

# Firefighter shares fire safety, cooking advice

BY GRACE TATTER  
STAFF WRITER

The fire truck at University Mall on Tuesday night was not responding to an emergency.

It was there for a cooking class. Captain Byron Greeson of the Chapel Hill Fire Department Station 4 taught his second cooking class at A Southern Season to about 30 people.

Tuesday's menu, inspired by game day finger food, included cumin tortilla chips, fresh pico de gallo, cornbread, Cincinnati-style chili and "the World's Best Cookies," a recipe of his wife's.

"This is not your typical 3 a.m. fire alarm chili," Greeson said. "We put cocoa in the chili. It gives it a really good aroma."

Though Greeson was an expert on chili and corn bread, his day job was apparent.

Greeson interlaced cooking advice with fire safety tips, reminding participants to not only brown beef before putting it in the crock pot but also to stop, drop, and roll.

"I figured while I was at the cooking class, I would throw some fire safety plugs in," he said.

Greeson said he regularly teaches about fire safety, but last summer marked his first cooking class.

He started the class after being approached by a chef from A Southern Season after a firefighter who inspected the store recommended his cooking. According to a press release, his first class in June was so well-attended, he was asked to teach another one.

Firefighter Heather Robinson rode the fire truck to the cooking class with Greeson and stood in the back of the class. Sounds of clinking forks were occasionally accompanied by voices on walkie-talkies.

Robinson said she had never attended a cooking class taught by Greeson previously, but she has enjoyed his cooking at the fire-



DTH/SOFIA MORALES

Captain Byron Greeson of the Chapel Hill Fire Department teaches a class in authentic firehouse cooking on Tuesday at A Southern Season.

house often.

"I have not met too many of his meals I haven't thoroughly enjoyed," she said.

The firefighters at Station 4 go to the grocery store each evening for dinner ingredients.

"Hopefully we get to cook uninterrupted," Robinson said. "Sometimes it goes better than others."

During the latest Super Bowl, for example, the firefighters had to abandon chicken wings to put out someone's stove-top fire. They finished the wings when they returned.

"They were still delicious," Robinson said.

Greeson said he has enjoyed cooking most of his life and grew up watching his mother and grandmother in the kitchen.

Greeson's two sons, ages five and nine, have shown interest in cook-

ing, which the family might make a tradition, he said.

"When we're in the kitchen, they both want to help," Greeson said.

Matt Verber, an electrical engineer in the UNC chemistry department, went to the class with his wife Cara as a post-Valentine's date.

The couple is new to the area and was looking for fun things to do, and the fire safety tips were just an added bonus, Cara Verber said.

The cooking advice did not stop at the event's attendants. Greeson had tips for UNC students, too.

He said the fire department is often called to dorms because students burn pans. "Salt and baking soda work well as a fire extinguisher in a bind."

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## PHILLIPS

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"I may be the oddest board of elections chair in a long time for any number of reasons," he said.

Phillips will graduate this year and plans to join the Episcopal Service Corps, he said. He would work for a nonprofit organization during the week and serve at a local parish on the weekends.

He then wants to attend Duke Divinity School and become a hospital or college chaplain.

"I do feel a call to ordained ministry, which I think makes me a rare breed for people who hold this job," he said.

Phillips added that there are similarities between his current job and his future career path.

"A lot of the job of being the BOE chair is dealing with people," he said. "And being a member of the clergy or a pastor, most of the time, you talk to people and try to get them through the highs and lows of their lives."

"I think I can do some of that in this job."

Stress, he said, will also be a part of his future job.

"Both jobs deal with stressful situations and things that are difficult to plan for," he said. "There can be a lot of stuff going on at one time."

And stress, for Phillips, began in late August.

Phillips applied for the job in

March and was asked by members of the executive board in April if he would take the position.

"And in a moment of weakness, I said 'yes,'" he said.

Phillips said he was told by then-speaker of Student Congress Deanna Santoro in August that a special election was needed almost immediately after the fall semester began because many seats in Student Congress were vacant.

But first, Phillips had to assemble his team, which turned out to be easier said than done.

"I was actually out of town during the external application process," he said.

Phillips said he had to interview applicants, select the ones he wanted and give their names to Student Body President Hogan Medlin in one week — the one week he happened to be gone.

Phillips attended a conference in Chicago and interviewed applicants during breaks in a church and a ballroom.

"For three members of the BOE, I chose them unseen," he said. "I never met them and talked to them on the phone for about 10 minutes each."

The job hasn't gotten any easier.

"There have been a couple of days where I get back to my room after I've gone to class and I'll have a ridiculous amount of e-mails and a call sheet that's 10 people long," Phillips said.

"And through all this, I have to

sleep and go to class sometime," he added. "Some of those days do feel overwhelming."

But Connor Brady, secretary of the board, said he is thankful for Phillips because he reminds the board that its job is important.

"(He) just keeps everything really meshed together," Brady said.

Ryan Morgan, 2008-09 chairman of the board, said he is surprised Phillips hasn't called him during this hectic time.

"Three is nothing," he said. "I got sued seven times when I was BOE chairman."

"I definitely understand (Phillips') predicament," he added. "It's not rewarding at all and no matter what, someone's going to be pissed off."

"It's a no-win situation for the BOE chair."

Phillips said he doesn't regret taking the job, but he thinks that serious conversations need to be had about how campus elections are run.

"I went home to my dorm at one in the morning and was seriously contemplating whether or not anybody should be subjected to this job again," he said. "I hadn't slept. I felt better the next morning."

"Quite frankly, I would like for this to be over," Phillips added. "I'm very much looking forward to getting my life back."

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## HEARING

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vant portions of the Student Code.

Phillips formally accepted Santoro's complaint on Feb. 6 but did not discuss her concerns in the board's meeting the following night, she said.

Santoro said she will respect whatever result comes from the court.

"I'm not looking for one specific answer or solution in this whole ordeal," Santoro said. "Whatever the Student Supreme Court decides, I'm willing to respect that decision."

Lee, who attended the hearing, said he is growing frustrated with the long delay of the results' release.

"Every day the results are withheld the students become less engaged," he said.

Candidate Mary Cooper said the delay will hurt the transition.

"Whoever it's going to be is losing valuable time to implement their platform."

Candidates Rick Ingram and Brooklyn Stephens did not attend the hearing.

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## INSURANCE

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director for the UNC-CH Campus Health Services, said in an e-mail the health insurance process is constantly being examined for its utility for students.

Legislators are acknowledging that students are sometimes offered limited benefits through student health insurance plans, and the regulation would be an attempt to fix that, she said.

"The Affordable Health Care Act has recognized the significance of three million students who are covered by student insurance plans," Covington said.

She said that although student insurance plans are less expensive than other options, they do not always satisfy the standards set

*"Since there is a 60-day comment period, the regulatory phase is still to be shaped."*

BRUCE MALLETT, OF THE UNC SYSTEM

by the American College Health Association, an organization that addresses the health needs for college students.

"These plans were inexpensive and thus attractive to students but left the insured open to catastrophic medical expenses," Covington said.

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## NURSING

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nurse now. But, I'm sure once people get older, and the baby boomer generation retires, there will be a deficit of nurses."

Swanson added the enrollment cuts will make the admissions process more selective.

Ashley Dyok, a student in the BSN program, said she thinks the enrollment cut will make it harder for qualified students to get a nursing degree in one of the most respected programs in the country.

"The quality of the school is why I chose Carolina," she said.

"I understand they are trying to save money, but they will be making less money in admissions."

Through the BSN and ABSN programs in the school, which cover the same material at different speeds, 150 applicants will be admitted as opposed to 200.

Fourteen to 24 months later, they will graduate with their respective degrees, Swanson said.

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## Transportation & Parking Open Forum

The Department of Public Safety is hosting an Open Forum to present the recommended 5-Year Plan to support UNC's transportation and parking system. Public Safety developed the recommended Transportation and Parking 5-Year Plan in conjunction with the Advisory Committee on Transportation (<http://www.dps.unc.edu/ACT/ACT.cfm>) which has a membership comprised of students, faculty, staff, and healthcare, athletics, and administration representatives.

Please plan to attend for a chance to learn about the transportation and parking recommendations to support the system over the next five years. The Open Forum provides an opportunity for community members to learn about the plan and provide feedback on the recommendations.

**WHERE:** Upendo Lounge, Student Academic Services Building (SASB)

**WHEN:** 10 a.m., Tuesday, February 22

**FEATURING:**

- Chief Jeff McCracken, Director of Public Safety
- Cheryl Stout, Assistant Director for Parking Services, UNC Public Safety
- Fred Burchett, a consultant from Kimley-Horne and Associates, Inc.

For more info, call the Department of Public Safety:  
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