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Cradle of college presidents

I enjoyed a blast from the past talking with Wingate University President Jerry McGee ’65 for the story on page 44. Before I started interviewing him about his weekend job as an ACC football official, he reminded me that I was his best friend’s kid brother years ago in Roberdel. That was the cotton mill town near Rockingham in Richmond County where we lived when I first started school. My dad was pastor of Roberdel Baptist Church; the passage and the McGee’s house were on Hogback Street. Most people there sweated out a living in the lint-filled cotton mills, and they were the lucky ones. I told Jerry I was surprised that a university president would come out of Roberdel, given the many obstacles faced by mill hill kids in those days.

Not one but two, he said. And we both went to East Carolina.

McGee said that when he was a teenager, everyone went to see Jerry Wallace play football at Rockingham High School. A football scholarship was Wallace’s ticket off mill hill and into East Carolina College. So, East Carolina naturally was the place McGee thought of a few years later when he dared to dream about college.

Wallace left East Carolina in 1956 for grad school at N.C. State, then started a career in higher education. He went to Campbell College in 1970 and became a trusted confidante of Dr. Norman Wiggins, for whom he worked for the next 30 years. Wallace was named president when Dr. Wiggins retired in Buies Creek in 2003.

What are the odds that two of the very few kids who made it to college in those days from that poor mill valley both went to East Carolina and both now are presidents of colleges not far from their hometown? They went so far away yet remain so near their roots.

“East Carolina gave us a great education and opened doors to unlimited opportunities of service,” Wallace told me. “The two Jerrys owe a lot to East Carolina.”

ABOUT RICHARD NIXON: Sometimes we have to cut stories to fit the page, such as the two paragraphs we lopped off the bottom of the story in the last issue about Richard Nixon.

Wallace was named president when Dr. Wiggins retired in Buies Creek in 2003.

South Carolina was good to Kennedy. What we had to cut was that North Carolina was not good to Wallace.

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Richard Nixon came to Greensboro on Aug. 29 to appeal to the business community.

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You go, David!

I just wanted you to know how inspired I was by your article on David Garrard in East. Your article was wonderfully written and truly captured the essence of who David really is. I found myself fighting back tears as you covered some wonderful memories that David and others created for us. I still remember the night we lost to Marshall in the 64-61 overtime extravaganza. It was painful and when Leftwich followed David to the jags we all wondered why. I was seething with anger over the decision to start Leftwich over Garrard. If you are like me, you know where you were when you heard that David got the jols. All that mattered was David was finally getting the chance he has openly and respectfully waited for. What a great article and what a great year for David. We will all hope and pray for more success for the Garrard family in 2008.

—Vince Smith ’94, Vienna, Va.

Thank you for the great feature story on David Garrard. I’ll never forget the first time I saw David in an ECU uniform. It was during pre-game warm-ups his freshman year and my brother and I, both ECU graduates and avid Pirate fans, couldn’t believe the agility and arm this 18-year-old was displaying.

We still have photos taken with David at his first “Meet The Pirates” night. It’s great to see that he hasn’t changed, still a classy individual who obviously has his priorities in the right order. Best of luck to David and his family, we all wish him continued success both on and off the gridiron.

—Ruiz Port ’91, Cartagena

“State” often the fortunate folks have to see, in person, every game that David Garrard played for ECU. When David was on the field, you always knew that ECU had a chance to win the game. He is a wonderful representative of our university both on and off the field. He is the same fine person that I met at “Meet the Pirates” when he was a freshman. I hope our fans noticed after the win at Pittsburgh how David gave all the credit to his teammates and coaches. He is a true leader.

—Carl W. Davis ’73, Raleigh

OTHER REBEL WRITER

I enjoyed the information on The Rebel in the winter and spring issues of East. I contributed a book review of Band of Brothers during the 1958-59 year. Hugh Age and I had Dr. Hoskins for Shakespeare class. There was excitement on campus about a literary magazine. The Rebel is a true benefit to the students.

—Samuel A. Davis ’60 ’62, Fayetteville

MORE ON FIRST ACC VICTORY

Editor’s note: We’ve now come full circle in the debate raging on this page about East Carolina’s first football victory over an ACC opponent. This began when we incorrectly said in a full 2007 story that it came against the Wolfpack in 1978. Not so, Paul Hanig said in a letter in the winter issue which asserted that it was the State game in 1971. That’s not correct either, according to two letters in the spring edition that field that the first victory was against Wake Forest in 1971. Charles Chastain, Hanig wanted to offer his mea culpa.

I apologize to Bob G. Daniels ’59, Gunnison, Colo.

During the 1958-59 year. Hugh Age and I had Dr. Hoskins for Shakespeare class. There was excitement on campus about a literary magazine. The Rebel is a true benefit to the students.

—Bob Myattman ’59, Gunnison, CO.

Comparing the records of the three coaches is easy when they competed in the same era, at different levels (NCAA and NCA-A) and under different recordkeeping systems. Martinez has more national championships—tied in ’57 and ’59 and runner-up in ’62—but fewer overall wins because he coached 3 years compared to 15 years for Scharf and 22 (and counting) for Kobe. Martinez has more national championships—tied in ’57 and ’59 and runner-up in ’62—but fewer overall wins because he coached 3 years compared to 15 years for Scharf and 22 (and counting) for Kobe. Scharf’s overall record is 93-55 (63 percent); his teams won 11 consecutive Southeastern Conference titles. Kobe’s most impressive stat is the 72 percent winning record he compiled over two decades.
East Carolina's efforts to control the cost of textbooks is paying off, according to a report by the UNC Board of Governors which shows that a typical student here pays substantially less for books than students at most other public schools in the state. The report says ECU students pay an average $846 per academic year for new books, compared to $890 at UNC Chapel Hill and $894 at N.C. State.

“Those were wonderful news for us because we have been working hard the past two or three years to do everything we could to contain costs,” said Director of ECU Student Stores Wanda Scarborough.

Pushed by the General Assembly to address the issue, the Board of Governors in 2006 began requiring all 16 UNC campuses to submit data on what they charge for books. Last year, the board also began requiring the campuses to submit more detailed data and to report on progress toward implementing a guaranteed buyback or rental program for required textbooks.

East Carolina and several other campuses launched guaranteed buyback programs last fall semester. To make it work, professors must commit to using the same textbook for consecutive semesters. That allows the bookstore to guarantee it will buy back the book at half price, knowing it can sell the used book the next semester.

“By requiring the same textbook, we can estimate costs far better,” said Scarborough. “It’s a guaranteed buyback program that works well. The three schools share information about which books are on their required lists, which means the ECU bookstore can buy back a book even if it wasn’t used previously here because it may still be required at one of the other two campuses.”

“We try everything we can to control costs but there are some things we can’t control. Because of the high price of gas, we’re now being hit with fuel surcharges by the freight companies that ship the books to us,” Scarborough said.

East Carolina, N.C. State and Carolina pool resources to make the guaranteed textbook buyback program work better. The three schools share information about which books are on their required lists, which means the ECU bookstore can buy back a book even if it wasn’t used again here because it may still be required at one of the other two campuses.

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Students ticked over towing

A student group has presented campus officials with a petition signed by 1,600 students demanding that campus police stop towing illegally parked cars and instead use a towing fee, a parking ticket can cost as much as $150.

University officials met with the group to discuss options. Ashley Yopp, speaker of the Student Congress, called off a scheduled protest because she said parking officials “have been more than willing to listen to us and work with us on this. And hopefully we can work together to make parking a little bit more friendly entity on campus.”

A policy implemented last year has resulted in a sharp reduction in the number of towed cars. Now, a car is towed if it’s illegally parked in A1 zones—an area usually reserved for VIPs—if their owners previously were ticketed for parking in those zones. Under the old policy those cars were towed on a first offense. Between July 1, 2007, and Jan. 31, 2008, 368 cars were towed, down from 991 during the same period a year earlier.

There are about 12,000 parking spaces on campus.

Fewer ticketed for underage drinking

The number of underage drinking citations issued by the Greenville Police Department declined nearly 20 percent last year, but campus officials say they are not letting up on their efforts to educate students, particularly freshmen, about the dangers of alcohol. In a year-end report, the Greenville PD said it issued 363 citations for underage drinking in 2007 compared to an average of 450 in the previous three years. One incident alone—a August raid on a party held by the since-suspended Chi Phi fraternity—accounts for nearly 80 of the 363 citations for the year.

A spokesman for the Greenville Police Department said he thought the vast majority of those cited for underage drinking were East Carolina students, but he added that the number includes some who are not.

Many students say they believe police have tightened up on underage drinking. “You really can tell it’s changed around here,” said Matthew W. Cohen, a political science major. “I remember going to places a few years ago, and, without admitting to anything, I know there wasn’t a lot of underage drinking going on. Now, a lot of those places are shut down. I never really thought about it before, but the Sports Pad and Main Street Beer Company are gone, and that’s where we’d always go… before we turned 21.

Underage drinking and sexual assaults are two key areas of focus for Greenville police. The city and the university created a task force that concentrates on those issues and is paying particular interest to off-campus parties where it believes that most underage drinking occurs.

“Everyone checks for IDs now. A lot of times, we don’t even try,” said Pollianna Castro, a 20-year-old Greenville resident. “I don’t want to get in trouble, so I’ll just say that we stay at home until we’re ready to go out, then we go out and have fun and then come back home. It’s not worth the risk, going out and drinking in public.”

The number of citations issued by campus police for liquor law violations fell from 537 in 2004 to 425 in 2006, the last year for which complete statistics were available. However, citations by campus police for drinking on public property rose from none in 2004 to 64 in 2006 in what was thought to be a crackdown on drinking at tailgate parties before football games. It is illegal to consume alcohol on university property regardless of age.

Bob Morphet, assistant director of the Center for Counseling and Student Development, said drinking remains a major problem and the statistics he sees rise and fall sporadically. “Each year we have 4,000 new 18-year-old freshmen coming here and getting their first taste of personal freedom. That’s the group we work the hardest with because they are the most susceptible.”

Morphet added that he believes the statistics on drinking at East Carolina “are within one percentage point above or below what it is on every other campus around the country. We are not unique in any way.”

—Communications major John Swartz contributed to this report.

News Roundup

Super virus studied: Researchers at the Brody School of Medicine received a five-year, $1.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to explore ways to control a germ that sickens many cystic fibrosis patients and is resistant to many antibiotics. Dr. Everett Pesci, an associate professor of microbiology and immunology, received the grant to study Pseudomonas aeruginosa, a bacterium that causes about 10 percent of hospital infections and chronic lung infections in about 90 percent of people with cystic fibrosis. Such infections are the primary source of progressive lung dysfunction for C.F. patients. Pesci has studied the bacteria for more than a decade. Brody adds neurosurgery: ECU Physicians and a private neurosurgery practice in Greenville plan to merge and take steps toward developing the region’s first neuroscience institute at East Carolina. Doctors associated with Eastern Neurosurgical and Spine Associates will join the Brody faculty, according to Dr. Phyllis Horns, Brody’s interim dean. She said the merger should be completed by July 1.

Black students mark a milestone: The Black Student Union, the largest student organization on campus, is celebrating 10 years of “Achieving Success Through Unity.” Since 1998, the BSU has been a key organization in influencing policy and has donated thousands of dollars and volunteer work to community projects. The group, which has more than 200 dues-paying members, marked the anniversary with a luncheon and a semi-formal ball.

Match Day: Nearly two-thirds of this year’s Brody School of Medicine graduates accepted primary care residencies at the ECU school’s annual Match Day. Of the 70 students participating in the annual event, 11 are entering family medicine residencies. Twenty-one are entering some type of internal medicine residency. The class of 2008 will train in 17 specialties at institutions in 17 states. Eleven graduates will stay here for residencies at BCOM and Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Twenty-five of the 70 graduates will stay in North Carolina. Before they can provide direct patient care, U.S. medical school graduates are required to complete a three- to seven-year residency program accredited in a recognized medical specialty.
EAST CAROLINA TIMELINE

YEARS AGO

1960

The $60 million East Carolina Heart Institute is nearing completion on the Health Sciences Campus and should be ready by September. The four-story facility will house clinical, research and education components where Brody School of Medicine and staff will work together in outpatient care, research and training. It will function with the new $150 million, two-story cardiovascular tower that Pitt County Memorial Hospital is building nearby.

1945

The Village Green disaster

One student dies instantly, and 12 others are seriously injured when a predawn explosion from a leaking propane gas line blows apart the Village Green Apartments on 10th Street a few blocks west of campus. Ten others are seriously injured as a result of the explosion in the laundry room destroys 10 apartments. Two students, including the one who died, are blown from their beds and to the floor into the empty expanse of rubble looking for bodies.

YEARS AGO

1985

The campus waits anxiously to learn what will happen to the Fort Raleigh Apartments. The entire complex — about 600 apartments, with 2,000 residents living here — is being razed in the next few weeks. The Village Green Apartments will be completed by the 1987-88 academic year.

1955

Two students, including the one who died instantly and 12 others seriously injured, were blown from their beds and to the floor into the empty expanse of rubble looking for bodies.

75 YEARS AGO

1933

The team goes undefeated, prompting the fans to ask why this year’s team isn’t coachable. To everyone’s surprise, the team goes undefeated, prompting President Robert H. Wright to announce in chapel that he is giving his unqualified support to women’s basketball. Furthermore, he said, the team is achieving the long-standing rule that women students going off campus must wear hats and gloves, which exists a standing ovation. It is one of the last major pronouncements by Wright, who dies a few weeks later while working at his desk.

50 YEARS AGO

1973

Although women students had been playing intramural basketball since 1919, President Robert H. Wright will not allow the team to play other schools because he thinks it would be “unladylike.” He relents in the fall of 1933 when A.D. Frank, the unofficial dean of the faculty, volunteers to coach the team. To everyone’s surprise, the team goes undefeated, prompting Wright to announce in chapel that he is giving his unqualified support to women’s basketball. Furthermore, he said, the team is achieving the long-standing rule that women students going off campus must wear hats and gloves, which exists a standing ovation. It is one of the last major pronouncements by Wright, who dies a few weeks later while working at his desk.

25 YEARS AGO

1998

East Carolina and Chapel Hill signed a memorandum of understanding in December to cooperate in the fight against cancer. The agreement calls for the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chapel Hill and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center in Greenville to share resources and agree on joint research goals.

2013

“it’s very clear we need more doctors in this state, and we want to be part of the solution,” said Nicholas Benson, vice dean at Brody. ECU had already planned to increase each class to 80 students, but the new approach could mean 40 more students. East Carolina and Chapel Hill signed a memorandum of understanding in December to cooperate in the fight against cancer. The agreement calls for the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center in Chapel Hill and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center in Greenville to share resources and agree on joint research goals.

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2014

“The UNC Board of Governors has approved a cooperative plan by East Carolina and UNC Chapel Hill for major expansions to their medical schools in order to meet a predicted shortage of doctors in the state. The board gave its blessing to a proposal to expand the UNC School of Medicine from 160 first-year students to 230 with the Brody School of Medicine expanding from 73 to 120 first-year students. In addition, both schools would add regional campuses where third- and fourth-year students would complete residency training.

Estimates are that expanding each medical school would cost about $239 million in one-time construction, and $40 million a year for additional faculty and staff. It would be phased in over the next 10 years, depending on the timing of required funding from the General Assembly.

Officials of both schools made presentations to the Board of Governors in March. Carolina is proposing adding regional medical campuses in Charlotte and Asheville. ECU is eyeing two unidentified sites in eastern North Carolina, officials said. Charlotte is the largest city in the country that doesn’t have a medical school.

With uncertain funding, the timing of the expansions is up in the air, but Carolina wants to start admitting more students in 2009 or 2010, said Dr. Bill Roper, CEO of the UNC Health Care System. Roper cautioned that the plan remains preliminary. “It could get refined, changed, slimmed down or expanded,” Roper said. “The state needs to find out how much we collectively can afford.”

Teams from both schools have met several times in what they describe as a cooperative relationship, despite the history of a bitter relationship, despite the history of a bitter rivalry, between both medical schools. In the fall of 1932, the Chapel Hill campus opposed a medical school over the objections of Chapel Hill officials. The board gave its blessing to a proposal to expand the UNC School of Medicine from 160 first-year students to 230 with the Brody School of Medicine expanding from 73 to 120 first-year students. In addition, both schools would add regional campuses where third- and fourth-year students would complete residency training.

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Honored as East Carolina University Scholar Teachers for 2007-08 were Xuanming Zeng, Department of Health Services and Information Management; John Stillier, Department of Biology; John Reich, Department of Accounting; Sud Rachlin, Department of Mathematics and Science Education; Laura Perivolaris, School of Communication; Nelson Cooper, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies; Mel Weber, Department of Hospitality Management; Bruce Leonard, Department of Graduate Nursing Science; Danny Morton, Department of Construction Management; and Kathryna Verbanac, Department of Surgery.

Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., senior associate vice chancellor for health sciences, was elected president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons, which represents more than 5,400 surgeons, researchers and allied health professionals worldwide.

Kimberly R. Baker-Flowers was named chief diversity officer and will lead the Office of Institutional Diversity, which promotes an environment that embraces, accepts and respects differences. She comes to East Carolina from a similar position at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She holds a law degree from Creighton University of Omaha, Neb.

Johnnie C. Moore Jr., senior associate vice chancellor for academic and student affairs for the University of North Carolina General Administration, was named East Carolina’s first provost for student affairs. He will lead 12 departments on issues related to the undergraduate experience and student retention. He has undergraduate and master’s degrees from Appalachian State University and is pursuing his doctorate in higher education administration at N.C. State University.

Scott Shelton, the chief of police at the University of Missouri-Kansas City for the past seven years, was named East Carolina’s new police chief. Shelton, who will earn $125,000 a year, will replace interim Chief Janice Harris. Before his stint at UMKC, which was led by Chancellor Steve Ballard before he came to ECU, Shelton worked at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The East Carolina Alumni Association received the Grand Award for Overall Alumni Relations Program during the CASE III conference in Atlanta. The alumni association also was recognized with a Special Merit award for its Constituency Organization Program, “Freshmen Smoofly.”

Recipients of the 2008 Research and Creative Activity Awards are Margaret Bauer, the Rives Chair of Southern Literature in the English Department, and Ron Corntight, professor of exercise science and physiology. Bauer is the author of three books of scholarship on Southern literature. Corntight has received more than $1.3 million in grants from the National Institutes of Health to study the causes and treatment of obesity, diabetes and metabolism malfunction.

Dozens of faculty, staff and students were inducted into the Servive Society in March in recognition of their volunteer work on the University’s behalf in the community. The induction ceremony came as the university continued celebrating its centennial. Recognized with the Centennial Award for Excellence were: Kathy Kolassa, Don Esley, W. Randolph Chitwood, Martin Jackson, Marjolee Gallagher, Debra Crotts, Ed Crotts, Anita Proctor, Carolyn Wills, Anna Dougherty, Ricky Hill and Jim Westmoreland. Receiving both honors was Director of Publications Joanne Kollar, right, who retired this spring.

Summer Theatre moves to the Turnage

Every summer hundreds of aspiring young musicians flock to East Carolina to attend band camp. One of the longest-running of its kind in the country, ECU’s summer band camps offer training in full concert band, small ensemble and solo performances.

New for 2008 will be classes in jazz theory and improvisation, as well as combo and big band performance. There also are these specialized camps:

Keyboard Camp, June 9-13, for ages 7 through high school; offers private and group instruction in classical and jazz piano, harmonica and organ for precollege students.

Choral Conducting Institute and Summer Choral Camp, June 22-27, is aimed at students and teachers, church musicians, graduate students and aspiring conductors.

North Carolina Suzuki Institute, July 6-11, teaches the philosophy and teaching methods of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki.

Summer Drama Camp, July 28-Aug. 2, for kindergarten through high school, is divided into three programs: storybook theatre, puppetry, creative dramatics and theatre games for K-5th grade; middle school and high school students.

Guitar Workshop, July 12-15, is open to students of all skill levels. New for 2008 will be a guitar teacher training workshop. The fifth solo competition for college and grad students will be part of the program, with the final round on July 15 at 7:30 p.m.
Why we need $200 million

East Carolina launches its biggest-ever fundraising campaign guided by a vision of its expanded role in serving the state

By Steve Turlle

East Carolina's premier academic scholarship program, the EC Scholar Award, is offered only to the best and brightest freshmen applicants. The scholarships are worth $40,000 or over four years, plus a $5,000 travel allowance for study abroad. Sixteen are awarded each year. By comparison, the premier academic scholarship at N.C. State University, the Park Scholarship, is worth $65,000; 50 are awarded each year.

Besides the cash value and number of recipients, there's another big difference in the three scholarship programs. East Carolina has to raise its own money to pay for the EC Scholars while State and Carolina have wealthy alumni whose foundations pay for the EC Scholars. While State and Carolina have to raise its own money to pay for the EC Scholars, there's another big difference in scholarships. UNC Chapel Hill awards packages worth $65,000; 50 are awarded each year.

At N.C. State University, the Park Scholarship, is worth $40,000 over four years, plus a $5,000 travel allowance for study abroad. Duke University's $6 billion endowment only ranks 15th in the country, according to statistics tracked by the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO). With an endowment of $2.2 billion, UNC Chapel Hill's ranks 20th in the nation but tops in the UNC system, followed by N.C. State with $5.35 billion. UNC Greensboro and UNC Charlotte both have substantially larger endowments than ECU, whose bank account is roughly the same as Meredith College, the Baptist women's school in Raleigh.

Viewed another way, $200 million is a lot of money that may be a stretch for East Carolina to raise. But in reality the size of East Carolina's fundraising campaign also pales in comparison to efforts underway at other schools. Sixty-eight campuses in the U.S. are currently raising more than $1 billion, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

The Chronicle of Higher Education reported recently that East Carolina sits somewhere near the middle of the pack in money in the bank, ranking 396th out of 550 institutions tracked by NACUBO. Among North Carolina schools, ECU's endowment ranks eighth. But officials say the most insightful way of looking at a school's endowment is in relation to the size of its student body. Considered that way, East Carolina ranks 20th in the state (see chart).

Among its Carnegie Foundation peers, ECU's endowment is on the same order as the University of Nevada Reno, Wright State and Florida International. Some of ECU's peers have deeper pockets: Virginia Commonwealth has $329 million in the bank, SUNY Buffalo has $566 million and the University of Louisville has an endowment worth about $800 million.

The conventional wisdom is that ECU has a relatively small endowment because for years it mostly graduated school teachers who didn't earn enough to send big checks back to their alma mater. Appalachian State University, another of the state's traditional teacher's colleges, also has a relatively modest endowment. Furthermore, while East Carolina has been producing doctors for 30 years—the type of alumni who can write the big checks—a great many of them practice family medicine in eastern North Carolina and are less wealthy than the norm.

East Carolina last launched a major fundraising campaign in 1993, when it set out to raise $50 million, a mission it accomplished in five years. “The campaign that we completed in 1998 was great,” Dowdy said, “but that was a stretch. Most other schools would have kept right on and done at least one and maybe two other campaigns in the time since then.”

Officials concede that East Carolina's fundraising suffered in the last several years from self-inflicted blows. Turnover at the top—two new chancellors in three years—created a leadership vacuum that hobbed fundraising and led to a lot of personnel turnover in University Advancement. Ballard paid a lot of attention to rebuilding University Advancement, the fundraising arm of the school. The arrival of Dowdy two years ago from Virginia Commonwealth was seen as a signal that East Carolina was back in the game.

Small as it may be in comparison to other schools, ECU’s endowment is praised by officials here as the little engine that could.
generating $13.2 million for scholarships, academic programs and athletic facility enhancement last academic year. Those are trends Schools like Carolina and State do emphasize this culture of giving and thus have higher alumni participation rates. At N.C. State, 21 percent of alumni have contributed to their alma mater. At UNC Chapel Hill the figure is 19 percent. At East Carolina, the alumni participate rate is 7 percent, Dowdy says.

The good part is that Dowdy believes the data show alumni giving rate here is low because they haven’t been asked, at least not in the decade since the university’s last fundraising campaign. “I do know that every time a critical financial need has come up recently, we have been able to turn to a few donors and they always have come through. I think we will see the same response when we widen our perspective to talk to the average alumni,” he says. That broad outreach to alumni is under way. About every person whose name is in the ECU database of friends and alumni, more than 100,000 people, will be contacted in coming months by phone, mail or in person about the Second Century Campaign. Dowdy and other staff members will do most of this legwork but the university is counting on volunteers to lead the campaign. Members of the Board of Trustees as well as the boards of the three foundations will play prominent public roles in fundraising efforts. An honorary steering committee of prominent alumni will be announced soon. Dowdy said plans call for the volunteer leaders to host several meetings of small groups of friends and alumni. Chancellor Ballard will travel extensively around the region holding public receptions and private meetings with large donors. The Alumni Association and Pirate Club also will stage many events keyed to the campaign.

The eCU report

Most of these meetings will involve explaining ways alumni can give to the campaign. Cash is the easiest way for most people. Most donors can make gifts and pledges by check or credit card, or even through automatic bank drafts. Larger donors can take advantage of tax savings that come from donating appreciated stocks, shares of mutual funds or real estate. State has tax credits that can contribute gifts-in-kind, such as rare books and manuscripts for the library. Dowdy said campaign volunteers also will emphasize the long-term benefits to alumni of excluding the university in their estate plans.

The success of the Second Century Campaign likely rests on the ability of East Carolina to identify a dozen or more wealthy individuals or their foundations who can each contribute $1 million or more. Above that, the search is on for six or seven who each can contribute up to $5 million. And at the very top of the chart, East Carolina hopes to find someone to step forward with $10 million for a major university program, perhaps the school’s premier scholarship program.

If it had $20 million more in its endowment, East Carolina could attract many more top students like Tiffany Hu-Yan Lee. As a high school student, she performed on violin in direct competition from students in Hong Kong and Thailand. She also volunteered on a spinal cord injury research project at the Brody School of Medicine before becoming an EC Scholar last fall. As a freshman she received a grant to study pain threshold and earned an Early Assurance seat in medical school. About her experiences so far she says: “I’ve learned a lot. It’s a challenge that makes me excellent inter-racially but also in service to others. A place where I am able to face the changes of globalization and progress by developing my problem solving and communication skills.”

Novick added that scholarships remain a critical need along with support to refresh and retain fine faculty through creation of endowed professorships and research. “Contributions to renovate, build and maintain our facilities are also high on our list of priorities,” she said.

Years from now people likely won’t recall the name of East Carolina’s new fundraising campaign, but Clark hopes at least one name will become memorable: “The Names of the Philanthropists. We have some naming opportunities at East Carolina which I think matches up nicely with the opportunities we are identifying to make East Carolina an even greater institution that is strong enough to serve our region.”

Focus on the faculty

While one goal of the Second Century Campaign is to lessen the scholarship gap between East Carolina and other schools of similar size, it also aims to transform the faculty. The plan earmarks $2.5 million for distinguished professorships, which East Carolina needs to attract and retain the best professors.

East Carolina has 19 endowed professorships and all are funded from outside sources. The latest was awarded to the College of Nursing through the C.D. Spangler Foundation in Charlotte and the state General Assembly. Officials are talking about expanding seating at the football stadium by enclosing one end zone, and increasing athletic scholarships. Plans also involve a new softball complex and improved facilities for several women’s sports teams.

Officials with the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation also see the need for scholarships as well as bricks and mortar. Anchored by the Brody School of Medicine and the William E. Laupus Health Sciences Library, the Health Sciences Campus also is home to the College of Nursing and the College of Allied Health Sciences. Construction for the East Carolina Heart Institute is nearing completion, ground has been broken for the dental school and plans for a new Family Medicine and Geriatric Center are nearing completion. But even with those funds, a few large private gifts are funding most of that construction, but how well equipped and outfitted those facilities will be depends in large measure on the success of the Second Century Campaign.

The Second Century Campaign brings into focus the continued need for the community we serve to provide support,” said Carol Novick, president of the Medical & Health Sciences Foundation. “Together we can ensure the continued success of these entities that are important to the physical and economic health of our region!”

“Of course it’s important for a few people to write big checks, but the true test of whether this campaign is successful is how many hundreds, even thousands, of alumni write smaller checks,” Dowdy concluded.

“In conclusion I’ve noticed that East Carolina has relatively few ‘named’ entities. We have the Brody School of Medicine but not many other places the alumni can designate their giving to. We have some naming opportunities at East Carolina which I think matches up nicely with the opportunities we are identifying to make East Carolina an even greater institution that is strong enough financially to serve this region.”

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Saying that they see personal responsibility, Dowdy said: “This contribution to the Second Century Campaign will not only improve the education offered to science educators at ECU, but it will improve science education across the state as those students graduate to become teachers themselves. Senator and Dr. Taff’s connection to and love for ECU are obvious, and I am so grateful they chose to support ECU in this way.”

Other leaders to host several meetings will involve explaining ways alumni can give to the campaign. Cash is the easiest way for most people. Most donors can make gifts and pledges by check or credit card, or even through automatic bank drafts. Larger donors can take advantage of tax savings that come from donating appreciated stocks, shares of mutual funds or real estate. State has tax credits that can contribute gifts-in-kind, such as rare books and manuscripts for the library. Dowdy said campaign volunteers also will emphasize the long-term benefits to alumni of excluding the university in their estate plans.

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No. 1 in Nurses

With more than 1,000 students, the College of Nursing has grown rapidly to become the biggest in the state. But growth hasn’t changed the expectation that an East Carolina nurse be smart, savvy and dedicated to improving health care in the rural east.

A day in their lives starts before dawn

They arrive as juniors and leave as nurses and in between are regarded as some of the hardest-working students on campus.

“You pretty much have to say goodbye to your social life,” says nursing student Carolina Dimsdale. But there is a sense of pride, too. “I can walk on campus and see other students and think to myself, ‘I gave someone an I.V. and a shot. What did you do today?’” says Hallie Horrocks (right).

“We learn so much so quickly,” says junior Kelly Bailey (center). “Before we start clinicals we work with models, and take part in role-playing to see how we will act.” Her classmates are her best friends and they support each other through the stresses of life on the front lines.

By Marion Blackburn
Photography by Forrest Croce

__continued on page 19__
East Carolina’s nursing programs have experienced phenomenal growth in recent years, in enrollment and academics. More than 200 new nurses were expected to graduate this year, making it one of the largest classes ever. And if precedent holds, 96 percent of them will pass the state exam on their first try to become registered nurses (RNs), the highest passing rate of the 15 schools in the state that educate nurses, according to the Sheps Center.

The College of Nursing has the state’s only nurse midwife concentration, which is part of a robust graduate program, a doctoral degree, a dynamic Center for Nursing Leadership and a sparkling new home on the Health Sciences Campus. But nursing remains true to its original aim of improving health care in the rural east.

While the mission “to serve” still guides the school, much has changed since it opened in 1960 with a dean, five instructors, a handful of students and one office. These days it is a powerhouse, widely respected for the quality and number of its graduates and with a new college designation reflecting a half-century of growth and innovation. U.S. News & World Report lists the College of Nursing ninth in graduate nursing distance education nationally, plus it recently received a new million-dollar endowment, the Richard R. Eakin Distinguished Professorship.

Yet some things haven’t changed, says acting dean Sylvia Brown ’75 ’78. “What we do here at the college has an enormous effect on the community beyond our immediate area,” says Brown, who also serves as associate dean for graduate programs. “We take very seriously our commitment to serve. Our school has always been deeply engaged with our community and with the profession at large. We have aimed to be visionary in what we’ve done, from the start.”

In the years ahead, vision will be more important than ever because the college is being asked to produce more nurses, college and university educators and leaders for an ever-more complex health-care environment. And the job of a nurse is getting harder as they care for patients who often are older and sicker, and who require more complicated treatments, than just a few years ago. Expectations are growing for more managers, too, who will be expected to have more advanced degrees and professional skills.

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Baxley embraces clinicals as a precious chance to learn as much as possible before becoming a nurse. She admits feeling a little shocked at the demands during her first days on the floor but now feels entirely comfortable helping to care for patients during her shift, along with the primary nurse.

Even with her classes, simulation labs and several months of clinical experience, she says there was no way for her to prepare for the angry alcoholic she met during her behavioral medicine clinical rotation. “That was the most stressful thing I have done.”

Baxley recently worked in the post-operative unit of Pitt County Memorial Hospital, where along with the unit’s staff nurses, she cared for patients who had undergone major surgeries. Her ECU instructor was Beth Bryant ’89 ’01. We tagged along to get an idea of what a typical day of clinicals is like for a nursing student.

5 a.m. Wake-up time. Having showered the night before, Baxley dresses in her trademark ECU-purple scrub uniform, packs lunch, grabs breakfast and leaves by 5:45 a.m.

The region's health depends on East Carolina nurses

Percentage of nurses with bachelor's degrees who graduated from ECU

| (Number of counties) | No Active BSNs (17) | 1 to 4 percent (29) | 5 to 14 percent (20) | 15 to 49 percent (28) | 50 percent or more (6) |

Data include active, retired RNs licensed in NC as of October 31, 2006, who obtained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from ECU. Source: Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

6:30 a.m. Baxley arrives at the nurses’ station of the post-oper unit at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, where she will spend the next eight hours. Today, her patients are an older man with several health problems, and a woman who had knee surgery the previous day. The man’s complex condition includes diabetes, obesity and high blood pressure. She reviews his computerized chart, carefully studying the long list of medications he’ll need during her shift. She will be responsible for making sure he gets them on time and without complications. “You have to be ready to go from the minute you get there,” she says. “People need attention at all times.”

6:45 a.m. “Good morning, how are you feeling today?” Kelly says as she walks into the room where
Room, at last

In its earliest days, the school occupied just a few offices on campus and later, a university-owned house on Eighth Street. Faculty worked in dorms and for a time conducted student conferences in a bathroom.

“It was the only place to have a confidential meeting,” remembers Lona Presser Ratcliffe ’66, who arrived as a student in 1962 and now serves as clinical associate professor. “One person sat on the toilet and the other person sat on the side of the bathtub. That was what you did if you needed privacy.”

Conditions improved when nursing moved to the Rivers Building, where it was housed for about 40 years. But space there became cramped and facilities outdated. Plus, Rivers is located on the Main Campus and not on the Health Sciences Campus, where nurses often are assigned to clinicals. In 2006 the university opened the 303,000-square-foot, $60 million Health Sciences Building as nursing’s new home, a spacious facility it shares with the College of Allied Health Sciences and the William E. Laupus Library.

This building has eight labs where students learn basics like taking blood pressure, along with advanced skills such as providing intravenous medications. If in the old days nurses ran drills such as strangles or hot dogs to practice giving injections, today they can learn as the college’s simulation labs with computer-operated mannequins.

A traditional wet lab in the building will allow more basic, or basic sciences, research. The college’s new Eakin Professorship will likely be used to attract a researcher, possibly with external funding in place, to get the lab fully operational.

In the building’s large lecture halls, students learn about ailments such as heart disease, diabetes, pulmonary disease and other chronic conditions that plague eastern North Carolina. They learn about wound care, pharmaceuticals and wellness. They learn, too, the importance of considering the big picture when providing care. That’s so they can coach new moms, guide family members in caring for elderly relatives, emphasize the importance of treating high blood pressure and safeguard, as much as possible, the health of those who look to them for day-to-day care. They have two years to learn all that.

Despite its size, enrollment in nursing programs is at a record high, with 1,021 enrolled this spring. Those numbers include about 100 male students at all levels. In 2007, the College of Nursing awarded Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing degrees to 222 pre-licensure students and 34 R.N.-to-B.S.N. students, 83 masters of science in nursing degrees and four doctorate degrees.

Wanted: More nurses

Even as enrollment climbs in the College of Nursing, the pressure is on to grow even faster, State leaders, including the UNC Board of Governors, have asked its schools to double the number of nurse graduates faster. State leaders, including the UNC Board of Governors, have asked its schools to double the number of nurse graduates to increase graduation by 50 percent.

Just over half of the 48,150 nurses with B.S.N. degrees working in North Carolina today, or 24,076 of them, also went to college somewhere in the state. And of those, about one in nine got their nursing degree at East Carolina, making it the largest source of degreed nurses in the state, according to data provided by the Sheps Center for Health Services Research in Chapel Hill.

In 28 counties east of I-95, the percentage of ECU nurses runs from 14 to 49 percent, with the percentage increasing in proximity to Greenville. In six counties clustered around Greenville, half or more of the nurses are ECU graduates. In Pitt County, 63 percent of the 1,609 nurses went to East Carolina, according to the Sheps Center data.

Three of the four licensed nurses in Perquimans County are ECU graduates. in Pitt County, 62 percent of the 1,109 nurses are ECU graduates. in Tyrrell County, 60 percent of the 168 nurses are ECU graduates. in Washington County, 52 percent of the 335 nurses are ECU graduates. in Pamlico County, 41 percent of the 140 nurses are ECU graduates.

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ECU nurses already are making a positive difference, as many as half of all baccalaureate-level nurses working in some eastern North Carolina counties graduated from ECU. Many of these small communities are served by nurse practitioners, who have two or more years of additional educational preparation beyond their four-year degree. They are vital providers in poor, rural counties.

The college is on track to meet its growth options, initiating ambitious online programs for undergraduate studies in 1981. Under her leadership the college saw about 150 in 2000-01 academic year.

Yet, opening the door to more students cannot mean lowering the bar. Students who apply generally have a B average or higher or some of the university’s toughest courses—chemistry, anatomy and physiology, microbiology, nutrition, statistics and ethics. Students apply during their sophomore year and the program begins in the junior year and includes clinical rotations in health-care settings.

During the junior and senior years, students face a rigorous course study, says Karen Krupa ’73 ’76, a long-time faculty member and director of undergraduate student services.

“It’s our goal to assure students are well-qualified to enter the nursing profession when they graduate,” says Krupa. “If you don’t want them to take care of your own mother, then we don’t believe they should be nurses.”

Physical space also sets limits on growth, and even as its new location the college is a possible need for more room if its programs are to keep expanding. Compounding an ongoing nursing shortage is another, nationwide shortage of nursing instructors, especially doctorally prepared faculty.

Phyllis Horns

T

housands have gone on to successful careers after graduating from nursing school at East Carolina, such as Diane Poole ‘81 ’88, executive vice president and Mary Chatman ‘90 ’96, who is a vice president and Chief Nursing Officer at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, part of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina, a seven-hospital network. Others graduate in business and industry, such as Gale Adcock ’78, the director of corporate health services at SAS Institute in Cary who oversees a $4.2 million budget and a staff of 59.

Alice among the college’s distinguished graduates is Phyllis Horns ’69, the dean of the nursing college who now is also serving as interim vice chancellor for the Division of Health Sciences and interim dean of the Brody School of Medicine. Horns’ career in academics began soon after she completed her bachelor’s degree and was asked to teach at ECU. Later she left to pursue a doctoral degree in nursing at the University of Alabama, and was tapped as its assistant dean for undergraduate studies in 1983.

She became dean of ECU’s School of Nursing in 1990. Under her leadership the college saw an explosion in growth at all levels, adding a Ph.D. program, enlarging its master’s degree options, initiating ambitious online programs and moving into a new building on the Health Sciences Campus.

“I feel humbled by all we have accomplished,” Horns says. “I feel proud, though, that through all of these changes we have held tightly to our values and belief that our graduates should be the best in their field. The reputation of our graduates in the work force is top notch and our faculty genuinely value that. We have found a way to have growth and quality, and that’s a point of pride for me.”

She has seen remarkable growth in East Carolina’s nursing programs—and in the profession.

“The rate of growth of knowledge in this field is incredible,” she says. “We know so much more than we did 30 or 40 years ago, and our programs have evolved to stay in tune with the latest advances in health care. We’ve shifted our focus from being primarily knowledge based to placing more emphasis on problem solving and critical thinking. Our graduates must have sound knowledge, but they must be problem solvers, as well.”

Remembering her own nursing education in the mid-1960s as “pretty simple compared to what students have to learn now,” Horns said nurses are expected to master the same basic skills along with new, high-tech ones. Hundreds of medications and new therapies: “The amount of knowledge that a nurse has to have is enormous,” she says. “And our health-care consumers are a lot more informed, too.”

She reflects modestly on her own steady rise to the top, and says she still feels she is a nurse at heart. “No one really goes into this field so they can become a dean or a vice chancellor,” she said. “It’s because we’re interested in human service. And, in my case, I’ve had the leadership experience that’s needed for successful administration.

“In the end, everyone must work together because our work has a direct effect on patient care,” she concludes. “We can’t afford to be associated with an institution that isn’t committed to quality. It’s too important for our patients.”

—Marion Blackburn

Nurturing the nursing program

Phyllis Horns

10 a.m. Baxley distributes medication to her patients.

10:30 a.m. Baxley must remove the male patient’s drainage tube. While the primary nurse watches, she removes the patient’s stitches, dislodges the Hemovac and applies new wound dressing. Removing this kind of device can hurt, so she maintains a calm demeanor. That helps her patient relax, and all goes well.

11:30 a.m. Lunch. Baxley and her classmates have lunch in the hospital cafeteria. She’s brought a sandwich, chips and peaches, her usual menu.

12:30 p.m. Back on the floor, she checks her patient and prepares for the afternoon duties: helping her female patient walk and discussing the doctor’s discharge orders with the male patient.

1 p.m. The woman who underwent knee replacement is coaxed from the bed by her walker so Kelly can help her complete a lap around the nurse’s station. The patient has an immobilization brace that will protect the knee after she’s discharged.

1:30 p.m. Baxley documents her female patient’s progress and checks on her male patient.

2 p.m. A second round of medication. Her male patient will be discharged this afternoon, but before he leaves Baxley explains the follow-up procedures, new prescriptions, and the signs of problems he should look out for. The instructions were written by the patient’s doctor. It is the first time Kelly has been responsible for the discharge instructions.

2:30 p.m. The end of her shift in sight, Baxley reports to the primary nurse and retrieves her belongings from the locker room. She and her classmates adjourn to a post-shift conference, where they will discuss the day. At the meeting Bryant answers questions and hears about their challenges, which include dealing with shotgun wounds, complex I.V. medications and patients who “code,” or present a Code Blue, which is called when a seriously ill patient’s condition becomes a life-threatening emergency. “These experiences offer them a protected setting, with a lot of attention around them, so they can learn more and take on greater responsibilities,” she says.

4 p.m. Baxley arrives home, washes her scrubs and takes an hour-long nap.

7 p.m. Study time. Baxley prepares for upcoming course work, tests and upcoming clinicals.

Midnight. Bed. —Marion Blackburn
Distance education, clinical learning

The college has vigorous online programs for nurses seeking to advance their education. Internet classes make sense in this profession where shifts generally last 12 hours, day or night.

All master’s degree options are online, except for the nurse anesthesia concentration which requires intensive, in-person training. The online nurse practitioner options prepares nurses as primary care providers or in neonatal intensive care. The nurse midwife options is unique in the state.

Beyond course work, though, are clinicals, the real-world settings where nurses gain most of their practical education, whatever their degree program. All nursing students spend two days a week in a hospital, medical office or other health-care settings. Not only do they learn the technical skills nurses perform, they also come to understand the larger picture—that their patients are part of families and communities, and that their patients’ health is directly related to a patient’s health outcome. Why is leadership more important than ever? Scott believes the quality of nursing care is directly related to a patient’s health outcome. She points to recent studies showing that patients fare better when nurses have a higher education level, more experience and a satisfying work setting. “If you’re in the hospital, the person who’s most likely to notice when something’s not right is the nurse,” she says. “We’re 24 hours a day.”

Not long after graduating with her nursing degree in the late 1970s, Elaine Scott did something she’d wanted to do for some time: she burned her nurse’s cap. She bristled with the expectation that as a nurse, she should avoid making decisions. Today, Scott directs the Center for Nursing Leadership at the College of Nursing, a pioneering initiative to empower future nurses to do just the opposite. “We learned our caps as a way to purge ourselves of being part of the old way of nursing,” says Scott, who in 2005 was one of the first graduates of ECU’s nursing Ph.D. program. “The old model was that those of us providing care did what we were told. There is so much more knowledge now. No one can know all there is to know. It’s important to have a partnership if we’re going to be most effective for our patients.”

As director of the center, she initiated special classes that allow future nurses to think through tough questions and better understand the traits that will help them, or hold them back. She often uses executive personality tests to help them learn mature approaches for leadership.

“As it looks toward its 50th anniversary, the university’s larger goals of scholarship and discovery, our program will always be distinctive.”

Some of the best investments are made in stocks, bonds, and people.

When you set up a charitable gift annuity with the East Carolina University through the East Carolina University Foundation Inc., East Carolina University Medical & Health Sciences Foundation Inc., or the East Carolina University Educational Foundation Inc. (Pirate Club), you are contributing to an organization dedicated to educating students and preparing them for tomorrow.

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For more information, please call 252-328-9573 or e-mail abeyounisg@ecu.edu. You may also find more information online at www.ecu.edu/dot/.

A two-year departmental study has found that patients undergoing weight-loss surgery. Led by Mary Anne Rose, the National Association of Bariatric Nurses began at ECU’s College of Nursing in 2004, where it resides today and promotes research that will improve care for morbidly obese surgical patients.

The medical school has been a leader in developing and performing gastric bypass procedures and nurses have served a vital role in its success. With a stronger focus throughout the university on research and scholarship, the nursing college is also placing more emphasis on them. “Our doctoral program is an important part of the overall growth that’s ahead for the College of Nursing,” Engelve says. “Our research mission is consistent with the university’s larger goals of scholarship and discovery, but our program will always be distinctive.”

East Carolina University

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East Carolina University

Some of the best investments are made in stocks, bonds, and people.
Off campus goes upscale

Remember the year you lived off campus and what your apartment usually looked liked? Piles of dirty laundry, stacks of molding dishes and trash cans overflowing with pizza boxes and beer cans. The old dump’s main charm was you could walk to class in five minutes. Today’s trend in off-campus housing is more upscale. Way more.
By Bethany Bradsher

Almost every issue of the student paper is filled with colorful ads for new apartment complexes that have or are about to open around Greenville. With glossy photos of Olympic-size pools and tastefully appointed kitchens, they all tout out offers of free health clubs, big-screen TVs and free wireless Internet.

They’ve all sprang up in the past few years to serve a growing, and more affluent, student market which some estimate at more than 12,000 renters. Those in several thousand more of the younger faculty and staff, and the local apartment market approaches 20,000 people.

One complex even has a movie theater, The Bellamy, with 1,056 apartments, will open in August about two miles out 10th Street from campus. It already had signed up 500 students for the fall semester. Apartments there have hardwood floors in every unit, 37-inch or larger flat screen televisions and wireless Internet. “We also have a small movie theater with stadium seating,” said property manager Donna Scanny.

North Campus Crossing is the largest of the new apartment communities, with 1,692 beds and two pools—one of which features a large Pirate ship. There’s also a full-size gymnasium, indoor and outdoor volleyball courts, and an on-site social director who arranges dance and exercise classes.

Located on Highway 264 East about 10 minutes from Main Campus, North Campus Crossing—everyone calls it NCC—has the added attraction of sitting beside ECU’s new North Recreation Complex. The 59-acre facility offers several sports fields that can be sized for soccer, flag football, lacrosse, ultimate Frisbee and rugby. There’s a six-acre lake with a sunbathing beach served by a field house with restrooms, covered seating and ample parking.

The Exchange, near The Bellamy off Fire Tower Road, makes hot chocolate chip cookies every day and offers 24-hour study space leases for $485 a month per person. The apartment comes with brushed nickel hardware, ceiling fans, a refrigerator with icemaker, washer and dryer, a microwave and garbage disposal. A two-bedroom, two-bath garden apartment at The Bellamy is $504 per person. A four-bedroom townhouse at Copper Beech goes for $455 a month per student.

A bus ride away

Because these new communities generally are a few miles from Main Campus and the bars downtown, they have to make it easy for students to get around. They pay the university to be linked to the student transit system; at North Campus Crossing students can catch a bus to campus every 10 minutes. ECU housing officials seem to view the apartment complexes not as competitors but as collaborators in the university’s drive to accommodate its surging enrollment. With little land available on the Main Campus and no new dormitories planned, East Carolina needed housing alternatives.

The off-campus housing boom hasn’t hurt the dormitories. Associate director of campus living Aaron Lucier reports that nearly 82 percent of freshmen choose to live in one of ECU’s 5,301 dorm rooms.

The last new dorm to be built on campus, College Hill Suites, opened in 2006. It offers some upscale touches, like kitchenettes in every unit, for more money and stays full.

With all the dorms full, that still leaves more than 10,000 upperclassmen who choose to live off campus, and many are opting for the big-box complexes with the long list of amenities. Suffering in this competition are the older complexes and neighborhoods that just a few years ago were the hot spots for students. Pirates Cove and other familiar neighborhoods nearer to campus are losing tenants to the new places. Places that once had waiting lists now have several vacancies.

This leads some to wonder if developers are overbuilding the market.

“We’re building all these complexes, and then the complexes that used to be in existence back then are not the prime real estate anymore,” said Michelle Lieberman, ECU’s director for off-campus and community living. She believes some out-of-town developers based their plans just on East Carolina’s enrollment growth and didn’t factor in that about 4,000 are distance education students. An adult student taking Internet classes from Missouri has no need for an apartment.

“Our actual rental population that I work with is about 12 thousand, and it has stayed pretty steady,” she adds.

Students are the winners

Of course, the winners in this competitive market are the students, with each complex trying to be more lavish, more convenient and less expensive than its competitors. Each touts a distinctive supply of bells and whistles.

But as hard as each apartment community markets itself, students’ decisions often have less to do with the number of tanning beds than by where their friends live. Sophomore Brandon Blackley from Shelby has lived in the dorms for two years—first in Umstead and this year in College Hill Suites—but she signed a lease at Copper Beech for fall semester.

Blackley and her three dorm roommates were drawn by the convenience and the privacy of Copper Beech, she said, and because they don’t have to buy a meal plan. She says they will actually shell out a little less than they pay to stay in the dorm. “My roommates’ parents were a little concerned that they weren’t built yet,” she said of the Copper Beech community going up on 10th Street. “But they have until August, and I know they’ll be finished.”

Sophomore Bryan Strohmann from Raleigh has gone full circle on his housing choices. He spent his freshman year in the dorms. Then he moved to NCC, his sophomore year, attracted by old roommates who had moved there and the ease of parking. But he has had enough of big-box apartment living, he said. Next year he’s moving to a three-bedroom house on Elm Street just off campus.

“We wanted to be closer to campus,” said Strohmann, who will divide rent payments with his roommates and figure out utility costs. “And it’s training for the real world.”

At their Elm Street house, Strohmann and his roommates will be an increasingly rare breed at ECU: off-campus renters who are close enough to actually walk to...
The neighborhoods east of campus remain attractive, but the city has cracked down on renters. Greenville now strictly enforces a “three-to-a-house” rule.

The luxuries that North Campus Crossing offered were nice, said his roommate, junior Reid Warren, but they were ready for something different. In their case it was the classic experience of living in a big, drafty old house an easy walk from classes. “If I was going to live in an apartment it would be this one, but I just get tired of it,” Warren said.

The dorms aren’t bad

Just as the new apartment communities offer a different standard of living than a generation ago, on-campus living also has gotten better. Today’s residence halls are not your father’s dormitories. All ECU dorms except Belk Hall are air-conditioned, have 63 cable channels with wireless Internet, and free washers and dryers (no more searching for quarters). The newest dorm, College Hill Suites, is open only to nonfreshmen and has kitchenettes in each unit.

Most dorms have computer labs equipped with Windows and Apple computers and printers. Free newspapers are delivered daily.

It costs $4,250 a semester to live on campus, and most dorm residents choose to buy a meal plan. It’s more expensive to live on campus, but there are many benefits.

When Lucier and his colleagues talk about the advantages of dormitory living, they emphasize proximity to classes, supervision, security and the importance of experiencing life with a roommate.

“The connection to the community that they’re going to receive living on campus, in terms of living, breathing and eating the college experience, is much more intense than it would 10 miles down the road,” Lucier said. “And living with a roommate is also a good experience. We tell parents that learning how to share possessions is a very important skill.”

Lieberman also believes in the myriad of benefits for freshmen to stay in the dorms, and she promotes that decision to families whenever possible. But as the choices become more appealing, she sees a trend away from the dormitory experience.

“I try to get to the parents and say, look, they’re going to benefit from living on campus the first year, let them get grounded and then they can move off campus,” she said. “But we have to work on improving what we have here in order to compete.”

East greeks sweat sprinkler rule

Five years ago they all had to install fire alarms and now all East Carolina fraternities and sororities are looking at another fire-safety expense: A University of North Carolina system mandate that all residence halls have sprinklers also applies to fraternity and sorority houses, too. Of 18 greek houses here, only one fraternity—Tau Kappa Epsilon—has installed sprinklers. The UNC system has given campuses until 2010 to meet the new requirement. ECU has asked for a two-year extension for its dorms and Greek houses. Officials estimate that sprinkler systems for Greek houses will cost $50,000 or more.
You would think that an actor who has appeared in more than 70 feature films, dozens of plays and hundreds of television shows, as Beth Grant has, would have been quite the leading lady as a drama major in college. And you would be wrong.

She’s a big star now but Beth Grant ‘72 didn’t exactly burn up the footlights as a theater major at East Carolina. She had only one starring role on the main stage, and that didn’t come until her senior year. “I was not involved in any plays in my freshman year, or my sophomore year, either,” Grant recalls. “In my junior year, I did a one-act Tennessee Williams play in the studio theater and a Chekhov play off-campus. I was an extra in one of the main stage plays—I had a funny bit with a lamp in Little Murders.”

But she loved drama and devoted herself to learning theater and stagecraft in all forms, including directing, playwriting and costuming. No aspect of theater bored her. “I was the only girl to get an A in my lighting class,” she recalls proudly.

She studied under Edgar Loessin, co-founder of the university’s theater program, and turned to him her senior year when he was casting Holy Ghosts, a play by Ronnidas Linney that was to receive its premiere at ECU. She had just been passed over for the leading role in Glass Menagerie and was fearful of again missing the brass ring.

“I asked [Loessin] if I could read one more time, and he let me. I was taking acting classes, directing, and I got A’s in my classes. He knew I was a hard worker,” Grant says from her California home. She landed the part.

Her one star turn on the college stage was thrilling, she says, but that wasn’t what carried her from Greenville to New York and Hollywood, where she’s appearing in her third Best Picture film, No Country for Old Men.

“I designed sets, I designed costumes. Because of what I did, I developed the utmost respect for all the behind-the-scenes people.”

Perhaps that’s where she gained the uncanny ability to portray strong female characters, especially the sad Southern mother. She’s played that small part in dozens of the biggest films of the past 20 years. She was in Rain Man, Flatliners, Speed, Little Miss Sunshine and Flags of Our Fathers. She’s been in four films with fellow ECU alum Sandra Bullock. She may be the hardest working 

HIGHLIGHT REEL

Beth Grant has appeared in over 70 movies, including:

2007 No Country for Old Men (Carla Jean’s mother)
2006 Factory Girl (Julia Warhol)
2006 Flags of Our Fathers (Mother Gagnon)
2006 Hard Scrabble (Alice)
2006 Little Miss Sunshine (Pageant official Jenkins)
2006 Southland Tales (Dea Von Westphalen/Marion Card)
2005 Daltry Calhoun (Aunt Doss)
2003 Matchstick Men (the laundry lady)
2002 Desert Saints (Lou)
2002 The Rising Place (Melina Pou)
2002 The Rookie (Jimmy’s mother)
2001 Domino Darko (Kitty Farmer)
2001 Pearl Harbor (the motherly secretary)
2001 Rock Star (Mrs. Cole)
2000 Sordid Lives (Glassy Hickey)
1998 Dance With Me (Lovejoy)
1998 Dr Daltitie (woman)
1997 A Thousand Acres (Robertia)
1997 Lawn Dogs (Trent’s mother)
1997 Love Always (Stephanie)
1996 A Time to Kill (Cora Cobb)
1995 Lieberman in Love (Linda Baker)
1995 Safe (Becky)
1995 To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything, Julie Newmar (Loretta)
1994 City Slickers II (Lois)
1994 Speed (Helen)
1993 The Dark Half (Shayla)
1992 Love Field (Hazel)
1992 White Sands (Roz)
1990 Child’s Play 2 (Miss Kettlaw)
1990 Don’t Tell Her It’s Me (Babetta)
1990 Eating (Bea)
1990 Flatliners (Housewife)
1990 Welcome Home Rosy Carichman (Lillian)
1989 The Wizard (Diner manager)
1988 Rain Man (Mother at farm house)
1987 Under Cover (Miss Randolph)
and certainly one of the most successful character actresses in Hollywood.

“No one ever said I would be a star, but slow and steady wins the race, and my great success is to be a character actress who gets star billing.”

**Her first performance**

Born in Gadsden, Alabama, Laura Beth Grant moved with her family first to Georgia and then to North Carolina, eventually settling in Wilmington. She vividly remembers her first experience entertaining others, before she even started school.

“Mama taught me a song to sing for my uncle when he came home from Korea— ‘Oh, Where Have You Been, Billy Boy? Billy Boy?’ He was a very handsome guy, and he squatted down to my level in his Navy uniform and listened to me sing that song, just grinning at me.”

Even at that early age, “I was hooked. I wanted that look forever. As soon as I found out what acting was, I wanted to do it. I would play in Mama’s closet, wear her high heels and fancy clothes, and sing and danced and pretended to be Marilyn Monroe,” she recalls.

Bubba, her co-star in those juvenile productions was younger brother William, known by everyone as Bubba. “Once we got a tape recorder and just recorded ourselves making up stories. We would interview each other and make up crazy tales. (Bubba) produced us, and I pretended to be Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley and Davy Crockett.”

Grant remembers telling an elementary school teacher that her uncle had been excavating lives in Cary.)

Grant won a best actress award from the Los Angeles Drama Critics Association for her 2003 performance in the play *The Trials and Tribulations of a Trailer Trash Housewife*.

Grant had served as a page in the North Carolina State Legislative Assembly in 1953 and 1954. She was elected to the Governor’s School of North Carolina, a six-week residential program for gifted students. After two years, she was accepted at New York University where she headed right after graduation.

She visited the theater department with her family. “She did show me a great kindness my senior year. She had me come to her house once a week and over again to a recording of Dame Edith Sitwell, Edgar Loessin’s wife. She taught me memory and sensory exercises and it was a great gift.”

She had me come to her house once a week and taught me memory and sensory exercises to prepare me for the work I would be doing at Stanford. She did it for fun and for free, and it was a great gift.”

Grant’s first professional stage role was in an off-Broadway production of *Sid/Arthur*, produced by the New York Theatre Ensemble, in 1972.

She said in an earlier interview she was “thrilled out of my mind just to be working. I found out that I was replacing a two-time transvestite. It was then that I realized that I met Suzanne Jenkins, daughter of Dr. Leo Jenkins, then president of East Carolina University. In the fall of 1965 she was invited to spend Homecoming weekend with the Jenkins family “and I became one of the family. I felt like I was the seventh child.”

She visited the theater department with Suzanne Jenkins, met Edgar Loessin for the first time, “and I fell in love” with the school. She enrolled in 1967 and soon was involved in several activities. She was president of the ECU College Democrats for two years, for which she earned the Outstanding College Democrat Award. She was also a member of the Phi Alpha Sigma fraternity and taught me memory and sensory exercises to prepare me for the work I would be doing at Stanford. She did it for fun and for free, and it was a great gift.”

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A mother on and off screen
Perhaps the reason that Beth Grant plays the Southern mother so well on screen is because she is one in real life. She and her husband, actor Michael Chieffo, are parents to daughter Mary, a high school freshman who has become a star soccer goalkeeper. [When you see Michael Chieffo’s picture, you immediately recognize him from recurring roles on *CSI*, *Malcolm in the Middle* or the television movie *Gleason* when he played Art Carney.]

Grant has found that some roles help her in parenting, and some roles she develops into better characters because she is a parent and has observed parents closely.

In *The Rookie*, in which she plays the mother of the high school coach who wants to pitch in the major leagues, Grant based her approach to the character on a woman she knew in Greenville. “She always had a twinkle in her eye, a good sense of humor. I often think of a specific mom and then bring my own experiences in.”

Now Grant is facing a bit of a dilemma: daughter Mary wants to follow in her parents’ footsteps and become an actor. “I tried to discourage my daughter from that, but I gave up. At times, she says she’s given up her idea of playing soccer in college and says she wants to be an actress,” Grant says. “She sees it as a pretty good life, even with the pain of long times away from home.”

Beth and Michael arrange work schedules so that one or the other is always at home. When she was filming 12 episodes of the television series *Sordid Lives* recently, he was at home in Los Angeles with Mary. “The longest I’ve been away at any one time is three weeks. I hate it. I miss her so much it’s physical with me,” she says. Luckily, Mary “has never been sick without at least one of us there for her.”

The work ethic that Beth acquired backstage at ECU seems to have served her well in her professional life; it’s a trait admired by her peers and directors. “I was told at Governor’s School, ‘you’re not a natural, but if you work hard, you will make it.’”

Todd Holland, who has directed her in television programs and movies, says Grant is a risk-taker. “She is very comfortable being far out on a limb from the character. I sometimes have to bring her in to play more of herself. She has a certain vibe to give off—a little bit of Southern, a little bit of mothers or Middle American women. She becomes the moral center of the piece.”

Grant and Holland might team up for a large-scale project in the future—a screenplay that she has been working on for about 10 years. Titled *The New York Way*, the story mixes drama and time-travel fantasy, about a disheartened baby boomer who sees someone she thinks might be herself as a younger person. She observes this younger version of herself and then returns from that previous time to apply the lessons she learned to her life in the present.

Grant’s daughter read the part of the young girl for studio executives, directors and music producers in late February, and Grant read the part of the older woman. Holland is among the directors invited to consider the script. “We have three months to raise money, attract other stars and come back with details,” Grant says. “We’d like to shoot over the summer, because that’s when Mary is out of school. We could possibly shoot it in North Carolina, maybe Greenville or Wilmington.”

Meanwhile, Beth Grant, named a Distinguished Alumna in 1999, will appear in at least a half-dozen films in 2008 and ’09: *Natural Disasters, In My Sleep, Winged Creatures, Boy in the Box, All About Steve* (another film with Sandra Bullock) and *Southern Baptist Sissies*.

So, for the little girl who sang “Where Have You Been Billy Boy, Billy Boy” to her sailor uncle, things have turned out quite well. “My dreams have come true beyond any of my dreams.”

Beth Grant says it was her brother, William “Bubba” Grant ’86 of Cary, who turned her into a passionate Pirate. She admits that one reason she volunteers is because it helps keep their bicoastal family in touch. Clockwise from top left, she autographs baseballs for a 2002 baseball team fundraiser at the Greenville premier of *The Rookie*. That’s her receiving a Distinguished Alumnus award in 1999. Can you spot her at the LA tailgate party after the Pirates’ baseball game with UCLA last year? That’s Bubba at far left. She was in town to raise money for Greenville’s Ronald McDonald House in 2001, and later enjoyed arts and crafts with the kids staying there.

Jean Garry ’92 and Monica ’94, ’96 Dudley as members of the East Carolina Alumni Association. Membership in the Alumni Association helps to provide quality programs and services such as Pirate Career Calls and the Pirate Alumni Network, traditional activities such as Homecoming and reunions, alumni and faculty awards, and student scholarships. As a member, you will join the ranks of alumni like the Dudleys who demonstrate their pride, dedication, and commitment to ECU.

Having left Greenville in 2003, we joined the Alumni Association to keep us close to the University through exciting events like Alumni Tailgate, Homecoming and reunion activities, and the annual scholarship foundation, the Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fan Run, and the ECU Scholarship Golf Classic. It’s satisfying to know that we along with fellow alumni members, are funding scholarships for successful students so that they may experience an ECU education and share our passion for the University. Most importantly to us, the Association is a way to maintain our Purple Pride, no matter where we are on the Pirate Nation!

**today!**

*East Carolina Alumni Association*
800-ECU-GRAD
PiratesAlumni.com

Beth and mary with Bernadette Peters

Bella and William "Bubba" Grant '86 of Cary, who turned her into a passionate Pirate. She admits that one reason she volunteers is because it helps keep their bicoastal family in touch.

Clockwise from top left, she autographs baseballs for a 2002 baseball team fundraiser at the Greenville premier of *The Rookie*. That’s her receiving a Distinguished Alumnus award in 1999. Can you spot her at the LA tailgate party after the Pirates’ baseball game with UCLA last year? That’s Bubba at far left. She was in town to raise money for Greenville’s Ronald McDonald House in 2001, and later enjoyed arts and crafts with the kids staying there.
Their minds might get a vacation, but Pirate athletes have a detailed summer syllabus with assignments for weightlifting, conditioning, gymnastics and nutrition. Keeping in top physical shape is the way to pass this course. Want extra credit? Join a summer league to keep your competitive edge sharp.

Some East Carolina athletes don’t even go home for summer. Football players stay on campus and train under the watchful eye of their strength coaches. Some take courses to ease the academic load during the season or to get a poor grade off their transcript. But the great majority of athletes, especially those in the Olympic sports, go home to chill out and maybe get a summer job. NCAA rules prevent a coach from requiring athletes to work out or play during the summer, but players know it’s important to exercise more than just their elbows from now to September.

Danny Wheel, a member of the sports and conditioning staff, oversees the health of members of five different Pirate teams. He said one of his most vital responsibilities is crafting the summer fitness programs he sends players home with. But all he can do is hope the athletes have enough inner drive to stick to it.

“To some I give out a packet, and that packet will probably sit on the front seat of their car for the whole summer,” Wheel said. “You

By Bethany Bradsher
Illustrated by Mike Litwin
Wernert’s coach, Chris Rushing, has a natural coach’s desire to change the training routine of his athletes. But when summer rolls around, his控制 disappears and he can only check in with his players from time to time and encourage them to stay in shape. Then they come back for the fall semester, scant weeks from their first match, and he can distinguish the disciple from the driven from the first time they take the court.

“Some go home and don’t do anything, and those are the ones who kind of ‘exist’,” said Rushing, whose team will compete in its first match in late August. “You can tell who’s been working hard and who hasn’t. The girls who are in better shape, you can tell by their face and body language. They just recoup so much faster.”

Leaning on fall athletes

If the coaches for Rushing’s sport were deeper, he would mandate that his players come to campus for part of the summer—ideally to stay for the second summer session, as the football players are required to do. But under the current systems the volleyball athletes only stay on campus when they opt to do so independently and pay their own room and board.

The pressure is highest on athletes who play fall sports, like volleyball. Those coaches strongly urge their players to do as much as possible during the summer with weightlifting and conditioning. But as this emphasis on structured fitness has increased in recent years, Wernert has found one downside: the girls who think the barbells and the track are a substitute for the playing field.

“Kids are coming in so fit, so well-conditioned they know about weights and the times like that, they lose track of, ‘Am I a good player?’” said Wheel. “When I was growing up, we were physically strong just by playing sports. We call it country strong. If you don’t do it, you won’t be able to keep up,” said Golden, who holds a Strong Man competition for the football team every summer and calls it the “only fun day” of their vacation. “In years past, that’s what training camp was for, to get ready for the season. And now, you’ve got to be in shape to go to training camp.”

And for football players and other athletes who stay on campus to reap the training benefits, there is another advantage: Many take full summer school loads, since they’re there anyway, and some collect enough credits to graduate early or carry lighter loads during their competitive seasons.

All of which begs the question: When does an athlete take holiday? Wheel encourages the players as every sport to take a chunk of time off from training, usually right after their season ends, to stare off burn-out.

“We’re trying to work out where we at least give them six to eight weeks where they don’t have to see us, and they recover mentally and physically,” he said. “Your body has to recover somewhere in there.”
Teaching the truth about fiction

By Sally F. Lawrence

Introducing students to North Carolina authors is especially satisfying for English professor Margaret Bauer, who edits the award-winning North Carolina Literary Review (NCLR). “Many students don’t realize that Jill McCorkle is from Lumberton or that Allan Gurganus is from Rocky Mount or Michael Parker, from Clinton. These authors have won national awards. While students learn about their culture or that Allan Gurganus is from Rocky Mount or Michael Parker, from Clinton.

I want students to understand is that fiction actually tells the truth with a capital ‘T,’” says Bauer. For example, she says, “We look at [Literary Review] articles about the Wilmington race riots and Charles Chesnutt’s 1905 novel, Marrow of Tradition. The 2006 state report on those riots verified that Chesnutt’s novel was a more accurate depiction of what happened than the 1898 New York Times article published the day after the riots. Fiction records history in a way that lasts because it’s entertaining and captures far more than the facts.”

One of her former graduate students, James Anderson Jr. ’02, wrote a thesis about William Faulkner and that’s something I’ll always be grateful for.”

One of her former graduate students, James Anderson Jr. ’02, wrote a thesis about William Faulkner, who did include African-Americans in his novels, but as marginals. Margaret also inspired me to continue my graduate education and use the principles she taught me every day. She is uncompromising in her demand for excellence.”

That’s why Margaret Bauer has been teaching for 40 years and is still teaching at ECU. She has taught over 30 years at ECU and that Margaret makes it a respected

Published annually by East Carolina in cooperation with the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association, the journal specializes in articles about North Carolina’s history, culture and literature. In addition to essays, NCLR features art, interviews, poetry, book reviews and fiction.

What is Adolescent Mental Health?

Helping Disconnected and At-Risk Youth to Become Whole

Parenting an adolescent is a tough job these days, fraught with all manner of hazards. Smart parents would benefit from reading a comprehensive and holistic guide to adolescent issues, such as the new book by Dr. Mar. Stebnicki, a professor and director of the graduate program in rehabilitation counseling. It offers a new approach for the identification of adolescent issues, prevention and preparation of a variety of harmful behaviors.

Readers are offered risk-factor threat assessments, experiential prevention activities, case studies, discussion questions and the critical pathways that are associated with a variety of adolescent mental health conditions.

HARMFUL BEHAVIORS

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McGee is a field judge who works Atlantic
I will have worked close to 400 games. I've
"My plans are to officiate one more season
cover 40 yards in about four seconds.
and last year he devotes to his hobby as a
Wingate University, but this will be the 35th
Jerry McGee
'65 plans to keep working
PiraTe naTion
McGee seems oblivious to the earful he's getting from Alabama Coach Mike Shula.

Jerry McGee '65 plans to keep working
McGee learned officiating working
15 years ago.”

McGee sometimes takes flack from fans. “I

McGee first learned officiating working
1997 Rose Bowl. With time running out,
receiver, the defender, the ball and McGee all
arrived at the 5-yard line at the same instant.
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arrived at the 5-yard line at the same instant.

McGee has at Wingate have been

He occasionally takes flack from fans. “I

He occasionally takes flack from fans. “I


other games are piece of cake. “If you can
work the Sigma Nu–Pi Kappa Alpha game,
then Notre Dame–Michigian is a walk in
the park.”

After graduating from East Carolina with
a degree in physical education, McGee, a
native of Rockingham, earned a master's
in counseling from Appalachian State
and a doctorate in education from Nova
Southeastern University.

After a stint in the
Army he worked for Richmond Community
College and followed with positions of
increasing responsibility at Gardner-Webb
University, Meredith College and Furman
University. He became president of Wingate
University, located about 35 miles east of

His years at Wingate have been
transformational for what was a small,
Baptist-affiliated school. It had about 1,100
students and young alumni in building a
activities for their graduates.

Alumni Awards
Each fall during Homecoming weekend, the Alumni Association honors a number of individuals with the Outstanding Alumni, Distinguished Service, and Honorary Alumni awards. Nominations are taken year round and the deadline for the 2009 Alumni Awards is Nov. 1. It’s easy to submit a nomination. Simply visit PirateAlumni.com and click the Awards & Scholarships tab.

Help managing money
The Alumni Association has partnered with the National Endowment for Financial Education’s CashCourse component to guide students and young alumni in building a secure financial future. Tools provided by CashCourse include financial basics, paying for college and the world of work. Each of these features can assist current students and recent graduates with the realities of building their own financial portfolios, including managing student loans, buying a car, moving off campus and using credit cards. To learn more, visit PirateAlumni.com and click the Student Programs tab.

Homecoming ’08
Mark the weekend of Nov. 7-8 on your calendar for Homecoming 2008. The Alumni Awards Banquet will on Friday night, join us Saturday morning for an open house breakfast at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center, stop by the parade, then head over to the stadium to tailgate prior to ECU’s football game against the Marshall Thundering Herd. After the game, the Class of 1958 will celebrate their 50th reunion at the ECTC/ECC Golden Alumni dinner and dance featuring The Collegians. The Black Alumni chapter will celebrate through the night during their annual reunion and after party. Many schools and colleges also will offer Homecoming activities for their graduates.

Making the right call
2007

JONATHAN KEEL is a project engineer with Le-Chat Constructors Services of Durham where he develops bid packages and coordinate projects. He interned with O’Brien Home Builders. PAULA KENNEDY-DUDELY of Greenville and Wilmington is director of student services for UNCW’s Wilmington’s School of Nursing. She has 13 years experience in teaching, research and service in education and health sciences at UNCW and ECU. JILL PEARCE was certified as a family nurse practitioner. She is on the hospital team at Scotland Memorial Hospital, where she began working in the intensive care unit in 2000.

2006

KELLY ELIZABETH GADDIS and Michael Blake Noel were married Oct. 6 at the Maritimeis in Greenville. EMILY JAMES GANGERT and George Eric Penrov IV were married Sept. 28 at Coquina Beach. She is entering director at the Black Pelicans Scarborough Company in Kitty Hawk. STACY LEE HOWELL and 2ND LT. STEPHEN MICHAEL ZIMMERMAN ’07 were married Dec. 16 at Yankee Hall Plantation. She is working towards a master’s degree at ECU. He is stationed in Laughlin AFB in Texas for flight training.

CHRISTOPHER MCLAWHORN gained professional certification as a CPA after working with H. Edwin Gray CPA for a year. SARAH ASHLEY PIERCE was promoted to vice president and human resources director at First South Bank, where she oversees payroll, benefit implementation. Originally from Amherst, N.Y., she is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. REBECCA ELAINA RAWL and Kristian Kamie Rhoden Jr. were married Dec. 14 in Lexington, S.C. She is a second-year BSOM student. ABEL SUTTON, a singer with his family’s group, is a member of the Albemarle Arts Council in Elizabeth City.

Krishan Kumar Mohindroo Jr. were married Dec. 15 in New York. He is a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. CHERYL TUTINO is a sales and advertising representative for N.C. Magazine and the enterprise.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Tommy Spaulding ‘92, the keynote speaker at Spring Commencement, credits Up with People with changing his life, and how he’s returning the favor. Best known in the 1970s and ‘80s for its high-energy song-and-dance shows conveying a message of peace and harmony in world tours and at Super Bowls, Up with People shut down in 2000, the victim of changes tastes and rising costs. Two years ago Spaulding, a cast member in the 1987 troupe, was called back to revive the enterprise.

Named an Outstanding Alumni in 2006, Spaulding became a star IBM salesman after graduation and then founded Leader’s Challenge, a notable education foundation in Colorado. That’s what he was doing when Up with People founder J. Blanton Belk asked him to restart the program.

Spaulding’s first task was scaling back the 300-person staff and $30 million budget. He refocused the mission on community service and leadership training. Performances now are paid for by corporate sponsorships and ticket revenue goes to local nonprofits in host cities. The group stays a week in each location working with volunteers in community projects.

He understands why people lost interest in the group. “It didn’t help that we did these four halftime shows at the Super Bowl, because when people saw them perform they thought, ‘Oh, all they do is sing and dance.’ What people didn’t realize—or forgot—is that Up with People was the first international organization to go to China, before even Richard Nixon went over there. We were the first in the 1970s to go to the communist Soviet Union, and the first to go to Jordan.”

The group’s current tour will visit 22 cities in North America, Europe and Asia. The cast has 55 members who range in age from 18 to 29 and represent 19 countries.

David Bond ’78 of Raleigh, former president of the HealthMatics division of Allscripts, made a gift to the College of Business that will allow it to create 20 new annual scholarships each worth $5,000. The David Bond Access Scholarships will be awarded to bright students who demonstrate financial need who plan to major in business.

“Unfortunately, many qualified students cannot advance their education because of financial constraints; hopefully these scholarships will be an entry point for some of those students,” Bond said. He serves on ECU’s Business Advisory Council and is a frequent speaker in business classes. Bond also serves with the Pirate Club and is a member of the ECU Foundation board.

2005

DANA LOUISE BULLARD and Christopher Alan Hall of Clinton were married Nov. 10 in Hartsville. She is the eastern recreation superintendent for Sampson County Parks and Recreation. SHALINIE PRASADA of Rocky Mount was certified as a CPA after two years with O’Meara & Norwood and two years with H&R Block. In 2003, she became an enrolled agent with the IRS.

2004

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MARGY BRANTLEY of Rocky Mount joined Nancy Lupton Associates. She was public events director for the N.C. Museum of Art, director of Lani Place in Charlottesville and Newpaper in Education coordination for the Radio Riser.Ignate.Brandy has led in Radio.Institute for the last 15 years with her husband and son, KRISTIN EILEEN SAVER GIBSON of Carolina Beach exhibited new paintings as part of a theme-person show in May at City Arts Gallery in Greenville. She also shows work at Tyle White in Greensboro and Three Hands in Wilmington.

JENNIFER LYNN BOWLES and Zebulon Craig Creg of Advance were married May 6 at Otos Plantation near Lake Omal. LISA WOODS is a regional sales manager for the Greenville Convention Center. A certified hospitality professional, she is a Greenville-Parish-Wilson Chamber of Commerce ambassador; vice president of the Business and Professional Women Networking Group; a member of Meeting Professionals International, the Association of Black Women, and the Society of Government Meeting Planners. REBECCA ANN DAVIS and TRAVIS SCOTT WARREN of Greenville were married Jan 26. She works at Carolina Pregnancy Center, and he works at Countouts Unlimited.

SHARON R. LEE and her husband, TLee, of Raleigh had their first child, Joseph Allen “Jp”, on Nov. 14. Tom is a patent attorney with Benton, Dickinson, and his wife, Jan, is 28 92 is intern director of student services at John Tyler Community College in Danville and Midlothian, Va. He was director of counseling at the Mountain Campus and is in a doctoral program at Old Dominion University. STUART KORNEGAY, an associate professor of NC State University is a member of the NC State University in Raleigh. With the University of the American College of Surgeons during the group’s annual Clinical Congress in New Orleans as October 2007. She practices at Carolina Ear, Nose and Throat, Head and Neck Surgery Center in Hickory. TRACEY MAYNOR was named senior vice president of sales and operations for VT Specialized Vehicles division of Vision Technologies Systems, which includes the Highway and Kenworth divisions. CANDISSA RONIN 96 ’10, a senior internal auditor with BBT in Winston-Salem, was promoted to banking officer. JEFF ROBER 98 ’06 of Winterville is the only N.C. representative on the 10-member American team that will participate in the F-Class rifle shooting World Championships in Baltimore, England, in 2009. He set four National Rifle Association records in June for sporting and was pictured in the October 2007 issue of Guns and Ammos. KITTY H WETHERINGTON, ECU’s attorney from 2000 to 2007, is now an associate attorney with Colon, Kitchin, Donum, Hall & Potter.

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When he isn’t in Africa, which he about six or eight weeks every year, Spanuhier is an associate pastor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Raleigh. Learn more at www.staffofhope.org.

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in Rocky Mount. Originally from Williamsburg, she is a CPA with 20 years of experience in public and private accounting, and is involved in her church’s youth programs. ANITA LYNNE OWENBY ’85 ’86 of Asheboro received her doctorate in educational leadership from Western Carolina University in August. She is a director of elementary education for Henderson County Public Schools. WILLIAM DURWARD TAYLOR JR. is a manager of the Eastern Agricultural Center in Williamsburg. He was with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for 11 years before becoming food service director forMartin County Schools in 1998.

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Building 198, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4533, or fax to 252-328-4269. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can e-mail your news to classnotes@ecu.edu. While East happily prints wedding announcements, it is our policy not to print engagement announcements. Also, when listing fellow alumni in your news, please include their class year.

Make a Note of Your News and Accomplishments

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50
WOOODY HOGG and his wife, Pam, manage ERA Woody Hogg and Associates in Richmond, Va. Orphaned at 17, he played basketball and was track for ECU; a star in the Air Force Reserve from 1969 to 1973 and full-jobs in the reserves for 19 years, including four sons, working for him. He has established five scholarship programs for high school seniors in Hanover and King William counties, and supports the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

HELEN ELIZABETH BROWN DILLON '23 of The Page at Davidson, formerly of Stanlyville died Jan. 10. She taught elementary school in Clinch, High Point and Stanlyville. She was active in the United Methodist Women, the Red Cross Bloodmobile program, the Colonial Research Book Club and Stanlyville-Woman’s Club.

MURRAY ALFRED JR. of Lambert retired from Fayetteville Technical Community College after 14 years as a math instructor.

ROCHELLJE JACKSON POPE, 100, on March 9. She credits her longevity to a positive attitude. Born at Jacksonville Corner in Sampson County, she taught for two years was principal for new years at Long Branch School. She met her husband, Claude, a third grade teacher. They began their 35-year marriage in 1932 and had two children. She began their 35-year marriage in 1932 and had two children. She

HAZEL SPIVEY BRETT ’34 of Ahoskie died Jan. 25 at age 93. She played on the ECTC softball team and taught at Fayetteville Elementary School for 30 years. She taught the successful headgear program at Ahoskie Methodist Church in the late 1950s. She received a Volunteer’s Award from Gov. Martin and two first-place awards from the N.C. Women’s Club. She was active in the Presbyterian Women and a charter member of the Friends of the Library in Tarboro. JANE MOCK BEACHUM HOOKS ’41 died Jan. 29. She taught music at Montgomery, Cabarrus, Richmond, Vance, Wayne, and Guilford counties for 35 years. Before retiring in 1980 to pursue her interest in politics, genealogy, and bridge, MARMON BRONKS REID SHARP ’40 of Raleigh died Jan. 6. A 1940 North Carolina native, she taught for 28 years in schools on Army bases around the world while married to her husband of 43 years, Hunter L. Sharp. LAURA OATES SMITH ’40 of Wilmington died Jan. 29. One of 11 children on her family's farm in Jacksonville, she was the first to graduate from college. She had lived in Wilmington since 1940.

KATHY JACOBSON HURST BENDER ’41 of Jacksonville died Feb. 16. Married for 61 years, she taught first grade in Swansboro, first and third at Clyde A. Erwin Elementary School and retired as elementary supervisor for Onslow County Schools, where she founded headgear and other programs. For her 75th birthday, she saw the Ravens win the Super Bowl in Arizona. She also organized two game-playing bridge and mahjong. ROBERT HUSTON BROOME III of Cavendish died Jan. 22. He worked for the N.C. Department of Transportation for 30 years before retiring as a director-right-of-way agent. POLLY INGOLD BRYAN ’90 of Oxford died Jan. 8. She taught kindergarten, worked at Granville Warehouse and the High Price Warehouse, and was a member of the Oxford Presbyterian Church. MAURY WOODSTOWN CHAPPELL ’50 of Snow Hill died Jan. 15. She started at ECTC at age 16 and began teaching at Wake Forest High School at age 20. She was secretary to the superintendent of Greene County Schools and later administered the NDEA and IDEA federal programs. THEODORE ROBERT SMITH JR. ’50 of Jacksonville died Feb. 12. She taught reading and poetry in underserved students. She developed the Charlotte Regional Medical Center.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Debra Shirley ’88 says she felt comfortable when the first started serving as the director of the Physical Education for Actors and Musical Artists League in Denver, Colo. But she soon came to realize that people with disabilities are as uniquely complicated as everyone else and share the same abilities, interests, hopes and dreams. “The experience of growing up as a child’s book that she hopes will teach kids that “beyond every disability is a person just waiting to be reached and their new best friend.” A big surprise came when she met the artist assigned by her publisher to illustrate the book. Judy Steed ’70 of Charlotte.

Best friend? a big surprise came when she met the artist assigned by her publisher to illustrate the book. Judy Steed ’70 of Charlotte.

Class Notes

Class notes are on file. The July 1 issue included an article about a new program at the School of Nursing. It described the new program’s goals and objectives, as well as its impact on the education of nursing students. The August issue featured an article about a new pilot program for students with disabilities. It discussed the program’s purpose, target population, and goals. The September issue included an article about a new initiative to improve the diversity of the student body. It provided an overview of the initiative’s goals and objectives, as well as its expected outcomes.

1960

CLAYTON H. “BOB” MOORE of Forest Haven was appointed to the N.C. advisory board for Commonwealth Bankers. A former ECU chemist, he was director of the Department of Grigg Lumber & Produce Co., and president of the N.C. Potato Association, Dead Woods County Club from 1967-1982, and the GF Company in Lewis, Curnutt County.

1925

ROCHELLJE JACKSON POPE, 100, on March 9. She credits her longevity to a positive attitude. Born at Jacksonville Corner in Sampson County, she taught for two years was principal for new years at Long Branch School. She met her husband, Claude, a third grade teacher. They began their 35-year marriage in 1932 and had two children. She began their 35-year marriage in 1932 and had two children. She

1940s

KATHY JACOBSON HURST BENDER ’41 of Jacksonville died Feb. 16. Married for 61 years, she taught first grade in Swansboro, first and third at Clyde A. Erwin Elementary School and retired as elementary supervisor for Onslow County Schools, where she founded headgear and other
FRED IRONS III, Malene Irons, Tom Irons Jr., Ben Irons, Fred Irons Jr. and Tom Irons gathered for the 1970 dedication of the new Developmental Evaluation Clinic on the Health Sciences campus named for Malene Irons.

Dr. Fred Irons Jr., who served for 36 years as East Carolina’s director of Student Health Services, died March 10 at the Greenville Cypresn Senior Living Community. He was 95. A graduate of The Medical University of South Carolina in 1946 to practice medicine and soon became chief of Student Health Service and chief of staff at Pitt County Memorial Hospital of 68 years, Dr. Malene Grant Irons ’35. A pediatrician, she was the first director of the Developmental Evaluation Clinic. That building now bears her name. Among his other survivors are sons Ben Jr. of Greenville, Fred Irons Jr. of Morocco and his wife Mary; daughter-in-law, Carol Fox ’94, of Lincoln, the American Board of Family Medicine in Lexington, Ky., before coming here in 1984 to teach family medicine at ECU. In 1993, he became medical director of the Network of Continuing Medical Education, a position he held until 2005. A member of Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, he received the Thomas Jefferson Award of Medical Education from the American Academy of Family Physicians.
We are not here to destroy the old and accept only the new, but to build upon the past…

—Robert H. Wright, Nov. 12, 1909

From his inaugural address and installation as East Carolina’s first president

Upon the Past

When Johnny came marching to campus

There had been male students at East Carolina since its founding, but women were in a lopsided majority until 1947 when two developments combined to radically change the student body. That year saw a dramatic increase in men as war veterans came marching to campus armed with GI Bill benefits. Simultaneously, there was a precipitous drop in incoming women students. North Carolina had added a 12th grade to high school in 1946, which sharply decreased the number of students applying for college the next fall. The freshman class of ’47 contained 369 men and 108 women, producing a total enrollment of 728 men and 676 women, the first time in school history that men were in the majority.

Today, East Carolina has roughly 15,000 women students and 9,300 men.

To deal with the sharp increase in male students right after the war, the school assigned three to a room in Wilson Hall, then the only men’s dorm on campus.

Men were such a decided minority on campus before World War II that it was they, not the women, who were called co-eds. They had their own organization, the Co-ed Club. Members in 1931 were Frank Dial, Bill Hearme, James Brewer, Henry Oglesby, John Hodges, Frank Tyson, Nelson Hansuckie, John Thomas, Alva Van Norwick, Alfred McLawhorn, Eric Tucker and Charles King.

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A warm day with the wind in your face and a scary carnival ride at Piratefest—priceless!

Photo by Forrest Croce