

# Alumnus donates \$28.6 million to UNC

BY SOPHIA RAFF  
THE DAILY TAR HEEL

A UNC alumnus has donated \$28.6 million to the university, the largest single gift in the school's history, officials announced Thursday.

The bequest, from the estate of David Benjamin Clayton, a member of the Class of 1949, was announced at an afternoon press conference following a Board of Trustees meeting.

Officials said the money would go toward funding more scholarships, restructuring the advising system, endowing the School of Law and building a free-standing black cultural center. "This is enlightened philanthropy," BOT chairwoman Anne Cates said. "This is fulfilling a lot of needs we have been talking about for a long time."

Clayton, who owned a number of H&R Block franchises, died in 1978.

Before his death, he requested that the franchises be sold in 20 years and all proceeds given to the university.

Provost Dick Richardson said at the press conference the late Chancellor Michael Hooker approved the plan for allocating the money before he died of lymphatic cancer in June.

"Many of these initiatives were very dear to his heart," Richardson said. "We

would have been excited to have a gift that would do any one of these things."

Student Body President Nic Heinke said the beauty of the whole gift was that all the components worked well to benefit the entire campus. "This is something that embodies to me the university community," he said.

"These projects are things that have been priorities for so long. It's great to see politics step aside and really look at the

needs of the university."

A large portion of the money, \$11.8 million, will create a Chancellor's Discretionary Fund to benefit university priorities.

This year, some money from the fund will be used to build a free-standing Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center and endow the School of Law. "I think it's important for a great university to have a great law school, and I think this money

helps," said Gene Nichol, dean of the law school. "It's a tremendous gift."

Nichol said the money was part of a package that would allow the school to hire a number of new faculty members, open more scholarships to graduate stu-

dents and offer a broader curriculum.

"Gifts like this can make the difference in terms of providing, quite literally, the best education in the world," he said.

Money from the endowment will

be used to build a free-standing BCC building.

The Board of Trustees authorized a plan Thursday to build this \$9 million center, with \$6 million coming from the Clayton endowment.

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