

inBRIEF

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Hyundai to give \$100,000 to UNC's Lineberger Center

The UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center will be presented a check on Friday for a \$100,000 Hope Grant from Hyundai Hope on Wheels.

The grant is to fund childhood cancer research efforts as a part of National Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, which takes place throughout the month of September.

The ceremony will be held in the UNC cancer hospital lobby at 10 a.m. on Friday. Raleigh-Durham-area children afflicted with cancer will place their hand-prints in colorful paint on a canvas to commemorate their brave battles with cancer.

The Hyundai program will donate \$7.1 million to support 71 pediatric cancer research projects and programs at Children's Oncology Group institutions across the United States over the month of September.

American Indian Center names new interim director

Marcus Collins, an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, became interim director of the UNC American Indian Center today.

Along with the new position, Collins will continue in his current roles as an assistant dean in the Center for Student Success and Academic Counseling and director of the Summer Bridge Program, which aids North Carolina high school students from small schools.

Collins received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNC-Pembroke. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. at N.C. State University.

Professor receives highest information science award

Gary Marchionini, dean and distinguished professor for the UNC School of Information and Library Science, has been chosen to receive the Award of Merit.

This is the highest honor given by the American Society of Information and Science Technology.

Marchionini has been at UNC since 1998. His topics of research include digital libraries and health information technologies.

Google, IBM and Microsoft have all awarded Marchionini for his work, and he has received grant money from the National Science Foundation.

CITY BRIEFS

Carrboro residents may apply for Poets Council

Carrboro recently created a 10-member Poets Council as part of the Carrboro Arts Committee.

The council will be responsible for the organization, promotion and coordination of poetry events. Those events could include poetry writing in schools, youth poetry contests, day readings and events involving the poet laureate.

Carrboro residents interested in applying for the council should complete an application form, found on the town's website.

Chapel Hill Transit to offer express shuttles Saturday

The Chapel Hill Transit system will provide express shuttles to and from the University campus for Saturday's UNC-James Madison football game.

Tar Heel Express shuttles will begin at 12:30 p.m. from the Friday Center and University Mall and 2 p.m. from the Southern Village and Jones Ferry Road park and ride lots.

Shuttles will have a stop at South Road at Carmichael Auditorium and Woolen Gym, running every 10 to 15 minutes. The shuttles will operate for 45 minutes following the game, which starts at 3:30 p.m. in Kenan Stadium.

Shuttle ride fares are \$5 for round-trip or \$3 for a one-way trip.

Instruments donated to Orange County Schools

National Pawn owner Bob Moulton donated more than 100 instruments to the Orange County Schools' middle school band programs at a recent ceremony.

National Pawn presented a check for \$2,000 to the school district to offset future maintenance costs for their instruments.

- From staff and wire reports

Registration policies up for review

By Nick Andersen
Senior Writer

Proposals idling before the University's educational policy committee this fall could have lasting effects on the undergraduate and graduate registration processes.

The plans include a possible revision of priority registration slots and a change to the process that students must undergo to drop a class.

"With budget cuts, we're looking into how students drop classes beyond the 10-day drop-and-add period," said Chris Derickson, assistant provost and University registrar.

Currently, students are required to meet with an academic adviser to drop a class after the initial drop/add period.

Derickson said the advising department often sees more than 1,300 students at the end of the eight-week drop period.

"It would be possible to create a criteria that could be enforced by the PeopleSoft system," he said. "Students wouldn't be able to drop below 12

hours or drop certain writing classes without meeting with an adviser."

While committee member and professor Mike Salemi offered his hearty support for what he called an examination of true resource costs in the advising system, other members were more reserved.

Bobbi Owen, senior associate dean for undergraduate education, offered statistics indicating that removing an adviser from the process could skew census data used to determine state funding.

If plans move forward, the system could be revised by fall 2012, Derickson said.

The committee also made plans to review the University's priority registration system, which the Faculty Council must renew for it to continue.

Priority registration offers specific groups of students — including student athletes and students with specific hardship conditions — advance access to the registration system in 15-minute blocks before the general

student population.

Citing concerns about scheduling advantages offered to those students with registration privileges, ex-officio committee member Andrew Perrin urged a close read of the system as it nears renewal.

"My concerns are mostly statistical," Perrin said. "I wonder what students are unfairly disadvantaged or privileged, and what kinds of extracurricular activities are favored against those less-organized activities."

Other committee members expressed concern that the system unfairly favors student athletes at the expense of course availability for other students.

The committee voted to form a subcommittee charged with addressing priority registration. If it is able to issue a plan for approval by the Faculty Council before the end of the calendar year, it could take effect in March 2012, Derickson said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/ELIZABETH MENDOZA

Mike Salemi listens at an educational policy committee meeting to discuss Sakai, blogs and online registration.

TRANSFER TROUBLES



DTH/JESSIE LOWE

Sophomore Lauren McGuire talks to junior Myeshia Floyd about the problems they face as transfer students at UNC.

Students find that credits do not transfer

By Caitlin McCabe
Staff Writer

When Lauren McGuire first applied as a junior transfer student to UNC, she thought all she needed in a university was friendly people, warm weather and lacrosse.

What McGuire didn't anticipate was the frustration associated with trying to graduate in eight semesters. McGuire, like many of the other 800 undergraduate transfer students, is unable to enroll in classes she needs.

She left the College of Lake County in Chicago with 41 credits, but UNC only accepted a portion of those credits.

"When they put us in first-year programs and classes, it doesn't compensate what we need," she said. "As an out-of-state student, I'm paying a ridiculous amount of money in tuition for a University that's not accepting a lot of my previous classes."

A 2010 report conducted by the University found that only 44 percent of junior transfer students at UNC are able to graduate in eight semesters.

But administrators still say that UNC has invested a lot in the success of transfer students in the past few years despite campuswide budget cuts.

"The University has increased their attention to transfer student retention and graduation," said Cynthia Demetriou, director for retention for the Undergraduate Education Office.

"While there have been budget cuts that are affecting all students, we've been investing a lot in our transfer students," Demetriou said. "We've started programs to raise awareness of these students and encourage their success."

These initiatives are not likely to be affected by budget cuts because of efforts by the University to reinforce the importance of transfer students' graduation rates, said Lee May, associate dean and director of academic advising.

The University is working to create programs such as a living learning community and a new system where transfer students can have their credits re-evaluated online.

The academic advising office is meeting with transfer students

months before school starts and even holding appointments via Skype.

Bobbi Owen, senior associate dean for undergraduate education, said the only clearly tangible effects of budget cuts on transfer students are faculty cuts in departments like admissions and academic advising.

"There are fewer numbers of people who can work to help the same number of students who come in — including transfer students," she said.

Owen said the best remedy for this situation is early registration, but McGuire said that's nearly impossible for transfer students.

She said academic advising should accommodate transfer students with an advising team that would deal specifically with transfer students.

Transfer students can petition for an additional semester to fulfill graduation requirements.

"We want all students to graduate," May said. "If students are behind because of course transferring here, we will not hold them up from graduating."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Renovations set to begin for Union

The east wing and underground computer lab are currently closed.

By Colleen Volz and Sarayu Kumar
Staff Writers

With less space in the Student Union available to reserve for student groups during upcoming renovations, Union officials said they are doing their best to accommodate all requests for meeting space.

Portions of the Union, such as the east wing and underground computer lab, have recently been closed down to begin the first phase of renovation, which will officially begin Sept. 10.

Renovation plans include installing a Wendy's restaurant, adding more meeting rooms and bringing the entire east wing up to code.

"We don't think there's going to be any problems that we can't solve," said Tony Patterson, senior associate director for student life and activities.

Approval for a fee increase that would fund a second round of renovations was denied last spring in a referendum to the entire student body.

If the referendum had passed, it would have cost students \$16 in fees every year for 30 years to fund an \$11 million renovation to the Union's bottom floor.

Don Luse, director of the Carolina Union, said the second phase of renovations might be reconsidered next year after he confers with the Union's board of directors.

Patterson said the Union will utilize a Twitter account and various marketing strategies to make sure students are informed about what's open during the first phase of renovation, as well as what changes have occurred.

Scott Hudson, senior associate director for operations for the Union, said that Student Television and WXYC radio station are still in their rooms in the east wing, and that the Union staff are working around them for now.

Patterson said Union officials will do anything they can to help students find space.

The east wing of the Union hasn't been renovated or brought up to code since it was built in the 1980s, Hudson said.

He said the bathrooms in the east wing will also be brought up to the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, adding that the plans also include the installation of a gender-neutral bathroom.

Sprinkler systems in every room will also make the building safer, he said.

Patterson said the plan should be completed by August 2012, with portions of the renovated section available by the middle of spring semester.

"We are trying to plan work in such a way that will minimize the impact on students," he said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Affordable housing a major issue in 2011 race

Candidates focus on making housing more accessible.

By Ethan Robertson
Staff Writer

For candidates in this year's Chapel Hill municipal elections, affordable housing will once again be a major issue.



Mayor Mark Kleinschmidt, who is running for re-election this year, said the lack of affordable housing in the town has been a problem for decades, forcing town employees to find housing outside of Chapel Hill.

"It has been a leading issue in every campaign for the last 20 years," he said.

During the past few years,

the town has been working on revamping its affordable housing strategy and finding ways to deal with increasing housing needs of University students.

"The biggest thing to acknowledge is what a diverse housing need we have," said Lee Storrow, a UNC graduate and candidate for town council.

Town strategy

The town's recently revised affordable housing strategy was drafted to include an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, which was enacted in June 2010.

The ordinance requires housing developments to offer 10 to 15 percent of their units at a price affordable to low and moderate income households.

Housing is considered affordable if its annual cost is less than 30 percent of a resident's annual income, according to the town's comprehensive housing plan.

The Community Home Trust is the non-profit that works with Chapel Hill and housing developers to negotiate the affordable housing contracts stipulated in the laws, said Robert Dowling, the group's executive director.

Orange County property taxes are among the highest in the state — making it difficult for people who work in the town to live here, said council candidate Jon DeHart.

During the past 15 years, the percentage of town employees living in Chapel Hill has decreased from 41 percent to 22 percent, DeHart said.

Student impact

Candidates said they agree that University students impact the lack of affordable housing.

"I think the presence of students in Chapel Hill puts a strain on the market, because students can afford to pay prices that families cannot,"

Looking into affordable housing in Chapel Hill

Affordable housing has been an issue in Chapel Hill for years. The issue will likely be important to the town's upcoming elections and future revisions to the comprehensive plan.



SOURCE: TOWN OF CHAPEL HILL

DTH/RYAN KURTZMAN

Storrow said.

In the historically black and low-income Northside neighborhood, community leaders believe students' ability to pay higher rent is pushing traditional residents out of the neighborhood.

"We need to support University efforts to keep students on campus," Kleinschmidt said.

Dowling said students should be aware of their neighbors in off-campus housing.

"It is as simple as realizing that those who live around them are not students, they are working people," he said.

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.