

# Spinning UNC's web

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If Judy Hallman had her way, everyone on campus and across the state would have access to computers and, more importantly, the tools a computer can offer.

After 30 years of service to the University, which she celebrated Monday, the campus webmaster has seen the evolution of campuswide information services from the first computer on

campus to the current advent of the Internet. This transition translates to more possibilities for communicating in and out of the University and more potential for Hallman's vision to take place.

Hallman coordinates the University's web site and serves as executive director of RTPnet, a volunteer-based, public information center on the Internet. As a webmaster, Hallman makes sure the daily content, design and technical applications of [www.unc.edu](http://www.unc.edu) are in order and develops the policies of the University's web presence.

Maintaining a complex site such as UNC's requires the webmaster to have a vision for how the site can best serve the University, said Ryan Thornburg, publisher of the online newspaper *The Fifth Estate*.

"Every department on campus has a new page springing up," Thornburg said. "Hallman has to keep it cohesive. She is like the shepherd of UNC's web site."

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ILLUSTRATION BY PHILIP MOLARO

EDIT/MATT KOHUT

Judy Hallman, campus webmaster, maintains UNC's web site and coordinates RTPNet, a community information web site that encourages Internet access.



## HALLMAN

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Keeping the University's information services as a cohesive unit is a task Hallman has been doing for years. In 1987, Hallman and a University committee created a system of disseminating campus information via computers, called INFO, which included a campus directory and course catalogs.

"She existed in the days when there was no Web," said Scott Barker, director of computer services at the School of Information and Library Sciences.

"When we started, there weren't many universities that did this," said Barker, who worked on the committee with Hallman. "She was very innovative by starting it all when she did."

Providing information and free computer access, or "ubiquitous access" according to Barker, is Hallman's mission and drives her work with RTPnet.

"We want RTPnet to be for every-

one who has a computer and especially everyone who doesn't," Hallman said. The site, located at [www.RTPnet.org](http://www.RTPnet.org), lists community activities, resources and other local happenings.

To fulfill this goal, RTPnet set up a computer this fall in Orange County Public Library and is teaching Internet courses for the public. But Hallman gets most enthusiastic about one of the projects at Birchwood Heights Community Center in Durham. RTPnet is installing donated computers in the low-income area so that members of the community, especially children, can have something to do.

"Kids who mess with machines can get stimulated to learn," Hallman said. "If they're not exposed to computers by kindergarten, they're behind. I'd like to see these computers all over the place. You need to find information. I've benefitted so much personally from this kind of communication."

Providing children exposure to com-

puters will also help change the way they are socialized and will encourage future Internet use, Hallman said. Hallman attributed the lack of minorities and women in computer fields to traditional socialization, which she did not encounter and which she hopes to correct with her efforts.

Thornburg said Hallman's real world agenda for technology makes her very down to earth.

"No matter how important technology is, it's a tool. You have to keep in mind the social aspects," Thornburg said. "She's fascinated with the potential it has to build a community. She doesn't want to create a technological elite, a society of haves and have-nots."

In addition to working with the community, Hallman said she liked to focus on enjoying her position and her career.

"Right now I'm having fun," Hallman said. "I like what I'm doing, working with people and dealing with home pages."