

CAMPUS BRIEFS

UNC professor wins new writers award for narrative

Randi Davenport, executive director of the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence at UNC, has received the 2011 Great Lakes Colleges Association New Writers Award.

Davenport's book, "The Boy Who Loved Tornadoes: A Mother's Story," is a narrative about her challenges as the mother of an autistic son. It won in the creative nonfiction category.

The award goes to new authors' first published volumes of poetry, fiction or creative nonfiction.

Davenport, who is also an adjunct faculty member in the department of English and comparative literature, will go on tour to GLCA member colleges as part of the award. She will speak to students and faculty about her book.

The book has been praised by The Los Angeles Times and Publisher's Weekly reviewers, among others.

UNC graduate honored with regional award for teaching

UNC graduate Callie Smith, a first-grade teacher at Bogue Sound Elementary School in Newport, has been chosen as the Southeast Region's Teacher of the Year.

Smith, one of nine teachers around the state to gain a regional distinction, is a North Carolina Teaching Fellow.

She was named the 2010-11 Carteret County Public School System Teacher of the Year in May, after which she became a regional finalist.

She was visited at her school by N.C. Department of Public Instruction judges, who observed her in her classroom.

Smith majored in elementary education and biology at UNC. She has also taught in Raleigh and Durham.

Students, Thorp participate in national innovation talk

UNC students and Chancellor Holden Thorp participated in a digital town hall talk titled "Finding Work, Finding Our Way: Building the Economy & Jobs of the Future" on Wednesday.

The forum, which was sponsored by Microsoft and hosted by The Atlantic Magazine, was held in Washington, D.C.

It featured industry experts such as Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, Federal Communications Commission Chairman Julius Genachowski and Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, who answered questions asked by students from UNC and Miami University of Ohio, who participated in the forum by webcast.

Shruti Shah, a senior who was one of six students to participate from UNC, said that the event was both interesting and pertinent to college students, especially those entering the job market amidst a challenging economy.

"I'm a senior," she said. "I have a job, but a lot of my friends do not."

Shah said that the panelists—including Thorp—talked about the importance of innovation in improving the economy, an issue she said should be addressed.

"It was an honor to be a part of it," she said.

Shah said UNC students submitted videos showcasing entrepreneurship at the University, which were posted on The Atlantic website prior to the event.

SPORTS BRIEFS

NCAA upholds its ruling on player McAdoo's ineligibility

The NCAA has upheld its decision of permanent ineligibility for junior defensive end Michael McAdoo.

"We appealed this decision because we believed it was unfair and we continue to believe that," UNC athletic director Dick Baddour said in a press release.

The University is still working with the NCAA to resolve the pending case involving current football student-athlete Devon Ramsay.

CITY BRIEFS

Organizations fight poverty through social media game

Urban Ministries of Durham and the McKinney Advertising agency have teamed up to launch the online game SPENT, which uses social media to educate people about poverty, homelessness and the non-profit organization.

To play, log onto <http://play-spent.org>. Gamers will be challenged to make it through the month on their last \$1,000, after losing their job and home while learning about how changes in employment, housing, medical costs and other expenses can create unexpected shortfalls.

The game also allows users to donate money and find ways to get involved with Urban Ministries.

-From staff and wire reports

Plymale sentenced for cocaine

Sentence is harsher than co-defendant's

BY WILL DORAN
ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Jonathan Ray Plymale, a defendant in a 2009 cocaine bust that contributed to a University review of the Greek system, was sentenced to nearly two years in jail Tuesday.

Plymale, 24, was sentenced to 20 months in jail plus five years of probation, after pleading guilty to several charges, including felony conspiracy to traffic cocaine, trafficking cocaine and maintaining a dwelling for keeping a controlled substance.

That sentence was relatively lenient because he immediately cooperated with the investigation, said Orange County District Attorney Jim Woodall.

"The standard punishment is 35 to 42 months," he said. "The judge deviated from that because the judge found that Mr. Plymale

assisted the police."

According to court documents, Plymale made a full confession to police and provided information regarding the addresses and other details for four local drug dealers in Burlington and Chapel Hill. Efforts to act on that information were inhibited by the community's awareness of Plymale's arrest, court documents state.

Plymale was arrested Sept. 15, 2009, after a police informant bought cocaine from him at the Chancellor Square apartment of Eliza Vaughan. She was sentenced to 36 months of probation in October.

Woodall said Vaughan received a lighter sentence primarily because she was tried by a different judge, although they faced roughly the same charges.

Police found 76.8 grams of cocaine at Vaughan's apartment at 211 Church St. They later found about 121 grams of the drug in Plymale's apartment in a building associated with the UNC chapter

of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. The busts led to the arrests of five others.

Combined with the death of Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity President Courtland Smith earlier in the year, administrators gave the Greek system more scrutiny and are considering new rules for fraternities and sororities.

But despite the attention the arrests garnered, officials said the amount seized — while certainly large — was not out of the ordinary.

"The only thing that made this unique to people was that they were students or former students and selling to other students," Woodall said. "We've had other cases than this that were much bigger."

Chapel Hill Police spokesman Kevin Gunter said the amount of drugs seized was "unprecedented" for an investigation involving mostly college students. But Gunter said he didn't think the busts spoke for the University or Greek system as a whole.



Jonathan Plymale was sentenced to 20 months in jail and five years of probation.

"You can't make assumptions about a whole campus or a whole community based on one case," he said. "I would caution people against making those assumptions."

Tucker Piner, the former Interfraternity Council president, said that although he doesn't believe drug use is or was a large problem in the Greek system, the arrests served as a wake-up call.

"We really took a hard look at the people in our chapters, who you want representing you," he said. "I'm of the belief that we should take every event and try to turn it into a positive."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/NIVI UMASANKAR

Brandt Allen, Jared Hopkins and Thomas Grimes, ASG representatives of Western Carolina University, with Sen. Kathy Harrington at the N.C. General Assembly on Wednesday. Delegates from 17 UNC-system schools were at the Students Day at the Capitol in Raleigh.

THE STUDENT LOBBY

UNC-system students take issues to capital

BY SETH CLINE
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH — As drastic budget cuts loom, student government leaders from across the state beset the N.C. General Assembly Wednesday to plead for minimal cuts to the UNC-system schools.

At its annual Students Day at the Capitol, the UNC Association of Student Governments, a collection of delegates from all 17 UNC-system schools, discussed the system's funding with lawmakers as they begin to search for areas to cut.

A total of 49 students lobbied for ASG's three legislative priorities: maintaining

"Some have been very realistic in saying there's no money for increased education funding."

JARED HOPKINS, VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT GOVERNMENT AT WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY

funding for financial aid, keeping tuition revenues on campus and requesting funding for enrollment growth.

The association is funded by an annual \$1 fee from every student in the system. Funds help pay for delegates' hotel and travel costs.

Students met with every member of the N.C. Senate's education committee and appropriations sub-committee, including the Democratic leader Sen. Martin Nesbitt, D-Buncombe.

They also met with many of the corresponding committee members in the N.C. House.

"Everyone's been very receptive and some have been very realistic in saying there's no money for increased education funding," said Jared Hopkins, vice president of student government at Western Carolina University.

"We just tried to emphasize the importance of higher education and that there's a direct relationship between education funding and unemployment in North Carolina."

The students' lobbying efforts come in the wake of UNC-system President Thomas

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UCommons defense responds

Defense denies all but two complaints

BY BROOKE HEFNER
STAFF WRITER

Student Body President Hogan Medlin and Board of Elections Chairman Andrew Phillips responded today to claims that they violated the Student Code in allowing for a Union renovation fee to go on the ballot.

The response comes after the Student Supreme Court enjoined to delay the release of election results.

Their answer claims that those who brought the suit lacked standing to challenge their decision. Medlin and Phillips requested that the court deny the plaintiffs' demands for a court decision and lift the injunction.

Jessica Womack, chief justice of the court, said the court is waiting until the briefs submission deadline passes at 5 p.m. today before discussing the suit.

Medlin and Phillips denied all but two of the seven allegations against them. They said they were without knowledge of one and admitted to another in part.

There is no specific time limit set

for the duration of the injunction on election results.

"There is a vote," Union Director Don Luse said. "We just don't know what the vote is."

Congress members Adam Horowitz and Leah Josephson and co-plaintiffs Chelsea Cook and Christopher Lane claimed that the UCommons campaign lacked eligibility and offered incentives for signatures.

Medlin and Phillips denied these claims, saying that the referendum does not apply to all aspects of election law, some of which they deemed vague.

"While the plaintiffs have identified the relevant portion of the Student Code, the plaintiffs failed to demonstrate how they were directly and adversely affected by the election act," Medlin and Phillips wrote. "Simply citing the Student Code is not adequate in establishing standards."

That's similar to the action Phillips took with regard to the injunction to delay release of the student body president election results. Phillips said plaintiff Deanna Santoro, the former speaker of Student Congress, lacked standing because she was not directly and adversely affected by Ian Lee running for student body

president.

In the UCommons case, Medlin and Phillips were accused of not responding to complaints of election law violations during the campaign. If passed, the referendum would have raised student fees by \$16 each year for 30 years, beginning in the 2011-12 academic year, to pay for renovations.

Medlin and Phillips said the complaints against the UCommons referendum were not in violation of the code.

Phillips said that in the case of election controversies, injunctions are common.

"That's what the plaintiffs asked for and that's what they got," Phillips said.

Horowitz said he had no doubt that the case would move forward. "I am confident that the injunction will not be dismissed and that it will go to hearing," Horowitz said.

Tyler Mills, president of the Carolina Union Activities Board, said he does not mind waiting for the decision since construction of UCommons will not immediately be taking place.

"We definitely would like to hear for some peace of mind," he said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Law students address trespassing incidents

Debate access, safety concerns

BY CHELSEA BAILEY
STAFF WRITER

Students from the UNC School of Law will meet at noon today to discuss how to balance student safety and public access to University facilities in response to two instances of trespassing last week.

School officials contacted the Department of Public Safety twice last week after students complained about trespassers on the school's grounds.

Police issued one trespasser a warning and arrested the other after a background check showed multiple warrants for his arrest.

The incident has sparked a larger conversation about how much access the public should have to campus institutions.

As a public institution, the University cannot prevent members of the community from using the library and other facilities, but students want to talk about ways they can improve safety.

"What we have to do now is

Perdue: Budget gap not as bad

BOG to discuss safety, growth

BY TARINI PARTI
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

The day before the UNC-system Board of Governors' monthly meeting and expected discussion on budget cuts, Gov. Bev Perdue announced good news for the state — especially for the UNC system.

Perdue said in a YouTube video Wednesday that the state's expected budget shortfall could be \$1 billion less than the predicted \$3.7 billion, which means cuts to state institutions — including the University system — might not be as severe as expected.

But the board will continue its discussion regarding the budget today among other issues ranging from tuition to campus safety.

Here are some of the big items on the agenda:

■ The board will continue to plan for the upcoming cuts in state funding.

The system has been preparing for up to 15 percent cuts. Furloughs, layoffs and early retirement incentives for tenured faculty are all on the table.

Thousands of course sections system-wide and entire degree programs and departments could also be slashed.

The UNC system has lost \$575 million in state funding in the last three years. The majority of those cuts were on the administrative side, so this year universities are being forced to take on the academic side.

■ The board is also working toward changing the way it funds enrollment growth for universities. Former President Erskine Bowles recommended linking enrollment funding to graduation and retention rates.

Through this recommendation, the system plans to ask the N.C. General Assembly for \$45.8 million for 2011-12.

UNC-Pembroke will not be allowed to increase the size of its freshman class, and UNC-Greensboro and Western Carolina University will face restricted growth.

■ Tuition proposals for all 16 campuses will be voted on to send to the N.C. General Assembly for final approval.

The proposed increase for undergraduate residents at UNC-CH is \$313.

■ The system will also begin to prepare for a decrease in federal Pell Grants for the 2011-12 fiscal year because it would put a greater burden on the state's resources for need-based aid.

■ The board is also recommending that the budget for UNC-CH be reduced by \$158,225 for the current fiscal year because the University exceeded the number of out-of-state freshman it is allowed to enroll.

The system requires universities

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Law students address trespassing incidents

strike the balance between appropriate access and what needs to be done to continue to ensure a safe and supportive environment for students," said Katie Bowler, assistant dean for communications at the law school.

Community members, including people who live at the local Inter-Faith Council for Social Services Community House, frequently use the computer and media facilities at the law library, said Shelly Mason, an IFC resident.

Mason said he comes to the library to read the papers and relax.

"I like to keep up with the local and national news," Mason said. "Eventually I think I'll branch out and read about law because I like to read about the old cases."

Third-year law student Shelly Anand said she worries the debate over public access could lead to profiling of community members.

"I don't think these individuals have any idea that all of these discussions are going on," she said.

Anand said it is possible for students to feel secure at the school

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