

# Humanities receives new minor

By Dan Childs  
Contributing Reporter

Despite the university's status as a liberal arts institution, few would deny that gaps exist between the various disciplines taught here. According to Robert Utley, an associate professor of humanities, however, a new interdisciplinary minor program in the humanities department could help students bridge these discontinuities.

The program, which is slated to begin next fall after two years of planning, seeks to combine elements of different disciplines by allowing students to investigate the similarities and differences between two or more disciplines of their choice.

"The purpose of this is to help students to seek or investigate the unity of various liberal arts disciplines amidst their apparent diversity," Utley said.

"Students come to this university and are given biology, literature, humanities, natural science and social science as if the world were carved into pieces. Beneath this is the students' own awareness that the world is one."

"(This program) will help students find themes that unite the disciplines, though they seem so strange and different; the human element unites all of them in one way or another," Utley said.

Billy Hamilton, an associate dean and the coordinator of humanities, said another important aspect of the new minor program lies in the freedom it grants students to

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individualize their minors. Hamilton, who has been a proponent for the creation of the minor over the past couple years, said the program also gives students a unique opportunity to integrate elements of different disciplines which lie in their fields of interest.

"I believe this minor represents the nature of an interdisciplinary program, a willingness to reach out and embrace other fields of interest," Hamilton said.

The minor includes two core courses: Humanities 280, reason and revelation, and Humanities 290, innovation and inclusivity.

The remainder of the 20 credits required for the minor are chosen by the student and appointed mentors from departments in the student's fields of interest. A four-credit project, which is reviewed by a committee of relevant faculty appointed by Hamilton, concludes the minor.

Hamilton said the program places a strong

emphasis on individual mentoring, as students taking it are in constant one-on-one contact with faculty members from various disciplines.

The program will also be welcomed by professors who wish to teach unique courses in their areas of personal expertise, Hamilton said.

"Wake Forest has always had a few specialties that come by the fact of who's here and who's free to teach," Hamilton said. "With this humanities minor we're playing to our strengths."

Hamilton said the program will give most students a way to individualize their minors, even if they are as late in their college careers as the first semester of their junior year.

He added that though he does not expect many students to take advantage of the opportunity the minor presents, he would urge any student to consider the program.

"Many students choose to take a minor because it looks good on their resume. That is their reason," Hamilton said. "Well to heck with them. (This program) represents the opposite of mass production."

Utley agreed that the program would be successful for those involved regardless of how many students took the minor. "My hunch is that the question of human purpose unifies all of the various disciplines of the university," Utley said. "We'll welcome all those students who want to think comprehensively about the diversity of these disciplines."

# Student body to vote in campus-wide referendum

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Although the referendum mostly affects students who go through the judicial process, it is still important that students take responsibility for their honor system. "We need to improve the general code of honor at Wake and to improve faculty confidence in the students," Opel said. "We have worked and revised the referendum so that this will be the best possible system for Wake Forest."

To get a large student body turn-out at the vote, SG is intensively educating the student body about this new judicial system.

"We are sending out e-mail, voice mail, fliers, P.O. box letters, and attending faculty and dorm meetings to educate everyone about this proposal," Opel said. "We want students to talk to us, ask questions, and, most importantly, vote."

Junior Christian Heffer and freshman Elizabeth Goins both said they plan to vote on the referendum, though they admitted they currently do not know much about it and hope to gain more knowledge before voting. But after learning a bit more about the new system, both thought it was a good idea.

"It will be better to have one board because it seems more fair. It is a good idea to have faculty because they aren't biased and they have a different perspective," Goins said.

Representatives from SG held a forum March 3 for heads of student organizations to "educate students and garner support for the initiation," said SG president senior Scott Plumridge.

SG provided information for organization heads about the judicial reforms and the reasoning behind them so they can pass the information on to their respective organizations.

Carlucci emphasized the importance of informing students and having a good voter turn out because it allows students to have a say in what is going on at the university.

The best voter turn out in the university's history was 66 percent. By educating and motivating the students, the Judicial Board hopes to improve upon this percentage.

SG also will hold a live WAKE TV call-in show March 16 and 23 as part of its campaign to gain support for the referendum.

The voting will take place in residence halls.

# IBM contributes technology

*Plan for the Class of 2000 helps corporation evaluate software*

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finalized. The administrators once again considered what was dominant in the market. The university decided on Windows since it was so popular.

"We picked Lotus prior to their being purchased by IBM. Our inability to make Notes Mail work as our standard has really made them (IBM) mad. Still, we do what is best for the university and in the end, I think that they respect that," he said.

Because the university buys software in such volume, it receives large discounts not only on the software packages but also network cards, modems, software licenses and other computer accessories. For example, the university pays about



Anderson  
information officer, said.

"There are very large economic advantages to large purchases," he said.

Before the university implemented the Plan for the Class of 2000, it ran a pilot program the 1995-96 school year, administering ThinkPads to several hundred students.

"When I first heard this was being considered, I was vehemently opposed," said Rick Matthews, a professor of physics.

Matthews was a part of the Academic Computing Advising Committee, which drafted a letter to Brown and Anderson saying that the university did not have the infrastructure to support the plan and that if it did fail, it would be very embarrassing for the university.

"I was loudly predicting doom and disaster (for the pilot program) ... but it worked," Matthews said.

According to Matthews, he and other committee members felt better about the project after Brown met with them to discuss the concerns and proposals they had mentioned in the letter.

He said the amount and rate of progress the university has seen has surprised him.

**"We ask all of these companies for access and IBM has certainly been good about that. We put as much resources in the academic part of the plan as the technology part, but it hasn't received as much attention."**

John Anderson  
Vice-president of finance and administration

Some students also think the program has been effective. Even junior Kenneth Thompson, who came a year too early to receive a ThinkPad, still feels the plan is a good idea.

"Everybody is going to need to have a lot of experience with computers in the future," Thompson said. "It is good experience to use them in classrooms."



Brown

ThinkPads for e-mail and Internet research and in the sciences with the labs," Niffenegger said.

Since the implementation of the program, the university has helped in a number of ways by giving feedback, testing products and telling others about its program.

"We have beta tested several of their products. ... We give them lots of feedback on their product — particularly the ThinkPad. Whether or not they take it — who knows. They do come and ask what we think, though," Dominick said.

Other than product testing, the university has created a consulting firm, International Center for Computer Enhanced Learning, to help other universities incorporate computing technology into their programs.

Though ICCEL is not directly funded or run by IBM, the company has provided some assistance.

"IBM's commitment to ICCEL is to refer their customers who are

interested in our programs and our commitment to them with info," Brown said. "We're getting access to their top people and the knowledge some of their clients have, the University of Hong Kong, for example," he said.

The university has also been featured in IBM ads and pamphlets designed to encourage other institutions to sign on with the company, according to Kevin Cox, the director of media relations. "IBM has produced some materials on the web and in print about the Wake Forest technology," he said.

Besides IBM pamphlets, the university has received a great deal of media attention for the technology initiative.

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Boston Globe*, *Beyond Computing* magazine, Greensboro's *News and Record*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and the *Winston-Salem Journal* have been just

a few of the media outlets that have covered the university's program in depth.

*Beyond Computing* even awarded the university one of the second annual Partnership Awards.

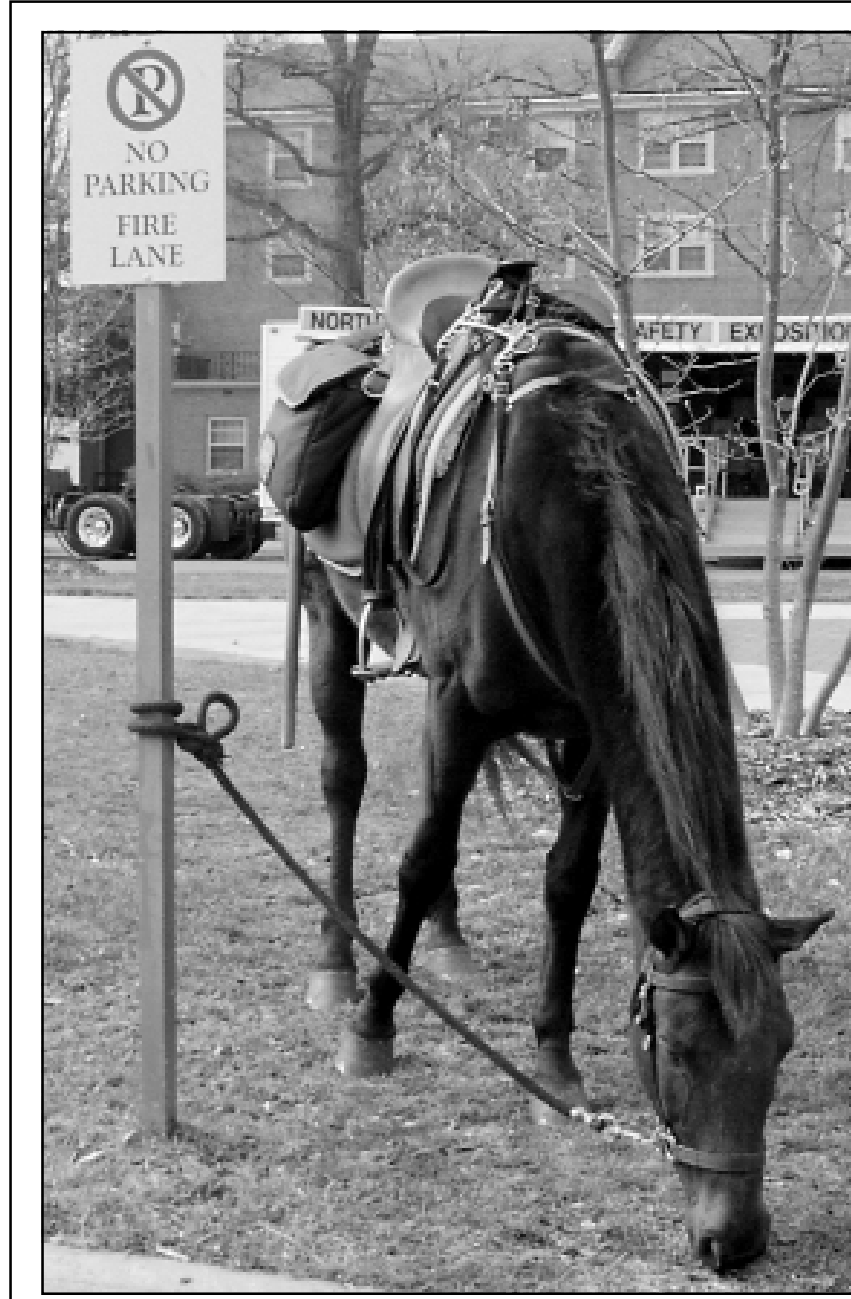
Even with all the media attention it is too early to tell whether or not the relationship with IBM has helped the university's national reputation. "I would like to think that this technology initiative is getting us more national attention," Cox said. "We've never had a significant let up in media interest since the spring of '95."

Though the agreement is up for renegotiation in 2005, it is doubtful that the program will change significantly. Other companies have contributed greatly to the initiative and continue to become more involved over time, Anderson said. Cabletron, Amp and Cisco have been involved in the networking of the university.

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Dominick



## All tied up

The mounted police brought one of their horses to the university for Safe Break '98. Safe Break included free flashlights and pencils, drunken driving simulators and other exhibits promoting safety during Spring Break. For more information on Safe Break, see story on Page A1.

Ashley Twiggis/ Old Gold and Black

# Administrators, students voice concerns over ACC Playboy issue

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to walk around campus. She'd never be treated the same way, I think," said freshman Dave Whalen. "I do think for a school that claims some religious ties, there's a conflict there."

Some students also expressed concerns about the consequences for the women photographed.

"They're legally free to do what they want to do. I would ask that they think twice about it — they will have to deal with whatever reaction they get," junior Clinton Wilburn said.

One student had a very positive reaction to the idea. "I think it's terrific. I think it'll further their careers. There are only a few girls on campus I haven't seen naked anyway, so I'm looking forward to the issue," senior Tim Rogers said.

Another student who had no problem with the idea is sophomore Mike DeGroof, *Playboy's* Wake Forest student representative. He gives *Playboy* feedback on trends at the school and scouts out locations in the community for *Playboy* to do the shoot. The locations will be off-campus, he said, because of the amount of privacy necessary for the shoot.

DeGroof is also responsible for spreading the word about the *Playboy* selection process. The *Old Gold and Black* has accepted an advertisement for it, and DeGroof said he will place fliers around campus. "I was going to check with the university, but I'm probably going to do this either way," he said.

*Playboy* will also be hosting a party for students May 2, according to DeGroof. They will be partially paying for and providing some surprises for the All-stars party, sponsored last year by Pave the Quad, an underground student organization.

The party will be at an off-campus location. "I don't think the school would be too happy with an on-campus *Playboy* party," he said. DeGroof, who got his unpaid position through a friend at another campus, said that he does not see a problem with *Playboy*. "I don't think it's degrading to women at all," he said.

Senior Suzie Danks, a women's studies minor, disagreed. "I do think they contribute to the objectification of women, but at the same time I think the whole censorship thing gets really nasty. ... Females have the right to do whatever they want with their body. I don't agree with selling your body, but it seems to me that there are probably more important things you could be doing than posing for horny men," she said.

The university will probably not be affected at all by the photo spread, said Sandra Boyette, the vice president for university advancement. "I think if this were something that happened every year, it would be a matter of concern. I think we all hope women make smart choices regarding this, but I think people see it as an individual decision," she said.

Other administrators also expressed concerns. "I hope no student steps forward, but I guess we can't stop them from advertising," said Ken Zick, the vice president for student life.

"I don't think we should have it because what is exploitative to women is exploitative to men," said Chaplain Ed Christman. "It's anti-feminine and anti-woman, as I understand those words."

*Playboy* last came to campus in 1989 for the "Women of the ACC" pictorial. Students protested through petitions and a demonstration at the photographer's hotel room that had to be broken up by city police.

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