

## CAMPUS BRIEFS

### UNC student wins graduate scholarship to Cambridge

Christopher Carter, a senior political science and history double major from Elkin, has received a Gates Cambridge Scholarship to pursue a master's in Latin American studies at Cambridge University in England.

The award, created by a \$210 million donation to Cambridge by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, covers one to three years of fully funded graduate studies at Cambridge University in England.

Carter, who is also a Morehead-Cain Scholar, is the first UNC student to win the award since its creation in 2001. He is one of 30 U.S. winners named this academic year.

The Foundation aims to ensure that people have the resources they need to access education and achieve success.

The scholarships are awarded based on intellectual ability, leadership and desire to perform community service. Between 80 and 100 scholarships are awarded worldwide each year.

Carter ultimately hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in political science with a focus on Latin America, and his goal is to become a professor of political science in comparative politics.

Carter is a first generation college student who has won five awards for research during his time at UNC. He is also president of the honors program's student executive board and vice president of Phi Beta Kappa, and is involved in other campus activities and organizations.

## Study by UNC researchers finds coral location matters

A newly released study by UNC researchers finds that corals growing closest to the open ocean have the most trouble dealing with climate change and pollutants.

Marine scientists examined the Mesoamerican Barrier Reef off the coast of Belize in the study, which appears in the Feb. 16 issue of the PLoS One journal.

The scientists found that a distinctive type of coral on the seaward side of the reef is growing more slowly than corals closer to shore. But about 100 years ago, seaward facing corals grew most quickly.

Based on study findings, corals from the inland zone have maintained stable growth rates, while forereef corals show stunted growth.

Researchers have not determined the exact causes of the change, but findings suggest corals in the forereef zone may be more vulnerable to or human-influenced sources of stress, because they are not adapted to the stressful conditions—like fluxes in water temperature—that their inland-facing counterparts are used to.

Sediment plumes, nutrients and pollution that have been carried long distances by ocean currents from Guatemalan and Honduran watersheds may also affect coral growth.

Karl Castillo, postdoctoral research associate in the marine sciences department, Justin Ries, assistant professor of marine science, and Jack M. Weiss, adjunct assistant professor in environment and ecology co-wrote the study.

## CITY BRIEFS

### Food processing center gets manager; set to open in April

Hillsborough resident Matthew Roybal will be the first manager for the Piedmont Food and Agricultural Processing Center, which is set to open in April. The project is a partnership with Alamance, Chatham and Durham counties.

Roybal has experience with small scale farming, speciality food product development, national grocery retail, natural foods marketing and food processing facility management. He is "ServSafe" certified, meaning he is able to ensure center clients follow food safety practices.

### Hillsborough recognized for its performance reporting

The Association of Government Accountants awarded Hillsborough with a Gold Certificate of Achievement in Performance Reporting.

This is the second year the town has received a Service Efforts and Accomplishments award.

The town was selected for its exceptional accountability report for Fiscal Year 2009-10 by a panel of government financial managers.

The performance report includes each department's strategy map and balanced scorecard for the year with notes on target results and existing challenges.

-From staff and wire reports

# Federal cuts threaten UNC research

BY JESSICA SEAMAN  
STAFF WRITER

While President Barack Obama is promising to limit federal cuts to scientific research, a new proposal from the Republican leadership would do just the opposite.

A proposed budget in the U.S. House of Representatives calls for a 9 percent cut in non-defense federal spending, which would lead to cuts in funding for institutions that provide funds to universities for research.

The cuts would affect organizations like the National Science Foundation, NASA and the National Institutes of Health.

U.S. Rep. David Price, D-N.C., said the cuts, which are meant to help alleviate the federal budget, might hinder more than help.

He said Republicans are talking about balancing the budget by cutting funds that go to Pell grants and medical research.

"Here we are talking about a small fraction of the budget," Price said. "They are talking like that is

where the big spending is from and it is untrue."

He said the money that is being cut only makes up about 12 percent of the country's budget.

"When they make the cuts it won't balance the budget but will do great damage to education and efforts invested in solving things," Price said.

If these cuts are implemented it could hurt research at UNC-Chapel Hill, said Barbara Entwisle, interim vice chancellor for research and economic development.

She said the impact of the cuts would depend on whether cuts were made to existing programs or planned future programs.

"It depends on how these agencies will respond," Entwisle said. "It is clear that this would be a very negative influence. It would be very hard on researchers."

She said the University is working on a plan that will take into account the financial realities at the federal and state level.

"We are just putting the pieces

together now," she said. "It is hard to know what it means right now."

If the cuts are implemented, it will likely be more competitive for researchers to get grants from institutions that experience cuts.

That could mean not as many researchers will get funding, Entwisle said.

"It will be a real shame to not be able to continue at the real level," she said. "I am very concerned about the nature of the discussion and likely cuts at federal and state levels."

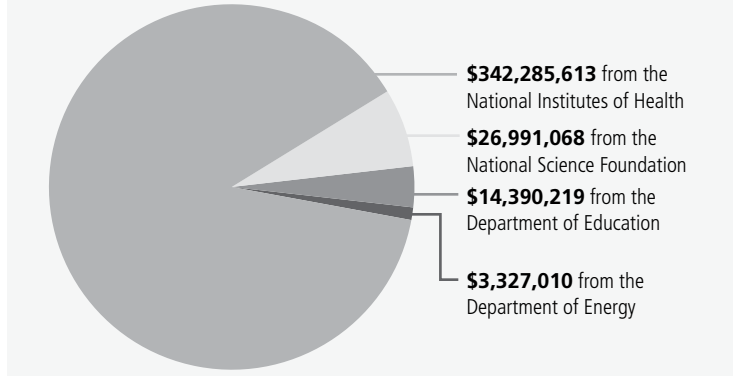
The number of federal grants to the UNC system could also be affected if the cuts to research institutions are large enough, said Steven Leath, vice president for research for the system.

"If the pool of money gets reduced further, we will find that really good science programs won't get funded and that will cause a lot of problems with solving stuff and creating jobs," Leath said.

He said the system doesn't know the exact impact of the cuts because the amount of them is unknown.

## UNC federal research funding in danger

For the fiscal year 2010, \$803,390,675 was allocated to UNC-CH in external research funding. A total of \$386,993,910 from the following contributors is at risk of being cut. The remaining funding from other sources is not at risk and is omitted from the chart below.



SOURCE: BARBARA ENTWISLE

DTH/LYDIA HARRELL

Leath said the system's total budget is about \$8 billion and research accounts for \$1.4 billion.

Leath and Entwisle said they've heard the budget could be reduced so it is equal to the 2008 budget.

That would mean reducing the

\$1.4 billion research budget to \$1.1 billion for the system, Leath said. "There is potential there to be really damaging," he said.

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

# Monster takes on preacher



DTH/LOGAN SAVAGE

Gary Birdsong, a preacher who was banned from speaking in the Pit by the University in 2007, took up his post at the corner of Polk Place to preach to the masses. Here, Nick Sienerth, a freshman from Burlington, promotes the Church of the Flying Spaghetti Monster as a part of the Secular Student

Alliance's "Ask an Atheist" event.

"I always try to be out when Gary's here," said Sienerth, who asked Birdsong what he thought about spaghetti. The alliance aims to "provide a community for students with naturalistic worldviews" and engage in public discussion of religion, among other goals.

# Cemetery troubled by lack of documents

## Doubts arise over ownership of plot

BY VICTORIA COOK  
STAFF WRITER

Steve Moore decided in the 1970s that he wanted his final resting place to be the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Now, a decorative iron fence surrounds his plot.

But it isn't just for decoration — it's for protection.

"You keep your turf tended to, make sure nobody moves in," Moore said.

With approximately 2,000 plots in the cemetery — many of which lack proper ownership documentation — Moore fears someone could successfully move into his space.

Plots in this historic site, located on campus at the corner of South and Country Club roads, were sold until the late 1970s, when all had been purchased. Records at that time consisted of nothing more than a map with names penciled in.

## Papers, please

Moore, who is also chairman of the town's Cemeteries Advisory Board, said he called the cemetery's record keeper in the 1980s to check up on his plot.

"He said, 'I kind of have something written here but it doesn't mean anything,'" Moore said.

He said original documentation concerning ownership is hard to obtain for plots in the cemetery because no bills of sale were given.

But Debra Lane, administrative technician for the cemeteries division of the Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation Department, said some form of documentation is still key when it comes to confirming burial rights to a plot.

"I have to have documentation because that's what we really rely on out here in Old Chapel Hill (Cemetery)," she said.

"No cousin or anybody can just come in and say, 'Okay, my uncle John is buried there. I want to be buried there.' I need proof that Uncle John willed that plot to you."

But Moore disagrees.

He said no documentation is needed to prove ownership of a plot, and even if it was, most documentation does not exist.

"What (Lane) said she's supposed to do, in reality, that wouldn't necessarily be the case," he said. "How do you prove ownership when there is no basis for ownership?"

Moore said the problem results from inaccurate and incomplete ownership documentation. He said he has papers for his plot, but has no way of knowing if the people he bought it from were the real owners.

"Someone could walk in, claim they owned a plot and there would be no way to disprove them," he said.

And for plots that Lane said sell for a minimum of \$10,000, such a heist could be intriguing.

## Searching for proof

The cemetery remained the responsibility of the town's engineering department until 2007,



DTH/HEATHER KAGAN

The Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, where there is currently a discrepancy over plot ownership, is located on the corner of South and Country Club roads.

when it was transferred to Parks and Recreation.

Ernie Rogers, an engineering technician who formerly oversaw the records, attempted to do in-depth research to determine who was buried in the cemetery.

But all he had was the map. "At that point, they were kind of sketchy as to some of the older plots," he said.

Moore said Lane does a good job of handling and maintaining the records she has, but most records are hand-me-downs, and many are missing.

Lane said she still verifies records in her database, which contains the names of individuals and families buried in the cemetery. She also questions people who ask to be buried on family plots and can stop a burial from occurring.

But Moore said Lane can neither

stop a burial nor require to see documentation about a plot because the plots are privately owned.

He said the poorly kept records could result in plots owned by one family or individual being used by another, a mistake the real owners might realize too late — if ever.

"A smart person could come in, get a family plot out of it, and challenge the town to say they don't own it," he said.

"If somebody came in and announced they were a descendant of such-and-such and planned to be buried there, there's no one to challenge it."

Moore said Lane is doing what she can with what she has, but she can do very little in reality.

"It's what she's got, but it doesn't mean it's worth anything."

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# County to fix address errors

## Police, medics to find homes easier

BY BRIAN FANNEY  
STAFF WRITER

Orange County government officials are nearly finished drafting an ordinance to fix more than 10,000 local address errors.

If approved by the Board of Orange County Commissioners, the ordinance would affect approximately 15 percent of county addresses and improve services ranging from mail delivery to emergency responses.

Geographic Information Systems Director Steve Averett said the ordinance would fix more than 2,000 address errors and more than 100 street errors in areas the county has addressing jurisdiction over.

Problems include out-of-sequence house numbers and streets that do not have signs posted.

If the ordinance is implemented, property owners would be responsible for fixing house numbers and adding signs to private drives, or face fines after a six-month grace period.

Averett said no new employees would need to be hired to implement the ordinance.

"The cost should be minimal," he said.

Because Orange County only has addressing jurisdiction on about 34 percent of county land, other jurisdictions will have to adopt the ordinance for the entire county to be affected.

"It could take a year or more to work out an intergovernmental agreement," Averett said.

Emergency Services Director Frank Montes de Oca said fixing the errors would help firefighters and police get to homes faster.

Montes de Oca said problems are especially common in the north, south and rural areas of the county, where confusion arises because many streets have similar names and incorrect address numbers.

"I think that for the individual calling because they're having trouble breathing or because they have a sick child, it is worth it," he said.

Errors have accumulated over time because no county address database existed until 2003, before which they were stored in notebooks, Averett said.

A geographic information system was implemented in 2007.

"We have one of the most modern addressing systems in the state," Averett said. "The database model was able to expose all of the errors."

A similar effort was made in 1987 when officials began to convert rural route addresses to a grid system. The effort ended in 1991 after facing resident resistance.

Another ordinance to correct addressing problems was drafted but not adopted in 1993.

County Commissioner Alice Gordon said it's time for the project to move forward.

The county information technologies department estimates it will present the formal version of the ordinance to the commissioners in August or September.

Contact the City Editor at [city@dailytarheel.com](mailto:city@dailytarheel.com).