

Charter school will miss August opening

The school's projected opening is delayed for at least a year.

By Chessa DeCain
City Editor

Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter School will not be ready to open for the 2012-13 school year.

But the school's board of directors is already in the process of reapplying for a new charter.

The school, which partners with for-profit management company National Heritage Academies, was opposed by school officials and the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

School supporters hope it will serve minorities and reduce the achievement gap.

The North Carolina State Board of Education approved the school's charter earlier this year, under the condition that it would be ready to open for the 2012-13 school year.

A major setback the school faced was locating a temporary space to house the school in.

Both applications require the school building to take up at least 45,000 square feet. The school must also have a soccer field, a 165-space parking lot and a location inside a residential area.

Because the school won't reach

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Annie Doris Jackson,
Howard and Lillian Lee Scholars Charter School board member

its July 1 deadline, it must go through the entire application process again for the 2013-14 school year.

"We thought that the charters would be issued a little bit earlier than they were," said Annie Doris Jackson, a member of the school's board of directors.

Jackson said the board of directors had not anticipated how long it would take to find temporary property to house the school on, while waiting for their permanent location to be ready.

Joel Medley, director of the state office of charter schools, said if the charter school is approved by an advisory council, it will next go to an interview process.

Medley said the advisory council will most likely reconvene on June 20 to discuss which of the 54 charter applicants will return for an interview.

Medley said the council's prior approval of the charter school did not necessarily mean they would approve it again.

"They don't really consider

what did or did not happen in the past," he said.

The school expects to enroll about 480 students in its first year. About 20 families so far have shown interest in attending the charter school, Jackson said.

She said they had kept in touch with the families in case the school was not ready to open for the upcoming school year so they could make alternative plans.

Dottie Heath, a consultant at the state office of charter schools, said it is fairly typical for a charter school to have trouble getting off the ground in its initial year.

"It is a difficult situation to find property, to find land, to find place," she said.

But school officials hope to have a new site ready once the new application is approved.

Joe DiBenedetto, spokesman for National Heritage Academies, said the company has reached an agreement to purchase seven acres of land on the eastern tract of the Claremont South development on Homestead Road in Carrboro for the school.

DiBenedetto said work on the Claremont site will begin once the town of Carrboro approves the modified development plan and a new charter is received from the state Board of Education.

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

DRIVE MAY HELP THOUSANDS



Blood drive volunteer Debbie Quach serves pizza to donor Katie LeMay, rising senior at UNC, after she gave blood. By the end of the first shift at 12:30 p.m., 482 units were given.

Red Cross volunteers express need for student contributions

By Jessica New
Staff Writer

Allen Glazner may never meet the person whose life his blood will save.

But Glazner, chairman of the geology department at UNC, said he could not miss the chance to give blood. He has type O negative.

"Someday you may need it, you never know, so it's a good thing to do," he said. "People really need it."

The Carolina Blood Drive is set up at the Dean E. Smith Center by University staff every summer to compensate for a national drop in blood donations during summer months.

An estimated 97 percent of the population will be touched by the need for blood at some point in their lives, said Katrina Coble, chair of the Carolina Blood Drive committee.

"The blood collected will help ensure that when those products are needed, they will be available," she said.

The goal for this year's drive was 1,000 units of blood, but organizers collected only 784 units Tuesday. One unit of blood can help up to three patients.

Part of the reason for this shortage may be the

need to improve the drive's advertising strategies, said Caroline Allison, an American Red Cross donor recruitment representative for the drive.

Blood drive organizers are attempting to reach out to a wider demographic, including new faculty members and summer school students who may not be aware of the annual drive, in order to attract more donors.

Organizers have set up a website, a Facebook page and a Twitter account in recent years to attract more donations.

"We're really trying to plug into social media," Allison said. "We're still trying to reach out to younger donors that way, and we're really trying to increase our visibility."

Lynn Eades, who runs the blood drive's website, said she has seen the use of social media has increased the number of potential donors reached through advertising.

"I think we need to do some more advertising, especially if we're going to do this drive," she said.

Typically the drive's attendees consist of faculty members and staff at UNC, but Coble said organizers would love to see more summer school students involved.

"It actually doesn't take as much time as students

might think," Coble said. "If the students would come, we'd love to have them here."

Coble said she would like to thank all of the donors who gave blood Tuesday.

Students can drive to the Smith Center and park for free on the day of blood drive. It typically takes between an hour and an hour and a half to donate.

"An hour and half to save people's lives is a small exchange," Allison said.

Julia Cheek, a team supervisor for the American Red Cross for 23 years, said volunteers recently got a chance to see the results of their hard work when a little girl in remission for leukemia came to a staff meeting to talk to them.

"She got blood from blood we'd been given," Cheek said. "It's great to see what that blood is doing, how it's working for people that really need it."

Cheek said the blood drives can also be fun.

"You get to meet interesting people," she said.

"Today I met 3 or 4 football players and the coach when they came to give blood, which was exciting."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Dual degree opens doors

A third of UNC medicine students are interested in the program.

By Vinayak Balasubramanian
State & National Editor

The UNC School of Medicine will join more than 60 institutions nationwide in offering dual-degree programs.

Many experts say the program — which allows medical students to earn both their doctor of medicine and a Master of Business Administration — teaches skills that will make graduates of the program more competitive.

"If they want to run a hospital or a medical group or become surgeon general, the world is their oyster," said Maria Chandler, president for the Association of M.D./MBA Programs.

Chandler said the number of joint degree programs has significantly increased in the past decade. She said 65 out of the 130 medical schools nationwide have the program now.

Buck Goldstein, an entrepreneurship professor at UNC, said the program will provide graduates with opportunities in the health care industry.

"There will be many innovative opportunities in medicine," Goldstein said.

"There is no field where there will there will be more rapid change," he said.

Cam Patterson, associate dean for medical entrepreneurship at UNC, said the popularity of the program stems from a growing demand for physicians who understand the market.

"Clearly more institutions are providing the dual degree opportunity," he said. "There are many physicians that are poorly prepared for business aspects for the world of medicine."

"Our goal is to tap into a growing need for this area," Patterson said.

Patterson said as many as one-third of students in the UNC School of Medicine have inquired about the program, but the program is very selective.

He said only five students have been admitted to the joint degree program, and eight to 10 students will be admitted annually beginning in 2013.

While Chandler said programs vary by school, she said it usually takes five years to earn both degrees. This is one year less than the total six it would take to complete medical and business school programs.

Patterson said UNC's program will require students to take courses at the School of Medicine for three and a half years and at the Kenan-Flagler Business School for a year and a half.

Chandler said students of dual-degree programs at other universities have been satisfied and have been promoted faster than graduates with just an M.D.

Goldstein said the program is best suited for people who want to change the field of health care.

"Entrepreneurship is not about getting a job," Goldstein said. "It is about creating jobs."

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

inBRIEF

CAMPUS BRIEFS

UNC designates more than 100 acres for preservation

Chancellor Holden Thorp announced Monday that 107 acres of land will be managed by the North Carolina Botanical Garden through the Mason Farm Biological Reserve.

The land was given to the University as part of the Parker Property in 1976.

"Under the botanical garden's management, the land will be preserved in its undeveloped state, yet remain accessible to researchers, students and others with an interest in what it has to teach us," Thorp said in a press release.

N.C. Children's Hospital ranked among nation's best

U.S. News & World Report has named N.C. Children's Hospital as one of the nation's best in its "America's Best Children's Hospitals" list for the fifth consecutive year.

The hospital was ranked sixth in pediatric pulmonology and was recognized in all 10 categories evaluated by the U.S. World & News Report.

CITY BRIEFS

Hillsborough police seeking info on purse-snatcher

Hillsborough police are asking the public for help in locating a woman who has been charged with stealing purses from shoppers at the Walmart Supercenter.

Warrants have been issued for Tisha Marie Childress, 28. The warrants charge her with larceny from a person, financial card theft, and obtaining property by false pretense. Childress is believed to be in the Durham area. Anyone with information is asked to contact Sgt. Scott Nicolaysen at 919-732-9381, ext. 30.

— From staff and wire reports

Student billed after 40 years

About 600 alumni have received debt notices during this fiscal year.

By Matthew Cox
University Editor

Students taking summer school classes should pay their tuition — and save their receipts.

UNC alumnus Pete Hinton received a notice in August that the University had taken almost \$90 from his state tax return for two summer school classes he took in 1972. Hinton graduated from UNC in 1974.

About 600 alumni have received notifications this fiscal year according to Janet Kelly-Scholle, director of finance communication and training for UNC. She wrote in an email that this is a last effort for the University and state to collect outstanding debt.

The Department of Revenue charged Hinton an additional \$5 administrative fee.

Hinton said he was surprised and upset with the University.

"I couldn't imagine that it was true that I owed them

"I couldn't imagine that it was true that I owed them money."

Pete Hinton, UNC alum

money," Hinton said.

"The only way I could defend against this charge is to present them with the receipt for a class that I took 40 years ago."

The Setoff Debt Collection Act makes it legal for the University to recoup what it said Hinton owed through his tax return.

The period of time during which creditors can legally collect outstanding debts does not apply to the University under the act.

Kelly-Scholle said that most alumni and students pay debt charges rather than appealing.

In a letter, the University gave Hinton 30 days to request a hearing to challenge the charge.

Hinton did not have a receipt for the classes and requested a hearing, which was held Oct. 11. Hinton said a hearing officer from University Counsel decided to reimburse Hinton.

Hinton said Gary Maynard, the assistant University cashier, represented UNC at Hinton's

appeal. Maynard refused to comment on the case.

The Daily Tar Heel submitted a public records request for documents related to Hinton's hearing to University spokesman Mike McFarland.

McFarland said the documents are unlikely to be considered public record based on the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which protects students' educational records.

Hinton said the University's procedure of collecting outstanding debts will alienate donors.

He said he has talked with more than 30 UNC alumni who told him they will no longer donate money to the University.

"I'll never be so cuckoo now that I leave them any money," he said. "It's going to lose the University a lot of money."

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