After nearly two years of work, the new fountain in Wright Circle is again welcoming students and visitors to the heart of campus. Failing underground utilities forced the removal of the original fountain dedicated in 1932 to East Carolina’s first president, Robert Wright. A time-lapse film chronicling construction of the new fountain is available here.

THE NEW HANDS OF MEDICINE
By Crystal Batty
Health care once was delivered by a doctor, a nurse and maybe a pharmacist. Now many other specialists have joined them to deliver care focused not just on saving lives but making life better.

SOLVING PROBLEMS, SETTLING IN
By Steve Tuttle
After leading East Carolina through five years of frenetic growth, Chancellor Steve Ballard considered leaving Greenville. We talk with the chancellor about his record and whether he’ll stay another five years.

MADAM MAYOR
By Marion Blackburn
After 30 years on the faculty and a lifetime helping others, Pat Dunn starts a new job running City Hall.

WHAT AN ECU ENGINEER LOOKS LIKE
By Steve Row
Paul Kaufmann designed a program focused on preparing students for real-world problems.

TRACK FINDS ITS STRIDE
By Bethany Braddock
It’s one of the largest sports teams on campus, with more than 90 athletes lining up against some of the top teams in the nation. But track lacks decent fields, so it can’t host home events. Still, records are falling.

FROM OUR READERS.............................3
THE ECU REPORT ..............................4
SUMMER ARTS CALENDAR ..................12
PIRATE NATION .................................44
CLASS NOTES .................................45
UPON THE PAST ...............................56
Steve Ballard

It’s a Saturday night in a banquet room at the Greenville Hilton, and the Sigma Alpha Epsilon brothers are looking a lot stiffer in their shirts and ties. You can tell they’re trying hard to impress all the parents gathered for this annual dinner, plus the fraternity has landed a boffo speaker, Chancellor Steve Ballard. The student serving as MC mangles a few lines, but gets nice applause when he recounts how the brothers raised $2,100 this year for charity. He introduces the chancellor, who rises to speak just as whoops and shouts erupt in the adjoining banquet room where some Mary Kay ladies are getting pumped up. Shouting to be heard, Ballard keeps his remarks brief and soon releases the brothers and their parents for the reception to follow.

There’s a lot more gray in his hair now than when he arrived as chancellor five years ago, but Steve Ballard otherwise hasn’t changed much. He’s still harping on the same themes he raised at his installation. He still tells the same jokes, such as the light-hearted exchange he provokes every year with Terry Holland about pulling rank so the chancellor can cut to the front of the line at the banquet—his remarks brief and soon releasing the brothers and their parents for the reception to follow.

A Pirate nation rattled by the embarrassing controversies of the Muse administration quickly became comfortable with Ballard’s steady hand, reassured by his consistent approach to running things. But this comfortable sameness was knocked akilter in January when he applied for the top job at Kansas State University. Days later, though, Ballard announced his intent to remain in Greenville. It was then that I called for an interview for the story that begins on page 24.

East Carolina is a different place now than when Ballard arrived. Enrollment has exploded nearly 30 percent, the university budget has grown almost 40 percent and total employment to more than 5,000. Thirteen new or remodeled buildings have opened on Main Campus and an unprecedented expansion of the Health Sciences Campus is ongoing. Problems inevitably arose from that rapid growth and the record high and the record was that Ballard solved problems methodically and moved forward.

At his first faculty convocation he talked about the importance of finding the right people to “get on the bus” and help him steer East Carolina forward. Now, most of the top administrators and a majority of the deans are Ballard hires. There apparently are no glass ceilings on Ballard’s bus: Among his most visible appointments are three women and the first African-American to head a North Carolina medical school.

As even they now look high marks for effective leadership, many prominent Pirates privately wish Steve Ballard had a higher public profile. He’s been called “the Mike Easley of university chancellors” because he doesn’t show up for every university function. True, Steve Ballard isn’t a polished orator and he doesn’t crave the public spotlight. He’s a sensible Midwesterner adjusting to beach music and barbecue. But given where ECU was then and is now, low-profile efficiency feels quite comfortable.
Bad economy good for tourism?

The recession probably won’t hurt and may even help the tourism economy in eastern North Carolina, according to an ECU professor who says the coastal region is increasingly being seen as a more affordable—and closer by—alternative to destinations like Disney World.

Speaking at a New Bern conference on sustainable tourism organized by ECU and several community partners, Jim Kleckley, director of ECU’s Bureau of Business Research, said the region appeals to travelers who want to venture away from home, but not as far as in better days.

“What is good for us is that gas is down, and because of the economy, we expect to be a big draw for people in other parts of North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. We have historical sites that they can see with a day’s drive, and our beaches are different than the ones in Myrtle Beach.”

Kleckley said national trends indicate that consumers are cutting back on big-ticket items first—cars, appliances—but “they are still going to shopping centers; they are still going out to eat. Maybe not as often, but they are.” The discretionary spending is still there.

Kleckley thinks this is the year that eastern North Carolina sees a different kind of tourist; one who has never considered vacationing here. “We’re seeing a shift right now, though we can’t exactly define it,” he said. “But this is the time when a tourist who would normally go to Europe isn’t going, or when a family that would normally go to Disney World every year isn’t going.”

“It’s only a shift,” he says. “Instead, for the first time, a person who has never thought about eastern North Carolina to spend a vacation here. ‘We’re seeing a shift right now, though we can’t exactly define it’,” he said. “But this is the time when a tourist who

Culture thrives amid recession

Even though its financial support from the university is dropping precipitously, East Carolina’s S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series is in the black and planning another impressive season for next school year.

Cost cutting and increased fund-raising have kept the series in decent financial shape, according to Jeffrey Elwell, dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication that manages the program.

“We looked more closely at the bottom line for ways to clamp down on spending,” says Elwell, who also serves as the series’ producer, chief financial officer and principal booking negotiate. “We also secured more than $94,000 in grant support from external agencies.” Those moves have about offset declines in subsidies from the university, which come from reallocated funds.

During the 2006–07 season, the subsidy was $125,000; the next year it dropped to $100,000, and for the season just ended, it was $75,000. For the new season starting this fall, the university contribution will be just $23,000.

Other campus cultural programs are cutting back, though. Tighter budgets are behind the decision by the ECU/Lorain Summer Theater series to produce only one, instead of the usual two or three, summer stage productions. To make up for that, the one stage production on campus this summer, Big River, a musical adapted from Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn, will have more than the usual number of performances—12—during its June 16–27 run. (See the Summer Arts Calendar, page 12.)

There may be a silver lining in this gray cloud. “We have found out that the fees have not gone up, because many venues have less money to spend, and if the artists want to perform, they must adjust their fees,” Elwell says. “In some respects, the economy is helping us.”

ECU’s premier cultural series is named for S. Rudolph Alexander ’52 ’53, who worked here from 1962 to 1995 as associate dean of student activities and director of student unions. In his first year on the job he booked a string of highbrow performers and acclaimed musical groups as a way to bring some culture to campus.

Over the years the series has showcased a number of symphony orchestras, world-class musicians and several opera and Broadway productions. Actress Dame Judith Anderson, comedienne Carol Channing and public radio star Garrison Keillor have appeared here as part of the series.

When Alexander retired, management of the series shifted to the Division of Student Life. At the time the program had a surplus of about $200,000. But without Alexander at the helm the series lost focus and patron annual operating deficits ate up the surplus. In 2005, supervision of the series shifted to the College of Fine Arts and Communication, where it seems to be thriving. The series patrons’ board remains active in helping plan programs and day-to-day management is running smoothly under Michael Crane, the assistant dean who became artistic director and co-producer of the series in January. “We’ve run in the black since we’ve started, and we still bring in world-class artists,” Crane says.

Cranes Alexander series programs typically average about 60 percent capacity of Wright Auditorium’s nearly 1,500 seats, although some programs sell out. The series also adds occasional special programs—Garrison Keillor of Prairie Home Companion last season is an example—and has sponsored dinner and discussions with visiting performers.

The new fall season continues the tradition of offering a range of entertainment events, with performances by the Oxford Pfitzomusica from the University of Oxford, the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra, the Otero Dance Company, the Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble, the St. Lawrence String Quartet plus one of the medal winners in the annual Van Cliburn Piano Competition. Also on the playbill are the a cappella singing group Chanticleer and the Reduced Shakespeare Company’s productions of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged).

Elwell and Crane now are turning their attention to the 50th anniversary season in 2012–13. “We’d love to get more household-name attractions, someone like Yo-Yo Ma,” Crane says. —Steve Row
The ECU Report

Finding history where Raleigh lost his head

If you’re a big fan of Sir Walter Raleigh or his map-making buddy, Thomas Harriot, then the Tower of London was the place to be when 24 of the world’s leading scholars of the two explorers, including several from East Carolina, gathered there in January.

Coordinated by ECU and St. John’s College at the University of Cambridge, the Raleigh Research Circle, as the 24 scholars are known, came to the Tower of London because that’s where Raleigh spent the last 15 years of his life and where he wrote the first volume of Historie of the World in 1614.

“We were very fortunate that all of the Raleigh scholars we contacted—whether in the U.S., Canada, Britain, Germany or France—were eager to participate in this new endeavor,” says ECU professor Larry Tour, co-organizer of the conference. “This was probably the largest gathering of Raleigh aficionados…since the day he was beheaded.

In making the admission to ECU has become more competitive,” said director of enrollment management Judi Bailey. “While we have grown in applications, we have not grown in capacity for classrooms or new faculty or additional residence hall space. We are having to adapt from the top of the applications.”

The projected grade point averages and SAT scores of applicants are also increasing. Last year, the average SAT of students admitted was 1,046. This fall, the average SAT score is projected to be 1,075. The average predicted GPA of admitted freshmen last fall was 2.71; this year, the number is expected to be 2.75.

These increases indicate that more students will survive freshman year and remain to graduate, Bailey said, which bodes well for the university’s goal of reducing the number of students who drop out.

The university had to lease rooms from local apartment complexes last fall to house 300 students from the largest incoming freshman class in school history, roughly 4,500 students. Officials say it is likely that they will have to do that again this fall. ECU also has moved its acceptance date back to May 1. Until this year, ECU has admitted students all the way up to the first day of class.

—Greenville Daily Reflector

Stadium expansion on hold

The plan to enlarge Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and add private suites has not fallen victim to the struggling economy, but the Pirate Club, which is backing the plan financially, definitely has adopted a wait and see attitude.

Jimmy Bass, senior associate director of athletics for external operations, said a decision about the stadium fund-raising campaign will be made this summer, after officials gauge Pirate Club gifts in the first half of 2009 and the number of season tickets sold for the fall season.

“We’re continuing with planning and design, and depending on the economy, we’ll make a decision in the summer about whether to begin,” Bass says.

Fund raising and season tickets serve as a barometer as to whether the expansion plan adopted a year ago should go as scheduled, with groundbreaking this December. Already, the plan has been scaled back to take out the 24 luxury boxes that were planned above an enclosed end zone. Without the suites, east end zone seating capacity rises from 4,500 to 7,000, which would push total capacity of the stadium to 43,700.

Plans for a second expansion of Dowdy-Ficklen, including a new press box and other work on the south side of the stadium, have been postponed indefinitely, Bass says.

The other major capital campaign afoot in the athletics department, the Olympic sports facilities expansion plan, will begin as scheduled in June when construction starts on a new softball stadium. Financed through gifts and an annual student debt service fee, the improvements also include new facilities for the track, soccer and tennis teams.

—Bethany Brudler

The late Geraldine “Gerry” Mayo Beveridge, 39, who taught home economics for Carteret County Schools for 40 years, left $1.5 million to East Carolina for scholarships for graduates of four high schools in that area. Beveridge, who died last year, bequeathed $1.5 million to East Carolina establish the scholarship in the name of her husband, Captain David L. Beveridge. The scholarships will be awarded to students from Orangeoke, New Bern, Pamlico and East Carteret high schools. “We are very honored and humbled at ECU to receive this generous award from Mrs. Beveridge,” said Greg Abernathy, ECU assistant vice chancellor for development. “As
more broadly with the fact that only five of Dixon and others say they are concerned majority of the board. "Graduates of UNC Chapel Hill campuses do not have any alumni currently serving. Administrators and a graduate of N.C. A&T, director of the N.C. Association of School Board of Governors member Dudley Grecyzn '73, whose term ends in July, was ECU Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Greycyn '73, whose term ends in July, was nominated in the Senate for one of the eight seats that chamber fills on the Board of Governors but he withdrew at the last minute. There were no ECU alumni nominated in the House for the eight seats that chamber fills on the board.

Board of Governors member Dudley E. Flood of Raleigh, former executive director of the N.C. Association of School Administrators and a graduate of N.C. A&T, holds a master's degree from East Carolina and is excited about the positive impact this program is having in our region," said Tim Ballance, Greenville market president and senior vice president, Wachovia Bank. "We believe providing a quality education to all children is one of the most significant issues facing our country. This program takes a unique long-term approach to address this challenge by partnering with area colleges to build a talent pool of teachers for our communities. We are pleased to support Wachovia Partnership East and are excited about the positive impact this program is having in our region."

"Wachovia Partnership East cares the logistics of earning a degree for students throughout eastern North Carolina by enabling them to take classes closer to their homes. Through 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air Force Base, and 19 community colleges, one private two-year college, one U.S. Air For

"The average salary for an East Carolina professor rose to $96,700 this academic year from $94,000 last year, an increase of less than 2 percent, according to the annual survey conducted by the American Association of University Professors. That is the lowest average pay for professors among the five doctoral institutions in the UNC system. The national average salary for professors at doctoral institutions this year is $116,400, an increase of 3.4 percent over last year, the association said in its annual report. Faculty members additionally receive, on average, insurance and other job benefits worth nearly $22,000. The association said it collected the salary and benefit information in the fall of 2008, before the recession forced many universities to consider layoffs, furloughs and other cuts impacting faculty members' incomes. The average salary of ECU associate professors this year was $76,200; it was $67,300 for assistant professors and $57,000 for instructors.

Over the past six years, the AAUP's surveys have shown that the growth in average faculty salaries has barely exceeded inflation or failed to keep pace.

"Wachovia Partnership East’s recent expansion to include two additional community colleges to provide educational opportunities to even more students is in keeping with the idea that the Wachovia Partnership System is the world’s first and only robotic radiosurgery system designed to noninvasively treat tumors throughout the body. The CyberKnife is a pain-free, nontraditional option that causes minimal damage to healthy tissue near a tumor; it also can adapt to movement of the patient or the tumor. Because the machine can adapt to such movements, patients are more comfortable and less confined during the treatments, which can last as little as 30 minutes of actual radiation. Patients can relax and breathe normally during treatments while the CyberKnife uses image guidance software to track and continually adjust treatment. The CyberKnife can also treat benign tumors or other conditions anywhere in the body and the world.”
The gleam fades
Harriett E. Austin, the first
female/black undergraduate,
by President Robert Wright
and her classmate for 20 years, dies in 1929 at age 61. A popular
professor, she was head of the Science
Department and coached the girls' basketball
team for many years. She famously
insisted on students to follow their dreams by
reading Tennessee "Miss Helen and the
Gleam," always encouraging the
students' last stanza, "Follow the Gleam." It became an anthem
on graduation exercises from the 1920s to the early 1940s. Upon Austin's
death, the administration building is named for him; "Old Austin," as
it became known, was demolished in 1962.

EAST CAROLINA TIMELINE

80 YEARS AGO
The gleam fades

60 YEARS AGO

Campus catches football fever
Construction of East Carolina's first football venue,
College Stadium, begins in the summer of 1960 and is
2,000-seat facility hosts its
first home game that falls a
24-0 victory over the Cherry Point Marines. Leo Jenkins
is inaugurated at College
Stadium in May 1960 in what
was then the largest crowd in
school history. Located just
north of where the Breazeale
Building now stands, College
Stadium is used just 13
seasons, replaced by the much
larger Ficklen Stadium in 1982.

10 YEARS AGO

Student transit begins
An activist student
government authorization laws
an effort to start a campus
bus system, with initial
students in a referendum to
decide if those of activity
fees to pay for it. In March
1992, two rented buses start
cruising campus and nearly
shopping area from 9:30 a.m.
to 4 p.m. One route winds
around the main campus to
Minges Coliseum and through
the "boys' dorms," the other
route runs through the main
campus and the girls' dorms.
The buses, as so popular that a
third one is soon added.

Reducing facuty will result in larger classes,
particularly for freshmen and sophomores.
The cuts will also impact staffing for student
recruitment, administrative and technology
support for the faculty, and academic advising.
The School of Nursing would have to cut
the number of students seeking undergraduate
and graduate degrees by 15 percent, according
to information ECU submitted to the Board
of Governors. The medical school clinical
facilities would have to reduce its operating hours.
The book budget for the Laupus Library would be
cut nearly in half.

The plan also anticipates sharply reduced
funding, or possibly even the elimination,
of two centers on campus, the Institute for
Coastal Science and Policy and the Center
for Security Studies and Research. Degree
programs serving just a few students may
well be eliminated. ECU has had a hiring
freeze for months now; spending on travel
and other nonessentials has been eliminated.
Bowles is asking legislators not to cut the
university budget by more than 5 percent
and that all of it be taken from nonuniversity
funds. He also wants each campus to be
given wide latitude in implementing the
cuts. Bowles said that a 7 percent cut would
force the elimination of 1,600 jobs at the 16
UNC campuses. The student athletics fee will go up $15
to $496, the health services fee will rise $10
to $230, but the student activity fee will
remain the same at $593. ECU also raised
the cost of graduate school in the College
of Business by $720 a year, to $4,795 a
semester, and the Brody School of Medicine
by $1,000 a year, to $8,213 a semester.
Tuition for out-of-state undergraduates
will rise 2.8 percent to $13,325 a semester.
Medical school tuition for new out-of-state
students will be $33,203 a semester.

Budget ax about to fall
East Carolina is preparing for an additional
7 percent cut in state funding for the fiscal
year beginning July 1, a loss of roughly $25
million that would terms operating budgets
throughout the campus and eliminate 137
jobs, including 73 faculty members. The
University had managed to avoid layoffs
when, at the direction of UNC President
Erskine Bowles, it trimmed spending by
20.6 million in the current fiscal year as the
recession took hold, but officials said that
job losses now are all but inevitable because
salaries are 80 percent of the budget.

In budget planning documents ECU
submitted to the Board of Governors,
achieving a 7 percent cut in spending would
require eliminating 119 positions on Main
Campus, including 63 faculty positions; and
24 positions on the Health Sciences Campus,
including 10 faculty positions. Among the
staff positions eyed for elimination are jobs
in housekeeping, landscaping, accounting,
dimensional support and environmental
health and training. Also on the chopping
block are a few top administrative posts,
including a position in the dean of students'
ofifice. The plan envisions the loss of 23
graduate assistants with a corresponding
decline of 46 lab sections.

State appropriations account for 35 percent
of East Carolina’s budget, or about $268
million last fiscal year. Student tuition and
fees account for 16 percent of revenue and
those will be going up again this fall. Tuition
for in-state students will rise 1.9 percent,
or $71, an increase that comes on the heels of
a 2.8 percent increase last year. That’s less
than the average 3.9 percent increase authorized
for the 16 UNC campuses.

The budget that Gov. Beverly Perdue
submitted to the General Assembly does
include an increase of $4 million for East
Carolina to offset the losses sustained by
the medical school practice plan in providing
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Knights of the Black Flag

If you find yourself in Raleigh this summer and have a free hour, be sure to drop by the N.C. Museum of History and take in “Knights of the Black Flag,” an impressive exhibit that contrasts the brutal realities of the violent life that Pirates lived with romanticized images of swashbuckling adventures prevalent in popular culture. Interactive displays trace pirating all the way back to ancient Egypt but the more impressive items are from the classical age of pirating in the late 1700s when Stede Bonnet, Anne Bonny, Mary Read and the most famous pirate of all—Blackbeard—proveled the North Carolina coast.

The exhibit boasts the largest collection of artifacts ever displayed from the shipwreck believed to be Blackbeard’s flagship, the Queen Anne’s Revenge. Most of these items were recovered over the last five years by East Carolina researchers and preserved at the Queen Anne’s Revenge Conservation Lab on the West Research Campus. The preservation effort is a joint project by ECU and the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Hundreds of artifacts, including cannons, a ship’s bell and gold dust, are on display from the Queen Anne’s Revenge, which ran aground in Beaufort Inlet in 1718 and was discovered in 1996. Videos accompanying the exhibit show underwater archaeologists at the shipwreck site working to conserve one of the largest pirate ships ever to sail the Spanish Main. Also on display are items discovered in the ruins of Blackbeard’s purported house in Bath. Legends surround another competing artifact in the exhibit: the alleged skull of Blackbeard, which is on loan from the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Mass.

The exhibit allows young visitors to step inside a pirate’s life, to handle pirate weapons, to capture ships and try on pirate clothes. They can watch for pirates from the crow’s nest, defend their ship from a pirate attack, and experience firsthand what it was like to be a pirate.

The History Museum exhibit essentially is the traveling road show version of one mounted by the N.C. Maritime Museum in Beaufort. Behind both exhibits is Mike Carraway, BFA ’78, who is the Maritime Museum’s exhibit designer and an expert on all things Blackbeard. The exhibit will be on view throughout the end of the year. The History Museum, located on Jones Street in downtown Raleigh, is open Monday through Saturday 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m., and Sundays from noon–5:00 p.m. Admission is $5, $4 for seniors, children are free.

—Steve Tuttle

Big River Rolls Into Town

A tighter budget is having an impact on some of East Carolina’s summer performing arts programs. The main example: the ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre series will produce only one play, Big River, a musical adapted from Mark Twain’s Huckleberry Finn.

With music and lyrics by the late Roger Miller, Big River is a Tony Award-winning retelling of the story of Huck Finn and the runaway slave Jim as they raft along the Mississippi River. Miller’s score combines elements of country music, jazz and gospel styling.

The production, scheduled June 16–27, marks a return to the familiar setting of McMillan Theatre, now that renovation work on the fly system, sound system and exterior landscaping to the Art Deco building have been completed. Summer Theatre staged three plays in the Turnage Theater in Washington last year while the renovations to McMillan preceded.

Big River will run for 12 performances, which is more than the usual summer play, with 8 p.m. shows on all dates except June 21 and June 22 (dark). Test shows will be staged June 20 and June 27 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. —Steve Row

Let’s Go to Camp!

Summer is the time for camps of all kinds on campus. While most are for teenagers, some attract people of all ages, like the annual summer guitar workshop. Go to the School of Music’s web site, www.ecu.edu/music, for more information about:

Drama Camp

ECU’s annual summer drama camp, which runs this year from July 27-Aug. 1, is open to young people ages 7-10, 11-13 and 14-18. Participants receive training in beginning acting and performance techniques. A “Final Share” day on the last Saturday allows participants to show off their work to family and friends. The camp offers half-day and full-day programs.

Guitar Workshop

Running from July 11-14, the annual summer guitar workshop is open to students of all levels who want to improve their skills on the classical guitar. Nationally and internationally known concert artists and teachers make up the faculty, and many also perform in recital.

Band Camp

The June 14-19 band camp is an annual program designed for musicians in grades six through 12. Participants have opportunities for instruction in full concert band, small ensemble and solo performing. The camp also provides special coaching in jazz performance techniques.

Choral Conducting Institute

The institute, set for June 21-26, is a weeklong program for those interested in developing their skills as artists, musicians and choral leaders. Participants attend seminars and master classes on conducting and take part in ensemble singing. The institute has a paid resident choir; participants also are exposed to great choral literature that can be used in local programs. The institute coincides with the ECU Summer Choral Camp, which attracts seventh-grade through 12th-grade singers. Instruction focuses on vocal skills, music reading and aural perception of music. The session concludes with a concert with the Choral Conducting Institute.

Suzuki Institute

The Suzuki Method is taught at this institute, which is scheduled in several segments between July 3 and July 11. An “Every Child Can” session is scheduled July 3; the teacher development courses for Violin Unit I and advanced chamber music institute will take place July 7–11. The student institute is scheduled July 5–10.
The New Hands of Medicine

Health care used to be delivered by three people—a doctor, a nurse and a pharmacist. Now many other specialists have joined the team to deliver care focused not just on saving lives but making life better.
Every 35 minutes someone dies as an older adult is treated in a hospital for a death in older adults. Every 18 seconds, Falls are the leading cause of accidental death. Five percent fracture a hip, and while nine out of 10 will survive, half will never regain the mobility they had. One in three Americans 65 and older suffer a fall each year. Five percent fracture a hip, and they are left unchecked, it’s almost certain they will fall again.

For many older adults, falls like Lilja’s start a cycle of decline that robs them of their independence piece by piece as their activities become more and more limited. Statistics show that when someone falls twice in six months—a hip fracture, a head injury—they are left unchecked, it’s almost certain they will fall again. In three Americans 65 and older suffer a fall each year. Five percent fracture a hip, and while nine out of 10 will survive, half will never regain the mobility they had. Many go from living independently to assisted living. And they’re the lucky ones. Falls are the leading cause of accidental death in older adults. Every 18 seconds, an older adult is treated in a hospital for a fall, and every 35 minutes someone dies as a result of such injuries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lilja’s start a cycle of decline that robs them of their independence piece by piece as their activities become more and more limited. Statistics show that when someone falls twice in six months—a hip fracture, a head injury—and they are left unchecked, it’s almost certain they will fall again. One in three Americans 65 and older suffer a fall each year. Five percent fracture a hip, and while nine out of 10 will survive, half will never regain the mobility they had. Many go from living independently to assisted living. And they’re the lucky ones. Falls are the leading cause of accidental death in older adults. Every 18 seconds, an older adult is treated in a hospital for a fall, and every 35 minutes someone dies as a result of such injuries, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Hopefully, Lilja will escape that fate. She’s enrolled in a new falls prevention clinic at East Carolina University where faculty and students in the College of Allied Health Sciences are helping seniors remain independent, recover more quickly, avoid long hospital stays and possibly side step the high cost of long-term care. Thanks to innovative programs like this one, what was once seen as an inevitable part of getting older is now seen as a treatable condition. In the past Lilja probably would have been told to slow down and rest; now she’s looking forward to more exercise classes because research shows that older adults who stay active avoid future falls. The therapists treating Lilja are among the many new hands of medicine supplementing traditional caregivers like doctors and nurses. These graduates of the College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) are in high demand in today’s health care system that is dominated by aging baby boomers who expect to maintain their lifestyles. Physical therapists, occupational therapists and physician assistants are the most plentiful of these new providers. Others are less well known because they work behind the scenes in labs—the clinical lab scientists, the health information and health services management specialists, rehabilitation specialists, and others who treat speech disorders.

Through them, medicine is bringing solutions to once devastating impediments, enabling people of all ages to confront illness, injury, aging, disability and even addiction. Allied health professionals work in some unexpected fields—such as using animals to help autistic children learn to relate to their world. Whatever their specific title, all CAHS graduates strive to do one thing: improve a person’s quality of life. If health care once meant saving a life, today’s allied health professions aim to make sure that life is a good one. Expanding the mission of health care is central to allied health professions, making programs like ECU’s even more important. “Because of the nature of health problems today, especially with older people who have chronic conditions, it takes a team of professionals from different areas to provide this level of care,” says Thomas Elwood, executive director of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals in Washington, D.C., of which CAHS is a member. “As health care becomes more complex it’s necessary for people to have more advanced levels of education,” he adds.

ECU graduates more members of that team than any school in North Carolina, and the 42-year-old program continues growing by leaps and bounds. More than half of all occupational therapists, a third of all physical therapists and a quarter of all physician assistants practicing in North Carolina trained at East Carolina. CAHS is advancing programs such as the clinical doctorate in physical therapy, the first degree of its kind in the state. The college also offers a doctorate in communication sciences and disorders, as well as a doctorate in rehabilitation psychology and administration. These pioneering programs place ECU among the leading players in training professionals for a new health model. “A college like ours is a collective,” says Dean Stephen Thomas. “We bring together professionals from different areas to provide this level of care,” says Thomas Elwood, executive director of the Association of Schools of Allied Health Professionals in Washington, D.C., of which CAHS is a member. “As health care becomes more complex it’s necessary for people to have more advanced levels of education,” he adds.

Suffering a stroke or traumatic brain injury often leaves patients with hand movements can be jerky or off target. To learn how to overcome that, occupational therapy graduate students conducted studies in the CAHS motion analysis lab by placing markers on a patient’s hand. As the patient squeezes the ball, special cameras capture the movements and feed them into a computer for analysis. The study helped identify standardized tests that clinics can use to accurately measure a person’s ability to feel, touch or lift objects following an injury....
Physical therapy students provide services in Andrew Stuart. Joseph Kalinowski, Michael Rastatter and an anti-stuttering device, invented by faculty. Evaluation and fittings for the SpeechEasy anti-stuttering device, invented by faculty. They also provide balance assessments, and ECU's speech language and hearing clinic. In conjunction with BSOM’s family medicine department, CAHS’s occupational therapy and physical therapy departments developed a falls risk screening clinic. It’s there that older adults like Lila who’ve been treated for fall-related injuries are referred for assessment. CAHS sponsors the annual Jean Mills Health Symposium focused on rural, underserved and minority populations.

The beginning
East Carolina launched what then was known as the Life Sciences and Community Health Institute in 1967, about the same time it began exploring founding a medical school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean. The school to serve a region severely lacking health care providers. In less than a year the name changed to the School of Allied Health Professions and Medical Education Center. Dr. Edwin Monroe, a Greenville physician, became the first dean.
Dr. Stephen Thomas’ pitch to students considering a health care career is direct and simple. His straightforward approach is just one of the many qualities admired by those who work with him and who have known him for years.

“You don’t have to go into medicine or nursing to have a great career in health care,” says Thomas, dean of the College of Allied Health Sciences. Thomas explains his varied job titles—physical therapist to speech language pathologist to health information administrator. Some have patient contact, some don’t, but all are in demand. “There are a lot of things you can do. There isn’t a profession that doesn’t have a shortage.”

Thomas has steered the college through recent enrollment increases, the addition of master’s and doctoral programs, budget cuts, university leadership changes, the construction and move to a new building on the Health Sciences Campus and re-designation from school to college. “Steve Thomas is an incredibly capable administrator who has the knowledge, experience and personal style needed for this challenging leadership role. His college is a large, complex and diverse academic unit with programs that address critical health care workforce shortages,” says Dr. Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor for health sciences and former longtime dean of the College of Nursing. “He has managed the growing demands for more graduates with skill and a sustained commitment to quality education and clinical competency. He is certainly one of the most respected deans on campus and among his peers in allied health sciences building that brought all allied health departments under one roof for the first time in 20 years. The additional classrooms, labs and research space have again helped spur awareness of allied health sciences on campus and in the community. During his tenure, enrollment grew 70 percent, the number of programs increased, the first doctoral-level program in communication sciences and disorders in the state was approved, the first state university physician assistant department began and the state’s first distance education-based programs in allied health were offered. Today, about one in six students entering ECU declares allied health as their major. The expanding division needed more space, a need filled when it moved to the Carol G. Belk Building that summer. Dr. Ronald Thiele, a pediatrician in Nashville, Tenn., was recruited as dean in January 1972 and served 19 years. Monroe became vice chancellor for health affairs, which included allied health sciences, nursing and the new medical school. Thiele was instrumental in creating a biostatistics and epidemiology program. Social welfare, later named social work, became a separate school in 1983. Environmental health would move to the School of Industry and Technology in 1999. “It was a fun time and all done with awfully good people,” Thiele recalls. “The people are the important thing. You can do anything with good people.”

Thiele’s successor, Harold Jones, joined the school as the third dean in 1992, and began work to raise awareness of allied health sciences on campus and in the community. During his tenure, enrollment grew 70 percent, the number of programs increased, the first doctoral-level program in communication sciences and disorders in the state was approved, the first state university physician assistant department began and the state’s first distance education-based programs in allied health were offered. Today, about one in six students entering ECU declares allied health as their major. Soon, the Belk Building couldn’t hold all the new programs, an overcrowding situation that led to the creation of the new medical school. The expanding division needed more space, a need filled when it moved to the Carol G. Belk Building that summer. Dr. Ronald Thiele, a pediatrician in Nashville, Tenn., was recruited as dean in January 1972 and served 19 years. Monroe became vice chancellor for health affairs, which included allied health sciences, nursing and the new medical school. Thiele was instrumental in creating a biostatistics and epidemiology program. Social welfare, later named social work, became a separate school in 1983. Environmental health would move to the School of Industry and Technology in 1999. “It was a fun time and all done with awfully good people,” Thiele recalls. “The people are the important thing. You can do anything with good people.”

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For Greg Antal of Taylorsville, the percent of all those applicants were CAHS and admitted 322 students. Twenty-four fall for undergraduate and graduate school, the master’s and doctoral levels. Allied health students entering the college last fall were at percent since 2001. About 60 percent of students and 110 faculty and staff and is in 2001 and permanent dean in 2003. By our facilities. Our facilities now enhance mobile unit, two large teaching labs and three research labs. We are no longer encumbered by our facilities. Our facilities now enhance our ability to teach and we are able to do the research necessary to keep us on top of our profession,” Jenkins said.

Every student is involved in research, as it has been since the program began. Being able to engage students is a point of pride among the faculty. “The faculty has a genuine concern for us to achieve, and to be well-rounded physical therapists,” says Antal. “The faculty is very approachable. They have an open-door policy. I know they want us to succeed and they care about our success.”

Antal is studying fall prevention and fall risk assessment in the elderly population and musculoskeletal integration with Dr. Leslie Allison, assistant professor of physical therapy. “It’s a huge research area because so much of our health care money goes to fall-related injuries,” Antal says. “If someone breaks a hip, often that’s the beginning of a gradual decline. That’s why we’re looking at preventing those falls from happening. We want to give them appropriate prevention and balance training so they don’t incur a fall.”

When Antal graduates next May, he plans to work in an outpatient clinic somewhere in North Carolina in orthopedic and neurological rehabilitation. “There is more demand than we can supply. I don’t know what the job market is going to do, but we’re still going to need nurses,” he says.

Another profession with dramatic workforce shortages is clinical laboratory science, the smallest department in CAHS. “Most people don’t know that 70 percent of diagnosis and treatment decisions are made by medical lab tests,” says Dr. Richard Bamberg, department chair. “You don’t just put a sample in a machine and push a button. You have to have someone to tell if it’s accurate, valid and reliable results.

The shortages are so extreme that medical technologists are beginning to see offers of sign-on bonuses, relocation and tuition assistance, incentives typically seen in nursing. Bamberg says. “Nationally all the clinical laboratory science programs together are producing half of the number of vacancies,” he adds.

Novice Hoskins is a rising senior and transitioned to clinical laboratory science working as a phlebotomist. She will graduate in 2010, with an eye to medical school one day. Evaluating a blood cell count for infection or identifying a microorganism is some of the behind-the-scenes work that a medical technologist does. “People don’t know how that works. When I tell people I’m going into clinical lab science, they say, you already know how to do it (because she’s a nurse),” Hoskins explains. “It’s frustrating. The profession I’m going into now, you actually perform the test, not just collect the specimen, I’m performing the tests that I use as a nurse to take care of my patients.”

The department now offers a five-year degree curriculum with biology. Students study biology three years, then transition to clinical laboratory science for their final two years and earn a double degree. “This is particularly good for pre-med majors,” Bamberg says.

Many CAHS alumni have enjoyed stellar careers. Guldlevsen native Jason Ezzelle graduated with a degree in clinical laboratory science in 1997. He took an entry-level position at PPP, a Wilmington-based contract research organization, monitoring clinical research sites and collecting data as part of research study protocols. He introduced the idea of monitoring labs, which quickly took off as a new service line for the company. Before long he was traveling 75 percent of his time, often to developing nations inspecting labs. “It’s been an incredibly rewarding career,” Ezzelle says. Now PPP’s senior project manager in the global laboratory services group.

“We do regional workshop training for labs worldwide. It touches thousands of clinical laboratory scientists,” says Katina Eley was one of 20 students in ECU’s first class of physician assistant studies. After graduating in 1999, she went back home to Ahoskie to practice in obstetrics and gynecology. “I chose to go back to Ahoskie because I wanted to give back to my community,” Eley says. “It brings me joy to know that I have helped someone, whether it is practicing preventive medicine or helping to care a problem presented to me.”

Challenges and responses

As the population ages, allied health professionals will continue playing a significant role in health care delivery, especially in rural areas. “There are not enough doctors to take care of everybody, and not everybody needs a doctor,” Thiele says.

 Investigators are looking at the implications that this concept of mental practice has for different age groups and for people who have suffered strokes or brain injuries, and those with no injuries. “We are already seeing improvement with the older age group,” said Cormier, who hopes to work with injured veterans after graduation.

No doubt research will play an important role in the future of innovative programs in the allied health sciences—and the improved quality of life for generations to come. “Being an aging baby boomer myself,” Thomas says, “I have a vested interest in the thorough preparation of our graduates that all of us will someday rely on to provide excellent care and extend our quality of life.”
Solving problems, settling in

After leading East Carolina through five years of frenetic growth and change, Steve Ballard considered leaving Greenville but then decided ECU still 'is the best fit for me.' The feeling seems mutual.
Wright Auditorium was packed for the 2004 fall faculty convocation because everyone wanted to hear what East Carolina's new chancellor would say about the recent upheavals on campus. His predecessor, William Muse, had resigned under a cloud following two critical internal audits, and the provost had been reassigned over concerns about his hiring practices. When Steve Ballard came to the podium he addressed the controversy much the same way he fielded grounders on his college baseball team: never back up.

"It is our responsibility to earn the public trust and to keep that trust," Ballard said. "There is nothing more valuable to our long-term growth than to be known as an institution that can be trusted and that openly acknowledges and corrects its mistakes."

Five years later, the Muse controversies have faded and East Carolina obviously has regained the public trust, as evidenced by the huge investments the state is making here for new classroom buildings, the School of Dentistry, the Heart Institute, the Family Medicine Center and other expensive projects. The public perception of ECU these days more often is defined by its acknowledged successes in raising the shortage of classroom teachers and health care providers, attacking obesity and other health disparities, promoting economic development in the East and widening college access through distance education. Even the football team is winning again.

How did East Carolina get from there to here in five short years? According to observers we consulted, it's because Ballard, 60, followed through on a promise he made to the faculty that day: "We must get the right people on the bus and then make sure those people are working together—with each other, certainly with the faculty and with our community and constituents."

In one of his first meetings with the Board of Trustees, Ballard identified 10 leadership positions he intended to fill with his own team. Today, a number of top administrators and most the deans are people Ballard hired, occasionally after raising someone else out of the job who didn't meet his standards. His personnel decisions have been proactive and decisive, such as when—just a few months on the job—he aborted a national search for a new athletic director and brought in Terry Holland. Most of the people Ballard put "on the bus" came from outside ECU but he turned to two campus veterans—both women—to sit up front and help steer.

He moved Marilyn Sheerer from dean of education to provost and Phyllis Horns '69 from dean of nursing to vice chancellor for health sciences. Also taking a seat up front was another woman, Deidre Mageran, whom he brought in as vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. Most recently, he hired Paul Cunningham as the first African-American dean of a North Carolina medical school.

The planning and funding for the campus construction boom fueled by $190 million in state higher education bonds already was in place when he arrived, but Ballard oversaw the projects and brought them home on time and budget. East Carolina became the fastest-growing campus in the UNC system and will start the fall semester with more than 28,000 students, an increase of about 6,000 students in five years.

A typical comment one hears about Ballard is that he is a top-notch administrator and a nimble fixer of the myriad problems that inevitably crop up in an enterprise of over 5,000 employees. Observers give him credit for hiring good people, giving them a mission and then turning them loose to accomplish specific goals. He constantly stresses teamwork, as you might expect from a former athletic coach who did.

The only criticism one hears is that he isn't as visible as the Greenville community and in state leadership circles as many would like. The trustees made a friendly suggestion that he join a local civic club. But those who wish Ballard enjoyed a higher profile say they feel that way only because they see him as the most effective representative of the university. "He's our thousand-watt bulb," one prominent Pirate said. "We want him to shine." This could partly be cultural: Ballard's Midwestern reserve adjusting to life in a beach music and barbecue town.

Ballard caused some consternation in late January when he applied for the open chancellor position at Kansas State University. Some officials said they only learned about it by reading the paper. As quickly as his name popped up in connection with the K State job, however, it dropped out when Ballard withdrew from consideration after traveling there for the interview. He announced that he continued to believe ECU "is the right fit for me." He says in the interview for this story that he intends to stay another five years. He would be 65 then.

"I think we are very fortunate to have attracted Steve Ballard to East Carolina," said trustees Chairman Bob Gereczyn. "I hope and expect that we will be able to keep him for the rest of his career."

Ballard previously was provost at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. He spent his childhood in Galesburg, Ill., attended the University of Arizona and graduated there with distinction in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in history. As stopgap and captain of the Arizona baseball team, he earned three varsity letters and played in the College World Series his senior year. Ballard's longest tenure in academia was at the University of Oklahoma, where he spent 13 years on the faculty, served two terms on the Norman City Council and did a stint as mayor pro tem.

The following is a condensed version of an interview conducted in his office.

W T H E B A L L A R D B O U N C E

Comparing where things stood when Steve Ballard arrived as chancellor with today.

2004–05 2008–09

| Budget, in millions | $ 447 | $ 625 |
| Endowment, in millions | $ 66 | $ 95 |
| Athletic budget, in millions | $ 174 | $ 195 |
| Research grants and contracts, in millions | $ 331 | $ 446 |
| Total enrollment | 22,767 | 27,677 |
| Distance education students | 1,393 | 1,659 |
| Minority enrollment | 18.9% | 19.6% |
| Average SAT score of incoming freshmen | 1,044 | 1,025 |
| Faculty | 1,462 | 2,279 |
| Undergraduate degrees offered | 105 | 104 |
| Graduate degrees offered | 91 | 97 |

Total employment 4,707 5,253

Source: University figures as of beginning of fall semester for years cited except for endowment, which is as of the end of the respective fiscal years.

B A L L A R D ’ S B U D G E T P R I O R I T I E S

Increase, since 2004, in amounts earmarked for:

- New faculty positions and support required by enrollment growth $ 40.7 million
- Improved administrative infrastructure, notably IT and financial services $ 40 million
- Create contingency fund $ 10 million
- Greater support for Brody School of Medicine $ 28 million
- Emphasis on graduate research, economic development activities $ 13 million
- Strengthen University Advancement and Marketing $ 15 million
- Improve student business services, financial aid, admissions, advising $ 900,000
- Enhance campus safety, more police, better lighting $ 800,000
- Living Wage initiative to raise salaries for lowest-paid staff to $25,000 $ 700,000

By Steve Tuttle Photography by Forrest Croce

Jay Clark
Q: By any yardstick you use, East Carolina has grown and changed tremendously in the five years you've been here—nearly 6,000 more students, several new buildings on campus, the new School of Dentistry. What do you think best characterizes these changes?
A: I think the growth really reflects what we have said that we're doing to some things very well and we're going to put our resources where our commitments are and we're going to make a difference. The other half of that is that our growth reflects a real authenticity about who we are and what we are trying to do, especially authenticity related to how we serve the 29 counties of eastern North Carolina. I feel really good about that. When I got here there were too many people who were willing to discount East Carolina University and I honestly believe that if that is discounting us now we may never be seen as the kind of institution that Chapel Hill is. Frankly that's never been our goal and never should be our goal. But for what we say we're going to do, the reputation that we're gaining for authenticity is real important to our future.
Q: Other than a little more gray hair, how have you changed in the past five years?
A: I feel like I understand the contributions of this institution better than when I took the job by a long shot. I certainly understand the ways that a public university can really make a difference and that's important. I think I am a little more balanced in my life and how I think about how I can make a difference.
Q: In the time you've been here, East Carolina has enjoyed the best funding from the General Assembly it has received in decades. Even as the recession began last year, the legislature recommitted $170 million for the Family Medicine Center and the School of Dentistry. What has happened to increase the legislature's willingness to fund East Carolina, and how much of the credit for that should go to your team?
A: I think this authenticity question really is the starting point. We told people we would do some things and not others, and that we would do them well and make a contribution to North Carolina and we would increase that contribution. We were able to come to this point that this was the case. So when we said we wanted a dental school, people listened to us. That's always hard for a university. When I first came here people said, 'How soon are you going to start a law school, are we going to have an engineering school like N.C. State?' And all those things are legitimate questions but they are not ECU, they're not the major contribution we can make, at least in my view. Some people disagree with me on that. And I think it had a lot to do with how we are perceived in the bigger political circles. The money we have received, we are very proud of because it reflects a new appreciation of East Carolina. We have had tremendous support from [UNC President] Erskine Bowles, [Senate President Pro Tem] Marc Basnight and [House Speaker] Joe Hackney. We would not have a dental school today if it were not for Erskine Bowles. Our Board of Trustees really stepped up at some key places, I want to single out two. David Redwine was tireless in his support of the Family Medicine Center, which resulted in almost $40 million last year. David Redwine 72 was absolutely critical at many stages. There was not one time that I called David [Redwine] and said, 'We need some help, can you go with me to see the speaker or see the appropriations chair, that he wasn't there.' People don't see the amount of tireless effort by our internal team to do all the things necessary to take advantage of the support we had. In many cases they had to put together hundreds and hundreds of pages of documentation in order to get the $100 million we now have for the Dental School. It was always on time, always responsive to the General Administration's requests. Every vote of the Board of Governors was always unanimous. Those things don't happen by accident. We were able to address the questions and convince people that we knew what we were doing. I think the internal team of a couple dozen people made a huge difference.
Q: What categories or functions have you cut?
A: We're at a period right now when we're making one-time reductions, which means you have to stop spending when you get to 94–95 percent of what the legislature has promoted. We haven't cut programs this year but we have stopped spending on almost everything that is discretionary. When things turn around we can immediately go back to those activities. Those cuts will be smaller next year. What we're doing now is the next ballet that if the legislature says your base budget goes from $260 million to state dollars to maybe $225 or less money than that, then we have to start doing some things. We have been preparing for that all year; we have a campus-wide task force and I think it's quite likely that in three years we will be doing fewer things and we won't sacrifice the priorities we have established.
Q: Someone once said you should never waste a good crisis. What credit do you think there is an opportunity for you to prune some ongoing academic initiatives?
A: Yes, there certainly could be, and Provost Marilyn Sterrett and Vice Chancellor Phyllis Horns have been looking at those for months now. Some programs that may no longer be attractive to students because the jobs have changed or the need has changed will have to be consolidated or eliminated. What happens in universities is, majors and concentrations and programs get put in place and then once eventually overtaken them, but the old ones stay there and the next thing you know you have two faculty members teaching two students. Now, if you have a great piano program, that's appropriate; that's how you produce Van Cliburn medal winners. But that may not be the case in [most other disciplines]. Those are exactly the kind of questions we have to ask. Let me hasten to add that it's not just academic programs [under review]. We led the state in responding to President Boehner's efficiency initiative. We cut our administrative duplication, we consolidated things, we centralized things, [Assistant Vice Chancellor] Steve Duncan's analysis is we saved over $13 million over the last three years, almost all of it on the administrative side. If we can do business better in any area, we will.
Q: You were in the news in January when you applied for but then withdrew from the open chancellor position at Kansas State University. Why did you apply and why did you withdraw?
A: I'm tempted to use the Alex Rodriguez excuse that I was young, naive and stupid; [I applied for the job] for two reasons. I have great respect for that university and knew a lot about it; and, secondly, it had some locational advantage for both my family and my wife's family [who are Midwesterners]. Every now and then I think it's good to take a look out there and see what's going on, that institution is the nation's oldest land grant, which is consistent with my own values of outreach, engagement and making sure the resources of a public university serve a state and a region. There appeared to be a great fit. But what I found when I went there, I really believe that ECU is a much better fit for me than Kansas State and I actually think ECU has even more opportunities to make a difference for our society even though we're not a land grant [because] we have the same values here. I think that for the kind of things that make a difference in, this is a better place for Nancy and me. I think it was a legitimate exercise, but when we got back in town we realized this is where we want to be.
Q: East Carolina will admit fewer freshmen this fall than it did last year as the university implements higher admission standards. For many people in eastern North Carolina, East Carolina has always represented an open door. Is that door closing a bit?
A: No, I don't think the door is closing. I think we think about who to let in the door a little bit differently. The freshman class we will have for the fall of '09 will be the second biggest freshman class ever, second biggest to last year's. But we've learned something very valuable last year. We learned that when you have 4,500 freshmen, and a record number of transfers and a record number of distance education students, then you have to be able to handle that. We can't do them all. And we had some areas frankly where we were not serving those students well enough. They weren't in the academic areas as much as in the student service area certainly in financial aid. We never want to lose that special spirit at ECU where students tell us day after day that when they come here they find something that's special, We don't want to grow so fast that we lose that special feeling. Our door will stay open. Next year we will be over 28,000, which will be the biggest freshman class ever since we've ever had. I don't think we can possibly grow as fast as we have over the last three or four years or we will start to lose that ability to make a difference for students. I think we will see more and more students who may not come to us as freshmen but may come to us through the community colleges as sophomores and juniors.
Q: At the same time that East Carolina has been raising its admission standards, it has gained recognition for academic initiatives and research. The amount of research dollars flowing into ECU is up significantly. Is it your goal for East Carolina to be recognized by the Carnegie Foundation as a research-intensive university? If so, you would need to change the same category as Carolina and State?
A: Those kinds of goals have never been my goals, and Vice Chancellor Mageean may shout me when she reads this, because it's her job to grow our profile and grow our status.
and grow our external dollars. And she could well achieve Carnegie research-intensive status [for ECU], but I don’t think that’s the most important thing for us to do.

If we get there because we’re doing other things right, that’s fine and we’ll all recognize that as just another recognition of what we’re doing. But I think it’s so much more important that we address the dental crisis in the rural areas in this state, and that’s not something the Carnegie Institution could ever factor into how they characterize institutions. Being successful in that kind of service in addressing one of the biggest needs in this state is 100 times more important than what Carnegie may or may not say about what category we’re in.

I would much rather be seen as having the best research capabilities in health disparities research in the nation than I would to get to a certain level of the Carnegie. If we get to that level because we’re doing other things right, that’s fine and we’ll all recognize that as just another recognition of what we’re doing. But I think it’s so much more important that we address the dental crisis in the rural areas in this state, and that’s not something the Carnegie Institution could ever factor into how they characterize institutions. Being successful in that kind of service in addressing one of the biggest needs in this state is 100 times more important than what Carnegie may or may not say about what category we’re in.

Q: What type of working relationship have you developed with your trustees, with the UNC General Administration and other chancellors in the system?

A: I think I have a great relationship with [Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Grauey] and Vice Chairman David Brody. I’ve really enjoyed over my five years great relationships with our board and that’s hard to do because there are so many tensions in a major public university and so many different ways of thinking about our future that there’s no one answer, and you’re always looking for a balance. [Last fall] we had some significant disagreements about how much of the raising cost of education our students should pay. And not every board member agreed with me on that but I think every board member agreed we had to find a compromise on that. I’m very happy with our compromise. Not everybody thought it was the right compromise but we worked very hard to get there.

Q: If you’re still here five years from now how do you think East Carolina will be different than it is today?

A: Let me start by saying I hope to be here in five years. I think it’s the right place for me. My hope is that in five years or in the not too distant future that we’re essentially the same university in terms of our soul, of how we view ourselves as a service and regional transformation institution.

What I really hope is that we are recognized for a better model, a new model of public universities where all universities aren’t chasing the same kind of status, like Carnegie status or the top 10 in U.S. News & World Report, to go away from those kinds of generic models of what a university is and realize that every university has to have a distinctive contribution to the state we’re in, given who we are and what we do best. In five years I hope we are recognized as the best service university in the nation and I think we already are very close.

Q: Why getting away is so important, to remove the—

A: I’ve never counted it because I thought I would be scared. You know, most days are 8 to 10 to 11 hour workdays, and many weekends, especially this time of year, are filled with events and meetings and executive committee meetings of foundations, meeting people, having dinners with important politicians. I do try to take Sundays off, but I’m not always successful in that. That’s why getting away is so important, to remove yourself from the location in order to get your head clear sometimes.
After 30 years on the faculty and a lifetime helping others, Pat Dunn starts a new job leading City Hall.
Her biggest public challenge so far may be the planned intermodal transportation critical skill in her role. “You don’t work in one room, much the same way Dunn brought a global perspective to her health education classes at East Carolina. Today, after more than 30 years on the health education faculty, Dunn has opened a new chapter in her life as the city’s highest elected official. In her first term she is grappling with diverse issues and some of the rockiest times in a generation. “We have to recognize that Greenville is like everywhere else, and we’re all being affected by the downturn in the economy,” she says. “These are tough times to be in living, tough times to be in public office.” As mayor she brings a dignified air to city business, keeping order during even the most tense city council meetings, when a firm landing of her gavel is enough to quiet a room. Yet she also knows her priorities are to be human, and her friendly warm smiles up ceremonies and ribbon-cuttings. She’s also an animal lover, with a dog named T3—as in Thomas Jefferson. Her experience reaching across cultures allows her to see issues from many sides, a unique perspective. “My parents cared about others, for the underdog,” she remembers. “My father was always reading and talking about politics. Really, did we have discussions that weren’t about politics, and at 18, there was no question that I would register to vote. I’ve been voting ever since.”

While health issues are very personal, they are often also not about politics. Dunn has a country background, a culture that also influences food choices, male-female relationship patterns, birth, marriage and death customs. Because of these connections, she developed and taught the course, “Political, Social and Cultural Aspects of Health and Disease.” During the semester, students visited distinctive cultural settings such as a synagogue or mosque to enlarge their understanding.

“Love thy neighbor” Mayor Dunn takes personal inspiration from the New Testament commandment to love your neighbor. Reaching out to others, she says, “is something my parents did, and it’s a part of my faith. It’s our responsibility.” As evidence of her conviction, she has nearly 30 years’ experience as a volunteer or board member for a long list of organizations. She is active in the missions council of her church and has taught Sunday school for more than 30 years. With Habitat for Humanity she has been especially active, volunteering with projects around the world—Korea, Romania, Hungary and Uganda, among others. Here in the United States she has worked in Vermont, Alaska and at an Indian reservation in South Dakota. She also takes part in Friendship Force, welcoming international guests into her home and visiting them in theirs. Her family visits have taken her to Russia, Slovakia, South Africa and El Salvador. Academically, she has been very active internationally as well, making presentations always aimed at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Helsinki. Through the years, she’s had plenty of unusual experiences, but she manages to stay unflappable—even when finding herself unexpectedly in a Buddhist temple in South Korea, or on an unplanned detour while driving in Australia. Arriving in bustling (and unfamiliar) Sao Paulo, Brazil—quite sure where her hotel was—she once asked a helpful nun to hail a cab for her.

When she’s not taking international students grocery shopping, attending official events or presiding over city business, Dunn continues to enjoy the outdoors and is a fan of hiking and canoeing. She swims indoors regularly. Her long-time friend and research collaborator, Jone Ryan, describes Dunn as loyal, attentive and compassionate. She’s not surprised to see her friend in such a key leadership position, she’s held a strong commitment to public service.

“When she first came to Greenville on faculty, she promised she would take part in the community,” says Ryan, a professor emerita in the Counseling Center. “She wasn’t going to stay aloof; she was going to contribute and participate. She has certainly lived up to that promise.”

East

Dunn about everything

For more than 50 years Pat Dunn has volunteered with and led a number of community organizations in Greenville and Pitt County, a level of commitment that has garnered considerable honors and recognition. Here’s a list:

COMMUNITY LIFE
- Habitat for Humanity: Pitt County chapter, volunteer, board member and former president
- State chapter of STRIVE (dedicated to helping individuals with a developmental disability), director and chair
- Pitt County Council to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy, director
- Pitt County Community Penalties for the Third Judicial District, advisory board
- Pitt County Council on Aging, board of directors, secretary, vice chair and chair
- League of Women Voters of Greenville, first vice president, president and local government observer
- ReLeaf (promotes trees in Greenville), director and advisory board
- Eastern NC Council on Substance Abuse
- Immanuel Baptist Church, Sunday school teacher since 1977
- Host for international students at ECU

HONORS
- Habitat for Humanity’s Charles V. Horne Jr. Award
- Martin Luther King Jr. Leadership Award, given by the Black Ministers Conference
- Community Service Award from Pitt County and Civitan for Justice
- Best-Irons Humanitarian Award from the City of Greenville
- Outstanding Service–College of Health and Human Performance
- Women of Distinction Award (ECU Office of Academic Outreach)
- ECU Health and Human Performance Leader Award
- Citizen of the Year, Civitan Club
- Pitt County Council on Aging, Service Award

BY MARION BLACKBURN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY FORREST CROCE
What an ECU engineer looks like

Paul Kauffmann designed a program that focuses on helping students see real-world applications in what they’re learning. Compared to other engineering schools, ECU students take about twice as many lab courses “because we believe in an applications-based curriculum.”

BY STEVE ROW

As with so many other academic endeavors at East Carolina University, the question about the engineering program is not so much “Why are you offering this?” as it is “Why didn’t you do this 25 years ago?” Engineering, which admitted its first students in 2004, is graduating only its second class in May. But for Department of Engineering Chair Paul Kauffmann, getting to this point has taken his whole life.

East Carolina’s engineering program, which had 22 graduates this year, is tiny compared to, say, N.C. State University, which is the state’s largest and had 420. But ECU’s program is unique because its vision is different. Kauffmann, who came here in 2003 to help get the program started, and his colleagues did not set out to reinvent the wheel; they were interested in turning out engineers who could quickly make a positive impact because of the breadth of their expertise and skills in the modern workplace.

Instead of offering the traditional concentrations of civil, electrical, mechanical or chemical engineering, the ECU program, which is housed within the College of Technology and Computer Science, focuses on slightly more exotic fields such as biomedical and bioprocess engineering, systems engineering and engineering management. ECU considers its department a general engineering program, one of about three dozen in the U.S.

ECU’s engineering program offers concentrations in biomedical engineering and bioprocess engineering, specialties that fit in with a region still heavily dependent on agriculture but one that is also served by a top-level medical school and hospital. Engineering processes and systems can help develop better ways to process food and pharmaceutical products, as well as advance medical research and treatment with the latest technology and equipment.

ECU’s program also takes a different approach to academics. Rather than learn only the history of engineering or basic engineering theory in the first semester, for example, students take an engineering graphics course. During their second semester, freshman engineering students split into teams build auto-guided robotic vehicles that can negotiate a maze, sense a flame and extinguish it.

Dr. Jason Yao, an assistant professor, calls this course the “Pirate Challenge,” and said it represents “a unique introduction to engineering” taught by the ECU faculty members and not graduate students. Students design and build a three-wheeled vehicle with sensors, guided not by a remote-control device but programmed through circuitry.

The ECU approach to teaching engineering is practical and applications-based, which means more of a hands-on way of learning. Theory is taught, but helping students...
see real-world applications of different types of engineering to what matters. The ECU approach, unlike that in many other engineering programs, because we believe in lab experiences [than more traditional study skills].

What Kauffmann and his colleagues underestimated in getting the program started is the fact that many incoming students aren’t as prepared for the rigor and discipline of an engineering program as perhaps they should be. Kauffmann says shortcomings in freshman ‘survival’ course, Engineering 1000, is going to help develop complementary study skills.

Kauffmann believes the program is poised to generate increased recognition and visibility, and he says the future is bright. “We have a better, more capable faculty than I thought we would have at this point,” he says. “Our facilities are great. We just spent $1 million on lab equipment.”

“Have a particular mission to serve those in the eastern part of North Carolina, and we want our students who become engineers to stay in the East, help build a better economy and make the region more economically competitive,” he says.

“In the past, we (in engineering education) have been driving the car by looking at the rear-view mirror. Instead, we want to look forward. For a world with highly technical demands, we want to determine what are the job fields out there that will need our engineering students in the E. ast, and in North Carolina as a whole.”

Who knew that the straight-laced Victorians haunted their idle hours reading riddles and word puzzles? Or that Jane Austen hid some in her books, particularly her last one, Emma. English associate professor Gregg Hecimovich has unraveled these Victorian word puzzles with two new books based on his research conducted at the British Library of periodicals and parlor game books of the time. He learned that Queen Victoria herself created a double acrostic, “Windson Engima,” for a parlor book; her puzzle’s answer was a reference to the glories of the British Empire.

Riddles and word puzzles “were a product of the oral tradition as it entered mass produced culture in the 19th century,” Hecimovich said. “There was a vast increase in literacy and cheaper production costs through the advances in papermaking and the distribution made possible by the expansion of the railroad.”

In Puzzling the Reader: Riddles in Nineteenth-Century British Literature, Hecimovich tells us that the Victorians created rebuses, acrostics and other word puzzles for entertainment in the evenings. A rebus is a puzzle composed of words or syllables that appear in the form of pictures, creating a kind of literary charade. Hecimovich points out the important role of riddles in the interlocking courtship games of the times. In Austen’s Emma, he reminds us that slow-witted Harriet Smith is gathering riddles for a book. Included in the submissions gathered by Emma Woodhouse, who loves the word plays, are bits and pieces from her father of a rather bawdy riddle of the times.

“Modern readers likely often miss many of the word plays in works such as Austen, William Blake or Charles Dickens; however, the 19th century reader was not looking for these,” Hecimovich says. “For instance, the answer to the bawdy puzzle offered up in Austen is a virgin prostitute. We don’t think of Austen telling those kind of jokes, but she does.”

“The humor and fun of books of that era are in the games,” he says. “Both of these books point those elements out, and both come from my teaching and the pleasure that I get from these 19th century works—Austen’s feminism, Dickens’ class issues.”

Hecimovich, who joined the faculty in 2000, received the 2006 UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award and the ECU Scholar-Teacher Award in Humanities, as well as the Max Ray Joyner Award for Excellence in online education and the Bertie Fearing Award recognizing excellent teaching among English Department faculty.

Puzzling the Reader: Riddles in Nineteenth-Century British Literature
By Gregg Hecimovich
Peter Lang Publishing
156 pages, $27

Austen’s Emma
By Gregg Hecimovich
Continuum International Publishing
119 pages, $16.95
Track Finds its Stride

It's one of the largest sports teams on campus, with more than 90 athletes lining up against some of the top teams in the nation. But track lacks decent fields, so it can't host home events. Still, records are falling.
In terms of the number of students participating, the second largest sport at ECU after football is track and field, an unusual sport in which some competitors suit up for three distinct seasons and as many as six championships during the year. Historically not among the most successful or most popular sports on campus, the image—and expectations—for track and field are changing. The addition of several new coaches last season already is producing more victories and the construction of a new track and field facility on campus should raise the team’s visibility and help attract better athletes.

Track and field athletes don’t have much of an off-season. “It would be like taking football and saying, ‘we’re going to have a fall football season, and then we’re going to take a little bit of a break and we’re going to have another football season in the winter, and then we’re going to take a little bit of a break and then we’re going to have another football season in the spring,’” says head coach Curt Kraft.

And while track and field athletes are members of a team, they contribute to the team’s success with individual skills like triple jumping, sprinting and hammer throwing. Kraft says his challenge is to continue sharpening each athlete’s individual talents while instilling a strong sense of teamwork. “You can’t accomplish what you want to accomplish unless you get across to them that we’re a team,” said Kraft, who is entering his second season as head coach for both the men’s and women’s teams. “Even though we are an individual sport, it’s very important that the long jumper goes up to the half mile and says, ‘Hey, good job.’”

“When the distance runners come around and make their laps in practice, you’re hearing the sprinters go. ‘Come on guys, push it, push it,’” says assistant coach Udon Cheek. “That’s never been there before, never.”

East Carolina has produced some notable track and field athletes, including LaShawn Merritt, the 400-meter gold medalist in the 2008 Summer Olympics. There’s also Hector Cotto, a hurdler who competed in those same Olympics for his native Puerto Rico. Both were accomplished athletes, and Merritt’s success was unprecedented in ECU athletic annals, but he spent less than half a year at ECU before signing a professional contract.

Going the distance

The more typical face of ECU track and field belongs to senior Jarrett Newby, an 800-meter specialist who also competes in the mile. He begins each season in August with cross-country team camp in the North Carolina mountains. After a week of running at high elevations, the group is ready for pre-season and a slate of meets that runs from early September to early November. Cross-country ends in November, followed by about two weeks of “active recovery.” In early December the indoor season begins, with meets scheduled all the way through early March. Less than two weeks after the indoor track season ends, the outdoor season starts and continues through at least May—and into June for those fortunate enough to qualify for the national meet.

Newby only ran middle distance in high school in Endwell, N.Y., so the transition to competitive cross-country was jolting. “I crashed into that world,” he said. “I didn’t know what I was doing. It’s a five-mile race. That was a death March to me. You can fake an 800 if you’re somewhat in shape and you have guts. You can’t fake five miles.” Newby also represents Conference USA on the NCAA’s national Students-Athlete Advisory Council, and he was one of the inaugural recipients of the C-USA Spirit of Service award in December.

Field event athletes like high jumper Valeria Moore don’t compete in the cross-country portion of the season, but the fall conditioning regimen is so intense that Moore can’t find a true off-season in her schedule, either. A junior, Moore was a walk-on member of the track, and last year she tied for second in her event at the C-USA Championships. “It’s never a dull moment,” Moore said of her training and meet schedule.

Cheek, one of the track and field assistants, can speak with considerable perspective about the changes in the ECU track and field program. When Cheek came to Greenville in 1987 as a sprinter the program was skewed heavily toward speedy quick events. After several years as a volunteer coach with the women’s program, Cheek was hired to work with the sprinters and relay teams.

Preaching team spirit

The new backdrop for the program probably won’t be measured by spectacular wins, Cheek said, at least not yet. But when Craft took over the program in 2007, he turned the vision of team spirit into action. He assigned jumpers to room with distance runners on the road. He called ahead to restaurants when the team traveled to make sure that all 50-plus athletes who make the trips could eat together.

“He has amazing attention to detail,” Cheek said of Craft. “He remembers kids’ birthdays, their parent’s names, brothers and sisters, conversations he had with them years ago. ‘That’s what makes it so much a team atmosphere; he’s truly a father figure. He just cares about everybody.’

As the coach, he said, “I make sure they [student athletes] convey to me what their dreams are,” Cheek said. “Because whatever their dreams, aspirations and goals are, they automatically become mine. That’s the goal of the assistant coach.”

Raising expectations

Because athletes like Newby subject their bodies to practically year-round competition, the coaches must try to improve performance while also preventing injuries. Newby said he was injured much of the time during his first year at ECU, but after that Daniel Lee began coaching the middle and distance runners, including Newby. Now, Newby says he’s rarely injured and he beat his personal-best time in the 800-meter by three seconds.

Brittany Copeland, a sophomore from Stafford, Va., specializes in distance events, and she has also benefited from new coaching in track and field. She came to ECU because “it just seemed to be a growing program,” Copeland said. “We’ve gotten a bunch of scholarship money from this school, and just from last year to this year, there’s such a dramatic change in the work ethic,” she added.

Increased fan awareness of the sport undoubtedly will grow once the new track and field facility is completed. Construction was scheduled to start in June. Up to this point, the team has had to do all of their competing on the road.

Senior Kris Bell, who has won the 60-meter hurdles title for two consecutive years at the C-USA Indoor Championships, welcomes the changes. “The more that we compete at a higher level and compete with the best, the more that our program gets recognition,” Bell said. “LaShawn, when he came here and set records, he definitely put us on the map. It’s up to us to step it up and maintain a high level of exposure.”
Let us help with your job search

We know that times are tough and we want you to know that the Alumni Association can provide you with tools to help you through this difficult time. As a member of the Pirate family, your member benefits provide a number of valuable services and resources.

In partnership with the university and various national companies, the Alumni Association can help you with job searching and get discounts on goods and services. We urge you to take advantage of Pirate Career Calls: live conference calls with career and human resources professionals that are held the first Thursday of each month from noon–1:00 p.m. You can find a mentor through the Pirate Alumni Network, attend a career fair, review job listings and read advice from the Career Center staff. Create a career profile, sign up for an alumni e-mail account, network at an alumni event, and get connected with fellow graduates on LinkedIn or Facebook.

Alumni Association members can even save on higher education, health insurance, and utilize worldwide discounts through our many partnerships. To learn more, visit PirateAlumni.com/toolsforlifetimes.

Painted Pirates boost scholarships

For more than a year 16 Painted Pirate ships have boosted scholarships and camaraderie throughout Greenville and Pitt County, reminding citizens and visitors of our region’s rich maritime history and that “we are the Pirates of ECU!” On Thursday, Sept. 24, these local pirates will be auctioned off during the Alumni Association’s Pirate’s Bounty Scholarship Auction, with proceeds benefiting the scholarship program and the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. There will be plenty of other items to bid on as well, including personalized gifts, fan packages, outdoor equipment, vacations, automotive care, salon and spa packages, jewelry, weekend getaways, art and photography, and sports memorabilia.

This annual event is held in conjunction with the ECU Alumni Scholarship Classic golf tournament to raise funds for scholarships awarded to undergraduate students who excel in the classroom and the community. If you or your business is interested in making a contribution to the auction, contact Kendra Alexander at 800-ECU-GRAD or Kendra.Alexander@PirateAlumni.com for details.

CashCourse aids young alumni

The Alumni Association has partnered with the National Endowment for Financial Education’s CashCourse component to guide students and young alumni in building a prosperous and secure financial future. Tools provided by CashCourse include financial basics, paying for college, college life, and the world of work. Each of these features can assist current students and recent graduates with the realities of building their own financial portfolio, managing student loans, buying a car, moving off campus, preventing identity theft, overspending, and responsible use of debit and credit cards. Get started at www.cashcourse.org/piratealumni today.

Homecoming, reunion dates set

Homecoming will take place the weekend of Oct. 16-17. This year the Alumni Association is excited to offer a 25th Reunion, ECTC/ECU Golden Alumni and 50th Reunion, and Black Alumni Reunion. Along with these reunions will be the annual Alumni Awards ceremony, open house breakfast with parade watching, and tour of campus. For more details visit www.Alumni.EastCarolina.edu or call 1-800-ECU-GRAD for detailed information in the coming months. Two thousand and nine marks the final year of the university’s Centennial. If you haven’t been back to East Carolina in a while we would love for you to visit. We would be thrilled if you could graduate, why not make this the year you return.

Art major to showcase in New York

This summer, one lucky East Carolina art major will have the opportunity of a lifetime—to showcase their work at the Berkeley College Art Gallery in New York City. Thanks to a special relationship with Bob Keiber, Berkeley College professor, artist, gallery director and father of actor Christian Keiber ’92, the School of Art and Design has been given the opportunity to showcase one budding artist for a month. Bob Keiber was selected to visit East Carolina and select an ECU art student to showcase their work at the Berkeley College Art Gallery in New York City. In return, the Berkeley College Art Gallery will bring great exposure to select the art student in April through a competition for artists. The winning art student will have the opportunity of a lifetime—to showcase their work at the Berkeley College Art Gallery in New York City. In return, the Berkeley College Art Gallery will bring great exposure to East Carolina’s fine arts College’s Art Gallery will bring great exposure to East Carolina’s fine arts identity. This opportunity is part of the Berkeley College Art Gallery’s Art Takeover: for the month of April, the gallery will be dedicated to showcasing emerging artists and artwork.

To select the art student, a competition will be held on campus. Any interested art students should submit five art pieces to the School of Art and Design by April 12. The winner will be announced early April, and the selected artist will be featured on the East Carolina Online Fine Arts and Design website and in the Stopover gallery. The winning art student will be given an ECU art student’s work at Berkeley College and will have the opportunity of a lifetime—to showcase their work at the Berkeley College Art Gallery in New York City. In return, the Berkeley College Art Gallery will bring great exposure to East Carolina’s fine arts identity. This opportunity is part of the Berkeley College Art Gallery’s Art Takeover: for the month of April, the gallery will be dedicated to showcasing emerging artists and artwork.

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A Pennsylvania native who came South to attend Methodist College in Fayetteville and selected his area as his hometown, Harrison went to East Carolina for graduate school and studied here for five years, receiving his master’s and an educational specialist degree in educational administration. During most of that time he also was teaching in Fayetteville and serving as principal of Walker-Spivey Elementary School. He completed his education with a doctorate from Vanderbilt University in 1985 while working at Terry Sanford High School in Fayetteville. In Harrison, Perdue found a veteran manager who has led school districts in Hoke, Orange and Cumberland counties and is credited with improving test scores in Hoke, one of the state’s poorest. As Hoke County superintendent, Harrison was a key player in the landmark lawsuit against the state showing the unfair funding received by low-wealth counties. The case resulted in a state supreme Court ruling that all public school children are entitled to a sound basic education. Harrison was awarded the 2008 Jay Robinson Leadership Award, an honor that comes with a $5,000 cash prize.
the Independent College Fund of North Carolina, which were corporate, foundation, and individual funds to award scholarships to students attending the 36 N.C. independent colleges and universities. He was director of operations for the Boys & Girls Clubs of Nash/Edgcombe Counties for seven years and worked in resource development at local, state and national levels.

46

and his superintendent, win the state 4-A championship for the seventh time. Seven straight wins, including three on the road in the playoffs, to his team was 4-3-1 at midseason, but then ran off eight biggest high school football prize in an improbable fashion. became the head coach, and the team again won the state’s championship game in January, along with fellow ECU alumnus Jerry McGee.

Winning was especially sweet for coach at Richmond Senior High School in Rockingham, and an alumnus of ECU’s Class of ’79. ‘75-‘79 (left) . It was the third national championship in an improbable fashion. ‘87 became the assistant football coach at East Carolina University, and a Claremont native, was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army of Jacksonville was a research fellow at N.C. State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and worked as a relief doctor at a local vet’s office. He was a coastal representative on the board of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Nominated on the basis of clinical specialty and nursing expertise, she was one of six nurses selected nationally. BRIAN FLEEMING and AMANDA CALFEE FLEEMING ’02 US had their first child, Bailey Cates, on Jan. 3. He is an installation specialist for Dr. Josh Humphrey is an emergency veterinarian at Veterinary Specialty Hospital of the Carolina’s 24-hour Cary facility. He changed careers from information technology to veterinary medicine after working in IT at Duke University Medical Center and volunteering at an animal hospital. He was a research fellow at N.C. State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine and worked as a relief doctor at a local vet’s office. BRIEANNE FOSTER NEVIN and her husband Johns of Wilmington had a daughter, Vivian Maas, on Feb. 19. CHIP GERKIN of Atlanta, Ga., received his masters in public administration, concentrating in environmental science and policy, from George Mason University in December, and is an environmental protection specialist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. STEPHEN PINER ’00 US and BRANDY PINER ’02 US of Belmont had a daughter, Emra Caroline, on Dec. 27. DOUG SMITH ’00 US, the ECU Alumni Associates director of membership and marketing, received the 2009 Council of Alumni Associates Executive (CAAE) Tandy New Professional Award, which provides an opportunity to visit other CAAA member alumni associations and the CAAA summer retreat.

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CHERYL WILLIAMS DORSON of Mount Olive, a nurse at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, was selected as an item reviewer for the National Council of State Boards of Nursing Licensure Examination. Nominated on the basis of clinical specialty and nursing expertise, she was one of six nurses selected nationally. BRIAN FLEEMING and AMANDA CALFEE FLEEMING ’02 US had their first child, Bailey Cates, on Jan. 3. He is an installation specialist for

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LT. COL. JOHN SHIRLEY, originally of Onondaga, is commander of the 205th mission of N.C. on Fort Bragg. He, along with his wife, Amy, own and operate a coffee shop in downtown Raleigh.

1993
KRISTIE FLINT BAITY of Yorkville is a director of Forysth Technical Community College's new Northside Forestry and Cultural Center. She earned her degree in forestry from NC State University and has been active in the forestry industry for over 30 years.

1994
M. DOSTIN “DUSTY” FIELD, CEO of the real estate services company, was named a director of the ECU Foundation. JOHN G. JENKINS was promoted to assistant store manager for Harris Teeter in Raleigh. He and his wife, Cindy, had a daughter, Alaina, on Oct. 13, 2009.

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KRENEE J. EDMONDSON of Clayton was named director of information systems at the RAF in Raleigh. She has been with the company for over 10 years.

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SUSAN “SUZIE” FRANKLIN of Durham was named a director of information systems at the RAF in Raleigh. She has been with the company for over 10 years.

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<tr>
<td>1978</td>
<td>REGGY PINKMINTY</td>
<td>was inducted into the Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame. He played football at ECU and then in the NFL for five years and is now principal at Hildebran Elementary School.</td>
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<td>Joseph S. Bower, a former speaker at the Investors Title Insurance Co.'s annual fall gathering seminar at Chapel Hill. An attorney with Kinston White &amp; Allen, he spoke about practical and ethical dilemmas in real property transactions. He is a real estate law instructor for candidates preparing for the N.C. Real Estate Licensing Examination; an N.C. Bar and Land Title association member; and counsel to the Kinston Housing Authority, North Lenoir and Deep Run water corporations, Homebuilders Association of Kinston, and the Kinston Board of Realtors. He is a member of the Coastal Conservation Association and the Coastal Conservation Association in N.C. and is a member of the Pitt County Home Builders Association.</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>REV. Joe Collins '78 '82</td>
<td>the 2007 National Mountain Dulcimer Champion and a singer/songwriter, taught dulcimer workshops and played an evening concert at Dalton First United Methodist Church in Georgia in March. He is an associate professor of religion at Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs and is married to Pamela Runch Collins. Marianne Carroll Elliott attended in July 2008 from the Roanoke Rapids High School district after 30 years as an exceptional children’s teacher. David Bryant Hill teaches P.E. at Goldsboro's Northwood Elementary School. JAYNE DURIEA exhibited her glasswork, created with hot sculpted glass techniques, in her “Fire Sculpted Glass” show at the Brazosport College Art Gallery in Lake Jackson, Texas, in March and April. In Texas for 26 years, she has taught since 1981 at Coastal Bend College, where she founded and directs the glassblowing program, and since 1989 has chaired the Visual Arts division. She is a charter member of the National Museum of Women in the Arts, studied in Europe, and her paintings are in international collections. REGGY PINKMINTY was inducted into the Fayetteville Sports Club Hall of Fame. He played football at ECU and then in the NFL for five years and is now principal at Hildebran Elementary School.</td>
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### Make a Note of Your News and Accomplishments

Complete this form (please print or type) and mail to: Class Notes Editor, Building 198, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, or fax: 252-328-4269. Please use additional paper as necessary when sending your news. You also can e-mail your news to ecuclassnotes@ecu.edu. While East Carolina University 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. Please send address changes or corrections to: Kay Murphy, Office of University Development, Greenville Center, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858-4353, fax: 252-328-4904, or e-mail: murphyk@ecu.edu.

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In Memoriam

William R. “Bill” Roberson Jr. of Washington, N.C., a business leader and founder of WITN-TV, died Jan. 3. He was 90. As a member of the General Assembly in the 1960s, he helped pass legislation establishing university status on East Carolina and creating the School of Medicine. He graduated from Washington University School of Law and returned home to start a soft drink bottling company, Roberson’s Beverages, which operated several plants in eastern North Carolina from 1946 until 1982. Roberson also had a long and varied career in broadcasting. For 50 years he was chairman and CEO of WITN-TV, which went on the air in 1955. He was a director of the ECU Medical Foundation and a director and past president of the Pirate Pride, which served as DOT secretary during Gov. Jim Hunt’s second term.

Les Holland Garner, 89, a former letter carrier, life member of the Marine Corps, and the man who for years led the “LSU Tigers Out to the Ballgame” during the seventh inning stretch of ECU home baseball games, died Feb. 23. He didn’t attend ECU, but he did volunteer to continue his old job as his own after becoming a successful merchant marine officer. He was the second president of the ECU Pirate Club and mayor of Greenville from 1986-1987. He led Greenville’s Salvation Army, Christmas Tree Drive for more than 40 years. As a member of the Marine Corps, he helped organize more than 50 new clubs, including the Marine Corps Club in Kansas International.

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Goldsboro’s Greenwood Junior High School from 1962 to 1966 and taught at Kinston High School. She is survived by her daughter, Sallie \'53 of Greenville, died Feb. 6. She taught at ECU from 1984 to 1992 and then at Craven Community College for four years. Her husband, Robert W. Smith, \'57 of Raleigh, died Feb. 12. A Thru-way guard, he was a greenhouse technician at Syndaca Botanics in West Chester, Pa.

MICHAEL DOUGLAS EDWARDS \'60 of New Bern died Jan. 13. He worked at East Carolina University when the anthropology laboratory is named for him. He told colleagues it’s a terrible place to be, but they have faith in his decision.

PAUL ARNOLD HICKFEE of Columbus, Ohio, died Feb. 6. He taught at ECU from 1984 to 1992 and then at UNC Greensboro before retiring at the age of 76. He died at the age of 84, four years after retiring from the North Carolina Office of the Auditor.

DR. RUTH ELIZABETH MITCHELL-PITTS died Feb. 8. She taught political science at ECU from 1992 to 1994. She helped develop the Center for European Studies at ECU’s Chapel Hill, directed three European studies programs, and received several grants.

DR. RALPH STEELE of Greenville died March 8. He taught at East Carolina from 1960 to 1990. He taught in the parks, recreation and conservation department. For 13 years, he was married to Marsha Fulcher Steele \'71, who taught in the College of Health and Human Performance. Memorials may be made to the Dr. Ralph Steele Memorial Lecture Series.

ROBERT M. “BOB” WOODSIDE Sr. \'52 of New Bern died Dec. 17. A St. Bonaventure, N.Y., native, he taught math at ECU for 30 years until his 2000 retirement.

The Charitable Gift Annuity

Part A: Gift

Part B: Part B:

The Charitable Gift Annuity is a gift that returns payments to you. You can receive payments for life or for a fixed term of years, and the payments can be for a single lifetime or two lives.

When you set up a charitable gift annuity with 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 making a gift that is fully deductible to you and providing East Carolina University with a needed stream of income for the future.

Your support through this partial charitable gift/partly annuitized income mechanism enables you to strengthen your ECU endowment. Your gift is an investment in the future of our University. For more information on how you can make a partial gift, please contact us at 252-328-9575, e-mail abeeyoung@ecu.edu, or visit www.ecu.edu/devt/.
“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

To begin with, our day started wrong. One of the girls did not hear the bell and as a result we had to sit in the car (a seven passenger Willys-Knight) and wait, trembling with both excitement and cold. Once all were safe inside, Ollie Moore, who acted as chauffeur, attempted to start the car, but in vain it seemed for a few minutes, but finally it started and we were off.

Smoothly we glided along rejoicing until we came to Five Points. Our chauffeur found it utterly impossible to change to high gear from low. We finally managed to get from Five Points to Eighth Street on low gear. We then learned that the next thing would be a garage. So we speeded around from Eighth Street to Greenville Motor Company, every minute expecting to be pulled for speeding. We were going at the rate of five miles an hour!

At the garage our troubles were soon ended and at last we were off. So after overcoming our many difficulties we at last reached Joyner School.

None of us knew where to go but after wandering around for a while we found the principal’s room. We were glad enough to stand and warm our fingers for a while. We were then asked to have seats, but where were the seats? There were plenty of seats on the stage, but how were we to get to them? The stage was only three feet high and there were no steps in sight. Sad was the news reported that night when some of the girls found their new dresses split.

Then came recess. What games were to be played? Sling the biscuit seemed to be the most popular, so we joined in. I know some of the girls were not sorry when the bell rang. It was really hard running around on the end of the line with narrow skirts and high heels.

Dinner time soon came and we began to think our Joyner School experiences for that day were nearing an end, but we were sadly mistaken (because) our Willys-Knight decided to stay a while longer. We decided the push and pull method was the best to use. This had little effect at first, so someone got the crank. But it also proved of no use, so we put it on the fender. Again we pushed and pulled, the whole school helping. This time it started and we bade farewell to Joyner’s for that day.

Everything was running smoothly until we got about two miles from Joyner’s and somebody thought of the crank, which had been left on the fender. It was gone. Back we had to go for it. We found it lying in the middle of the road.

We had always understood getting to and from Joyner’s was the chief problem connected with practice teaching in the rural school and we well understand why.

My first day student teaching
Recollections of Thelma Elliot ’20 on her first day of student teaching on Jan. 6, 1920, at the Joyner School, a model primary school located seven miles west of campus operated jointly by East Carolina and the Pitt County schools.
The 30th annual Barefoot on the Mall gave students some fun and free food before cramming began for spring semester finals.

Photo by Cliff Hollis