

CAMPUS BRIEFS

New Student Orientation for freshmen begins today

Today marks the beginning of New Student Orientation, the mandatory two-day program for students before they begin their freshman year.

Student feedback helped refine orientation, said the Office of New Student & Carolina Parent Programs Director April Mann.

This year students will be able to use Tarheel Tracker, a tool designed for students to have smoother communication with academic advisors and selection of their major or minor.

Orientation will have opportunities for students to connect within small groups, include competitions between groups and interactive games.

Due to renovations in Lenoir Dining Hall, students and parents will eat in Rams Head Dining Hall.

New Student Orientation also includes a recommended one-day program for transfer students.

CITY BRIEFS

More than 5,700 power outages occur Wednesday

As Orange County residents prepared to leave for work Wednesday morning, many of them got dressed in the dark.

Duke Energy spokeswoman Paige Sheehan said the company had a problem with a piece of equipment at one of its substations — which route power in and out across the system — starting at 7:45 a.m.

The outages impacted more than 5,700 customers.

By 9:15 a.m., Sheehan said the company had restored power to 3,600 customers.

Power was restored to most customers before 10 a.m.

Lt. Kevin Gunter, spokesman for the Chapel Hill police, said officers were on the scene at intersections with outed stoplights to direct traffic for about an hour. He said he did not know of any outage-related accidents.

Dalton Sawyer, director of emergency preparedness and continuity planning for UNC Healthcare, said UNC Hospitals lost power only in portions of the hospital and had emergency generators kick on immediately.

Hillsborough in-town bus route to begin on Monday

Hillsborough and Orange County are pairing together to kick off Hillsborough's free bus service today at noon.

The opening will offer county and town commissioners a preview of the transit route that will serve areas including the town library, Durham Technical Community College and the Triangle SportsPlex.

The route's full schedule can be viewed on the Parking and Transportation page of Hillsborough's website.

When the route opens to residents on Monday, it will operate for four hours in the morning and four hours in the afternoon Monday through Friday.

The service will connect to Triangle Transit's 420 bus route to Chapel Hill at Durham Technical Community College.

A three-year grant from the N.C. Department of Transportation's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program is funding the bus route.

After the first year, the town will have to match the department's \$22,000.

During the three-year run, the town and county will perform ridership evaluations to see how or if the service should be continued after the grant expires.

Local transit system seeks rider input on adjustments

Chapel Hill Transit is holding a series of rider input sessions to discuss possible service changes for the 2011-2012 fiscal year.

After completing an analysis of service routes, Chapel Hill Transit is proposing productivity increasing adjustments to make funding the transit system more sustainable.

Upcoming sessions will be held:

Tuesday

- at UNC Hospitals on the N.C. Cancer Hospital Terrace from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- at Carrboro Elementary School Auditorium at 400 Shelton St. from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday

- in the Pit on UNC Campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- at Chapel Hill Town Hall at 405 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

A list of the potential changes can be viewed at www.chtransit.org.

-from staff and wire reports

UNC works to retain faculty amidst budget cuts

Last year, 78 faculty left the University for other institutions.

By Paula Seligson
Staff Writer

As the University braces for sweeping budget cuts, officials said they are emphasizing faculty retention in lobbying efforts.

Chancellor Holden Thorp said faculty retention is the top problem that would be affected by budget cuts.

"There's a disconnect where people think Carolina is always going to be as good as it's been, and that this is just some complaining that goes on that isn't really connected to the excellence that everybody expects," he said.

"We've got to make sure that people in the legislature and the public everywhere understand the connection between those two things."

Last year, the University lost

three percent of its tenure-track and tenured faculty to outside job offers, said Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, last week at a meeting of the Board of Trustees.

In 2007-08, the University reported 51 offers from other institutions. The University countered 26 of these, and retained 18 faculty members as a result.

But in 2010-11, that number increased to 110 offers. The University made 78 counter-offers, retaining 32 faculty. The University did not have enough money to counter 13 offers.

Carney said it would cost \$3 million for a one percent raise for fixed-term and tenure-track faculty.

"Three years of no salary increase — it's a lack of respect (for) the faculty," he said.

In some cases, the University is trying to anticipate outside job offers by giving raises, said Karen Gil, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"We absolutely have to do

preemptive salary adjustment when people are in the midst of serious negotiations with other universities," Gil said.

She said such increases can range from three to 40 percent.

Gil said only some departments are dealing with outside job offers, specifically chemistry, history, psychology, sociology and political science.

She said when one person in a department gets a job offer, it leads to others in the department looking for alternatives.

"You get a morale shift," Gil said.

The University is also losing faculty to retirement.

"We can't replace those people," said Dick Mann, vice chancellor for finance and administration. "We're using those salaries to help cover the budget cuts."

Tom Thornburg, senior associate dean of the school of government, said the school tries to improve morale by using non-state money for travel and career development.

BY THE NUMBERS



"The mood here is still pretty good," he said.

But Thornburg said faculty in the school of government are still feeling the pressure of three years without a raise.

"Over time, it gets harder for people when they think that there may be better opportunities elsewhere," he said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

WORDS OF REVOLUTION

UNC alumni journey to Middle East to 'witness history'

By Carson Blackwelder
Staff Writer

With revolutions cropping up in the Middle East, American citizens have been watching from afar.

Two local poets plan on changing that.

Will McInerney, a senior peace, war and defense major, and UNC alumnus Kane Smego, will travel abroad to Egypt and Tunisia in about two weeks to chronicle the revolutions through the eyes of individuals.

To help them tell the stories they find, the poets will be accompanied by two students from N.C. State University — a photographer and an interpreter.

Before the uprisings, McInerney and Smego had planned different trips for the summer. But they soon realized they couldn't pass up the opportunity to witness history, McInerney said.

The effort, entitled "Poetic Portraits of a Revolution," is a result of a number of different ideas coming together, McInerney said.

"This project is kind of like a culmination of synthesizing the spoken word work that I do within the community here and my academic and personal interests," he said.

Upon arriving in the Middle East, the team will set up interviews with locals — some of whom have already agreed to talk to them.

"We will talk to anyone. We've got countries-worth of people, so I'm sure we'll be alright," Smego said. "We really want to take a little sliver of each level of society."

The real work though, will begin when the group returns home. They have already secured a deal for interviews with the WUNC public radio station, Smego said.

"I think Will and Kane will bring our listeners a unique perspective that will compliment the fact-based journalism that our reporters from NPR and the BBC bring our listeners every day," said David Brower, program director for WUNC.



DTH/TARIQ LUTHUN
UNC alumnus Kane Smego, artistic director of Sacrificial Poets, hosts a poetry openmic event at Flyleaf Books. He will be accompanied by three others on a group venture to Egypt and Tunisia to chronicle the revolutions through the eyes of locals.

Smego and McInerney will be sending audio diaries to the station throughout the trip so that WUNC might be able to use their work to form a segment, they said.

"We want to take this method we are using and these poetic portraits that we are creating, which are a combination of photography, oral history, poetry all synthesized together to create this depiction — as accurate as we can be," McInerney said.

The group will also take part in Carolina Performing Arts' Process Series, where developing works are showcased, in September. They will be artists-in-residence for a few days, with a day set aside to present their work and receive feedback.

Other potential projects the group

has planned include a photographic journal with transcribed interviews, local displays in places like the Ackland Art Museum and a documentary.

Smego and McInerney, also directors of Sacrificial Poets, a local youth poetry organization, said they are looking forward to implementing what they learn in their teaching methods when they return.

"You don't have to go to the other side of the world to a place where there is a political upheaval going on. You can just go in your own backyard — it is something we can use to learn from everyone's story," McInerney said.

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

King is fourth dean candidate to visit

Susan King would bring professional history to the J-school.

By Kaitlyn Knapp
Staff Writer

Susan King is not the kind of person to stay in one place for a long time, she said.

After spending 11 years working for the Carnegie Corporation of New York, King said she would like the chance to work in a college setting as dean of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

"A university is never dull," she said.

King is now one of four candidates to replace Jean Folkerts as dean of the journalism school and the only candidate who does not have a primarily

academic background.

King visited the University on Tuesday, and presented her vision for the school at a forum in Wilson Library.

If chosen, King said, she would build on existing partnerships with other University departments, create high-profile projects and have longer term visiting lecturers.

"People want to come and share what they know," she said.

King, who is vice president of external affairs and director of the Journalism Initiative for the Carnegie Corporation, also said she would work to expand the school's strong reputation.

King has worked for various local and national news organizations, including CBS News, where she was a correspondent for Walter Cronkite.

Eventually, there came a pivot point in her journalism

career, King said.

She moved to a political career, serving as an assistant secretary for the Department of Labor.

"I became a policy storyteller," King said.

But King's switch away from journalism was not permanent.

At the Carnegie Corporation, she has been in charge of a journalism education program.

Debashis Aikat, a journalism professor, said in light of King's background, it would be interesting to see how she would address issues such as budget cuts.

"I think she brings in a very exciting set of skills, and she has impressive credentials," he said.

King has a bachelor of arts degree in English and a master's degree in communications, said Jim Dean, dean of Kenan-Flagler Business School and



DTH/MINHAJ BAQAI
Susan King is one of four contenders in the running to replace Jean Folkerts as dean of the School of Journalism.

chairman of the search committee.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Senate budget slashes Fellows

Teaching Fellows has almost 4,000 graduates employed in 2010-11.

By Stirling Little
Staff Writer

A line-item cut in the state budget proposed by the N.C. Senate would eliminate all funding for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, phasing it out completely by 2015.

While the House version of the budget would only cut administrative costs for the program, the Senate's version would end the state's obligation to students after the 2011-12 class of Teaching Fellows graduates.

Teaching Fellows is a merit-based program that awards a scholarship of \$6,500 per year to 500 high school seniors annually, training them for future professions in education. Fellows must teach in N.C. public schools for four years following graduation.

Matt Hughes, executive assistant to Student Body President Mary Cooper and a Teaching Fellow, said it is understandable that educational programs would receive some cuts since education spending makes up almost 60 percent of the state budget.

But Hughes said legislators should be aiming to bolster rather than defund the program during a tough budgetary period. Teachers are vital for improving N.C.'s economic future, he said.

"If anything, now is the time to expand Teaching Fellows," Hughes said. "Without it, I know there are students who would not have considered becoming teachers."

Among the most recent graduates of the program to complete the required four years of teaching, 84 percent have remained in education, said Jo Ann Norris, administrator of the Teaching Fellows program.

Almost 4,000 graduates were employed in public schools in all but one of the state's counties in 2010-11, Norris said.

She added that the program is unique among scholarships for high school students.

"There isn't another program like Teaching Fellows anywhere in the nation," she said. "It is much more than a money scholarship — it has a program with it."

Hughes said the program has given him an advantage by granting access to school districts across the state.

"I got a firsthand look at the profession, students and circumstances throughout North Carolina," he said.

Nishelle Caudill, an alumna of the Teaching Fellows program and a math teacher at Macon Middle School in Franklin, N.C., wrote a letter to legislators last week in defense of the program.

"Teaching Fellows is more than a budget line item" she said in the letter. "It prepares future teachers to be leaders, not just someone who stands in the front of the classroom."

House and Senate members must still compromise on a version of the budget before the end of the fiscal year on June 30. Legislators did not return calls for comment.

Gov. Bev Perdue could also intervene and veto the budget to force concessions for less education cuts. Norris said Perdue has defended education spending in the past and could veto the bill to protect the program.

"It would be a travesty to phase out a program that sets North Carolina apart and has such a great history of success," she said.

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

BY THE NUMBERS

