News & Notes from Sitterson Hall

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Department of Computer Science

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Left to right: **David Harrison**, **Missy Wood** and **Catherine Perry** check for pregnant and hanging chads on the ballots for the new department chairman. (photo: Herman Towles)

Chairman's corner

Spring has arrived in Chapel Hill, and with it comes much growth and change in the department and throughout the University.

Phase I of the new science complex construction project is well underway. The complex will eventually provide additional space for our department as well as the departments of chemistry, physics and astronomy, materials science and marine science. For the latest news on all the construction projects at Carolina, visit the university home page and click on the "construction" link.

We are very pleased to welcome Daniel Reed back to Carolina. Dan has been named UNC's first Kenan Eminent Professor and will be heading the new Institute for Renaissance Computing. You can read more about his appointment on page 10.

Congratulations to graduate student Philip Holman, recipient of the 2003-2004 Computer Science Alumni Fellowship. For more about his research, see page 3. Generous contributions from alumni and friends help make this fellowship possible.

This summer will mark the end of my term as chairman of the Department of Computer Science. It has been an exciting fifteen-and-a-half years for me as chairman. In this time, the University has had four chancellors and four provosts, and the College of Arts and Sciences is currently on its fifth dean. When I started as chair, there was no web, and our goal was to have a computer access device (a dumb terminal) in every room. Things certainly have changed!

Being chair of this department has given me the opportunity to meet chairs of other departments at UNC as well as other computer science departments at other universities. This helped me to appreciate how great this place is. Many thanks to Ralph Mason and Tim Quigg, who managed to keep the department running during my tenure despite me! I am also grateful to those who have served as associate chairs for academic affairs during my chairmanship – Peter Calingaert, Don Stanat, James Coggins, and David Stotts – as well as to Kevin Jeffay, who really made the undergraduate major happen. Finally, I want to extend my thanks to the department staff, who all pitch in to make this a great place to work and to make my job easy.

At this time, I would like to encourage you to make a donation to the department. Your gifts are needed now more than ever as the state budget crisis continues. If your time at UNC has given you more than you would have had otherwise, please consider giving some back. Contributions to the department are tax-deductible and count toward the University's $1.8 billion Carolina First campaign. Thank you for supporting our department.

Stephen F. Weiss