

The Daily Tar Heel

Volume 121, Issue 112

dailytarheel.com

Wednesday, November 13, 2013

Close to home, close to heart

Recruit Theo Pinson is slated to sign with UNC as a part of the No. 3 class



DTH/KEVIN HU

Greensboro native Theo Pinson, ESPN's No. 1 player in the state, committed to play at North Carolina in May, and he is expected to officially sign today.

By Aaron Dodson

Assistant Sports Editor

The night before the biggest game of his life, Theo Pinson wanted to avoid distractions.

So the basketball standout from Greensboro did something out of the ordinary. He put his cellphone on silent without thinking twice, not expecting to miss out on anything.

But when he awoke the next day to get ready to play in the 2013 state championship for Wesleyan Christian Academy, Pinson immediately knew something was wrong — five missed calls illuminated the screen of his phone.

Before returning them, however, he scrolled down his Instagram feed for answers, where he discovered one of the toughest things he's had to fathom in his 18-year life.

Fellow Greensboro native and high school basketball prospect Josh Level, Pinson's beloved cousin and close friend, had died after collapsing during a game the previous night while Pinson was sleeping.

"It was one of the hardest things for me and my teammates because everybody on my team knew Josh very well," Pinson said. "It was rough for us, but we pulled it together and told ourselves we were going to do it for him ... and I was just glad we won the championship — for him."

But the win wasn't enough in Pinson's eyes. Months later, he announced where he would commit to play basketball in college. Before revealing his decision, he opened up his press conference by explaining the significance of the day his announcement happened to fall on.

On May 22, 2013, the day Josh would have turned 18 years old, Pinson committed to play basketball for North Carolina.

"For him to take the biggest day so far of his life ... to acknowledge Josh was, for me, an incredible gesture of goodwill," said Joseph Level, Josh's father. "I think Theo and Josh, they

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Budget cuts affect class registration

Less space in high-level economics classes causes student frustration.

By Sara Salinas

Staff Writer

For both underclassmen packed in a lecture hall and upperclassmen who couldn't even get their feet in the door, students probably felt the effects of budget cuts during class registration.

For senior economics majors, some upper-level courses needed for graduation closed before the end of the first day of registration.

Patrick Conway, chairman of the department, said restrictions on faculty hiring resulting from recent budget cuts caused a shortage of course seats in his department.

This year, UNC-CH took a 5.5-percent cut of \$28 million in state funding.

Economics administrators asked affected students to complete a form stating which course they needed and assured students they would do what they could to place them in required classes — but reminded them that funding for course offerings is out of their control. As of Monday, 33 forms had been filed.

Conway said the department has maintained the same number of course offerings as in past years but that the number of economics majors

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Movie theater set for 2015

The new luxury theater will open in University Mall.

By Patrick Ronan

Staff Writer

Chapel Hill movie buffs can rejoice — a premium theater is coming to University Mall.

On Tuesday, mall management announced its agreement with Silverspot Cinema to build a luxury movie theater complex in the space currently occupied by Dillard's as the latest step of its redevelopment plan.

The South American movie theater operator will open a 13-screen, 52,500-square-foot movie complex offering an upscale atmosphere that includes a lounge area and full restaurant.

Each theater will be equipped with state-of-the-art sound and projection technology, reserved stadium seating and extra-large, hand-stitched leather seats, according to a press release from the mall.

Peter de Leon, University Mall's general manager, said he thinks the theater will be a big help for the mall and sees the new addition as a reflection of the local community.

"The new theater speaks to the highly sophisticated, highly cultured community we have in Chapel Hill. They're going to start construction in 2014, with an early 2015 opening," he said.

Aaron Nelson, president and CEO of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Chamber of Commerce, said the new amenity will be positive for both the mall and Chapel Hill.

"The theater will draw customers to support the mall's exciting, new and longtime



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY MALL

The Silverspot Cinema will be a movie theater complex opening in University Mall in early 2015.

merchants," Nelson said in an email.

"It enhances Chapel Hill as a destination for entertainment and will help redirect local dollars that had been traveling out of our community to neighboring theaters."

Silverspot is one of seven businesses that has recently opened or will open at the mall in the next two years. The theater will show foreign and independent films, blockbusters and 3-D movies as well as live broadcasts of international opera, ballet and theater performances. Tickets will be \$16 for adults.

"The goal is not just to open a movie theater, but to create an environment that

is unique, lush and plush, and feels more intimate and exclusive," said Gonzalo Ulivi, manager of Silverspot Cinema. De Leon said the agreement ended an aggressive search for a movie theater to help co-anchor the mall as the exclusive dining and entertainment destination in Chapel Hill.

"This is something our community will really enjoy because it creates a theater experience," he said.

"It's not just going to the movies. It'll be a great entertainment lifestyle destination."

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Nonacademic paths a challenge for grad students

More graduate students are using University Career Services.

By Carolyn Ebeling

Staff Writer

With a recent national trend in low employment rates for students with graduate degrees, UNC is working to stay ahead of the curve — but some say they lack support when seeking non-academic careers.

A 2011 National Science Foundation survey revealed that 35 percent of doctorate recipients did not have a job by the time they com-

pleted their respective programs.

Amy Blackburn, the senior assistant director for graduate students at University Career Services, said she has seen an increase in the number of graduate students who use UCS.

"They thought they wanted to pursue the discipline that they're studying and teach, but that changes," she said. "They come to us with a kind of 'I don't know where to go from here.'"

Blackburn said graduate students do not have academic advisers.

"The advising of graduate students is done by faculty, student service managers and graduate program coordinators within each department," she added in an email.

"Career paths are not a straight line anymore like they used to be when our parents were going to school."

Amy Blackburn, UCS senior associate director

"It's much more decentralized than the undergraduate programs."

She said UCS tries to figure out the interests, goals and values of the student and find matching careers.

UNC Graduate School Dean and biology professor Steven Matson said a 2011 survey of the graduate school found that 75 percent of students said

they were employed and 20 percent said they were seeking employment.

"Those numbers are actually better than the national averages," he said.

Paul Miceli, assistant director of graduate student career services at Duke University, said although Ph.D.s can be invaluable, the question is whether or not having a Ph.D. is marketable in terms of future careers.

"The reality is that in many fields, the majority of Ph.D.s aren't ending up in tenure-track faculty positions," he said.

"That means that many of these Ph.D.s could have taken a different path and possibly ended up in the same career that they're in post-Ph.D."

Travis McElroy, a graduate student

studying applied mathematics, said he feels prepared in terms of math and research ability, but not when it comes to job opportunities.

"I'm not sure the services are there to place graduate students in jobs outside academia," he said in an email.

McElroy also said he doesn't feel that his department endorses the jobs he would be interested in.

"I still get plenty of emails from the Graduate and Professional Student Federation about events to prepare for jobs, but my department doesn't push those," McElroy said.

Anne Whisnant, deputy secretary of the faculty at UNC who was a

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