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Rathskeller opening delayed

Project leader has history of struggle

BY VICTORIA STILWELL
CITY EDITOR

The re-opening of the Ramshead Rathskeller will be pushed back at least eight months from its original date after the project owner experienced complications with her construction budget.

Diane Fountain, the Wilmington resident overseeing the Rat's return, said determining construction and renovation costs for the space took longer than she anticipated, and the Rathskeller will likely not open until after the summer.

"I didn't anticipate it taking this long," she said. "I really want it, but clearly it's a lot more complicated than our overzealousness took into account."

Fountain approached The Daily Tar Heel in August and said she expected the Rathskeller to open by the end of 2010. In November she said was forced to push back the date to January after more complications with the construction budget.

Fountain is no stranger to struggle. In addition to at least five business ventures that have been administratively dissolved by the N.C. Department of the Secretary of State, she has been involved in at least 14 civil disputes in which plaintiffs claimed she owed money.

Fountain, however, said all legal issues are in her past, and she and her team are dedicated to re-opening the Rat despite the setbacks the project has faced.

"I apologize," she said. "I was as excited as everybody else."

Construction delays

Fountain said the Rathskeller could open as soon as August, and she expects demolition to start within the month.

She said she originally asked Apex-based Concordia Building Company to lead the building effort in the fall. Since then, she said she has engaged Wakefield Associates, a commercial real estate development company, to oversee construction.

"We've had to go back and forth on construction," she said. "Do you

raise \$2 million or do you raise \$1 million?"

"That's been the holdup. We're all in agreement as to what we're doing and what those numbers need to be."

Representatives from both firms declined to comment on construction progress.

Fountain said renovations to the Rathskeller, located below Franklin Street across from Bandido's Mexican Cafe, include raising the ceiling and upgrading plumbing and electricity systems, in addition to outfitting the kitchen and bar.

Fountain said the project's total construction budget is now \$541,000. She said she also plans to raise money for reserves.

"Sometimes you don't know what you're going to find when you get in there," Fountain said. "It's a bear, an absolute bear."

Previous ventures

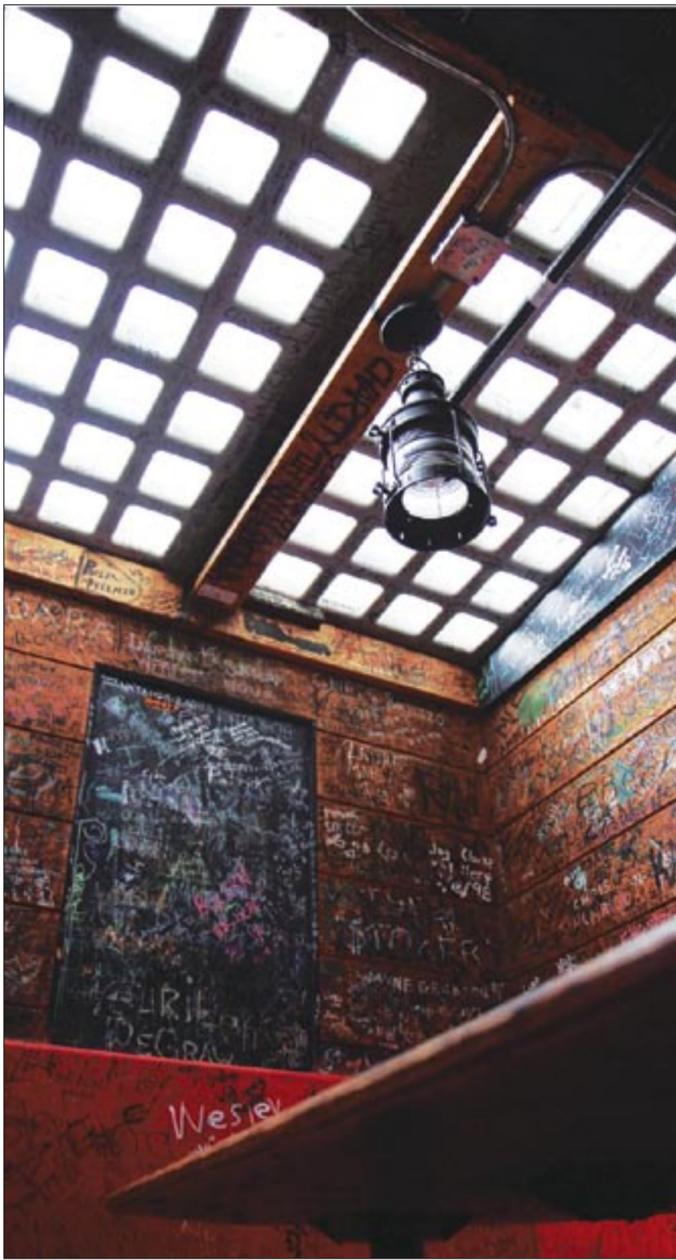
Fountain is listed as the registered agent for 10 different entities — most based in Wilmington — that have submitted creation filings to the secretary of state.

Five of those organizations were administratively dissolved by the state after the enterprises failed to

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Diane Fountain (left) is leading the effort to re-open the Ramshead Rathskeller. Originally opened in 1948, "The Rat" has been a Chapel Hill landmark ever since. Fountain said construction delays have pushed back the opening to August.



DTH FILE/LAUREN MCCAY

University considers entry-level course plan

Courses would replace intro-level math, English

BY LAUREN RATCLIFFE
STAFF WRITER

With more students placing out of entry-level English courses, the University is looking to restructure a bedrock of its general requirements: 101 and 102 classes.

Bobbi Owen, senior associate dean for undergraduate education, said the University is considering a plan that would require all students to take at least one writing course, without the ability to place out.

The change comes in response to faculty concerns about the quality of student writing, even for students who place out of the introductory courses.

"Faculty find that (students) may not be able to do the writing required of them," Owen said.

Under the current system, students may place out of one or both introductory English courses with test scores or prior credit. Since 1996, enrollment in English 101 has grown 18 percent as total freshman enrollment rose 20.8 percent during that time.

The proposal comes at a time when the University, eyeing a \$3.7 billion state budget shortfall and imminent cuts, looks to preserve instructional quality and improve efficiency. But if classes were to be cut, officials said electives would be the first to go.

"It's the electives, the enrichment courses where I think we will see more cuts," Owen said.

Beverly Taylor, chairwoman of the English department, said course enrollment numbers in English 101 and 102 are slightly lower than the overall class growth because an increasing number of students place out.

In 2009-10, 2,397 students, or 60.5 percent of the freshman class, were exempted from 101 by test scores or academic credit. That same year 1,159 students, or about 29 percent of the class, tested out of both required English courses.

Taylor said she thinks it is important that all students receive instruction in writing, and that the new idea would accomplish that. But she admits the idea is still in its early phases and won't begin next year.

All students are also required to fulfill a quantitative requirement, or math course, which they can do in a number of ways.

Compared with entry-level English courses, enrollment in MATH 110, which serves as a prereq-

SEE COURSES, PAGE 6

CAMPAIGN ISSUES: TUITION

SBP candidates face tuition

BY LYLE KENDRICK
SENIOR WRITER

As further state budget cuts loom over the University, student body president candidates are preparing for the inevitable.

The candidates all have their sights on softening potential tuition hikes and examining student fees so students get the most of what they are paying for.

Student Body President Hogan Medlin and University officials

said the ideal student body president would be, above all else, well-informed, allowing them to better relate to legislators and administrators.

Not a 'brick wall'

Medlin said the best way for the student body president to approach tuition is to create a continuing dialogue with state legislators to express the concerns of students.

"It's not like you're talking to a brick wall," he said.

Candidate Rick Ingram said working in the General Assembly last summer taught him how to speak with legislators.

Candidate Mary Cooper said she plans to use a group of students to target specific legislators to make lobbying more effective.

Medlin said legislators respond

particularly well to specific examples of the impact of budget cuts and tuition hikes on students.

"If we're not there, they don't hear the stories of students," he said.

Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost, said Medlin's voice was a significant reason revenue from tuition hikes last year remained on campus.

Candidate Ian Lee said he plans to approach tuition by pushing for a cost-based tuition system that would charge students for the cost of an individual education.

He said the plan would create a wish list of goals, such as smaller classes and better advising.

The student body president is the lone student representative on the Board of Trustees.

Carney said it is important to have a student perspective on the board because the conversations seek to strike a balance between keeping the University affordable and maintaining academic quality.

"They collide when it comes to tuition sometimes," he said.

Finding the right fees

The candidates have expressed an interest in making student fees more efficient, more transparent, and, if possible, cheaper.

Cooper and Ingram said they

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Hopefuls on tuition

In their platforms, the student body president candidates advocate a variety of different approaches to preventing increases in tuition and fees.



Mary Cooper, junior from Nashville, Tenn., wants to focus the Carolina Advocacy Committee exclusively on tuition-related issues.



Rick Ingram, junior from Asheville, wants to engage the student body to help the "at risk" category not covered by Carolina Covenant.



Ian Lee, junior from Cary, wants to create a study with faculty and administrators to examine the cost of an undergraduate education.



Brooklyn Stephens, junior from Wake Forest, wants to create a report that shows where tuition costs are going.

Kenan-Flagler ranking nosedives

BY CLAIRE MCNEILL
STAFF WRITER

The Kenan-Flagler Business School plummeted in this year's Financial Times Global Master of Business Administration rankings, dropping 16 spots, from 46 to 62.

It was a plunge that surprised leaders at the business school as they tried to determine the reason for the drop.

"These kind of wild swings in ranking are very hard to understand when we haven't reduced the quality of anything," said Jim Dean, dean of the business school.

Dean said he was worried by the ranking, but would have been concerned even if the school's ranking climbed 20 slots.

"Universities just don't change

that dramatically," Dean said.

Allison Adams, media relations director at the school, said she has observed the Financial Times rankings since they began in 1999. She said she has never seen such a severe fluctuation in the school's rank.

The schools are judged based on three criteria: alumni salaries and career development, the diversity and international reach of the school and the research capabilities of each school, Adams said.

John Byrne, executive editor at BusinessWeek, said at least 40 schools had double-digit increases or decreases in their ranks in 2011.

"One of the problems with the Financial Times methodology is that it really doesn't measure the quality of the business school,"

Byrne said, adding that countries in good economic locations experience the biggest payoffs, given the influence of alumni salary on rankings.

The salary component makes up 40 percent of the ranking, giving some international schools an advantage.

"A \$40,000 salary in India transfers to \$200,000 here," said Sridhar Balasubramanian, associate dean of the MBA program at UNC.

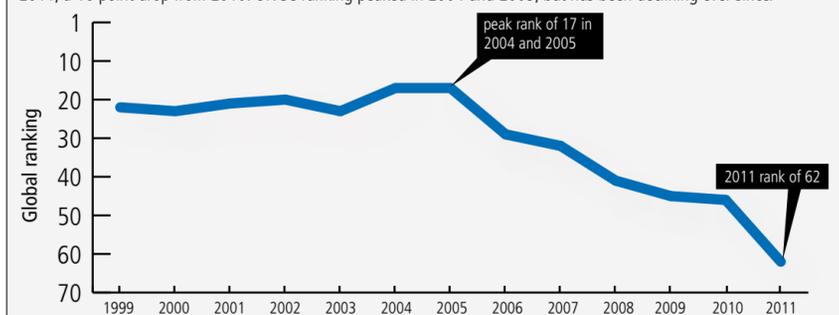
Byrne said the rating does not accurately represent the University's business school.

"Sixty-two is a complete and total anomaly," Byrne said. "There's no credibility whatsoever. No one can

SEE BUSINESS, PAGE 6

Kenan-Flagler Business School falls in global rankings

The Financial Times has ranked the Kenan-Flagler Business School number 62 in its Global MBA Rankings for 2011, a 16 point drop from 2010. UNC's ranking peaked in 2004 and 2005, but has been declining ever since.



SOURCE: HTTP://RANKINGS.FT.COM/BUSINESSSCHOOLRANKINGS/RANKINGS

DTH/LYDIA HARRELL

this day in black history

FEB. 4, 2007 ...

After his team defeated the Chicago Bears, Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy becomes the first black coach to win the Super Bowl.



university | page 3

RICK WINS WEST

Rick Ingram out-duelled his competition for student body president in BoUNCe's Wild, Wild West-themed candidates forum.



sports | page 4

BALANCING ACT

One stage isn't enough to hold junior Krista Jasper, who performs as an actress and as a member of UNC's gymnastics team.

Today's weather



Why is God crying?
H 37, L 36

Saturday's weather



Probably 'cause of something you did
H 53, L 20