



UNIVERSITY Gazette



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UNCOVERS
THE UNTOLD
STORY



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OUTSTANDING
IN INTERIM
CAREER



12 DAVIS PIECES
TOGETHER
BITS OF
HISTORY



'University's living room' provides key support for the library's North Carolina Collection

On warm Friday evenings, people flock to the Carolina Inn lawn, some toting folding chairs, others with rolled-up blankets — all ready to enjoy music and conversation as part of the Fridays on the Front Porch series.

In the fall, football weekends bring huge crowds of alumni, parents and other fans to campus, many of whom choose to stay at the Carolina Inn because of its special meaning to them.

People of all generations, from current students to alumni returning for their 50th class reunions, seem to feel a connection to the inn. UNC President Emeritus William Friday even called it “the University’s living room.” (See photo above.)

Built in 1924 by alumnus, businessman and University trustee John Sprunt Hill, the inn was originally intended “to provide for the special wants and comforts of the University alumni ... and University visitors.”

Hill, who was instrumental in campus expansion during the early 20th century, hired architect Arthur Nash for the job. Nash was already involved in building Wilson Library, Graham Memorial Hall, Kenan Stadium, and several residence halls as part of the 1919 campus master plan, and he incorporated some of the same architectural touches in his plans for the inn.

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Senate budget would be favorable for higher education

When Dwayne Pinkney, assistant vice chancellor for finance and administration, looks at current budget proposals for the new fiscal year, he sees neither a glass half full nor one half empty.

What he sees, with relief, is a revenue gap about one-third the size of the \$3 billion gap that confronted legislators last year.

What he also sees — in terms of possible budget cuts affecting the University — is that the Senate budget calls for a 4 percent reduction.

The Senate approved its \$19 billion spending plan last Thursday, closing a revenue gap that is now estimated at around \$800 million with a combination of spending cuts that would give local officials the ability to order furloughs to save money.

“A 4 percent reduction would challenge the University to set priorities, but we think we could manage at that level and still protect the classroom,” Pinkney said. “As Chancellor Thorp has

emphasized this spring, prolonged budget cuts would affect the University’s ability to provide the quality education that is synonymous with Carolina.”

The Senate budget provides for financial aid funding, tuition hikes and enrollment growth.

Under the Senate proposal, \$8.19 million for need-based financial aid would come from the

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Completed at a cost of around \$250,000, the Carolina Inn opened with 52 rooms, each with a private bath, and cost its guests \$3 per night for a single room, \$9 for a suite.

In 1935, Hill donated the inn to the University with the stipulation that any profits were to be used for the maintenance and support of the University Libraries, particularly for the North Carolina Collection.

Since then, Carolina's living room has gone through five major renovations or expansions, with a sixth currently under way. And for much of its history, the Carolina Inn has helped realize Hill's wish to benefit the North Carolina Collection.

There have been some rough years, however. During the 1970s and 1980s, the Carolina Inn made little, if any, money and was not able to help the collection much, said Bob Anthony, curator of the North Carolina Collection. But by 2000, the situation had improved dramatically.

For the past eight years, the collection has received at least \$100,000 per year from inn revenues — and \$200,000 a year since 2005.

“With regular income from the Carolina Inn now more dependable, we've been able to do a number of things that have significantly enhanced the North Carolina Collection's ability to meet the needs of the thousands of researchers who seek assistance from us each year,” he said.

Because the collection does not receive any state funds for acquisitions of research material, it relies on private funding for these purchases.

“Since July 2007, for example, we've used Carolina Inn funds to round out microfilm collections of North Carolina newspapers, helping make our holdings the most extensive anywhere of older and current North Carolina newspapers,” he said.

He also attributes inn revenue with helping to expand staffing and hours of operation for the North Carolina Collection Gallery.

“The Carolina Inn revenue has proved critical in making the North Carolina Collection Gallery the educational showplace

it is today,” Anthony said.

Money generated by the inn funds other library positions as well, including a special projects and outreach coordinator and student assistants who work on Web projects to bring sections of the collection to a worldwide audience online.

For example, Anthony said, students have scanned more than 21,530 of the 500,000 images in the Hugh Morton Collection and have helped develop the “Read North Carolina Novels” blog that provides more than 600 descriptions of novels set in the state.

“The revenue we receive from the Carolina Inn is key to so many of the services and resources we offer that I cannot imagine the North Carolina Collection operating without it,” he said.

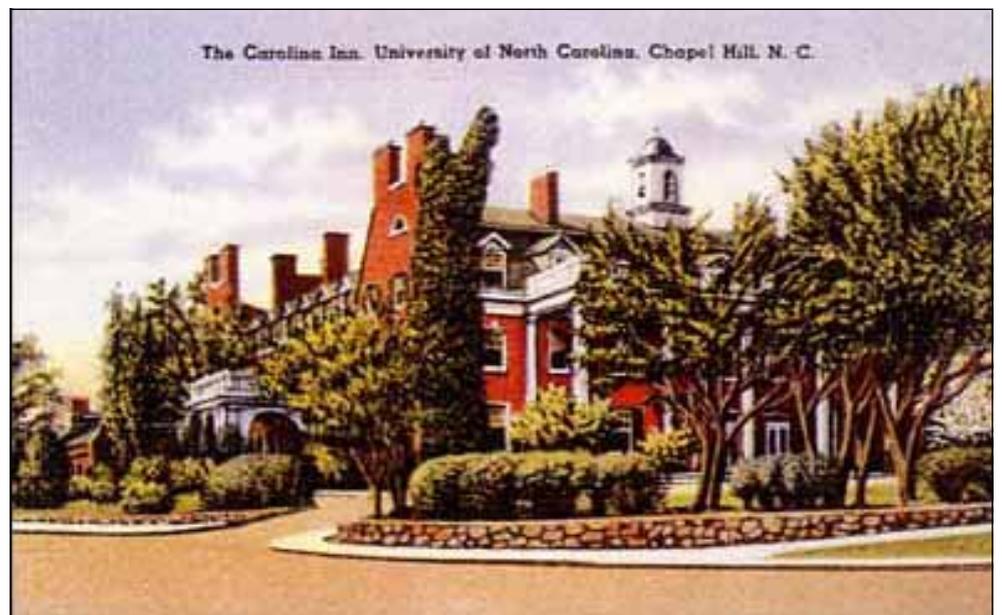
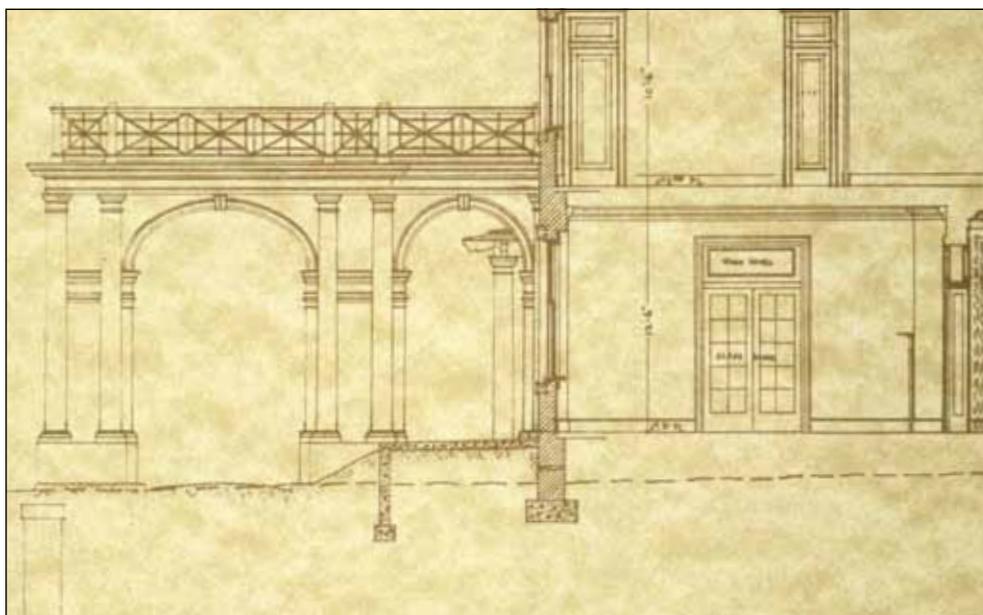
“We certainly would not have anything like the breadth and depth of North Caroliniana that we do today had John Sprunt Hill not provided for this support when transferring the Carolina Inn to the University. Nor would we be able to offer the level of outreach services that we do.”



(Left) During its 85-year history, the Carolina Inn, as seen today from the entrance facing Pittsboro Street, has been through five renovations or expansions, with the sixth currently under way.

(Lower left) Architectural plans for the Carolina Inn, created by Arthur Nash, show a section of the building adjacent to the carriage porch. This image is from the Records of the Physical Plant #40102, University Archives, Louis Round Wilson Special Collections Library.

(Below) This early 1940s postcard, courtesy of the North Carolina Collection, depicts the Carolina Inn as seen from the corner of Cameron Avenue and Columbia Street.



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Committee for the North Carolina Fellows Program, the UNC Faculty Committee on Athletics — serving as chair from 1977 to 1985 — and the Morehead Foundation's Central Selection Committee — serving as chair from 1989 to 1992.

He was a member of the executive

committee of the Atlantic Coast Conference from 1978 to 1982 and was its president from 1980 to 1981. He also served on the board of directors of the Ronald McDonald House in Chapel Hill from 1981 to 1999.

Wilcox held leadership positions in prestigious professional organizations, including chair of the American Board of Thoracic Surgery and the Advisory Council for Cardiothoracic Surgery of the American

College of Surgeons, and president of the Nathan A. Womack Surgical Society and The Society of Thoracic Surgeons.

Wilcox's idea to start a support group for families of children who were undergoing heart surgery became the inspiration for the Carolina Parent Network, begun in 1986.

A student of history, especially medical history, Wilcox helped establish the Bullitt Club for the study of the history of medicine when

he was a medical student. As a faculty member, he began collecting old and rare books about the history of medicine, and in 1984, he began presenting a rare book to the Health Sciences Library each year in honor of his chief resident. Eventually, he donated most of his collection to the library.

Memorial gifts may be made to the TSDA Benson R. Wilcox Award. Refer to www.med.unc.edu/ct/news/Wilcox-obit.