By Hayley Burgess
Managing Editor
Kayton Wyatt
Editor

During the open forum with approximately 250 fac-
ulty, students and staff, UNC System President Thomas Ross cleared up ru-
mors concerning the closing of a university due to budget cuts.

“It's hard for me to imagine a circumstance in which we would close a campus,” President Ross said during the forum held in the UC Annex Feb. 3.

“Universities are really critical in each community,” Ross said. “Universities help the economic base in communities and the intel-
llectual capital of communities. Higher education matters, and we need to pro-
duce more educated people to get jobs, and I don’t think it makes sense to close a university.

Budget cuts have af-
rected many areas in the system’s universities as well. According to Ross, 900 administrative positions in the system were elimi-
nated when former UNC System President Erskine Hawes proposed that solution in his last year on the job.

One solution Ross has for the budget is to have universities in the UNC sys-
tem collaborate with each other, allowing students to graduate in the com-
pany of the other system’s universities. This could mean two universities that are in close proximity working in partnership to combine one course onto one campus. Ross conti-

nued to stress the entire UNC System being more innova-
tive. An example would be having more online classes. Ross told faculty not to fear the collaboration of pro-
grams between universities. He said there are no criteria, yet, but he will be looking to develop a process by looking at other states.

Also addressed was the importance of student serv-
ces on campuses. He said the academic services were not the only part of a stu-
dent’s career, but also the experiences beyond the classroom.

“Student growth oppor-
tunities and life experiences are part of their education and part of their success,” Ross said.

Ross tackled the issue of the UNC System schools being a family and said they need to work together to be triumphant.

“We can’t afford to hit each other,” Ross said. “We are in a tough eco-
nomic time. If we can’t pull it together now, we won’t be successful. We can’t afford to think that one university is better than another or de-
serves more than another.”

Before the forum, Ross had lunch with several students and had the opportu-
nity to ask for ad-
vice as well as ask what the best part of UNC was.

They answered, the faculty,” Ross said. “They [the faculty] are pouring their hearts out into what they do and they don’t get enough appreciation.”

“We've made a lot of progress, but we can make a lot more,” Ross said.

Ross visited the UNC campus for two days, Feb. 2-3. He toured the ComTech facility and met with faculty, staff and stu-
dents.

Ross, a native of Greensboro, received his bachelor’s degree in politi-
cal science from Davidson College in 1972. He later graduated from UNC-
Chapel Hill School of Law in 1975. At 33 years old he was appointed a spot on the North Carolina Superior Court. He stayed in that po-
sition for 17 years before becoming the president of Davidson College in 2007.

He was elected unani-
mously by the UNC Board of Governors to fill the po-
sition of UNC president in 2010.

UNC president visits campus, clears rumors

By Grant Merritt
Web Video Editor

After an on-stage ques-
tion, swimsuit, talent and evening wear competition, Miss UNC 2011 Chasity Chavis was crowned on Feb. 3 by Miss UNC 2010 Jenna Walters at the 59th annual Miss UNCP Schol-

arship Pageant in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

“I worked really hard, and I am proud to represent my hometown of Pembroke and UNCP,” Chavis said. “God has really blessed me with this. Singing ‘Nothing by’ by Whitney Houston was the most important thing to me.”

In addition to her accomplishments, Chavis received the “Supporting Our Troops” award and a $500 scholarship. She said she practiced daily and cut back on all the soft drinks.

She said that Dier Dr.

Miss UNCP 2011 Chasity Chavis is crowned by former Miss UNCP 2010 Jenna Walters. Chavis competed against five other women in order to win the title and the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss North Carolina 2011.

To prepare for her singing talent, Chavis said that she practiced daily and cut back on all the soft drinks.

“I am going to work my hardest like I did for this pageant,” Chavis said. “I am going to work my hardest like I did for this pageant,” Chavis said. "I am going to work my hardest like I did for this pageant," Chavis said. Along with Chavis’ title as Miss UNC 2011, she won a $1,000 scholarship, a $1,000 Miss North Carolina wardrobe allowance, the Miss UNCP crown, the Miss UNC campus crown, free housing for the 2011-2012 academic year, a free meal plan for the 2011-2012 academic year and a class ring certificate valued at $375.

First runner-up, winner of the Miss Congeniality award and a $500 scholar-
ship was senior Courtney Pepper. She was elected unanimously by the UNC Board of Governors to fill the po-
sition of UNC president in 2010.

Scholarship pageant crowns Chasity Chavis Miss UNCP 2011

By Grant Merritt
Web Video Editor

After an on-stage ques-
tion, swimsuit, talent and evening wear competition, Miss UNC 2011 Chasity Chavis was crowned on Feb. 3 by Miss UNC 2010 Jenna Walters at the 59th annual Miss UNCP Schol-

arship Pageant in the Givens Performing Arts Center.

“I worked really hard, and I am proud to represent my hometown of Pembroke and UNCP,” Chavis said. “God has really blessed me with this. Singing ‘Nothing by’ by Whitney Houston was the most important thing to me.”

In addition to her accomplishments, Chavis received the “Supporting Our Troops” award and a $500 scholarship. She said she practiced daily and cut back on all the soft drinks.

She said that Dier Dr.

Miss UNCP 2011 Chasity Chavis is crowned by former Miss UNCP 2010 Jenna Walters. Chavis competed against five other women in order to win the title and the opportunity to compete for the title of Miss North Carolina 2011.

To prepare for her singing talent, Chavis said that she practiced daily and cut back on all the soft drinks.

“I am going to work my hardest like I did for this pageant,” Chavis said. “I am going to work my hardest like I did for this pageant,” Chavis said. Along with Chavis’ title as Miss UNC 2011, she won a $1,000 scholarship, a $1,000 Miss North Carolina wardrobe allowance, the Miss UNCP crown, the Miss UNC campus crown, free housing for the 2011-2012 academic year, a free meal plan for the 2011-2012 academic year and a class ring certificate valued at $375.

First runner-up, winner of the Miss Congeniality award and a $500 scholar-
ship was senior Courtney Pepper. She was elected unanimously by the UNC Board of Governors to fill the po-
sition of UNC president in 2010.