THE DAILY CLIPS

January 29, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481  FAX: 252-328-6300
Our Views

A new hope

East Carolina University may enjoy a healthy rivalry with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill on the playing field, but the two institutions have teamed up in the battle against cancer. A partnership announced last week will see East Carolina and UNC collaborating on research and treatment options for that insidious disease.

That is part of a statewide effort to address the state’s leading cause of death. Eastern North Carolina, and residents across the state, should celebrate this arrangement and anticipate progress in the fight against cancer.

The American Cancer Society reports that more than 559,000 Americans died of cancer last year, with lung and bronchial cancer accounting for more than one-quarter of those. In North Carolina, cancer claimed 16,880 lives in 2007, surpassing heart disease and stroke as the state’s leading cause of death. Lung cancer also ranked as the most frequent type in North Carolina, not a surprising fact given the state’s long history of tobacco cultivation and cigarette production.

Last year, the General Assembly moved to address the disease that is killing scores of citizens when it created the University Cancer Research Fund. Beginning with an appropriation of $25 million this year and growing to $50 million in 2009, the fund provides the money needed to pay for a radical expansion of cancer research and treatment in North Carolina. It represents a remarkable and visionary investment in a public health effort, one that should be commended.

North Carolina is fortunate to have a public university system that specializes in exceptional research, and the fund will be administered by the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center at UNC, the state’s only public cancer-fighting institution. The infusion of state funds is sure to bolster the efforts of that center, and broadly expand the capabilities of its research.

East Carolina will also see the work of the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center assisted, thanks in large measure to its partnership with the Lineberger Center announced last week. Jenkins researchers and surgeons will work with their colleagues in Chapel Hill and will have access to the cancer funds as well.

Representatives from both institutions expressed optimism for the arrangement last week, when Lineberger researchers came to Greenville as part of a listening tour about how to utilize the new fund. There is ample reason to believe this collaboration represents a hopeful new chapter for public health in North Carolina.

Too often, the interests of East Carolina and UNC appear divergent when cooperation would better serve both schools and the state. It is exciting to see a partnership on an issue this grave, and it lends hope for progress in the fight against cancer.
Coming back from a coma

- Candice Ivey’s story of recovery from a 1994 wreck that left her nearly brain-dead will be featured on National Geographic tonight.

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

A Winterville woman’s unlikely recovery from a coma is the subject of a National Geographic television special airing tonight.

Candice Ivey’s story is one of three featured in “I Came Back From the Dead,” which airs at 10 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel, channel 235 on Suddenlink cable.

In December 1994, then-16-year-old Ivey suffered severe head injuries and sunk into a deep coma after a truck hit her sport-utility vehicle. The wreck left her a step up from being brain-dead, said Dr. Edwin Cooper, a Kinston orthopedic consultant who helped with Ivey’s treatment.

Shortly after Cooper, then practicing orthopedic surgery in Kinston, joined Ivey’s treatment team, her family took the girl off a respirator at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Ivey lived on, and Cooper, who was designing a study on medical uses of electrical stimulation at the time, oversaw a fairly radical treatment: joining the teenager of her coma. Then-as now-an uncommon therapy, the stimulation may have increased Ivey’s chances of a full recovery from about 20 percent to 40 percent, Cooper said Monday.

Slowly, the shocks—delivered through Ivey’s wrist to a central pathway in the ner

See RECOVERY, B3
RECOVERY

Continued from B1

rous system — worked. After two weeks of stimulation, she awoke. She returned home roughly six weeks later, where she faced a long and grueling recovery. She had to relearn how to walk and talk. Because tremors wracked her right side, she had to learn to use her left hand for most tasks.

The social and psychology recovery were harsher, Ivey said. Although she graduated from high school on time, she said she didn’t begin to feel whole until her college graduation.

“There had been so many years of sheer unhappiness, crying at night, not feeling like I fit in anywhere,” said Ivey, now 29 and a recreational therapist at Cypress Glen retirement community.

Ivey carries some signs of her injuries: a slight lag in her speech, a slow walk and her left-handedness. She carries gratitude, too, for the treatment, faith and family that saved her.

“Between God and Dr. Cooper, they were my saving graces,” she said. “And I have to throw in there, my family.”

Ivey’s recovery has drawn attention. In September 2006, a story about her appeared in Wired magazine. Cooper has written about her case in academic journals and discussed it in speeches in Japan and around the United States.

In May a crew from Wall to Wall, a London-based television production, contacted Cooper about doing the story for National Geographic.

The crew filmed for a weekend in June at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, PCMH spokeswoman Barbara Dunn said.

Pitt Memorial officials welcomed the attention, which “helps to spread the message that our hospital competes with other highly regarded health care organizations,” said PCMH President Steve Lawler.

Ivey does, too, although she finds the notoriety a little overwhelming. Ivey doesn’t have digital cable, so she’ll watch a recording of the program Feb. 6 with friends in Goldsboro.

“It’s kind of unbelievable, but because of the work Dr. Cooper did, I know that deserves so much praise and acclaim,” she said. “I just feel extremely lucky and fortunate that all this good luck happened to me.”

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@ccxnc.com and 329-9568.
UNC hires executive to teach

CHAPEL HILL (AP) — A former executive at The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times is taking a job at the University of North Carolina School of Journalism and Mass Communication.

Penelope Muse Abernathy is a native of Laurinburg who specializes in helping news media in a digital world. She currently serves as vice president and executive director of industry at the Paley Center for Media in New York City.

UNC has named her the Knight Chair in Journalism and Digital Media Economics at the journalism school.

Abernathy worked as a reporter before focusing on the industry’s business side. She worked at several daily newspapers, including The Charlotte Observer and The Greensboro News & Record.

She started at UNC on July
Rafael C. Sanchez

Rafael C. Sanchez, M.D., died Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008. A resident of Hammond, La. and a native of Tampa, Fla., he was a graduate of Loyola University of the South at New Orleans and Louisiana State University School of Medicine at New Orleans. As a family physician in New Orleans he served a period as New Orleans Assistant Coroner. He later joined LSU Medical School Faculty and was appointed Associate Dean of Continuing Medical Education and Professor of Family Medicine. He left LSU to serve as Associate Executive Director of the Newly Established American Board of Family Medicine in Lexington, Ky. A return to dealing closer health care activities then took him to North Carolina University where he joined the faculty of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. Until 2005, he was Medical Director of The Network of Continuing Medical Education. Some of the awards in the field of Medical Education he received during his lifetime include: The Thomas Johnson Award of Excellence in Medical Education by American Academy of Family Physicians, "William Duff Recognition Award" by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education. He was recently honored by receiving the Alliance for CME Distinguished Service Award. He was a member of Alpha Omega Honor Medical Society. A veteran of World War II he served in the U.S. Army Medical Administrative Corps. He was Emeritus Professor of Family Medicine at East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine and at Louisiana State University in New Orleans.

He is survived by his wife, Sylvia Guiraud; three sons, Stephen F. from Baton Rouge, La., John T. from Metairie, La., the late David and a step-daughter, Michelle M. Nicolle, Ph.D., from Winston-Salem; and four grandchildren Marshall, Christopher, Rachel and Sarah.

A memorial mass will be held at Holy Ghost Catholic Church in Hammond, La. on Wednesday at 10 a.m. In lieu of flowers please consider donations to Edmundite Missions, 1428 Broad St., Selma, AL 36701, AAFP Foundation Archives, 11400 Tomahawk Creek Parkway, Leawood, KS 66211-2672 or the charity of your choice.

Seale Funeral Home Denham Springs in charge of services.
Kelley McGowan, 21, a physiology major at UNC-Charlotte, takes a smoke break outside the campus library. 'I don't drink or do drugs. This is what I do,' she says. 'I hate it. I want to smoke where I want, but I understand. It will be inconvenient.' UNCC is banning smoking within 25 feet of building entrances and prohibiting it in all outside dining areas.
News exec back to school

UNC-Chapel Hill's School of Journalism and Mass Communication announced Monday that it has hired a former executive at The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times to help the school focus on the digital media revolution.

Penelope Muse Abernathy, a Laurinburg native and former reporter, editor and media executive, has been named to the Knight Chair and in Journalism and Digital Media Economics. Abernathy starts the job July 1.

Abernathy is vice president and executive director of industry programs at the Paley Center for Media in New York.

The Internet revolution has weakened traditional media businesses in recent years, a trend that scholar Phil Meyer, UNC-CH's who now holds the Knight Chair, detailed in his 2004 book "The Vanishing Newspaper." Meyer will retire this year.

Abernathy began new money-making enterprises at some of the nation's most prominent news organizations, including The Wall Street Journal and The New York Times.


By staff writers Barbara Barrett, Dan Kane and Jane Stancliff.
bbarrett@mccclatchydc.com
or (202) 383-0012