THE DAILY CLIPS

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University creates task force on enrollment

ECU News Bureau
Special to The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University has announced the formation of a task force on strategic enrollment management to develop goals and plans that will determine what its student body will look like in coming years.

"We have been the fastest-growing public university in North Carolina for the last five years," Chancellor Steve Ballard said. "Clearly students and parents all across the state are finding more and more to like about East Carolina, and this is key to our success. Our growth is also illustrative of our historical commitment to access and opportunity."

Ballard said that as the university moves forward, it must examine "how much growth we can accommodate and still do everything possible so that each student is successful.

That is our legacy over the past 100 years." ECU's enrollment has grown from 20,577 in the fall semester of 2002 to 25,990 in the fall of 2007.

Symposium starts Friday

The unique health needs of rural residents will be the main topic of the 4th annual Jean Mills Health Symposium Friday-Saturday in Greenville.

Keynote speaker will be Dr. Thomas C. Ricketts, a health policy and administration professor at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill at 9 a.m. Friday in the Hilton Greenville. Ricketts' research has focused on policy making for the health care work force and access to care for rural and underserved populations.

In conjunction with the symposium, a community health fair will be held 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday in the Greenville Convention Center. The event will feature free exercise and cooking demonstrations, health screenings and education.

Jean Elaine Mills earned a master's degree in public administration with a concentration in community health from ECU in 1984. She died from breast cancer in 2000.

Online registration is at www.eahc.ecu.edu or call 744-5231.

English to host conference

A linguistics conference offered by the English department will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday in the Bate Building. Keynote speaker Walt Wolfram, will present "Southern Bred ESL: Hispanic English in the Mid-Atlantic South."

Other topics presented at the TALGS (TESOL/Applied Linguistics Graduate Students) conference include, for example, corpus linguistics in language teaching; sermons as narratives; identity in bilingual communities; colloquial English for medical graduates; and serving immigrant children in NC public

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schools. For details and schedule visit http://core.ecu.edu/engl/tales/conference/conference.htm

Humanities focus of lecture series

Visiting Distinguished River Professor of International Affairs Julian Lethbridge will offer "The Place of History Among the Disciplines," the first of a series of lectures about the humanities, especially as they relate to the social and natural sciences at 4 p.m. Tuesday in Bate 1032 on ECU’s campus. Other lectures will be held Feb. 19 and 26 and at 5:30 p.m. March 4.

Professor helps to write book

A communications professor's book that examines how technology, such as cell phones and the Internet, shape and challenge traditional notions of "space" has been nominated for a research award.

Tami Tomasello’s book, "Managing the Infosphere: Governance, Technology, and Cultural Practice in Motion" (Temple University Press, 2007), received a nomination for the Association of American Geographers' Political Geography Specialty Group’s Julian Minghi Outstanding Research Award. Tomasello is co-author of the book, along with colleagues from Florida State University.

In the past, Tomasello said, most communication occurred in fixed locations, like the home or office; airports and highways were the means through which people moved to travel from one place to the other.

“Today, the emergence of wireless communication is transforming these spaces of transportation into places of communication," she said. “Many of us have had the experience of obtaining clearer and more reliable cell phone coverage on a major highway than in our own living rooms.”

ECU lecture on process ecology

Robert E. Ulanowicz, professor of theoretical ecology at the University of Maryland, will present "Process Ecology: A New Vision of How Nature Works" during a free lecture at 7:30 p.m. Thursday in the Science and Technology, Room C-307.

ECU seeks study participants

The Human Performance Laboratory is looking for individuals between the ages of 18 to 34 and 60 to 95 for an exercise study led by Joseph Hounard, professor in the College of Health and Human Performance. The tests will include body composition assessment and blood and muscle analysis. Participants will be compensated. Call 737-1294 for more information.

Physician-author to speak at Brody

Jay Baruch, physician and short story writer, will present “Pulling the Hat Out of the Rabbit, or Creating Fiction Out of Medicine” at 12:30 p.m., Feb. 19 in Room 202 of the Warren Life Sciences Building at the Brody School of Medicine. Dr. Baruch is a professor of emergency medicine at the Center for Biomedical Ethics, Brown Medical School in Providence, R.I. He is author of “Fourteen Stories: Doctors Patients and Other Strangers” (Kent State University Press, 2007).

Baruch’s short story, “Accident Room” will also be the subject of an ECU Readers’ Theater performance at 7 p.m., March 2 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at 131 Oakmont Drive in Greenville. The story raises issues of consent, patient decision-making, prolonging life and different styles of providing information to the seriously ill. In readers' theater, performers read from scripts and do only a small amount of moving about the stage.

The performance and discussion is part of an ongoing program sponsored by the Department of Medical Humanities at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. Contact Dr. Todd Savitt at 744-2797.

Artists sought for Youth Arts Fest

Registration is now underway for performing and visual artists for the Fourth Youth Arts Festival at ECU April 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The annual festival is designed with children in mind. Artists are invited to showcase their work and give demonstrations about their craft; others perform or conduct hands-on projects.

There are no booth fees or commissions, but the purpose of the event is to teach children and their families about the diverse and creative possibilities in the community. Contact Dindy Reich at reichd@ecu.edu or at 328-5749.
Cabinum-Foeller elected president of Pitt County Medical Society board

Dr. Elaine Cabinum-Foeller, an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the East Carolina University medical school, has been elected president of the board of directors of the Pitt County Medical Society.

Cabinum-Foeller completed medical school and her pediatric residency training at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Medicine and her child abuse fellowship at Hasbro Children’s Hospital/Brown University in Providence, R.I. She is the medical director for the TEDI BEAR Children’s Advocacy Center.

Other officers of the board are Dr. Ernie Sut-

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Instinct kicks in during wreck

Two ECU students, both 20, were passengers on the transit bus at the time of the accident.

By Brock Letchworth
The Daily Reflector

The young woman who grabbed the wheel of a East Carolina University student transit bus that crashed Thursday says she remembers very little from the accident, and she reacted out of instinct.

Cameron Kirby, 20, a family and community services major, attempted to steer the bus, which struck several cars and downed utility poles along 10th Street when its driver lost consciousness.

Kirby said she was trying to help finance major Nathen Rennels, who she said appeared to have a seizure behind the wheel.

"We were already in the lane getting ready to turn, but we just ended up going straight," Kirby, of Cedar Grove, said. "I just ran up there. I don't really remember too much of what I was doing. I just ran up there to check on him. We started hitting cars, and I was just trying to steer away from them.

"Some people react in certain ways to things like that I guess. I knew I would either freeze up or do something. I actually didn't think I would react that way. It just kind of happened."

Chelsea Mungal, a 20-year-old sophomore who lives in Winterville, said she dialed emergency services during the collision. Mungal and Kirby were the bus' only passengers.

"It was a scary experience," Mungal
WRECK
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said. "We were lucky."

Kirby left the accident with soreness and cuts on her hands, she said. Mungal reported only soreness.

The bio-diesel bus was traveling from Christenbury Gym to the Curry Court park-and-ride lot off Charles Boulevard. Rennels intended to turn left onto Charles from 10th Street to head south to the lot, Greenville police spokes man Cpl. Kip Gaskins said.

Instead, he lost consciousness as he approached the intersection and the bus continued forward on 10th Street toward Evans, Gaskins said. "I do remember the first car we hit, and I can just see her face so clearly," Kirby said. "She just looked frozen. I got up there about that time and started trying to turn away."

The bus came to a stop when it collided with a pole near Scott's Cleaners at Evans Street. Kirby said she ducked just before impact.

"After we stopped and I sat down, I started shaking a little bit," Kirby said. "I saw a lot of blood on me, but I didn't know it was mine. My hands got cut up."

Mungal said she and Kirby stepped onto the bus as strangers, but they bonded during the experience. The two plan to have lunch together Monday, she said.

"I think it's something we can learn from," Mungal said.

A full picture of the damage done by the bus will not be available until next week, but early figures indicate the incident will cost the N.C. Department of Transportation and Greenville Utilities Commission at least $80,000 to replace equipment, spokesman with both groups said Friday.

Ana Lane was driving one of the cars hit by the bus. The crash did $15,000 damage to her car and $25,000 damage to the bus, police said.

ECU continues to probe the incident. University spokesman John Durham declined to say whether university officials knew of any medical condition Rennels may have had, citing federal student privacy laws.

Rennels has driven for ECU since June 2007. Durham said Friday that, to his knowledge, Rennels is still employed as a driver.

Brock Letchworth can be contacted at 329-9574 or bletchworth@coxnc.com.
Former ECU professor puts student information online

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Personal information for hundreds of East Carolina University students, including Social Security numbers, was accessible online after a former professor stored it on his Web site, according to a national watchdog group.

An investigation by SSNBreach.org found former ECU math instructor Ken Butler posted files that included students’ grades, e-mail addresses and some Social Security numbers to his personal Web site on March 16, 2005. The files were to serve as a temporary back-up but Butler didn’t delete them until Jan. 3, the group explained in a news release.

“We’ve been coming across things like these for the past several years,” said Aaron Titus, Information Privacy Program director for Liberty Coalition, a Washington, D.C., nonprofit group sponsoring the Web site, which searches for people who may fall prey to Internet identify theft.

“Very quickly you can start getting sensitive information,” Titus said.

Information for 736 students was listed on the site, 412 of which contained Social Security numbers. Any of that could have been accessed by a major search engine such as Google or Yahoo, Titus said.

He said that when Butler put the information online, he was unaware that anyone with Internet access would be able to find it.

ECU spokesman John Durham said the university is completing its investigation, which began after Titus contacted the school in early January.

He said university officials hope to send letters to all students affected next week.

Titus said his organization waited a month to release the information so as not to increase the possibility of identity theft.

“We wait until the cache is clear because we don’t want to become a source for the bad guys,” he explained.

In the meantime, Titus urges concerned students to search their name at SSNBreach.org.

The Web site will report what type of information, if any, has been exposed and who they should contact.

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at kkennedy@coxnc.com or 929-9566.
ECU plan: Med school to expand

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University officials are working on a plan to expand the Brody School of Medicine.

Spurred by projected nationwide physician shortages, Brody administrators hope to admit 120 students per year in a few years, up from the 73 currently entering each fall.

"It's very clear that there is a shortage of physicians in North Carolina today," said Dr. Nic Benson, vice dean of the medical school, adding "that shortage will only get worse in the years ahead."

The expansion would be the second most significant event in Brody history, behind only its founding in the 1970s, Benson said.

There are not hard estimates for the project's cost, Benson said.

The figure will likely be similar to what University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill officials are seeking for their own expansion, he said: $239 million in non-recurring capital funds and $40 million annually to operate the expanded program, according to materials presented to the UNC-CH Board of Trustees last month.

ECU's proposal would put new students at clinical sites outside Greenville for their third and fourth years. Sites haven't been selected for the regional campuses, Benson said. Officials will look for a series of things, he said:

- An active physician community that would welcome students and Brody doctors
- A hospital willing to serve as a teaching facility
- A patient population receptive to being treated by supervised medical students.

During a discussion of the expansion in November, officials mentioned Elizabeth City, Fayetteville and Jacksonville as potential locations.

For more than a year, UNC-CH has worked on its own expansion. By 2011, of:

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BRODY

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officials there propose adding 70 students to their annual 160-person class. The new students would spend two years on campus and two years at clinical sites in Asheville and Charlotte.

Brody is in the middle of a smaller expansion. It added one student in fall 2007 and will take on seven more by fall 2010, bringing the annual class size to 80, "really the maximum that the current resources (and) facilities" can support, said Virginia Hardy, Brody senior associate dean. The larger growth being planned now will occur over several years in the next decade, she said.

The expansion would require approval from Chancellor Steve Ballard, the ECU trustees and the UNC General Administration and Board of Governors, Benson said. At some point, the General Assembly could get involved to fund the project, Hardy said.

"We will not be successful unless we have everybody's support, from the faculty and staff that are already here, the students, our hospital, our local community... our board of trustees, the Board of Governors, (UNC System) President (Erskine) Bowles and the General Assembly," Benson said.

There is some support on the UNC Board of Governors for a Brody expansion, board member Phil Dixon said at a November meeting of the ECU Board of Trustees.

"I certainly believe we have tremendous need in eastern North Carolina, certainly as much as Asheville," said Dixon, a Greenville attorney.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-9658.
Damages mount from wreck

By Michael Abramowitz and Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

Damage estimates from the wreck of an ECU Student Transit bus were at $60,000 on Friday and are likely to rise, officials said.

A full picture of damage done by the wayward bus on Thursday won't be available until next week, but early figures indicate the incident will cost the N.C. Department of Transportation and Greenville Utilities Commission at least $60,000 to replace equipment, including labor, according to spokesmen with both groups.

The figure did not include estimates from the Greenville Police Department and Greenville Fire-Rescue for their services. It also excludes damage to Greenville public works properties. City officials still are compiling those figures.

The bus struck several cars and downed GUC and DOT utility poles after its driver, finance major Nathan Rennels, lost consciousness while driving on 10th Street about 3:30 a.m.

"I have been released from the hospital and I am doing fine. I appreciate the offer to discuss the situation regarding the bus, but at this time it is a private matter."

Nathan Rennels
ECU Transit Service driver

BUS

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10 a.m. The collision closed a stretch of 10th Street near its intersection with Evans Street for much of the day.

Authorities did not report Friday why Rennels lost consciousness. Rennels declined to discuss the wreck.

"I have been released from the hospital and I am doing fine," he said in an e-mail Friday morning. "I appreciate the offer to discuss the situation regarding the bus, but at this time it is a private matter."

Police on Friday released the names of others involved in the wreck. They include two ECU students, Chelsea Mungal and Cameron Kirby, who were on the bus. Attempts to reach Mungal and Kirby by phone and e-mail were unsuccessful. According to police, Mungal took the wheel of the bus after Rennels' incapacitation.

Mungal and Kirby were treated for minor injuries at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and released Thursday.

Ana Lane was driving one of the cars hit by the bus. The crash did $15,000 damage to her car and $25,000 damage to the bus, according to the Greenville Police Department.

ECU continues to probe the incident. University spokesman John Durham declined to say whether university officials knew of any medical condition Rennels may have had, citing federal student privacy laws.

Rennels has driven for ECU since June 2007. Durham said that, to his knowledge, Rennels is still employed as a driver.

Durham said others involved in the crash who believe they deserve compensation for damages should call ECU's risk management office at 329-6858.

"The university is fully insured for liability across its entire bus fleet," he said.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-6858.
Nobel laureate returns to NCSU

Climate change gets new hearing

BY WADE RAWLINS
STAFF WRITER

Nobel laureate Rajendra Pachauri has been talking about the consequences of climate change for 20 years, but suddenly he's finding more receptive audiences.

In the years since Pachauri began focusing on the topic, the world's scientists have reached an ever broader consensus that the Earth's climate is changing and human activities are contributing to the buildup of greenhouse gases. Much of that growing understanding has come from the work of a prestigious group of scientists that Pachauri leads — the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Now Pachauri, who resides in India, makes a brief return to N.C. State University, where he studied and taught in the 1970s, as a visionary leader in the scientific community and guru of global warming with a Nobel Peace Prize to show for it.

Fresh from appearances before a congressional committee and the World Economic Forum and attending the Nobel Prize ceremonies, Pachauri will speak today on the science of global warming at the university's Emerging

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Issues Forum and collect a distinguished alumnus award.

Richard H. Bernhard, a professor at NCSU and member of Pachauri’s dissertation committee, said Pachauri was interested in environmental issues and in protecting the environment long before it was a trendy cause.

“The idea he has been pushing since the 1980s about global climate change, people have now come to believe he is right,” Bernhard said. “Scientific opinion is turning his way, and the environment is going to hell.”

Gore and ‘Patchy’

Bernhard said Pachauri’s special talent for working with people from diverse backgrounds made him a natural leader of the IPCC, which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

“This guy has a way of galvanizing people,” Bernhard said. “There’s an inner grace and charm about the guy. If you are running a committee and have a bunch of people who are disagreeing, there is an inner peace about him that gets people actually listening to each other. That is a real gift.”

Pachauri, 67, spent much of the 1970s as a graduate student and teacher at NCSU, earning a master’s degree and a joint Ph.D. in industrial engineering and economics. He is remembered by those who knew him as serious, gracious and soft-spoken. His friends called him “Patchy” — a nickname he still uses.

“It was a remarkable experience,” Pachauri said of his years at NCSU in an interview. “I look forward to getting back to my home, North Carolina.”

Pachauri came to the university as an engineer educated at La Martiniere College, an elite private school in India. But when he enrolled in a graduate-level economics course at NCSU, the professor, Tom Grennes, inspired him to broaden his interests.

“I said I’m going to move into economics, which is what I did,” said Pachauri, who can still cite the course number of that class. “A combination of engineering and economics has been enormously beneficial. The problems of the world are multidisciplinary.”

Grennes, who is still a professor of economics at NCSU, recalled that Pachauri demonstrated a much broader interest in economic issues than the typical engineering student.

“When we were talking about capitalism and markets, he was asking about how all these pieces fit together,” Grennes said. “He was very thoughtful and articulate, asking lots of questions and also having good answers.”

After teaching briefly at NCSU, Pachauri returned to his native India and soon assumed his current duties as head of The Energy and Resources Institute, a nonprofit scientific and policy research organization that focuses on global warming and energy issues. It’s based in New Delhi, India, and has offices throughout the world.

Pachauri took center stage in the debate about climate change in 2002 when he was elected chairman of the IPCC, a group set up by the United Nations and the World Meteorological Organization. Through scientific investigation, the panel of several thousand researchers and scientists has forged a widening consensus about the link between human activities and global warming.

2015 deadline

Pachauri said the science is clear on climate change, which will have serious consequences as temperatures change and sea levels rise. He said world leaders need to start reducing carbon emissions by 2015 at the latest.

“That doesn’t give us too much time,” Pachauri said. “We need to get an agreement in place as quickly as possible.”

In his Nobel lecture, Pachauri said the world must approach the challenge of climate change from the perspective that the planet is one family. He told members of Congress last month that the rest of the world looks to the United States for leadership on a new pact to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

“The U.S. has to be part of the agreement, not only because the United States is a major source of emissions of greenhouse gases,” Pachauri said in an interview. “It provides a lot of credibility to any kind of global effort. That is a reality.”

While in Raleigh, Pachauri will also address a state legislative commission on climate change.

Rep. Pricey Harrison, one of the leaders of the state panel, said the policy report that the intergovernmental panel is publishing about global warming provide justification for steps that states and countries need to take to reduce greenhouse emissions.

“We’re hoping he might be able to give us the silver lining,” Harrison said, referring to economic opportunities brought about by restrictions on greenhouse emissions. She said he also could offer insights into what other countries are doing and what opportunities are available.

Pachauri also will be presented an alumnus award from the Edward P. Fitts Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering. The honor is given to individuals whose contributions to their profession merit special recognition.

As one of NCSU’s most accomplished alumni, Pachauri has unwittingly inspired a rush of applications to his alma mater from students in his native India.

“We’re getting greatly increased numbers of applications from India from people who know Pachauri did his graduate work here,” said Bernhard, the NCSU professor. “Sometimes the applicants actually note on the application, ‘I know our guru Rajendra Pachauri got his graduate degrees at N.C. State.”

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School strives to survive

2-year Louisburg College cuts budget, jobs, tries to adapt.

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

LOUISBURG — Louisburg College celebrated 220 years of history last week with sentimental speeches, birthday cake and a floral wreath at the tombstone of its Yale-educated founder, Matthew Dickinson.

The college may have a proud past, but its future is shaky.

Two months ago, the school was warned that it could lose its accreditation. On Thursday, the college's new president, J. Michael Clyburn, met with the faculty and staff to tell them he was cutting 20 jobs. The president, who arrived last summer from Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee, hopes to slice $1 million out of a $15 million annual budget. To stay afloat, Louisburg also plans to raise tuition 5 percent and reduce the amount of financial aid given to students.

It's all part of a plan to regain financial stability after accreditors told Louisburg leaders that the college must learn to live within its means.

"They're right," Clyburn said in an interview after the Founders' Day celebration. "I agree with them. We've got to do something."

Other changes are on the way for Methodist-affiliated Louisburg, the only private junior college left in North Carolina. Clyburn and the trustees are looking to alter the climate on campus. They're putting strict new rules into place for fall — a smoking ban, mandatory chapel services and a dress code that prohibits baggy pants and provocative clothing with profane messages.

The new policies could backfire, though, if they drive students away. Louisburg needs students — and their tuition dollars — to keep the doors open.

In U.S. higher education, where 78 universities have nest eggs of at least $1 billion, Louisburg's struggle for survival may seem an anomaly. But across the nation, many small colleges are barely scraping by. To attract students, they spruce up facilities, add sports programs and give heavy tuition discounts, only to end up with budgets that show bigger expenses than revenues. They borrow money just to make budget, and the debt builds.

Louisburg is the second school in North Carolina to face serious consequences in the past year because of federal financial trouble. Last summer, St. Andrews Presbyterian College in Laurinburg filed a lawsuit to try to stop the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools from revoking the college's accreditation. Losing accreditation is the death knell for a college, because its students become ineligible for financial aid.

For now, St. Andrews will keep its accreditation, thanks to an order from a federal judge. The lawsuit — and an appeal by the accrediting agency — are pending in a federal court in Atlanta.

Louisburg, like St. Andrews, is
on a mission to raise more donations to climb out of debt. Clyburn said the college has $15 million in promised donations on its way to a $20 million goal, but much of the money was pledged in estate gifts and won’t be available for years. The college may not have time to wait.

The job cuts last week were sprinkled throughout the college’s departments, and eight faculty members were notified that their contracts would not be renewed after this year. As painful as the decision was, campus leaders say immediate cuts are necessary if Louisburg is to pull out of debt.

‘Historical treasure’

“It’s a historical treasure in our community and in our state,” said R.C. Hunt, a Wilson businessman who is an alumnus and trustee.

“We have to preserve it.”

Louisburg College is the oldest two-year, church-related coed college in the United States. It evolved from three early schools known as Franklin Male Academy, Louisburg Female Academy, and Louisburg Female College. The main building still has a lantern hung upside down by Union soldiers during the Civil War.

Today, the college offers associate’s degrees in arts and sciences and business. Its graduates are successful — more than 90 percent go on to four-year college or university, according to Louisburg officials. But federal data show that only about one in five of entering students in 2003 graduated from Louisburg. The transfer rate was 60 percent.

Its status as a two-year college may be part of its problem. A private junior college has difficulty competing against public community colleges, which offer a two-year degree at a much lower cost than Louisburg’s annual price of $20,200.

Because Louisburg accepts students who may not be ready for a rigorous academic experience, the college is in constant recruiting mode as students drop out or transfer. Less than half of first-year students return to Louisburg for a second year, according to federal data.

A week before the accreditation warning, the trustees approved the addition of four-year programs in education and business, in an effort to turn fortunes around. But the college won’t be allowed to add any new programs until it is cleared by the accreditors.

Problems accumulate

Louisburg’s troubles have built for years. Dropping enrollment reached a crisis by 2002, when the number of students dipped to 380 after hovering between 450 and 500.

The school had to do something to attract more students. First it had to fix up its aging facilities. The college leased out its dormitories to a private company that renovated them.

In 2005, the college revived a long-dormant football program, providing an constant infusion of students and weekend activity for the sleepy campus. But the program seemed to have trouble from the start, and the coach resigned before the first game.

Clyburn said the football program has a good coach and boosts enrollment. “It is not a detriment to the budget,” he said.

Others question the wisdom of keeping football while trimming faculty.

Jerry Edwards, assistant baseball coach, was told his contract won’t be renewed, despite the baseball program’s long winning reputation.

“Why don’t they cut football?” Edwards asked. “Why did they ever start football? At the time it was said football would save the college because it would bring in 100 kids. Now we’re in worse shape than when we started football, from what I can tell.”

Enrollment has doubled since 2002, but having more students does not necessarily translate to a healthier bottom line. More than 90 percent of Louisburg students are on financial aid, with more than half eligible for the federal government’s grants for poor students. And Louisburg spends a significant amount of its own money on tuition discounts — about $2.5 million of the $15 million budget, Clyburn said. The average grant from the college in 2005-06 was more than $6,000, according to federal data.

No more droopy pants

Despite the trouble, Clyburn is optimistic. Applications are up, and the college is shooting for better academic standards who won’t require as much financial aid. The dress code is meant to foster a more mature, professional atmosphere, Clyburn said. “No more droopy pants.”

The dress code isn’t going over so well with some students.

“We should be able to dress like we want, as long as we’re comfortable and we’re paying attention and doing our work,” said Thomas Dudley, a freshman from Newark, N.J., outside the college’s historic administration building last week. He was clad in baggy pajama bottoms emblazoned with billiard balls.

“If they start making too many rules,” he said, “they’re going to lose students.”

David Harris, a freshman from Goldsboro, won’t wait to find out what happens with Louisburg’s accreditation. He plans to take his credits elsewhere in the fall. The campus is too quiet, he said, and its 70 percent male student body is too much driven by sports.

“It’s not like the college experience I thought it was going to be,” he said.

Others think Clyburn is on the right track. “His ideas for the college are really solid,” said Reed Rasberry, a sophomore from Ocean City, Md.

Caroline Smith, a sophomore from Morehead City, said she would like to see Louisburg offer four-year degrees. As it is, Smith hopes to transfer to N.C. State. She said she gained confidence and academic skills at Louisburg.

“When I first came here, the staff was so friendly,” she said. “It’s small. I like that. It’s not overwhelming like a big university. I like to say it’s a small school with a big heart.”

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Big man on campus

School of the Arts chancellor applies what he has learned as a conductor

BY CRAIG JARVIS
STAFF WRITER

WINSTON-SALEM

Chancellor John Mauceri hurtles toward every student in his path as he sallies toward the dining hall at the N.C. School of the Arts. With hugs and shoulder pats and bursts of banter, he greets the artists-in-training, who brighten in his Hollywood glow.

"Look at the people's faces," he says. "They are so happy to see me!"

As Mauceri takes his seat at a cafeteria table, high school drama students slide closer. They listen, impressed, to the news that he will conduct "Rhapsody in Blue" with pianists Herbie Hancock and Lang Lang at the Grammy Awards. They tell him about their own activities, preparing monologues for college applications or looking ahead to summer employment.

"Every job is a performing job," he tells a boy who is contemplating salesclerk work.

For Mauceri, in his second year as chancellor, that's an understatement. His résumé includes 16 years directing the Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, scores of recordings, a Tony Award, an Olivier and a Grammy. He has conducted performances with Placido Domingo, Deborah Voigt, Brian Wilson, Madonna, Kiri Te Kanawa, Roger Daltry and Patti LuPone. He appeared on the MTV Music Awards with Smashing Pumpkins, performed on "Studio 60 on the Sunset Strip" and "Cold Case," and voiced a character for the "Grand Theft Auto: Vice City" video game.

For all that, Mauceri's name is less likely to ring bells with people than those of Michael Tilson Thomas and

SEE MAUCERI, PAGE 10D
Mauceri could also wear a golden "B." He was 25 when he came under Bernstein's wing in 1971. He was a conducting fellow at Tanglewood, Mass., and Bernstein arrived for a week at the summer music institute. Between radio broadcasts of New York Philharmonic concerts, the groundbreaking Young People's Concerts and the Broadway shows, Bernstein was a superstar.

Mauceri found Bernstein's public persona suspicious and unattractive.

"I was pretty critical of most things around me," he says. "I would probably define myself as a snob, except for the fact that I loved Broadway as much as I loved opera. ... I don't think I was waiting for this moment in the middle of summer for the great master to come."

In the first rehearsal, Bernstein had Mauceri and the other conductors sing in the chorus of a Beethoven piece. Mauceri was overwhelmed with emotion. He returned to his dorm and cried, then went for a long walk in the night.

"He reminded me of why I wanted to be a musician, and he did that in a three-hour rehearsal," Mauceri says. "Whatever else, I will always be eternally grateful to him for that."

Bernstein asked Mauceri to assist him the next summer, and the relationship defined the next 18 years of his life. Bernstein became godfather and namesake to his son, and wrote a poem or a piece of music for the boy every year.

"In the last month of his life he said he wanted to spend the rest of his life teaching, which he hoped would be a lot longer than it was," Mauceri says. "I suppose there's some kind of cosmic correctness that I would be doing this now."
Coming to the school

If not for connections, Mauceri's Act III might not have been set in Winston-Salem.

Backstage at the Broadway revival of "Sweeney Todd" in 2005, he was visiting with LuPone when someone spoke his name from across the room. It took a few seconds to recognize a voice he hadn't heard in three decades: It was Freedman.

Mauceri and Freedman had worked together on an opera in San Francisco in the early 1970s. Freedman had become the drama dean at the School of the Arts and was on the search committee to find a replacement for chancellor Wade Hobgood.

Freedman, whose Broadway work includes the original 1957 production of Bernstein's "West Side Story," saw Mauceri's situation as similar to his own when the North Carolina school recruited him 17 years ago.

"We don't need to look for work — work comes to us," says Freedman, who is now 80. "What doesn't come is a challenge."


"John has made a big difference," Freedman says. "He's very erudite. He knows about a lot — in depth, not just surface things and not just art."

Mauceri's agenda includes building a new central performance space and creating scholarships. He also wants more of North Carolina to understand that the school is not just a Winston-Salem institution.

On this winter afternoon, Mauceri lingers in the movie soundstage, where students prepare an interior shot for a film about an outer-space repairman.

"Oh, good," the chancellor tells them. "I want to write the soundtrack for this movie. If you want a voice-over — chancellor of the universe."

Back outside Mauceri stands still, finally, at the center of the campus. With an audience of one, the chancellor delivers a line that sounds scripted yet entirely sincere:

"This place has felt magical since the first time I visited. Do you feel it?"

This school could make North Carolina as well known for its artists as its athletes and politicians, he says. Remember, he says, the arts are "what's left over when all the fighting is done — the flower that grows through the rubble."

"To be chancellor a school that encourages that," he says, "seems to me the best thing a person could do in his life."

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State tuition increases are smaller than usual

Average hike is 1.2 percent; book costs criticized

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Tuition at state universities will rise an average of 1.2 percent for 2008-09, while fees will increase by an average of 4.5 percent.

The UNC Board of Governors set the rates Friday in Chapel Hill. The increases were smaller than usual because of substantial new money appropriated last year by the legislature.

A few students attended the board’s tuition discussion Thursday, but unlike some previous years, there was no protest.

The board’s current tuition plan had set a cap of 5.5 percent on tuition increases. The cap is lowered if legislative appropriations rise above a historical average of 6 percent. That’s what happened last year, when the university system had a healthy increase in funding.

The tuition and fee price tag for in-state undergraduates will be: $5,143 at N.C. State University, an increase of 2.8 percent; $3,690 at N.C. Central University, a hike of 2.4 percent; and $5,228 at UNC-Chapel Hill, an increase of 1 percent. Rates for out-of-state students are $17,441 at NCSU, $13,434 at NCCU and $22,126 at UNCG. Those are annual figures that do not include costs for room, board and books.

UNC leaders expressed disappointment that campuses had not done enough to lower textbook costs. The UNC system has pushed campuses to adopt book buy-back policies and other methods that could help make textbooks more affordable. There has been little progress, board Chairman Jim Phillips said.

“We can and must do better for the students on that issue,” Phillips said.

UNC President Erskine Bowles on Thursday blamed faculty, in part, for not ordering books promptly. In 2006-07, a systemwide average of 71 percent of textbook orders were placed on time. UNC-CH had the worst rate, with only 43 percent of orders on time.

In strong terms, Bowles said that unless the situation improves, “I’m not going to bust my tail at the legislature,” referring to his role as an advocate for higher faculty salaries.

“The thing that bothers me is, we’ve worked hard to get faculty compensation up,” Bowles said. “By golly, the faculty owe it to the students to help us get the cost of textbooks down.”

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NCCU expansion worries neighbors

Nelms pushes a plan to buy 136 homes

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — During the next decade, N.C. Central University wants to tear down 19 buildings, put up more than two dozen, and edge into nearby neighborhoods by buying 136 homes and other properties.

These intentions, made public recently with the release of a draft master plan, have set many in the community on edge. Though the university promises to pay fair market value, many longtime residents of the bungalows in and around NCCU and the Fayetteville Street corridor feel campus officials are sacrificing a rich local history in the name of growth and expansion.

The clash is emerging as the first big challenge for Chancellor Charlie Nelms, who arrived last summer from Indiana University and is not, as many locals have pointed out, a native of Durham or even a North Carolinian. He counters by promising to listen to their concerns, but also insists NCCU must grow.

Residents worry that Nelms is tone-deaf to the history of the historic black neighborhoods around NCCU. Homes there are passed from generation to generation, and campus and neighborhoods, inextricably linked, have matured together.

"You need to include the people who have heart and soul invested in this community," Durham native Scarlett McNeill-Wingate, who grew up in a home on Fayetteville Street near NCCU, said recently during a forum at which Nelms defended the plan. "It hurts to see our neighborhood totally destroyed. You have to be extra sensitive because you aren't from here."

Nelms oversees a university in growth mode with a few key projects driving the planning process. The nursing program is growing fast and has received planning money to evolve into a full-service professional school. To do that, NCCU must soon have a new nursing building.

A growing football program and other expanding professional programs also are driving the expansion, Nelms and other officials say.
"I'm prepared to listen to anyone who has a suggestion or recommendation," Nelms said at a community forum last week. "But I also know we need a school of nursing. We need a school of business."

Though there is no definitive price tag for the entire plan, officials know the nursing school is expected to cost $25 million and new residence halls will total an estimated $30 million.

Some neighbors say the university is steamrolling ahead with this master plan — which may go to NCCU's Board of Trustees for approval later this month — without adequate community involvement. Though a planning committee originally included community members, Nelms acknowledged recently he feels committees can be overly cumbersome. The committee portion of the process is now over, he said.

"I have yet to see a plan where everyone agrees on everything," he said.

If the plan is approved, the university will start contacting property owners. The State Property Office is responsible for negotiating purchases.

'Cruising this history'

Carolyn Green Boone, the great-granddaughter of NCCU founder James Shepard, thinks Nelms and other NCCU administrators are ignoring the significance of many of the aged homes near campus. Many homes near Lawson and Fayetteville streets, in particular, deserve more of a hearing than the university is providing them, Boone argued.

One in particular is the Rivera house on Fayetteville Street, the former home of noted documentarian and photographer Alexander Rivera. NCCU owns it and plans to demolish it, saying it is not structurally sound. Boone disputes that and thinks it is historic and ought to be preserved. "They're cruising this history," she said. "They're demolishing it, and the history behind these homes is gone when the homes are gone."

Nelms says the university has checked each property it wants to purchase, and none is designated for protection by the state's historic preservation office.

Other neighbors simply feel the university doesn't need to get bigger. Corrine Mahry, for one, took Nelms to task recently for not understanding the community.

"You cannot make a university better by expanding it," she said. "You must think past the immediate need and think about what you're doing to people's lives."

Nelms promises responsible decisions. He has been through this sort of conflict before. In 1998, while head of the University of Michigan's Flint campus, he inherited a town-gown brawl involving a property given to the university for academic uses that some preferred to be used for a casino. He understands the delicate touch involved in telling people, for example, that the university wants to turn their homes into a parking lot or science lab.

"I'm not going to sell my soul for anything not in the best interests of the community," he said.

However, he leads a university with hefty ambitions. His campus is bursting at its borders and needs more dorm rooms and parking spaces — two of the master plan's top priorities. NCCU has 8,300 students — about 50 percent more than just seven years ago — and enrollment is projected to swell to 13,500 by 2017. That's a long way from the NCCU so many neighbors so fondly remember from their old college days.

Perhaps nowhere is the university's growth more evident than in these small, cramped neighborhoods, where every weekday, commuter students jam their cars into every conceivable roadside space, occasionally blocking a driveway and more than occasionally frustrating a homeowner.

Yet there has been no serious public discussion of a satellite campus, at a UNC-Chapel Hill's Carolina North proposal or N.C. State University's Centennial Campus. Neighbors have said such a plan could alleviate traffic and other infrastructure concerns, and might allay NCCU's need to acquire so much residential property.

Creslie Thigpen, chairman of NCCU's Board of Trustees, said this week that such a venture has not been formally considered. Nelms said a satellite campus wouldn't work given projected enrollment and expected growth.

Some neighbors also fear the university will use eminent domain — a legal mechanism by which government can take private land if it can demonstrate it suits the greater public good. But Nelms said many residents welcome the chance to sell.

"I think people have a mutual interest in working with us," he said.
ORANGE COUNTY

UNC panel chooses summer reading

CHAPEL HILL — Many students entering UNC-Chapel Hill this fall will be reading and discussing a book that challenges ideas about minority rights and social integration.

A committee chose “Covering: The Hidden Assault on Our Civil Rights” by Kenji Yoshino as this year’s selection in the annual summer reading program. The university asks all first-year and incoming transfer students to read the same book over the summer, and participate in discussions led by faculty and staff when they arrive on campus.

The book was selected by a nine-member committee of students, faculty and staff.

Committee chairman Peter A. Coclanis, associate provost for international affairs, said in a news release Friday that the book will push students to rethink the definition of equality and how “covering” — or downplaying stigmatizing identities to fit into the mainstream — degrades civil rights for everyone.

Yoshino is a law professor at Yale University. The book was published in 2006.