s going very well,” he said.

If officials fail to collect the signatures by 5 p.m. today, the referendum could still appear on a later ballot as

long as the 2,939 signatures are presented to the student body president, said Andrew Phillips, chairman of the Board of Elections.

Mills said he is confident the bill will get the 800 votes it needs to pass even if it appears on a ballot outside the regular election.

Mills said one of the biggest obstacles for the initiative is confusion on the part of students. He said some students are confusing UCommons, which applies only to Phase 2 of the renovations, with Phase 1.

“This isn’t about Wendy’s. This is about more than that,” he said. “The Wendy’s is already happening.”

Union officials have spent at least \$1,300 marketing UCommons, said

Megan Johnson, assistant director of Union marketing and design.

The \$11 million initiative would cost students an additional \$16 per year for the next 30 years. Students have voiced opposition because of the University's impending budget cuts, but Union officials said now is the time to begin construction.

“The flip side to this economy is that construction costs are cheaper,” said Tony Patterson, senior associate director of student life and activities.

Waiting even one year to begin construction could raise costs by as much as 30 percent, Mills said.

But graduate students have posed concerns, Mills and Patterson

said, about paying extra fees for a Union they rarely use.

“There’s a lot of graduate students who have no idea where the Union is,” said Laura Blue, president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

Union officials have been trying to reach out to graduate students, said Union director Don Luse.

But Blue said she does not feel they have been doing their best.

“There has been no follow-up,” she said. “The perspective is this is what they want, and it doesn’t matter what we think.”

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