

Magazine reveals academic reputation, student debt

By MARK RABUANO
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

While the jump in the university's national ranking from 31 to 25 in the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings has been well-publicized in the past few weeks, some other areas of the survey elicited information that was just as interesting. The university was also ranked in areas such as academic reputation and the university's financial status, including how indebted students are when they graduate.

Despite a national university ranking of 25th, the university's academic reputation was ranked at 65th.

In the issue, the university was ranked higher in quality than other such prestigious schools as the College of William and Mary, Tulane University and Boston College, yet all these institutions were given a substantially higher reputation rank.

Boyette said, "It was a surprise to see our ranking (at 65). We did come up from 71, however. This ranking is fairly subjective; (it is) a function of how well-known the faculty

is ... and of the volume of research they do. We will continue to let people know how great our faculty is as they interact with others.

"We have excellent faculty who do great research, but because we are smaller, our reputation grows more slowly," Boyette said.

The university's financial status was also ranked by the report. The university was ranked the 46th best value of national universities based solely on the full cost of the university.

When considering the amount of grants and other aid that undergraduates receive, the university rises to 36th place.

Steven Brooks, the associate director of financial aid, asserted that it is unsuitable to judge any financial aid programs with regard to the demonstrated need of an undergraduate met by a college.

"It isn't appropriate to look at the amount of need-based aid given, because it is a function of the demonstrated need for a particular year. We do have the commitment to meet the full demonstrated need. I really don't know enough of the method to understand how they arrived

at our rank," Brooks said.

The university was ranked 15th on the list of schools whose 1995 graduates incurred the most debt, based on graduates who borrow money from one or more sources on any governmental or institutional level. The students incurred an average debt of \$18,703.

Brooks said, "That rank at 15th was a real shock to me. I can neither confirm nor deny that it is accurate."

He attributes a lot of the debt to the trend of students taking out loans to assume some of the cost that would have been paid by the parents.

"What this shows is that if a student leaves Wake with a debt, then we met their need so they could receive the education that they did," Brooks said.

U.S. News and World Report considers many factors when considering the quality of the institutions.

They first asked 2,730 college presidents, deans and admissions directors to rank all the institutions in the same category as their own university in terms of quality. These reputation rankings were then combined with edu-

ational data provided by the colleges themselves, dealing with measures of academic quality such as student selectivity, faculty and financial resources and alumni giving rate. Some of the university's data that contributes to its jump from 31st to tying with UNC-Chapel Hill at 25th, includes being 25th in student selectivity, 36th in faculty resources, 13th in alumni-giving rate and fifth in financial resources.

Sandra Boyette, the vice president for public affairs, said she was pleased with the university's national ranking of 25.

"First, the percentage of our classes with 50 or more (students) is only at five percent, which tied us for first place nationally. We think that is very important with our emphasis on small classes," Boyette said. "Also, our alumni giving rate rank at 13 was very positive; it shows that our students, even long after graduating from Wake Forest, value the education they received."

Most students seem happy with the ranking. Sophomore Elizabeth Rogers said, "I am proud to see that Wake's reputation is catching up with the caliber of the students. Being

and knowing the demands asked of us, it is satisfying to gain national recognition."

Sophomore Drew Jones said, "I think it's good that we went up and it will bring more recognition, but it may not be the most adequate ranking based on the workload that we have. It's almost a slap in the face."

"I don't understand why our reputation is as low as it is. I always knew Wake to be an academically rigorous school, and I am from the Midwest, so this reputation is national in scope," Jones said.

Boyette said the student/faculty ratio should go down with the addition of the new professors because of the Plan for the Class of 2000, which may increase the university's rank in the future.

Brooks said that it is possible that the indebtedness amount may go up as tuition increases, simply because the university meets the need of all students through aid.

The university was also featured in an article in the issue titled "A Computer: The Newest Campus Necessity?" as one of a handful of schools that have made computers mandatory and part of tuition.

Presidents will speak to university

Hearn and Schippers prepare for first State of the University Address

By FRANK BYRNS
CONTRIBUTING REPORTER

As the nation's political season winds down, the university's political season is just getting started. The university will hold its first annual State of the University Address Monday night. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. in Brendle Recital Hall. It is open to all students and is free of charge.

The event will be a special meeting of the legislature, so there will be a brief call to order before the speeches begin.

Student Government President senior Tina Schippers will speak first, followed by a speech by university President Thomas K. Hearn Jr.

Schippers plans to address several topics. "I'm going to talk about basketball ticket allocation, the Shorty's project, legislative and judicial reform and other projects we're working on," Schippers said. "I'm also going to touch on some of SG's plans

for the future and new communication technologies."

When her speech is concluded, Schippers will introduce Hearn, who will then deliver his address.

"He's going to talk about plans for the university, and his hopes for our future," Schippers said.

"He's been working on this speech for a while now. I saw the first draft, and it was excellent. He touches on a lot of subjects, all in great detail."

The idea for such an event has been in the planning since last semester. "It was an idea getting tossed around last year during executive officer elections," Schippers said.

The potential of the idea grew over the summer, partly because of Schippers' summer experience. "I interned this summer at the White House, and the State of the Union Address was a big thing," Schippers said. "When I came back to Wake for the second session of summer school, I talked with President Hearn about it."

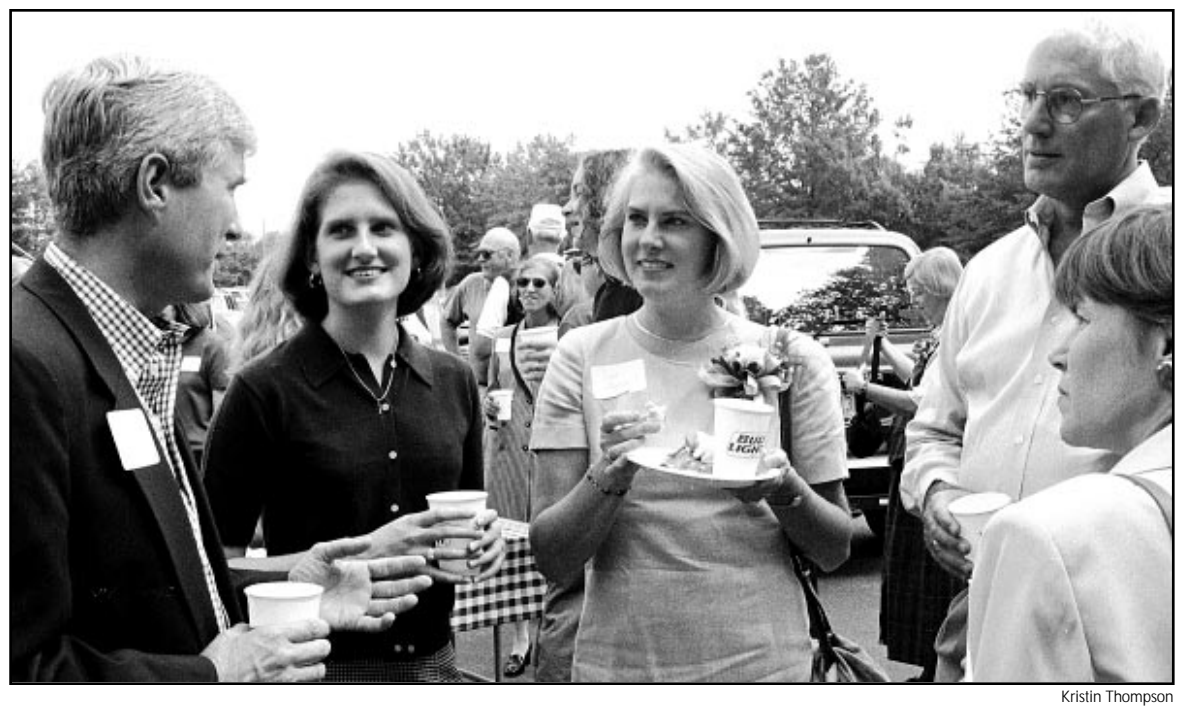
Hearn immediately supported the idea. "I thought I would have to write up a formal proposal, but he thought it was a great idea, so we went with it," Schippers said.

Schippers hopes that the university will respond in a similar fashion. "I think that it's a good idea for as many students as possible to get together and talk about where the university is headed," she said.

After both speakers have finished, there will be a short question and answer session. "Both of us will field questions, probably together," Schippers said.

Schippers recognizes the potential scheduling conflict of the address, but hopes that it will not be a significant problem.

"I know a lot of groups have meetings on Mondays at seven, but we had to schedule it when we could," she said. "I hope these groups will understand how important and serious this is, and use this as an opportunity to get their groups to attend."



Kristin Thompson

Pre-game Chat

Junior Diana Peacock talks with a group of parents at the tailgate before the Virginia football game during Family Weekend Saturday. The football game was one of the favorite activities of parents, despite the loss.

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Driver

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"We're going to try to keep (the bond) where it is so (Jones) will be held in jail," he said.

"We want it to stay at \$2 million

because we think that's reasonable."

Jones is being held on two counts of second-degree murder and driving while impaired charges after the Sept. 4 automobile accident on Polo Road.

Jones has previously been convicted of driving while impaired and of 20 traffic offenses. He has been in seven car accidents since 1975 and currently faces a charge of driving while impaired in Iredell County.

"I just don't want this man on the road," Clark said. "I'm afraid for my safety and the safety of others."

Rabil said that Jones will go before the grand jury Oct. 7, and will probably be arraigned Oct. 14.

His trial date will most likely be sometime in the spring.

"I expect it to be held before the end of the school year. It's hard to say," Rabil said.

Climate

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study probably does not reflect the initiative of many students.

"Certainly there are a lot of students here who work really hard," Escott said.

"But at any place there are always a few who don't work as hard as they ought to."

Zick added it is essential that the findings of the report be considered in the proper context.

"I am a little reluctant to give credence to some of these conclusions," Zick said. "If we were to use that statistic as educators and say, 'this is a justification for increased workloads in classes,' then I think we would not be

servicing our learning environment well."

Sophomore Sarah Houghtlin, a transfer student from Emory University, said when she compares the workload at Emory to her current workload, they are about the same.

"I don't really think it's that bad here," Houghtlin said. However, she said that although the amount of work is comparable, she now finds she has to study harder and for longer hours to get the same grades she earned at Emory.

Sophomore Kristin Langwell said she thought the conclusion of the study was fairly accurate, though she suspects there are many students who are exceptions to the rule.

"I know a few students who devote extreme amounts of time to academics, but I guess the majority just do enough to get by," Langwell said.

"I know a lot of students at other universities comparable to this university, and many of those people tend to work harder than a lot of people I know here."

Scholarship

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such as the Volunteer Service Corps that students have to serve the community while attending the university.

When asked why only in-state students are eligible for consideration for the scholarship, Marty Edwards, the director of foundation relations, said that the foundation is only allowed to make grants to North Carolinians.

The new gift is similar to adding \$4 million to Wake Forest's endowment. According to a press release, inter-

est from a \$4 million endowment would generate at least \$200,000 in income a year.

The foundation and the university have a long history together.

Since the foundation's initial proposal in 1946 to move the campus from Wake Forest to Winston-Salem, the foundation has donated over \$58 million to the university.

SG

From Page A1

view course syllabuses before registering for classes.

The committee will be working with William Hamilton, an associate dean of the college, to formulate tentative plans for a university house in Washington. The house would serve as a headquarters for students who wish to study or intern in Washington.

The committee has devised a plan in which each committee member will be assigned to meet and work

with a specific dean throughout the semester. "This will hopefully work to increasingly facilitate the needs of the students," Plumridge said.

Junior Deborah Tyson, the campus life committee co-chairwoman, said that each member on her committee chose a specific project to work on during the semester at their Tuesday meeting.

Tyson said that the committee will be investigating other matters such as providing public transportation to football games to decrease the incidence of drunk driving, as well as holding a faculty-parent reception during the next Family Weekend in order to introduce parents to faculty members.

"We have a lot of exciting ideas about the upcoming year," Tyson said.

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