**Hurricane Irene made landfall on the North Carolina coast in the early morning hours of Aug. 27, moving slowly through Eastern North Carolina before moving back inland and continuing its move up the Atlantic coastline.**

**Irene was a Category 1 hurricane when it made landfall around 7:30 a.m. in the Cape Lookout area before slowly moving over the North Carolina sounds and coastline and then moving back into the Atlantic Ocean and making landfall again and hitting the New Jersey and New York areas. The remnants of Irene finally left North Carolina in the early morning hours of Aug. 28.**

**Pembroke and UNCP saw ominous skies throughout the day on Aug. 26 before experiencing heavy rainfall from one of Irene’s outer bands around 3 p.m., sending students and faculty racing to get out of the classrooms.**

A steady rain fell in the Fayetteville/Pembroke area throughout the overnight hours in Pembroke as Irene pulled closer to the North Carolina coast. Unlike what many students have become accustomed to, there was no flooding on campus.

“I was surprised that there weren’t any spots flooded. Usually we end up with several small lakes in different areas around campus,” senior Josh Underwood said.

The Fayetteville/Pembroke area finished the weekend with an estimated 4 inches of rain, a sharp contrast to Bunyan, N.C., where 14 inches of rain were reported. Wilmington, N.C. saw nearly 8 inches over the weekend as well.

Although only 10 days into the semester, there were not many students on campus to welcome Irene to town, as all of the residential student parking lots had plenty of usually coveted parking spots sitting empty.

“It was interesting to see everything empty. “Underwood added.

By lunchtime Aug. 27, Pembroke saw sun and, aside from a fairly heavy wind, it was a relatively nice day outside despite Irene pouding parts of North Carolina to the north-east.

In addition, Irene spawned several tornados on Aug. 27 in Eastern North Carolina as it slowly moved its path.

Hurricane Irene was the ninth named storm of 2011 and the first East Coast hurricane and major hurricane of the season.

The National Weather Service

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**Chancellor Carter outlines priorities in campus Address**

By Nick Phillips

Chancellor Kyle R. Carter officially kicked off the 2011-2012 academic year with his University Address on Aug. 16, covering a wide-range of topics that included everything UNCP.

Those topics included the current economic situation, the present and future, the faculty and the students.

**Budget**

The toughest topic to discuss was the University’s budget, but it was a topic that Chancellor Carter met head on.

“Last fall, I knew that we would be challenged by the current economy and would have to look for ways to do more with less,” Chancellor Carter said.

“But I had no idea that I would stand before you today and report that our state appropriation would be 15.5 percent less than last year,” he added.

The University budget has been reduced by more than $7 million for this year, an increase from last year’s 11 percent cut.

“Some people have called the cutsbacks “daunt-” and said that “there will be belt tightening across the campus.”

Chancellor Carter was happy to report that despite the budget cut the Univers- ity has only lost three jobs due to planning and elimi- nating vacant positions.

This is now the fourth consecutive year with no layoffs, a stat that Chancellor Carter said he “cannot ignore.”

**Student success**

The UNC Board of Governors expects the UNC campus to provide high quality programs, retain stu- dents and graduate the stu- dents on time, Chancellor Carter said.

He pointed to funding being linked to performance measures such as performance, retention rates and de- gree efficiency.

“UNC-Pembroke risks additional budget penalties if we do not improve,” Chancellor Carter said.

“We must improve,” he added.

Student selectivity, GPA, or a C average, in order to stay in good aca- demic standing at UNCP, a new policy that went into effect beginning with the Fall 2011 semester.

Sharon Kissick, registrar for UNCP, said the new policy creates a universal guidelines students follow from their freshman year to their senior year.

She added the last pol- icy had different guidelines for every class.

“It was very confusing for students because a fresh- man would only need a 1.5, but a senior would require a 2.0 to graduate,” Kissick said.

Under the new policy, if a student fails to maintain a 2.0 GPA, or a C average, in order to stay in good aca- demic standing at UNCP, a new policy that went into effect beginning with the Fall 2011 semester.

Chancellor Kyle R. Carter covers a wide range of topics that affect UNCP during his University Address on Aug. 16.

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**Academic standing policy becomes tougher this fall**

By Dustin Porter

Students are now re- quired to maintain a 2.0 GPA, or a C average, in order to stay in good aca- demic standing at UNCP, a new policy that went into effect beginning with the Fall 2011 semester.

Sharon Kissick, registrar for UNCP, said the new policy creates a universal guidelines students follow from their freshman year to their senior year.

She added the last pol- icy had different guidelines for every class.

“It was very confusing for students because a fresh- man would only need a 1.5, but a senior would require a 2.0 to graduate,” Kissick said.

Under the new policy, if a student fails to maintain a 2.0 GPA they will be placed on academic probation. Students are advised of their academic status at the end of every semester via letters and email.

Students who are placed

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