

STUDENTS KICKING FOR A CAUSE



DTH/MELISSA KEY

The three UNC sophomores dribble by the Old Well on Thursday as part of their trip across N.C. to raise awareness for religious tolerance.

Sophomores promote religious tolerance with soccer

By Matthew Cox
University Editor

Today, three UNC sophomores will be less than 50 miles from Morehead City, N.C., and to setting a world record.

Ahmad Saad, Sasha Seymore and Dylan Simel, founders of Kicking Across Carolina, are dribbling soccer balls more than 400 miles across the state to promote religious tolerance.

Seymore and Simel are from New Bern, where the group will be staying today with family and friends.

“We’re actually staying in New Bern for two nights, and the first night we’ll be talking at a church and my local synagogue,” Simel said.

The group has already traveled more than 350 miles over the past three weeks. They will reach their destination, Morehead City, on Saturday.

“Just keep kicking; I guess that would be our official motto,” Simel said.

Kicking Across Carolina views soccer as a force that can be used to unite people with different religious beliefs. Saad, Seymore and Simel practice Islam, Christianity and Judaism, respectively.

The organization now supports three nonprofit charities: Soccer for Peace, the Maccabim Association and the Peres Center for Peace. All three groups use soccer to help children in war-torn countries.

Simel said the group has sold about

80 shirts and raised more than \$1,000.

Planning the logistics of the trip and finding sponsors took most of the semester, but Simel said the cause is worth it.

“We’ve been speaking with people about the unifying power of soccer, regardless of their religious or cultural background,” Simel said.

Seymore said the group has spoken at churches in Elon and Nebo, N.C.

The group originally planned to dribble across the U.S., but decided their trip across the state was more realistic.

“We’ve talked about organizing a Kicking Across America next summer where participants could dribble across their community,” Simel said.

The trio passed through Chapel Hill last week to dribble with friends and stop for a quick lunch at Cosmic Cantina.

“We’re definitely starting a campus organization next year to get people involved,” Simel said.

The group will be in three different continents after the trip ends. Simel will be working as a counselor at Camp Seagull, Saad will be working on a political campaign in Egypt and Seymore will be teaching underprivileged children in Brazil how to play soccer and basketball.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/MELISSA KEY

From left: Dylan Simel, Sasha Seymore and Ahmad Saad founded “Kicking Across Carolina.”

Leimenstoll starts lobbying campaign

Student body president preps for tuition debate.

By Jessica New
Staff Writer



Will Leimenstoll, student body president met with Sen. Richard Stevens in Raleigh.

Sen. Richard Stevens, R-Wake, said there is a disconnect between the current N.C. General Assembly and the UNC system.

Stevens met with Will Leimenstoll, UNC’s student body president, Monday to discuss improving relations between UNC students and the legislature.

Stevens said to Leimenstoll that in the past, the majority of state legislators had graduated from a UNC-system school, but that is no longer the case.

“I don’t think they don’t value the higher education system,” Leimenstoll said. “But in the face of budget cuts they don’t have the same deep connection to the place that would prevent them from cutting the budget in the past.”

“There will be a very short session this year as opposed to the past,” Leimenstoll said.

“The window of time in which we can go and have an impact with this year’s budget is small,” he said. “Our goal is to help establish a strong relationship between the state universities and the new General Assembly.”

Leimenstoll said Stevens contacted him to discuss his role as a student advocate in future UNC-system budget discussions.

Stevens said members of the General Assembly are receptive to listening to students from all UNC-system schools.

“I generally believe it’s very important for student perspectives to be heard in Raleigh by the General Assembly and for students to be advocates for issues they feel are important,”

Stevens said.

Leimenstoll and other student body presidents from UNC-system schools will travel to Raleigh in the coming months to lobby for increased state funding for the system.

“We’re trying to go and show the new assembly members that state appropriation changes to the University system do have direct impact on real students and families, that these are not just abstract cuts,” he said.

“Our strength as students is we can speak from the emotional and experiential side of things, as opposed to the hard numbers side.”

Leimenstoll and Robert Walsh, N.C. State University’s student body president, will travel to Raleigh and attend legislative meetings in June.

“The more that we can work together and have a united voice, the better the outcome will be,” Leimenstoll said.

Former Student Body President Mary Cooper said working with student body presidents from other UNC-system schools is imperative for lobbying success.

“I think collaboration is always great, especially since these are the two biggest schools in the state, like State and Chapel Hill,” Cooper said. “Going with other schools, you strengthen your voice.”

Cooper said she would not have changed her lobbying strategies, but she said Leimenstoll should bring UNC students aside from student government representatives to add more diverse opinions.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Physics software renewal unlikely

WebAssign deleted 100 students’ test answers in fall 2011.

By Matthew Cox
University Editor

Halfway through the physics and astronomy department’s initial two-year contract to use WebAssign in Physics 104 and Physics 105 labs, some administrators and teaching assistants said they oppose its renewal.

Duane Deardorff, director of undergraduate physics labs at UNC, said in the fall 2011 semester, WebAssign deleted the lab exam responses for about 100 physics lab students. The exam scores were not counted in the students’ final grades.

“We do not want to commit to a longer contract,” Deardorff said. “We are in the process of reshaping the curriculum for Physics 104 and 105 labs.”

Deardorff determines the curriculum for physics lab classes and assigns teaching assistant positions. He said he recommended WebAssign to Arthur Champagne, chair of the physics and astronomy department.

Deardorff and Champagne said the two-year contract was signed before the software was tested in Physics 104 and Physics 105 labs at UNC.

John Corn, a former teaching assistant for Physics 104 and Physics 105 labs, said he and his colleagues were told by Deardorff that WebAssign would undergo a trial period, but received an email the following day that a two-year contract had already been signed.

“I don’t recall the rationale for signing the contract before the trial period, but we had a good experience with it in higher-level classes,” Champagne said.

Champagne said the software was the best option available at the time.

“Basically the discussion was that we would like to become more efficient in the way we grade big classes, especially with

budget cuts,” Champagne said.

Deardorff said that if budget cuts had not affected the physics and astronomy department, he would not have supported using WebAssign.

“However, even with its faults, in the current budget situation I would much rather have WebAssign,” Deardorff said. “To recognize mistakes in real time has raised the level of understanding in many of our labs.”

Deardorff said that its instant grading feature made WebAssign the best option, but also harder to avoid problems.

Deardorff estimated that the software saves the department about \$50,000 per year.

The department does not pay WebAssign for the right to use its software. Instead, WebAssign makes an estimated \$20,000 per year on the \$25 per semester student fee.

Several teaching assistants within the department said they oppose the continued use of WebAssign but wished to remain anonymous.

Corn said his impression of WebAssign was that it had too many problems.

“This software was a complete nightmare from day one,” Corn said. “If I search my inbox for WebAssign, I would have pages of complaints from former students.”

Corn said he offered to update for free an existing software program used by the department called WebLabs — which was free of charge to the department.

Corn taught labs that required WebAssign both 2011 summer sessions and said there were problems with the software.

“I would tell students to forget about WebAssign because many of them are pre-med students who have to make great GPAs,” Corn said.

Medical schools nationwide require applicants to have taken one year of physics, either Physics 104 and 105 or Physics 116 and 117.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

inBRIEF

CAMPUS BRIEFS

Kenan-Flagler study finds a perception gap in women’s leadership opportunities

A survey conducted by UNC’s Kenan-Flagler Business School found that men are significantly more likely to believe that their companies have offered more leadership opportunities to women.

Higher-level professionals were more likely to respond that women’s leadership opportunities had increased in the past five years. Survey respondents were 925 professionals in talent development.

UNC professor is named to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of N.C. Board of Trustees

Lisa Carey, an associate professor in the UNC Department of Medicine, has been named to the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Board of Trustees, the largest health insurance provider in the state.

Carey also serves as the medical director of the UNC Breast Center and associate director of the UNC’s Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

CITY BRIEFS

Pair of Church Street sexual battery cases being investigated by Chapel Hill police

Chapel Hill police are investigating two sexual battery cases that occurred on May 19 and Monday, at about 3 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. respectively. The victim reported in both cases a male grabbing her buttocks from behind before fleeing.

Police have asked anyone with information about the case to call the Chapel Hill Police Department.

Basketball ‘Championship Tree’ moves to new home at Chapel Hill Visitors Bureau

Chapel Hill’s “Championship Tree,” which formerly sat outside Spanky’s Restaurant, has moved to the Chapel Hill-Orange County Visitors Bureau.

The sculpture was created in 2009 by former Economic Development Officer Dwight Bassett, in celebration of the North Carolina men’s basketball team’s NCAA victory that same year.

— From staff and wire reports

WakeMed withdraws offer to purchase Rex

UNC Health Care and WakeMed agree to move forward with relationship.

By Vinayak Balasubramanian
State & National Editor

WakeMed Health and Hospitals has agreed to withdraw its offer to purchase Rex Healthcare, officials announced Tuesday.

Rep. Harold Brubaker, R-Randolph, and Sen. Tom Apodaca, R-Buncombe, worked with WakeMed and UNC Health Care to develop a framework for a partnership between the two health care organizations that will focus on education and health care delivery.

Both organizations have agreed to stop criticizing each other, drop public records requests and focus on expanding educational opportunities and behavioral health.

“This is a new beginning, and an exciting time for both of us,” said UNC-system President Thomas Ross.

Under the agreement, UNC Health Care plans to invest \$30 million into operating a 28-bed, inpatient psychiatric facility in Wake County.

UNC Health Care will commit \$10 million over five years to support mental health services.

The agreement stipulates that WakeMed, UNC Health Care and the UNC School of Medicine will allow UNC residents and medical students to continue rotations at WakeMed.

During the 18-month period of debate prior to the agreement, the dispute between UNC Health Care and WakeMed was brought before the N.C. General Assembly.

In May 2011, WakeMed offered to pay

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\$750 million for Rex and its assets. At the time, William Atkinson, president and CEO of WakeMed, said the acquisition would improve the efficiency of health care services and take the burden of funding Rex Healthcare off the state.

UNC Health Care rejected the request, but the House Select Committee on State-Owned Assets began exploring the sale of Rex.

As part of the agreement, UNC Health Care has agreed to improve transparency by voluntarily filing tax disclosures for each of its private and nonprofit health care entities, including Rex Healthcare and Rex Hospital.

The agreement requires UNC Health Care and WakeMed have agreed to refrain from criticizing each other, or advocating for the merger, sale or disposition of each other’s assets.

Debra Laughery, vice president of public relations for WakeMed, said the deal was in the best interest of both institutions, despite forfeiting its claim over Rex.

Ross said Tuesday he is happy that Rex will remain a part of UNC Health Care, given its critical ties to the UNC School of Medicine.

“North Carolina’s health care challenges are growing,” Ross said. “Collaboration is in the best interests of our state.”

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