THE DAILY CLIPS

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252-328-6481
ECU medical school advocate dies
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, January 29, 2011

Morris Brody, the Greenville retailer whose family championed the growth of East Carolina University's medical school, died Friday at the age of 92.

Brody was a co-owner of Brody's Department Stores. He later became a tireless advocate for the university, the City of Greenville and eastern North Carolina.

“He could see things before it happened,” said his son, H.J. Brody, a real estate developer. “He could spot trends. He just had good judgment and skills with people. He understood people well.”

“He believed in the good of most people. He never looked for the bad, he nurtured them,” the younger Brody said.

Morris Brody was one of 11 children whose parents owned department stores in South Carolina. Several of his brothers moved to Kinston and opened a store. Morris joined them briefly before serving in the military during World War II. When he returned home, he moved to Greenville and opened a department store. He then met a young Norfolk, Va., woman, Lorraine, and married. They would have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary in May, H.J. Brody said.
Morris Brody struck up a friendship with Leo Jenkins, one of ECU's chancellors. Jenkins shared his vision of establishing a medical school and the difficulties of convincing state leaders that it could thrive in the east.

Morris Brody, along with his brothers Sammy and Leo, gave $250,000 to ECU to launch the effort to secure a medical school, H.J. Brody said. The brothers recognized the benefits a medical school could bring: respect for ECU, jobs and community growth and better health care for the region, H.J. Brody said.

The Brodys later gave a $1.5 million gift in 1979 that, when combined with state dollars, built what was eventually named the Brody Medical Sciences Building. The medical school was later named the Brody School of Medicine. Over the years the Brody family has given slightly more than $22 million to the university.

“He was always involved in the things that were moving forward,” said David Whichard, former publisher emeritus of The Daily Reflector and a longtime family friend. “He set a great example of giving back to the community and promoting the community and having a farsightedness about what the community could be and what the community could do,” Whichard said.

Beyond his charitable contributions, Morris Brody's effect on individual lives was immeasurable, his son said. When father and son would go out, people always stopped the elder Brody thank him for giving them their first credit card or their first job, his son said.

“I think that is what a small-town, local merchant can do, he can connect and my Dad totally connected,” H.J. Brody said.

“Uncle Morris, in a family of merchants, was the best,” his said nephew David Brody, chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees. “He was a merchant's merchant. He understood the psychology of what people wanted,” he said. “He was a real student of people and personalities and understood the psychology of things.”

All three men said Morris Brody was a humble man, someone who was happy to roll up his sleeves, work and stay out of the spotlight.

“His motto was do good and go away, you don't take any fanfare,” H.J. Brody said.

Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory is serving the family. Services are scheduled for Monday and times will be announced Sunday.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com and (252) 329-9570.
Volunteers and members of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission use fire hoses, hand shovels and heavy equipment to remove the sand and pull what remains of a shipwreck off the beach in Corolla, N.C., on Tuesday, April 6, 2010. The wreck could be the oldest shipwreck on the Carolina coast. (L. Todd Spencer/ The Virginian Pilot).

Experts race the clock to preserve N.C. shipwreck

By Jeff Hampton, The Virginian-Pilot
© January 30, 2011

HATTERAS
After enduring some 400 years buried beneath the Corolla surf, the oldest shipwreck yet found in North Carolina sits on concrete drying and cracking in the Outer Banks elements.

Experts are scrambling to figure out how best to save it: Submerge it in regular baths, soak it for years in a substance also used in antifreeze, coat it in sugar water, saturate it with an expensive silicone oil or freeze-dry it. Or maybe some combination.

“I’m not going to get a second chance on this,” said Joe Schwarzer, director of the Graveyard of the Atlantic Museum and the state’s maritime museums. “I’ve got to do it right the first time. If we fail, I’d like to know it was an informed failure.”
Advice is coming from several sources, including scientists working on remains of the Queen Anne’s Revenge that Blackbeard commanded and the Civil War-era warship Monitor.

Experts at East Carolina University are investigating the wreck in Corolla to determine what ship it was and how best to preserve it.

Eric Nordgren, a conservator with the Mariners’ Museum in Newport News, plans to learn more about protecting ancient waterlogged wood while on a trip to England.

“It takes a lot of time and resources to preserve a shipwreck,” Nordgren said, adding that funding is limited.

It may be that the 12-ton remains of the shipwreck might be better off outside, sitting on a concrete apron just outside the museum’s back door, Schwarzer said.

Schwarzer said he is using one short, thick beam to see which is better: indoor or outdoor storage. So far, the beam inside a climate-controlled room also shows signs of deterioration, he said.

In November and December 2009, storms uncovered most of the wreck on the beach not far from the Currituck Beach Lighthouse.

For years, beach combers Ray Midgett and Roger Harris had been using a metal detector around parts of the wreck sticking up from the sand. They found old coins from the early 1600s and other artifacts.

But once the wreck was exposed, the surf pounded it and carried it down the beach and back, breaking off parts.

Alarmed, Midgett began writing letters asking for help. With backing from state Sen. Marc Basnight, members of the Wildlife Resources Commission and volunteers used heavy equipment to drag the wreck to a lot near the lighthouse. In July, the wreck was moved to Hatteras.
“It’s very difficult, which is why we seldom recommend removing these things from the beach,” said Nathan Henry, lead conservator with the North Carolina Underwater Archaeology Branch.

Henry recommended getting the entire 17-foot by 37-foot remains indoors. But he acknowledged, “You could debate this all day.”

For instance, a shipwreck on display in the Town of Nags Head has been in the elements for more than 30 years without extensive deterioration. But in a humid climate, insects and mildew can take a toll, Henry said.

A long-term soaking in polyethylene glycol, known as PEG, may be the best technique available to preserve shipwreck lumber, Henry said.

Parts of the Queen Anne’s Revenge soak in large vats of PEG solution. Ideally, pieces brought out of the water are quickly submerged before they dry out. The technique would not be as effective with the Corolla shipwreck because it has already dried and cracked, he said.

PEG, a chemical used in a wide variety of products, including antifreeze and medicine, replaces the water in the soaked wood. It comes in a variety of forms from liquid to powder. Typically, the solution used for shipwrecks has the consistency of warm syrup, Nordgren said.

A shipwreck known as the Vasa in Sweden was sprayed with polyethylene glycol for many years. Later, curators discovered the presence of sulfuric acid within the wood that could cause deterioration. Experts are not certain how much PEG had to do with the formation of the acid, Nordgren said.

Ancient canoes saved from Lake Phelps in Washington County were soaked in a sugar water solution and have held up so far. There are some concerns, however, that in the wrong environment, sugar water could attract bacteria or insects, Nordgren said.

Some parts of old ships have been freeze-dried, but they should be treated first with PEG, Henry said. The trick is finding a freeze-drying machine large enough to handle the Corolla wreck, Nordgren said.

Silicone oil is one of the latest techniques developed for preserving wrecks, but treatments are typically used for small parts due to the cost. The silicone
oil treatment, however, is irreversible, Nordgren said, and conservators would rather not use a treatment that is irreversible, since something better may come out later.

“If it doesn’t work, you’re out of luck,” he said.

Some wreck remains are bathed in fresh water to remove salt, Nordgren said. In that technique, the bath water should be changed regularly or the salt can crystallize and cause the wood to crumble.

Experts, with the aid of computer models, calculated that the ship found in Corolla was 110 feet long by 20 to 30 feet wide. It was broad and slower-moving and most likely used for hauling merchandise, Schwarzer said. Its 12-inch by 12-inch beams were made from European white oak, he said. The wreck dates from the early to mid-1600s, making it the oldest among the hundreds of shipwrecks found on the North Carolina coast.

“If this ship were carrying a full load of cargo, it would have been a devastating loss to whoever was funding the ship,” Schwarzer said. And now, Schwarzer and others are trying to make sure it isn’t lost again.

Jeff Hampton, (252) 338-0159, jeff.hampton@pilotonline.com
Morris Brody

Obituary

Mr. Morris Brody, beloved husband, devoted father and grandfather, cherished friend and creative businessman died Friday, Jan. 28, 2011, surrounded by his loved ones after a prolonged illness.

Private graveside services will be held in Kinston on Monday followed by a memorial service at 3:30 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel in Greenville. Visitation with the family will be held at the home of Stacy and Hyman Brody at 503 Martinsborough Road, Greenville, immediately following the memorial service.

Morris Brody was a "natural" retailer who guided the Brody Brothers Dry Goods chain of department stores along with family members for 50 years. Born June 5, 1918, in Anderson, S.C., to Hyman and Bessie Brody, Morris was the ninth of 11 children. He graduated from Sumter High School and the University of Georgia where he was recognized for his skill in debating and leadership in founding the TEP fraternity house.

After Morris served in the U.S. Army, he moved to Greenville, where he opened the city's first Brody's.

Morris had many principles and qualities which were the cornerstones of his beliefs: the need for a meaningful purpose and vision, a dislike for arrogance, respecting and rewarding the accomplishment of associates, teamwork, integrity, and above all a belief in the value of a customer.

Morris was very insightful and an excellent listener. He liked people and was genuinely interested in learning something new. His son recalled that "going out with Dad was like being with a celebrity. People were always coming up to him with stories of how he gave them their first credit card, or a job as a holiday gift wrapper and of their gratitude."

Morris provided his resources, leadership and guidance to many organizations including East Carolina Vocational Center (he was instrumental along with the late Howard Dawkins in raising the needed funds for the program's advancement), the Brody Medical Foundation, Wachovia Bank's Greenville Advisory Board, Pitt County's Educational Foundation and the Greenville Noon Rotary Club (Paul Harris Fellow and Jack Edwards Senior Citizen Award winner).

Morris, along with his brothers Leo and Sammy, was instrumental in assisting Dr. Leo Jenkins with his vision of a medical school for East Carolina University and in 1972 donated the initial funds necessary to lobby for the medical program.
Throughout the 1980s and 1990s Morris and his brothers, along with other family members, continued to provide leadership and financial support to the medical school at East Carolina University. In 1999, as an honor to the Brody family, the school was renamed the Brody School of Medicine.

The Brody Scholars program was established in the early 1980s to attract the best and brightest medical students to the school. To date, approximately 115 doctors have graduated medical school debt free. Morris established the "Brody Nurse of the Year Award" program at PCMH and received an honorary alumni status in 1997 from East Carolina University Alumni Association. Morris and Lorraine are original members of Congregation Bayt Shalom synagogue in Greenville.

Morris was preceded in death by his parents Hyman and Bessie Brody, brothers Sam, Raymond, Leo, William, Abram, Reuben, Jake, J. S. "Sammy" and Alex. He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years Lorraine; his son Hyman and wife Stacy of Greenville; and grandchildren Samantha, William and Nathan; sister Ruth Brody Greenberg of Florence, S.C., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Special thanks from the family to Dr. Greg Murphy, Dr. Lee Pippin and the Farmville staff of Physician's East and Dr. Robert Dietrich for their excellent care and friendship; caregivers Gladys Daughtry, Loreen James, Monique Rush, Rosie Massa and longtime family friend Jim Criswell.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked that donations be made to: The Brody Medical Scholars, c/o The East Carolina University Medical Foundation, 525 Moye Boulevard Greenville 27834.
Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com

Published in The Daily Reflector on January 30, 2011
In little less than a year, East Carolina University's Campus Kitchen has saved more than 1,300 pounds of food from being wasted and served more than 1,500 meals.

These milestones have come courtesy of more than 360 students, led by an AmeriCorps VISTA coordinator. But now, the students are taking charge. A leadership team of eight student volunteers voted Jan. 20 to decide key positions in Campus Kitchen's hunger relief operations, meaning that eventually their efforts will be student-run.

“They’ve really taken it upon themselves to help the program grow,” said Katie Winn, who coordinates the program through AmeriCorps VISTA, the national service program.

Campus Kitchen opened its doors at ECU's Todd Dining Hall in February 2010. Part of a national hunger relief effort, the project works with Aramark to collect unused food from the university's dining facilities.

Supplemented by items donated through food drives, Campus Kitchen volunteers twice a week prepare food for children and families at the Ronald McDonald House, which houses families of children receiving medical treatment, and the Little Willie Center, an after-school program.

“We want to serve complete meals,” Winn said. “We've had everything from hamburgers on the grill to pasta salad and pasta bakes and casseroles.”
Running the program takes varied talents including logistical skills, marketing know-how and cooking ability. Student leaders all receive ServSafe certification, a food-safety training credential. They all commit regular hours to the project and oversee other volunteers.

Katie Crifasi, a member of the leadership team and graduate student studying cell biology, joined the project because it offers so many ways to help others. Not only does Campus Kitchen help the university be more efficient, she said, it also helps the Little Willie Center and the Ronald McDonald House serve families and children.

“Everybody's just really grateful,” she said. “It sounds really simple — you're just making dinner for someone, but it really makes things easier on a family.”

Preparing meals for others also is fun, she said. “Sometimes, just like any kitchen, we think, ‘Did we put too much seasoning in this one? Should we do it this way?’” Crifasi said. “We look at our cake and think, maybe our moms wouldn't be proud of us for this one, but hopefully it still tastes good.”

More than 360 volunteers have logged more than 880 hours of service, Winn said, and the program has no trouble attracting help from students. Winn will continue to advise students through the end of the year, when her VISTA assignment ends. The federal program, founded in 1965 to fight poverty, provides a living stipend and other benefits in exchange for a year's service.

“We will always have a supervisor for the kitchen,” Winn said. “The intention is to have another VISTA, just not one to be as involved.”

Volunteers hope the operation raises awareness about hunger and food insecurity, she said. Since the economic downturn began, food banks around the country have reported sharp increases in demand.

“There is a whole new face of poverty that is coming around with the recession,” Winn said. “There are a lot of people who on the outside look like average-income people, but they go to bed hungry at night. It's becoming a really ubiquitous issue. People really need help.”

**Poet featured at Greenville gallery**

North Carolina poet James Applewhite, Greenville's City Art Gallery and the North Carolina Literary Review (NCLR) collaborated on an exhibit of original artwork inspired by the poet's work.

A reading by Applewhite opened the show, which featured the work of artists who used paint, photography, sculpture and ceramics to interpret selected poems.

The City Art Gallery, owned by Peg Hardee and Torrey Stroud, hosted the opening on Jan. 13; the exhibit runs through Feb. 6.
“Dr. Applewhite did a great job entertaining the crowd, and I think people responded well,” said Hardee. “This was different from a typical show, in that the common thread was poetry, not the works of a specific artist or group. The literary aspect also drew some people you might not typically draw.”

Hardee added that the idea was suggested by artist Louis St. Lewis, a fan of poetry and short stories whose work has been selected for inclusion in past issues of NCLR. “This was an invitational for a group of artists we represent,” she said. “We consulted with Diane Rodman (NCLR’s Art Editor) to decide on the poet. She came up with the poems and then helped us hone them down. We read 10 to 15 poems and chose three we thought would give inspiration.”

The poems chosen were “Pamlico River,” “January Farmhouse,” and “Greene County Pastoral” from Applewhite's Selected Poems, published in 2005 by Duke University Press.

Introducing the poet, NCLR Editor Margaret Bauer welcomed him “home” to eastern North Carolina. Applewhite was born in Stantonsburg and is retired from Duke University after almost 40 years on the faculty. He is a four-time winner of the Roanoke Chowan Poetry Award, given by the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. He has received the North Carolina Award for Literature and is a 2008 inductee into the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame.

His next book, due out soon from LSU Press, will be his 12th volume of poetry. His work was featured in the 2010 issue of NCLR and more is forthcoming in the 2011 issue. “Seeing Dr. Applewhite's poetry translated into works of art was a unique experience for all who attended,” Rodman said. “This event was the first of its kind for City Art Gallery and NCLR. It was a tremendous success.”

City Art Gallery is located at 511 Red Banks Road in Greenville. More information about the exhibit, artists, and hours of operation can be found at www.cityartgreenville.com.

The North Carolina Literary Review is published annually by ECU and the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. For more information, visit NCLR's website at www.nclr.ecu.edu.

**Jean Mills Health Symposium planned**
ECU and communities are working together to reduce disparities, improve minority health and solve health problems, which is the focus of the seventh annual Jean Mills Health Symposium Friday in Greenville.

The keynote speaker will be Dr. William C. “Bill” Jenkins, adjunct associate professor of epidemiology in the Morehouse School of Medicine and senior fellow with the Institute for African American Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jenkins served two decades as supervisory epidemiologist in the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
managed its Minority Health Activities Program. He managed the Participant Health Benefits Program, which assures medical services to the survivors of the Tuskegee syphilis study.

Jenkins' presentation, “Community Participatory Research: Myths and Realities,” begins at 9:15 a.m. Friday in the Greenville Hilton, 207 S.W. Greenville Blvd.

Luncheon speaker will be Barbara Pullen-Smith, director of the N.C. Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities in the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services. Information is available at http://eahec.ecu.edu or call Amy Bullock at Eastern AHEC at 744-5205 or email bullockamy@ecu.edu.

The event is sponsored by the ECU College of Allied Health Sciences in collaboration with the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation and Eastern Area Health Education Center.

Jean Elaine Mills earned her bachelor's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1977 and a master's in public administration with a concentration in community health from ECU in 1984. She died from breast cancer in 2000.

**N.C. Space Grant expands consortium**

ECU is the newest university to join the N.C. Space Grant, a consortium of academic institutions that promote, develop, and support aeronautics and space-related science, engineering, and technology education and training in the state.

In partnership with NASA, industry, non-profit organizations, and state government agencies, the NC Space Grant conducts programs designed to equip the current and future aero/space workforce in North Carolina.

Other N.C. affiliates include Appalachian State, Duke and N.C. State universities and the North Carolina Community College System.

As a new member of the NC Space Grant, ECU will collaborate with NASA and the aero/space community and strengthen existing relationships.

Led by Dr. John Rummel, the Space Grant program at ECU will use space science and technology as a vehicle to “inspire the next generation of explorers” using ongoing NASA-related research and educational programs at ECU with NC Space Grant-focused activities. The ECU mission is to increase the interest, awareness, and opportunities brought by ECU faculty to develop astrobiology, space science, planetary sciences, and exploration opportunities for university students, and reach K-12 teachers, students, and the public.

Rummel is the director of the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy and a professor of biology at ECU. Prior to his arrival at ECU in 2008, Rummel was the NASA Senior
Scientist for Astrobiology, based in Washington, D.C., responsible for leading NASA's program to understand the origin, evolution, and fate of life in the universe.

For more information about, visit www.ncspacegrant.org.

**Upcoming Events:**
Wednesday: Chancellor Steve Ballard will deliver his State of the University address, 11 a.m., Hendrix Theatre.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Brandon Shackelford, a 22-year-old PCC student, won a scriptwriting competition and will have his play on the experiences of black soldiers during the Civil War performed at the Goess Center in February. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

*Events highlight Black History Month*

By Jennifer Swartz  
The Daily Reflector  
Sunday, January 30, 2011

Brandon Shackelford is not a black man, but for one day he tried to imagine he was.

The 22-year-old Pitt Community College student, who has no previous experience as a playwright, sat down one afternoon and dashed off a one-act play depicting the experiences of five black soldiers during the Civil War. The exercise was part of a playwriting contest at the college aimed at celebrating Black History Month in February.

His winning work, “American Men,” likened by contest organizers as similar to the motion picture “Glory,” will be performed Feb. 28.

“For me, character is always the basis of a story,” said Shackelford, a writer interested in screenplays who said he wanted to take on a playwriting project as an opportunity to stretch himself.  
“If you have strong enough characters, you can figure out what sort of situations they can get into,” he said.  
“I'm not an African American; I don't feel like I totally understand,” he said. “I wrote what I felt like I could understand from my perspective.”

The 25-minute production and a second play, “The Yearning,” will be performed at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. in the multipurpose room at the Craig F. Goess Student Center on the PCC campus.

The performances are free.
The college's production is just one in a host of events planned in the month of February throughout Pitt County aimed at celebrating Black History Month. Celebrated in its current form since 1976, the celebration can be traced back to 1926, when American historian Carter G. Woodson created “Negro History Week” during the second week of February to coincide with birthdays of two Americans who changed history for black Americans, former President Abraham Lincoln and abolitionist and former slave Frederick Douglass.

Here's a look at some Black History events in Pitt County next month:
The Iota Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority will hold its annual Black History Quiz Bowl at 9 a.m. Feb. 19 at Cornerstone Missionary Baptist Church, 1095 Allen Road. Teams will be school-aged students from ages 5-18 from student organizations, clubs, church teams and other groups. All participating teams will receive a scholarship. Call Mary Maultsby at 714-2003 or LaVette L. Ford at 830-3885.

The Ayden Community Theatre will present S.M. Shepherd-Masset's play “Waiting to be Invited.” Set in Atlanta in the summer of 1964, four middle-aged black women travel by city bus to a “whites only” eatery in a downtown Atlanta department store to test their newly acquired civil rights. The play received the Kennedy Center 1999 Roger L. Stevens award for New Playwrights and the Adrienne Award for Most Promising Young Dramatist. Performances will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11, 12, 18 and 19 in the Doug Mitchell Auditorium, 4354 Lee St., Ayden. Call 746-6707 or 355-6914 or visit www.aydencommunitytheatre.com.

The East Carolina University School of Music will hold its annual Tribute to Motown concert at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 26 in Wright Auditorium. Performers include blues and jazz vocalist Aishah, pianists Bill Ford and Jon Ozment, artistic director and bassist Carroll V. Dashiell Jr. and “3 D” performing fresh and famous pieces, including classics such as “Dr. Feel Good,” “Dancin’ in the Street,” “Sugar Pie Honey-Bunch,” “Kansas City” and “My Girl.” Tickets are $10. Call 328-4788 or visit www.ecuarts.com.

The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company's performance of “Highest Praise,” a dance accompanied by a giant live local gospel choir, is set for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 23 in Wright Auditorium. The music includes “Total Praise” by Richard Smallwood, “Wade in the Water” and “Amazing Grace.” This performance is supported by the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations, as well as the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge. Tickets are $10-$30. Call 328-4788 or visit www.ecuarts.com.

Building Hope, a nonprofit organization that works with at-risk students and their families, will host its annual fundraising banquet Feb. 17 at Rock Springs. The featured speaker is Herman Boone, the former TC Williams Titans coach whose story was featured in “Remember the Titans.” Silent auction begins at 6 p.m.; dinner starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are $40; sponsorships are available. The deadline is Feb. 14. Contact Lesli Grandy at 757-1927 or admin@bhclc.org or visit www.buildinghopenc.org.
The seventh annual Jean Mills Health Symposium on Feb. 4 will feature keynote speaker Dr. William C. “Bill” Jenkins, adjunct associate professor of epidemiology in the Morehouse School of Medicine and senior fellow with the Institute for African American Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Jenkins served two decades as supervisory epidemiologist in the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and managed its Minority Health Activities Program. He also managed the Participant Health Benefits Program which assures medical services to the survivors of the Tuskegee syphilis study. The presentation, “Community Participatory Research: Myths and Realities,” is set for 9:15 a.m. Feb. 4 in the Greenville Hilton, 207 S.W. Greenville Blvd. For information, visit http://eahec.ecu.edu, call Amy Bullock at Eastern AHEC at 744-5205 or e-mail bullockamy@ecu.edu.

Contact Jennifer Swartz at jswartz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Jan. 31 – Brody School of Medicine (Hobgood)
Monday, January 31, 2011
WorkWeek

Dr. Lacy Hobgood, a specialist in treating adults and children, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Hobgood joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor of internal medicine and pediatrics.

He has a medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and completed a combined internal medicine and pediatrics residency program at Christiana Care Health Systems in Delaware. He is board-certified in internal medicine and pediatrics. He is a fellow of the American College of Physicians and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Before coming to ECU, Hobgood practiced adult and pediatric care at Wadesboro Family Medicine, served as vice chief of staff at Anson Community Hospital and served as long-term care director of the Lillie Bennett Nursing Center in Wadesboro.
Hobgood sees patients at ECU Adult and Pediatric Health Care at 517 Moye Blvd.

Appointments are available by calling 744-0766.
Bonnie Johnson, a dental hygienist for the state Public Health Division, checks the teeth of Alexzondria Lamothe, a Lillington first-grader. Johnson's job is at stake as state lawmakers try to close a $3.7 billion budget gap.

**Thousands of state jobs might be cut to balance budget**

BY MANDY LOCKE - Staff Writer

Every day, Bonnie Johnson shines a flashlight into the mouths of the state's most vulnerable children, hunting for crumbled teeth and infections they suffer in silence. For now, Johnson is a state employee, a dental hygienist paid by state taxpayers to make sure children's oral health isn't standing in the way of their success at school.

By year's end, she could join the droves of North Carolina's unemployed, which swelled to more than 439,000 in December. Johnson's $54,000 salary could be used to help close a $3.7 billion deficit lawmakers say they will conquer by cutting government spending.

"Day to day, I don't know if I'm going to have a job," said Johnson, 41, who serves schools in Harnett and Johnston counties. "It's so scary. No one wants to lose their job, but when I think about all these kids not getting this service, I'm devastated."

State workers such as Johnson feel as if they have a target on their backs. More than 275,000 people are paid from the state treasury, including schoolteachers; state government is North Carolina's largest employer.

Plans that agency heads prepared for the governor added up to a potential loss of as many as 21,000 state employees, people in jobs once deemed among the safest around.
Johnson's program at the Division of Public Health was submitted as a possible sacrifice as leaders try to balance the budget.

Lawmakers got to work last week and promised to reduce the size of government. House Speaker Thom Tillis told reporters that Republican leaders would not accept extensions of temporary tax increases passed two years ago. Senate Majority Leader Phil Berger promised to "right-size" government.

"Just as working families and small businesses have to make difficult decisions about tightening their belts to make ends meet, we as a state will also have to tighten our belts to put our financial house in order," Berger said.

Just how much those cuts will fall on state workers is not clear. Some Republican leaders, such as House Majority Leader Paul Stam of Apex, said they'd be focused heavily on eliminating posts through attrition. Earlier this month, Berger said layoffs would be inevitable.

**Jobs no longer safe**

Payroll is a huge expense for the state. Lawmakers have chipped away at it in recent years through furloughs, pay freezes and increases in health insurance premiums. And, quietly, with little fanfare, departments have laid off state workers. In the last year and a half, about 1,000 state employees have been let go to cut the budget, according to the Office of State Personnel.

"When I was young, I thought, this is the job that will take care of everything: benefits, retirement ... all that ... ," said George Thiessen, 46, a father of three who has been a state correctional worker for 18 years. "It is anything but a wonderland. The day of the cushioned state employee job is gone."

For all these cutbacks, some in the private sector - and some lawmakers - say that North Carolina's government hasn't faced anywhere near the chaos of private companies. Greg Thompson, a salesman in Cary who had to shut down his business during the economic downturn, said the salaries of state employees at the top end, such as university professors and administrators, ought to be slashed.

"The private industry has borne the brunt of [the recession] for so long," said Thompson, 55. "I say, cut the salaries at the top, and if those people aren't willing, invite them to try the private sector. And good luck."

**Budget already lean**

Some state workers and their advocates say that legislators will have a tough time cutting an already lean budget.

"Waste and duplication of services have already been cut a long time ago," said Dana Cope, executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina.
Gov. Bev Perdue has sketched a consolidation plan, merging 14 departments into eight, in hopes of losing some management and administrative jobs that come with them. She also forced departments under her to make the tough calls themselves, handing over proposals to forfeit 5, 10 or 15 percent of their budgets.

Cope suspects the proposals are tough talk that will be nearly impossible to deliver. Although he expects some state employees will lose their jobs, he predicts legislators will not be able to fill the hole through cutting jobs alone.

Leading lawmakers say they will focus first on positions already vacant and those that will become vacant as employees leave voluntarily. In a given year, roughly 10 percent of state employees give up their jobs. And, as of the first of the year, 9,419 positions in central government - departments such as Transportation, Correction and Justice - were vacant.

Tillis, the House speaker, said whatever reductions are made will be done with extreme caution and with regard for how those cuts will reverberate in the community. "Part of responsible management is to lessen the impact of cuts that we make, in terms of jobs, by sequencing them with natural attrition," Tillis said.

A faceless work force
Some say a negative view of government work is bred, in part, because people don't realize that government is their child's kindergarten teacher, the nurse who looked after their mom during a mental breakdown and the man who drove the plow overnight so they could get to work.

"When you say state government worker, it's so anonymous," said John Quinterno, a work-force analyst in Chapel Hill. "But, what it breaks down to is this: It's your neighbors. It's your kid's teacher. It's people you need, and they are the backbone of a lot of communities."

Alexandra Forter Sirota, director of the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, a nonprofit that advocates for low- and middle-income families, estimated cuts in personnel would be more than 7 percent if legislators adopted budget proposals submitted to the governor. She said cuts that deep will cause the state's recession to linger. She estimates that the effects will seep into the private sector, too, as displaced state workers adjust their spending.

After 27 years with UNC-Chapel Hill, Elizabeth Evans lost her job in 2009, during a third round of layoffs in her department. Evans, 54, said she is lucky; she had clocked enough time in the system to begin tapping into her pension, though at a reduced rate. She watched others with much less security enter a competitive job market.

"People always thought state workers don't get laid off," said Evans. "The truth is, we do and we always have. It just happens so quietly."
**Her work has meaning**

Johnson, the hygienist, has worked in the private sector. She made more money there while working fewer hours.

But Johnson said she craved meaning in her work. After leaving private practice, she worked in the state's prison system, offering dental care to prisoners, many of whom had been neglecting their oral hygiene since childhood. There, she realized the importance of catching these problems early.

This month at Boone Trail Elementary School in Harnett County, she coaxed shy children closer and shined a flashlight in their mouths to see whether they'd visited a dentist since she sent a note home to their parents. Last fall, she flagged major dental problems in 76 children, about 14 percent of the student body.

"I meet children who have no idea how to use a toothbrush," Johnson said.

**Slump hurts tooth care**

In the last two years, she has noticed more cavities, more infections, all signs of poor oral hygiene and lack of dental care.

She knows the economy is the root. As families lost their jobs, they lost their insurance. When families struggle, Johnson said, dental care always falls to the bottom of the priority list.

Johnson knows how tight money has become for families. Her husband, a correctional officer for 18 years, left the state a few years ago because he found a job with better benefits. With two young children, a mortgage and a long commute for both her and her husband, Johnson's family needs her income.

Johnson said she is not angry that the state needs to tighten its belt, and she's convinced she will land on her feet if she is ousted. She's aggravated, though, that budget cuts could come at the expense of a program that is needed more now than ever.

"It's just another thing that our children will have to suffer because we didn't plan the right way," Johnson said.

*Staff writer J. Andrew Curliss contributed to this report.*

mandy.locke@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8927
Where the jobs are

The legislature appropriates money through the general fund to pay for tens of thousands of positions. Special funds and state receipts pay for thousands of other state jobs. For example, the state's highway fund pays for the equivalent of roughly 13,800 full-time positions in the Department of Transportation.

In all, the state's coffers fund what is equal to nearly 317,000 full-time positions. Here's a breakdown of General Fund full-time equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency FTEs budgeted</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public schools</td>
<td>153,188</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNC system</td>
<td>35,067</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and public safety</td>
<td>31,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community colleges</td>
<td>18,722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Services</td>
<td>8,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural and economic resources</td>
<td>3,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General government</td>
<td>4,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education - state administration</td>
<td>653</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total-General Fund</td>
<td>255,185</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: N.C. General Assembly
Layoff savings would be modest in first year

BY MANDY LOCKE - Staff Writer
If lawmakers tried to balance the state budget on the backs of employees, it would require a lot of backs.

The first-year net savings from shedding a state employee earning an average salary is less than $19,000, according to data from the Fiscal Research Division at the General Assembly.

That modest savings comes after the state pays legally required unemployment benefits, severance payouts and health insurance for a year and absorbs estimated losses from taxes that its former workers wouldn't pay.

Lawmakers face tough choices as they grapple with a budget with a $3.7 billion gap between revenues and expected expenses. Legislators and the governor have talked of cutting the state work force. Some lawmakers say they will focus on eliminating vacant positions; others say they will coax workers to leave by offering buyout packages. All say the state work force will shrink.
"When you look at the size of the problem, I don't think you can say honestly there would be no layoffs," Senate leader Phil Berger has said, noting that it's too soon to know the size of those cuts.

Legislators could make deep cuts in the state's work force and account for less than half of the gap they need to fill. In fact, legislators could eliminate 75,000 employees working for core state agencies and save about $1.5 billion in the first year.

The savings in the second and later years would exceed $3 billion. But the estimated first-year savings - legislators' immediate focus - would add up to just a bit more than the revenue from extending the 1-cent sales tax increase and income tax hike for higher-income residents and some corporations that were passed in 2009. Those tax extensions, billed as temporary two years ago, would bring in about $1.3 billion a year.

Gov. Bev Perdue now says she's willing to consider extending those tax increases. Republican legislative leaders say they will not.

No one thinks the budget can be balanced just by reducing the number of employees. Republican legislators have been stressing the need to get what they can primarily through attrition, annual turnover as employees leave.

"Most of it can be done through attrition," said Rep. Paul Stam, an Apex Republican. Already, more than 9,000 positions in state agencies in central government are empty. The problem is that many of the employees who leave state-funded positions each year filled posts that many would consider essential: prison guards and schoolteachers. These hard questions arise amid toughening rhetoric by lawmakers determined to balance the budget without more taxing.

Slimming the state's work force brings challenges that extend far beyond this fiscal year, labor experts and economists say. The displacement of state workers would be absorbed for decades to come in their households and their local communities.

"This will put whole families on a downward slide," said John Quinterno, a work-force specialist in Chapel Hill.

Economists predict that mass layoffs in the public sector would further increase the state's growing foreclosure rates. They could also increase demand for public benefits such as food stamps or child-care subsidies.

Alexandra Forter Sirota, director of the N.C. Budget and Tax Center, predicts cuts to state employees will displace another segment of the state's middle class, perhaps permanently. "Those jobs aren't likely to come back," Sirota said. "When we have quality jobs that provide a living wage and benefits ... the idea of losing those and replacing them with jobs that drive up the low-wage sector, it's hard to imagine that as a cost savings for the state."

Staff writer J. Andrew Curliss contributed to this report.
Lookout Books gets great writer and gets noticed

BY PAM KELLEY - Staff writer

Just days after UNC Wilmington's new Lookout Books released its debut publication this month, The New York Times raved about it on the front of its books section.

How unusual is it for a small, independent press to land a front-of-the-section New York Times review with its first book?

It's probably unprecedented.

"It's like a rookie stepping up to the plate for the first time and hitting a grand slam," says Lookout editorial director Ben George.

After glowing reviews of Edith Pearlman's "Binocular Vision" from The New York Times and the Los Angeles Times, the folks at Lookout Books have been swamped, responding to interview requests, queries from interested European publishers and e-mail from U.S. bookstores eager to host Pearlman for readings.

How did an unknown press get such attention?

For one thing, it had a great writer.

Pearlman, who's 74 and lives in Brookline, Mass., has won many accolades for her work, including three O. Henry Prizes. Three of her stories have also been selected for inclusion in "Best American Short Stories." But like many good short story writers, she wasn't widely known.

A friend and advocate

One person who did know and love her work, however, was George. Formerly an editor with Tin House, a literary quarterly, George moved to UNC Wilmington in 2008. He and executive director Emily Smith founded Lookout, a literary press that involves creative writing students in the publishing process.

George thought Pearlman would be a perfect fit for Lookout's mission: to bring attention to emerging and underrepresented writers, as well as overlooked gems by established authors.

It often takes more than great writing, though, to get a short story collection noticed.
So the press came up with a marketing plan. Knowing that Ann Patchett ("Bel Canto") was a fan of Pearlman's, George asked her to write an introduction to the stories. Patchett replied, George recalls, saying she loved Pearlman so much she'd happily pay for the privilege of writing an introduction.

This book, Patchett predicts in the introduction, "should be the book with which Edith Pearlman casts off her secret-handshake status and takes up her rightful position as a national treasure. Put her stories beside those of John Updike and Alice Munro. That's where they belong."

Other literary heavyweights, including T.C. Boyle ("The Tortilla Curtain") and Brock Clarke ("An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England"), also contributed glowing blurbs. If those weren't enough, Smith and George enticed reviewers and booksellers with an appealing narrative.

"The narrative is Edith's story," Smith says. "She's 74 and has been writing remarkable stories for decades with little fanfare. When we wrote to some key people, we invited them to discover Edith Pearlman."

A few days before Christmas, Smith got word via voicemail that The New York Times Book Review was planning a front-page review on Jan. 16. "I could barely hold the phone," she says. She telephoned George with the news.

"I remember saying, 'Did you say cover? Are you sure, cover?"' George says.

The review, by Roxana Robinson, begins: "Why in the world had I never heard of Edith Pearlman? And why, if you hadn't, hadn't you? It certainly isn't the fault of her writing, which is intelligent, perceptive, funny and quite beautiful."

Lookout has ordered a second printing from Winston-Salem's John F. Blair Publisher and expects to print about 10,000 books in all.

"Everyone likes the story of a wrong being righted," George says, "of a writer working out of the limelight for years, finally being recognized."

Pearlman will visit UNC Wilmington in March for the official launch of Lookout Books. She'll read at 7 p.m. March 3 in Morton Hall Auditorium. A reception and book signing will follow.

Lookout, meanwhile, is planning its next publication: Steve Almond's "God Bless America," a story collection, will be out in October.

And George, as he tries to describe his reaction to this unexpected success, says he's attempting to avoid clichés: "I was talking to a friend and saying I won't use that cliché that it was beyond my wildest dreams. But it is on par with my wildest dreams."

pkelley@charlotteobserver.com or 704-358-5271
Colleges increase efforts to identify violent students

By Brian Freskos
Brian.Freskos@StarNewsOnline.com
Published: Sunday, January 30, 2011 at 11:33 p.m.

Growing concern over violence on college campuses has prompted more higher education institutions to form specialized teams tasked with identifying students who pose a threat to their peers.

These threat-assessment teams have drawn more attention in the wake of this month's shooting in Tucson following revelations that the alleged gunman, Jared Lee Loughner, was suspended from Arizona's Pima Community College last year after the school labeled him a person of concern.

Experts say threat-assessment teams proliferated following 2007's shooting at Virginia Tech, where school administrators saw warning signs but failed to connect them in time to stop Seung Hui Cho from killing 32 people, including himself, according to USA Today.

Since then, the number of teams has ballooned. Brett A. Sokolow, past president and founder of the National Behavioral Intervention Team Association, or NaBITA, estimated that now more than 80 percent of four-year institutions and between 20 and 40 percent of two-year institutions have formed them. And two states – Virginia and Illinois – require state colleges to have them.

The teams come in many different forms and have a variety of names, from “Committee for Student Success” to “Behavioral Review Team.”

The University of North Carolina Wilmington has kept some version of a threat-assessment team since 2006. But Michael Walker, the university's dean of students and associate vice chancellor, said the school expanded the group's role in 2009.

Called the Student Behavior Intervention Team, the 11-member group of high-ranking university administrators meets biweekly and is charged with allocating resources towards students in need and identifying and removing potential threats from the campus community.

The team generally considers about 40 cases each semester, Walker said, though a majority are low-risk students who, while they do not pose a danger, are experiencing difficulties such as depression or stress and require help.
Seldom does the team find a student at risk of inflicting harm, Walker said. But when it happens, the group works with the students' parents to voluntarily withdraw them from school so they can receive treatment.

But the ubiquity of these teams has raised concerns among civil rights groups about whether college administrators will abuse them for their own ends. These critics often point to what happened at Valdosta State University in Georgia, where a federal judge ruled in September 2010 that the former president wrongfully withdrew a student, primarily because he publicly opposed the university's plans to construct a parking garage, according to court documents.

“Behavior intervention teams tend to spill over too much into bias intervention teams,” said Adam Kissel, the vice president of programs for the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a nonprofit group which charged itself with defending civil liberties on college campuses. “A key question is how are schools are defining a threat or a risk?” Saunie K. Schuster, NaBITA's president, said these groups often intervene at an early stage to head off the escalation of violent behavior.

“The purpose is not to harm or deter but to provide a safe learning environment,” she said, adding that the teams function to “address those issues that pose a threat to the safety and security of the person or institution.”

Most cases are referred by faculty or staff who notice something unusual about a student's behavior. Having a mechanism to compile information about at-risk students allows school administrators to connect the dots in time to stop potential violence.

That is what happened at Pima Community College, where the Student Behavior Assessment Committee raised alarms about Loughner, 22, after he caused multiple disruptions at school, according to USA Today.

In September 2010, campus police found a YouTube video showing Loughner calling the college unconstitutional, among other claims.

Loughner voluntarily withdrew from school in October, with the college requiring that he receive mental health clearance before returning to classes. But months later, Loughner was charged in the Jan. 8 shooting of U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords and 18 others in Tucson.

After the shooting, Pima emerged as a litmus test for threat assessment teams across the country. The school faced judgement by critics who argued that Loughner's suspension pushed an already disturbed man over the edge. But others, like NaBITA, contended the suspension highlighted the assessment team's effectiveness and the school acted appropriately to protect the campus community.
While acknowledging that threat assessment teams could be abused, officials said mechanisms were in place to prevent a team from overstepping its authority. Also, the teams keep their dealings highly confidential to protect students' privacy.

Cape Fear Community College has not created a formal threat-assessment team, but students exhibiting risky patterns of behavior can be reported to the Student Development Office and referred to counseling, said spokesman David Hardin. That office also holds disciplinary power and can suspend ill-behaved students.

But the state's 58 college campuses are expected to soon have the capability to deny admission to prospective students who campus administrators consider a threat. Linda Weiner, the system's vice president of engagement and strategic innovation, said the proposal by the community college board marks an effort to balance the system's open-door policy with campus safety.

Although the proposal has to go through a review process, it could be implemented as soon as April, though any student denied admission has the option to appeal.

The American Civil Liberties Union has expressed concerns about the proposal. Sarah Preston, the policy director for ACLU North Carolina, said the advocacy organization is worried the proposal is broad and vague and could be applied arbitrarily. The organization plans to work with the state to help ensure the policy does not discriminate against any segment of the population.

The strengthening of security comes as experts note more troubling violence on college campuses nationwide. Walker, of the intervention team association, said that in 2010’s fall semester alone, the association counted an unprecedented 40 on-campus shootings. “We're shocked by it,” he said.

Brian Freskos: 343-2327
On Twitter.com: @BrianFreskos
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