

Grants, personnel shifts top summer grad school news

Triad universities put \$76.9M back into local economy

By Michele Stupinsky
Contributing Reporter

Over the past three summer months, the graduate schools have been just as busy as the undergraduate college. Professors won awards, students were actively involved in research, and donations boosted the university's overall funds. Here is a recap of what has been happening around the university at the graduate school, medical school, divinity school, law school and Babcock Graduate School of Management:

Babcock School expands international programs

The Babcock Graduate School of Management will expand its international exchange program to include Moscow's Institute of Business Studies.

The Moscow program will become the sixth exchange program offered by Babcock. In addition to existing partnerships with schools in France, Austria and Germany, Babcock is trying to establish connections with schools in Brazil, Chile and Mexico. The international exchange programs, offered through Babcock's Flow Institute for International Studies, allow both professors and students to teach and learn in both countries.

Universities put \$76.9M into local economy

The Triad's four universities with the most research-related funding put \$76.9 million back into the local economy last year. The numbers show a 55.3 percent increase from five years ago when UNC-

Greensboro, North Carolina A&T State University, Winston-Salem State University and Wake Forest University brought in \$49.5 million to the Triad.

These figures do not include the \$132 million in research funds that Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center brought in, an 88 percent increase over its numbers five years ago. The university's role in the Piedmont Triad Research Park in Winston-Salem is also not figured into these numbers.

School of Medicine appoints four new deans

William B. Applegate, dean of the School of Medicine and senior vice president of Health Sciences, announced four administrative appointments who will join the three existing associate deans.

James E. Smith, a professor and chair of the department of physiology and pharmacology, was appointed associate dean for research.

Cam E. Enarson, associate dean for medical education, will take the new position of senior associate dean.

K. Patrick Ober, a professor of the department of internal medicine and section head of endocrinology/metabolism, will become associate dean for education.

Sally A. Shumaker, a professor of public health sciences and professor of internal medicine, will become associate dean for faculty.

Baptist Medical Center U.S. News rank improves

Due to the correction of a processing error, North Carolina Baptist Hospital has risen to the 23rd slot in the *U.S. News & World Report* best cancer center rankings.

This ranks the teaching hospital above Vanderbilt University Hospital, Yale-New Haven Hos-

pital and Georgetown University Hospital. North Carolina Baptist Hospital has been listed as one of America's best hospitals in six categories according to the magazine.

The July 22 issue of the magazine contained this correction: "Because of a processing error, North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, did not receive credit as a National Cancer Institute designated cancer center in the 'America's Best Hospitals' Cancer ranking (July 22). As a result the hospital should be ranked number 23 rather than 42 and hospitals between 23 and 41 drop one place."

University researchers look into alcohol and sleep

School of Medicine scientists are coming closer to discovering why drinking alcohol before bed improves sleep in the evening, but may disrupt sleep in early morning hours.

Dwayne W. Godwin, an assistant professor of neurobiology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, is researching the thalamus, a region of the brain involved in the sleep process.

Godwin has discovered an ion channel in the thalamus that functions differently depending on alcohol.

Godwin and his team in the Center for the Neurobehavioral Study of Alcohol are using ferrets in the project.

Godwin says that the use of the ferret "is optimal ... because they possess all of the necessary circuitry to the generation of spindle waves, which allows us to translate our studies to the situation in humans."

Large amounts of alcohol can shut down the ion channel in the thalamus, causing sleep problems.

The researchers are trying to find out if this shutdown can be permanent, and if the problem can be solved.



Photo courtesy of law.wfu.edu

Students and faculty at the law school spent a day building houses for Habitat for Humanity in downtown Winston-Salem.

Medical professor wins NIH grant for kidney research

Dean Assimos, a professor of Urology at the school of medicine, has won a National Institutes of Health grant of \$314,372. The grant was part of \$1.3 million given by the NIH to researchers at North Carolina universities.

Assimos will use the grant to study why North Carolinian men are twice as likely to get kidney stones than the rest of the country.

He believes that high salt intake and a meat-rich diet are to blame for the phenomenon. Assimos will study all dietary factors leading to the minerals in kidney stones.

Researchers at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University also received grants from the NIH.

Monkeys used in study of alcohol's effects on the liver

Researchers at the School of Medicine say that monkeys choosing to drink heavily develop signs of alterations in the liver.

Carol C. Cunningham, a professor of biochemistry, said, "One of the unique features of using these

monkeys as a model for alcoholic liver disease is that these monkeys self-administer alcohol."

Not all the monkeys drank the alcohol long term, but according to Cunningham, "They all drink something."

One of the goals of the study is to develop diagnostic procedures similar to those procedures used in human clinics. Observations included evidence of oxidation of the liver in direct relationship to the amount of alcohol that the monkeys consumed.

"The animal model may be very useful in understanding alcoholism," Cunningham said. "We can carry out these studies indefinitely."

DuBose becomes chairman of internal medicine

On Sept. 1, Thomas D. DuBose Jr., became the new chairman of the department of internal medicine at the School of Medicine. DuBose succeeds Willam B. Applegate, who became dean on April 1.

DuBose's was formerly chair of the Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease of the American Heart Association. He is also

scheduled to be president of the American Society of Nephrology in 2006.

DuBose is also an active researcher and has had continuous funding from the National Institutes for Health since 1979.

Law students participate in Habitat for Humanity

One hundred and sixty first-year law students, faculty and staff at the law school gathered in the Edwards St. section of Winston-Salem to help build 12 Habitat for Humanity homes Aug. 22.

The law program has hopes to make community service a priority for its students, both now and after their graduation.

This is the third year that the school has spent a whole day of classes assisting a community service project.

The progress assisted by the students will allow families to occupy the homes by the holiday season in December.

Professorship established in honor of alumnus

G. Eugene Boyce and the Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice law firm have created the Donald L. Smith Professorship in Constitutional and Public Law. The income from the fund will be awarded to a faculty member in the school of law.

The fund will have a value of \$250,000 and is part of the university's \$600 million "Honoring the Promise" capital campaign.

Smith is an emergency recall judge for the North Carolina Court of Appeals and an emergency special Superior Court judge.

He graduated from the School of Law in 1964 and lives in Raleigh.

Information provided by the University News Service and the Business Journal.

THE CURE FOR A SHAKY MARKET? A SOLID FOUNDATION.

Looking for more stability in these uncertain times? Consider TIAA's Traditional Annuity and the reasons it remains the bedrock of so many well-balanced retirement portfolios.

TIAA's Traditional Annuity guarantees your principal and a 3% rate of interest. Plus it offers the potential for additional growth through dividends, which we've declared and paid each year for more than half a century. And while our current 6.25% interest rate is certainly attractive, it's the power of tax-deferred growth and the promise of lifetime income that make TIAA such a sensible way to prepare for tomorrow.

Whether it's time to revisit your long-term strategy, or you're interested in rolling over retirement funds, give us a call. Find out how we can help you build the future you want and deserve.

Log on for ideas, advice, and results.
TIAA-CREF.org or call (800) 842-2776



Managing money for people
with other things to think about.™

6.25%

Total interest rate
for contributions received
through 9/30/02 ¹

3%

Guaranteed
interest rate ²

AAA

Highest possible ratings
from the industry's
leading independent
rating agencies ³

1. Retirement Annuity premiums received from 7/1/02 through 9/30/02 will be credited with an effective annual interest rate of 6.25% that is guaranteed through 2/28/03. The corresponding rate for SRAs and IRAs is 5.75%. Accumulations in force and contributions received after 9/30/02 may be credited with a different interest rate. The effective annual interest rate consists of a guaranteed rate of 3% during the accumulation stage plus dividends as declared by TIAA. Dividends, when declared, remain in effect for the "dividend year," which begins each March 1st. 2. Guarantees are backed by TIAA's claims paying ability. 3. TIAA has received the highest possible ratings from A.M. Best Co., Standard & Poor's, Fitch, and Moody's Investors Service for stability, sound investments, claims-paying ability, and overall financial strength. © 2002 Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund (TIAA-CREF), 730 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017.