The James B. Hunt Jr. Library on Centennial Campus will move a step closer toward its lofty aspirations with a topping out ceremony today at 2 p.m. The campus community is invited to watch as the construction team moves the last two beams into place atop the building. The beams have been signed by the chancellor, staff members from the libraries and Institute for Emerging Issues who will work in the Hunt Library, and the engineers, architects and trades people for the project.

In a construction tradition that dates back to the eighth century, workers will place a small evergreen on the building to symbolize growth and to bring good luck. Fittingly, a recycled Christmas tree will be used for the Hunt Library, which is expected to receive a LEED Silver designation for environmentally conscious design from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Sitting on one of the highest points on campus, the building will offer views of the Raleigh skyline to the east and Lake Raleigh to the south when it is completed in 2012.

A Courtly Campaign
Basketball coaches Kellie Harper and Sidney Lowe are challenging Wolfpackers to help raise $35,000 to name a high-profile group study room in honor of student athletes.

Fans can make a pledge for each three-pointer the men and women’s basketball teams score this season. The coaches suggest donating $.25 to $10 per three pointer. (If you’re budgeting, last year’s combined total for both teams was 357 treys.)

Threes for Hunt complements last year’s Touchdowns for Hunt campaign by Coach Tom O’Brien, which raised money for the study room.
Timur Ender spent the summer of his sophomore year riding a bicycle across the United States. That may seem like a free and easy way to see the country until you remember there’s a little thing called the Rocky Mountains between North Carolina and California.

Ender noticed the change in grade in Colorado but took it in stride. “It’s amazing to reach 11,000 feet and realize you got there on your own without any assistance,” he says.

Service and Adventure

The trip was part of an annual adventure called “Bike & Build” that recruits college students to get actively involved in developing affordable housing. Teams fan out across the country every summer, stopping along the way to help out on projects sponsored by Habitat for Humanity and other groups. But they’re expected to contribute more than just sweat equity. Each rider must also raise $4,000 in donations to help fund the building projects.

Ender traveled with a team from North Carolina to San Diego two years ago. This summer he’ll be a team leader on the central route, leaving Virginia Beach on May 25 and arriving in Cannon Beach, Ore., on Aug. 6.

On the Road Again

Life on the road follows a strict routine. “Up at 5, eat at 6, ride at 7,” Ender says. Afternoons are set aside for building projects, basketball and bicycle maintenance. Meals are potluck, provided by local churches along the route.

“The hardest thing is that you don’t really have a home,” Ender says. “You’re always on the go.” But, he adds, the benefits far outweigh the challenges.

“There’s a great sense of accomplishment,” he says. “By time we got to Colorado, the houses we built in Chapel Hill and Maryville, Tenn., were already occupied.”

Ender, a senior in criminology, is one of eight NC State students making the Bike & Build trek this summer.
Faculty and Staff Notes

Five Named AAAS Fellows

Five faculty members have been elected as Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

These NC State fellows are among 503 scientists to be honored this year by AAAS, the world's largest scientific society:

> Dr. H.T. Banks, Alumni Distinguished Graduate Professor and Drexel Professor of Mathematics.

> Dr. Robert J. Beichner, Alumni Distinguished Undergraduate Professor of Physics.

> Dr. Craig V. Sullivan, William Neal Reynolds Professor of Biology.

> Dr. David W. Threadgill, professor and department head of genetics.

> Dr. Robert J. Trew, Alton and Mildred Lancaster Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

Banks was recognized for his distinguished contributions to the field of applied mathematics, particularly in quantitative modeling in the biomedical sciences and other areas of science and engineering.

Beichner was recognized for his outstanding contributions to K-16 education and for sustained and exemplary leadership in the physics education community, particularly for his development of SCALE-UP pedagogy.

Sullivan was recognized for distinguished contributions to vertebrate reproductive biology, advancing our knowledge of oogenesis in fishes, and establishing striped bass farming as a major form of aquaculture.

Threadgill was recognized for his distinguished contributions to the field of genetics, particularly for envisioning the Collaborative Cross model and establishing a new paradigm for preclinical drug safety testing.

Trew was recognized for distinguished contributions to the science and engineering of millimeter and microwave devices, and leadership in advancing research and education in communication and radar systems.

Each year, the AAAS Council—the policymaking body of the society—elects members whose "efforts on behalf of the advancement of science or its applications are scientifically or socially distinguished." Fellows are nominated by their peers and undergo an extensive review process.

The NC State fellows will be recognized at the AAAS annual meeting in February.

Mitchell Retirement Reception

Join us in congratulating Ann Mitchell, assistant to the vice chancellor for finance and business, who will retire at the end of the month after 28 years at NC State.

The farewell reception is from 2:30 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 28, in the Belk's Rotunda of Brooks Hall on the second floor. Co-workers, former co-workers and friends are welcome to attend.

Libraries Web Site Honored

The NCSU Libraries Web site received a Cutting Edge Technology Service Award from the American Library Association.

The award recognizes libraries for serving their communities with novel and innovative methods.

Since the site was revamped at the start of the fall semester, average searches are up 56 percent and average clicks have climbed 79 percent compared to fall 2009.

Last year the NCSU Libraries won an ALA Cutting Edge Service award for the Library Course Tools project.

In Memoriam: Ken Fager

Ken L. Fager, a researcher and educator with the university's Center for Environmental Farming Systems, died Dec. 31. He was 48.

A native of Pennsylvania, Fager earned a bachelor's degree in horticulture from Penn State University in 1984. He moved to North Carolina in 1998. In 12 years with the Center for Environmental Farming Systems, he brought a knowledge and dedication to sustainable agriculture, his work and the farmers he served.

"He was a wonderful mentor and friend to students, interns, beginning farmers and anyone interested in learning about cover crops, organic farming, home canning, operating farm equipment, raising vegetables or just about anything," said Nancy Creamer, the center's co-director.

"He was always eager to teach and excelled at it. He was especially good with children, demonstrating patience and insight into how to inspire and challenge them and open their eyes to the natural world."

In his spare time, Fager enjoyed backyard organic gardening with his girlfriend, Karen Strong. He spent time with his many friends and enjoyed hiking, bicycling, the ocean, cooking and preserving his own food.

He is survived by his mother, Loretta Fager; two brothers, Curt and Lou Fager, all of Pennsylvania; and his girlfriend of 11 years, Karen Strong of Benson. A memorial service will be held in Raleigh at a later date. Information about the Raleigh memorial will be posted as it becomes available at www.cefs.ncsu.edu. In lieu of flowers, please make charitable gifts to your favorite gardening, sustainable agriculture or environmental organization.

Bulletin

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News Services
Campus Box 7504
Raleigh, NC 27695

Phone (919) 513-4798
E-mail bulletin@ncsu.edu
Web www.ncsu.edu/bulletin

Editor: D'Lyn Ford
Contributing Editor: David Hunt