UNC Governors OK tuition hikes
By Jackie Drake
Saturday, February 11, 2012

Tuition and fees for undergraduate residents at East Carolina University will increase 9.3 percent under a proposal approved Friday by the UNC Board of Governors.

The decision in Chapel Hill took place amid protests from about 150 students; one was arrested.

The governors approved the recommendations of UNC President Tom Ross, who proposed increases averaging 8.8 percent across the 16 campuses. Increases at individual institutions were capped at 10 percent, ranging from 9.9 percent at Chapel Hill and 9.8 percent at N.C. State to 4.3 percent at UNC-Pembroke.

Tuition is not final until approved by the General Assembly in the state budget this summer.

The system lost $414 million in state funding last year. At ECU, state budget cuts were 16 percent or $49 million.

Under the proposal, ECU in-state undergrads would pay $5,813 next year compared to $5,317 this year, a difference of $496. That includes a $95 fee increase. Undergraduate non-residents will pay $19,627 next year, a 9.7 percent increase from this year.

“We are still a bargain,” Rick Niswander, vice chancellor for administration and finance, said Friday. “When compared to our peer institutions around the country, we have the lowest tuition. In addition, we are right about in the middle in the state.”

Tuition and fees will increase less in 2012-13 at ECU than at 10 of its sister campuses in the UNC system, even though it is the third-largest campus, according to a fact sheet released Friday by the university. ECU will remain less expensive than five of its 16 sister campuses in N.C., including Appalachian State, UNC-Greensboro, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State. ECU’s tuition rates rank in the lowest one-quarter among its national peers, that is, among universities of similar size and course offerings.
In December, the ECU Board of Trustees recommended a 9.5 percent increase in tuition and fees for resident undergraduates and 9.9 percent for non-resident and graduate students. While the dollar figures for the increases are the same, the percentages are different from the 9.3 and 9.7 percent figures from the governors because of differences in what payments are counted in the UNC base calculation, Niswander said.

Thirty-three percent of total revenue from the increase will go to need- and merit-based financial aid. ECU has the largest number of students who qualify as financially needy of any campus in the UNC system. The state Legislature cut funding for need-based financial aid by $35 million for 2011-12.

The remaining revenue, $9.4 million, will go to operations to fund measures that enhance student learning, such as hiring faculty to restore course sections lost to state budget cuts, student tutoring, security and safety and faculty retention.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567 or on Twitter @jackiedrakegdr.
Protesters shout "No!" Friday morning as they watch closed circuit TV showing the UNC Board of Governors voting to raise tuition. Those who couldn't get into the crowded boardroom had to watch from the lobby.

**Ross hails approved tuition increases 'the right thing'**

BY JANE STANCILL - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL – Surrounded by a raucous student protest, the UNC Board of Governors on Friday approved tuition and fee increases averaging 8.8 percent for in-state undergraduates across the university system for next year.

Using the sort of call-and-response chants that have been a hallmark of the Occupy Wall Street movement, about 100 students marched and pushed their way into the lobby outside the UNC Board of Governors meeting before the vote. At least one person was arrested, and a handful of protesters occupied seats in the boardroom that were reserved for UNC chancellors.

"Those seats are our seats!" the students chanted from the lobby.

The board, despite a few dissenting votes, approved the increases, which for in-state undergraduates include a second year of higher tuition rates that average 4.2 percent. Prices for 2013-2014 will be set later for out-of-state and graduate students.
For 2012-2013, in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees will rise by 8.5 percent at N.C. Central University, 9.8 percent at N.C. State University, and 9.9 percent at UNC-Chapel Hill. Some of the UNC campuses, including NCSU and UNC-CH, had asked for higher tuition to help cope with state budget cuts.

But UNC system President Tom Ross insisted that increases stay below 10 percent.

Immediately after the vote, one protester yelled "Mic check" and launched into a chant with other protesters, who repeated in unison, "The Board of Governors, inside this tiny, inadequate public meeting, votes to approve extreme tuition increases. This is a sad day for public education and for democracy. We, the students, wish the Board of Governors had acted with courage and upheld the North Carolina constitution."

North Carolina has a provision in its constitution for free higher education "as far as practicable." Students often cite the provision when arguing against price increases.

Ross said the tuition-setting process this year had been wrenching. He said the new tuition revenue will help campuses stabilize after four years of budget turmoil, including a $414 million reduction last year. The state cuts have led to crowded classes and fewer academic offerings, he said, and it's important to act now to prevent a slide in quality in the UNC system.

"We're trying to strike the right balance. ... I don't think anybody likes this. It is hard on all of us," Ross said. "But I'm absolutely convinced this is the right thing for the state of North Carolina and for this university."

'A short bridge'

Chairwoman Hannah Gage said the board had made a difficult but informed decision.

"The tuition increase that we passed today will not, and should not, fill the budget hole," she said. "But it does provide a bridge, a short bridge, over troubled water. The reality now is, we've got to figure out what we do when we get to the other side of that bridge. We don't want to be back in this position next year, and we do not want to be back in this position two years from now."

Gage called on the board to return to its tuition strategy that has capped increases at 6.5 percent in recent years. The increase enacted Friday was an exception that should not become the norm, she said.
Universities also must focus daily on cost containment, Gage said.

"We have to show the taxpayers of North Carolina, and the legislature, that every penny that's invested in the University of North Carolina is wisely spent," she said.

Ross has proposed three main efforts aimed in that direction: achieving operational and academic efficiencies, using technology more effectively in education, and devising a strategy for financial aid.

Financial aid is likely to be a centerpiece of the debate ahead. Some board members do not agree with campus plans to set aside a large chunk of tuition proceeds for grants for needy students. The state requires campuses to use a minimum of 25 percent of tuition revenue for financial aid.

Frank Grainger, a board member from Cary, proposed limiting the set aside to 25 percent in the second year of the tuition increase.

"We've got kids at those universities that are having to work two or three jobs to be able to pay their way through school," he said. "It's not fair for them to have to make that money and then turn around and that money to go to some other kid that's not working."

More than half of UNC system students receive need-based financial aid. Limiting the set aside to 25 percent would be a big problem for campuses that are largely attended by students from poor families, said James Anderson, chancellor of Fayetteville State University. Some 95 percent of FSU students are low-income students eligible for aid, he said.

Grainger's motion failed, but the board plans to study the various sources of money for financial aid.

Students who couldn't get into the crowded boardroom watched the meeting on TV monitors in the lobby. At one point, they began to yell, "We want financial aid! We want financial aid!"

After the meeting, protesters flooded the boardroom, and some board members left through a back door. The students then sat at the square board table and continued their protest.

**Met by police**

Earlier in the morning, they marched down Raleigh Road toward the UNC administration building, beating drums and carrying signs and banners.

They were met by police officers who tried to prevent the crowd from entering the building, but the students pushed ahead anyway.
Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP, joined students, saying the board should stand with the protesters against budget cuts from the legislature.

One protester, Andrew Payne, 33, of Raleigh, was charged with second-degree trespassing and resisting, obstructing and delaying a law enforcement officer.

Payne is a former NCSU student and head of the Association of Student Governments, a systemwide group of student leaders. He previously served as the student representative on the Board of Governors.

After the meeting, Ross said he admired the students' passion and their desire to be heard.

"They're good kids and they're passionate and it's a difficult time," he said. "You can't be upset with them."

Laura McCready, a UNC-CH sophomore from Charlotte who sat in a chancellor's seat, said the act was a symbolic gesture to show the board that students should have a voice in the conversation.

"I don't think they had the sense of how upset and angry and scared students are right now," she said. "I think we got the point across."

Stancill: 919-829-4559
# Tuition Across the UNC System

Undergraduate tuition and fees for 2012-13. Figures do not include costs for room, meals and books.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Tuition in-state</th>
<th>Increase in-state</th>
<th>Tuition out-of-state</th>
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Another hit

In North Carolina, a state where the constitution promises an education as close to free "as practicable," students at the state's institutions of higher learning might well ask, "Who's defining 'practicable' these days?" Because substantial increases in tuition and fees over the last decade and then some have made the hill, the financial hill, steeper for students at all campuses of the University of North Carolina system.

And they can add a few more degrees of incline now that the UNC system's Board of Governors has approved yet more tuition increases. They'll average 8.8 percent more for in-state undergraduates in the 2012-13 year and 4.2 percent more in the following year (more at UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State, less at other schools).

The rationale presented is that huge cuts by the General Assembly in the name of budget-balancing (over $400 million for the university system) have forced the system to find money somewhere in order to maintain quality, and students simply must pay more.

Of course, the group that would appear to take the biggest hit would be those students in the middle class, perhaps not eligible for big financial aid because of family income, but stressed by increases.

There is no question that in national comparisons, the UNC system stacks up well in terms of expense. There's also no question that the Republican-led General Assembly has been shortsighted in its budget-cutting. The university system is a crown jewel for this state and returns tangible dividends (in a better educated population) and intangible ones (dreams fulfilled).

But the state has had that historic covenant with citizens to provide a low-cost education, and the UNC system's leaders, particularly the Board of Governors, seem to be interpreting that promise liberally.

While system President Tom Ross expressed sincere concern about tuition and presented a plan that was less than some chancellors wanted, these are substantial increases that should have university leaders asking themselves if they are taking a risk that some in the middle class will be priced out of a public education.
It is all the more maddening considering that had lawmakers left in place a relatively small temporary sales tax of three-quarters of a cent on a dollar, about $850 million a year would right now be getting raised, money that could go partly to public education, including the UNC system. (Gov. Beverly Perdue wants that tax restored; Republicans in the General Assembly intend to ignore her.)

GOP leaders apparently believe it's just fine to add yet another burden to the backs of average citizens.
ECU wins grant to instruct in physics
By Jackie Drake
Saturday, February 11, 2012

Learning is in motion between public school teachers and higher education experts at East Carolina University.

Several departments and colleges at ECU are partnering with three county school systems to provide teacher training under a Mathematics Science Partnership grant called “Physics is Essential.”

A group of teachers from Wayne, Craven and Beaufort county schools will spend today at the physics department to learn more about “Forces and Motion and Energy: Conservation and Transfer” and how to teach those areas to grades K-8.

According to grant investigators Tammy Lee and Mark Sprague with ECU, there are three goals for this grant: to increase teacher content knowledge in the area of physics, to increase teaching confidence and provide professional development of teaching methods and also to increase student knowledge.

It is extremely important for ECU to partner with public schools, Lee said. “In today’s society, we need more people choosing STEM careers to face the problems of our complex society,” she said. “People will not choose these careers unless they have a solid foundation in the sciences. ECU’s answer to this problem is to provide professional development in the sciences with an actual scientist and a science educator working together to illustrate a comprehensive picture of the content of science to teachers and then how to implement this knowledge in a classroom to students.”

ECU partners from The College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education include the Department of Physics and the Department of Mathematics Science and Instructional Technology Education. The university’s STEM Center for science, technology, and mathematics education is also involved.

The highly competitive grant will provide almost $175,000 in three years from the U.S. Department of Education for local schools systems that partner with higher education institutions to improve teaching and learning in scientific and mathematical fields.
Each year, 25 teachers selected from the participating school systems from different grade levels will participate in content knowledge sessions held on Saturdays during the school year. In these sessions the teachers will learn content through hands-on activities, experiments, and inquiry-based learning. Participants will be given a classroom demonstration kit appropriate to their grade levels.

After the school year, the teachers will form grade-level teams to develop a curriculum unit appropriate for their students. Next, the teams will teach their curriculum units to students from their counties attending a five-day session at the ECU Summer Science Camp on scholarships funded by this grant.

With new essential standards for science coming next school year, the training will be all the more helpful to teachers, Lee said.

“These teachers will benefit from 84 intense hours of science professional development, which has not been offered in any of the counties for the past several years,” Lee said. “Teachers within Physics is Essential will have the opportunity to learn and develop units based on these New Essential Science Standards in physical science. These teachers will serve as teacher leaders back in their counties and will be able to lead science professional development to other teachers at their schools as well as across their respective counties.”

The summer camp with students “is a unique opportunity for teachers to try out their developed lessons with real students before implementing them back in their classrooms,” she said.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567 or on Twitter @jackiedrakegdr.
Simple pranks during initiation to a student organization can have costly consequences, including thousands of dollars in civil liability and death, a local attorney said.

Peter Romary, director of student legal services at East Carolina University, on Saturday spoke about the harmful effects of hazing with members of the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., during the 2012 N.C. Collegiate and Youth Retreat.

Student organizations, including sororities and fraternities, focus on friendships and encouraging a sense of belonging, Romary said.

“What do we all want in life? We want to belong,” Romary said. “Hazing does not tell someone that they belong.”

Hazing centers on breaking people down through humiliation and degradation, he said.

The ECU student code of conduct defines hazing as: “Acting in a manner that would subject another student to physical injury or mental or emotional harm as part of an initiation, or as a criterion of membership, into any
organized university group, including any society, athletics team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group.”

Officials at the university say allegations of hazing have increased in recent years.

ECU has had at least four reports of hazing in the last couple of years, with the majority of those coming from Greek life organizations, according to Margaret Olszewska, director of the Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.

“We have not had hazing incidents on this campus that have resulted in death, and we are thankful for that,” she said. “We have experienced some milder forms of hazing on our campus.”

Romary said hazing is classified into three categories — subtle, harassment and violent.

Subtle hazing is a milder form and includes deprivation of privileges granted to other members, assigning demerits, social isolation and name-calling, he said.

Harassment includes verbal abuse, threats and sleep deprivation. The most extreme form of hazing — violent hazing — includes paddling, physical assault, forced alcohol or drug consumption, and kidnapping.

“The events that constitute hazing are so diverse and range from blindfolding a person, driving an hour away and requiring the person to find his or her way back to making people eat or drink to locking people in buildings or structures,” Olszewska said.

“People say hazing is just part of induction, a rite of passage,” Romary said. “People say that’s not that bad, that it’s not harmful. Do you want to tell the lady at UC Berkeley it doesn’t cause harm?”

Britteny Starling, a former pledge of the University of California, Berkeley, chapter of the sorority, alleges her sorority sisters beat her, forced her to stay awake all night and forbid her from using the bathroom.

Starling last month filed a lawsuit against the sorority following several instances of alleged hazing during the 2010-11 school year.

“One of the things we say to our sisters, mothers and daughters is never let a man lay a hand on you,” Romary said. “Why would you let another woman?
“This reminds me so much of domestic violence,” he said. “People ask why the woman doesn’t leave. If she left, she was going to be told she was nothing.”

Romary said he has represented domestic violence or abuse victims, and the harmful effects of abuse are lasting.

“Families who love each other don’t do this,” he said. “You are here to build folks up, to reach out a hand of friendship, to be a family of support.

“You have no idea what the impact can be,” he said. “Things can go very wrong, very quickly.”

A hazing act that results in physical harm can be costly, he said, noting insurance policies do not cover intentional acts, and civil liability can run into the tens of thousands of dollars.

“Even if you win the case, it’s going to cost you a boatload of money,” he said. “Even if you win the case, it’s going to tarnish your reputation.”

One negative event will outweigh 100 positive events, Romary said.


A drum major at Florida A&M University died in November after being beaten on a team bus.

The death of Robert Champion Jr., 26, was ruled a homicide by a medical examiner, who found he died of internal bleeding caused by blunt-force trauma received during a hazing incident.

“Every time someone says Florida A&M, everyone thinks about hazing now,” Romary said. “Hazing is going to negatively impact you. It is going to negatively impact your organization.”

He said hazing is often rationalized by organization members who say they see other organizations participating in hazing activities. Members also claim hazing bonds members, he said.

“We can either enjoy great pain together or we can enjoy great pleasure together, and both will have an equal impact,” Romary said. “College is a difficult time. We do not need to break people. We need to build them up.”

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ECU students get off a transit bus that was involved in an accident on 10th Street near the intersection of College Hill on Friday morning. (Rhett Butler)

**ECU bus driver charged in wreck**  
Saturday, February 11, 2012

The driver of an East Carolina University transit bus has been charged after a Friday morning wreck on East 10th Street that sent at least five people to the hospital.

The wreck involved an ECU bus, driven by a student employee, and two other vehicles.

The driver was charged with failing to decrease speed as necessary to avoid a collision and has been removed from service pending an ongoing investigation by the university, according to a news release issued by ECU Transit.

Officers with the Greenville Police Department said a vehicle was stopped shortly before noon on East 10th Street near College Hill Drive to make a right-hand turn into a parking lot.

A Ford F-150 pick-up and an Acura sedan traveling behind the vehicle also came to a stop.

The ECU bus then rear-ended the Acura, sending it into the rear of the Ford F-150, officers said.

Police said the bus driver reported he was looking in the rearview mirror, then noticed the stopped vehicles and was not able to stop in time to avoid rear-ending the Acura.
At least five people were transported to Vidant Medical Center, officers said. All five were in the Acura.

Officers did not know the extent of their injuries. None of the eight passengers on the bus were injured.

ECU Transit is continuing to investigate the cause of the incident, according to Wood Davidson, director.

“The driver of the bus is a student employee,” Davidson said. “An investigation by our operations and safety units is under way, and the employee will be subject to our personnel policies as appropriate based on the findings of the investigation.”

ECU’s transit system includes 44 vehicles, primarily buses and vans, and the fleet is operated by 130 student drivers who must undergo 81.5 hours of training and instruction in order to operate a vehicle.

“We are certainly proud of our safety record and our ongoing commitment to being responsible drivers,” Davidson said.

Since July 1, 2011, the fleet has traveled 455,048 miles with only 12 collisions classified as “preventable,” he said.
ECU Notes: Students EXCEL
Sunday, February 12, 2012

Students celebrating a successful first semester at East Carolina University were lauded over the last two weeks with inclusion in the ECU EXCELS program. This is the third year ECU systematically has honored new students who earned a 3.0 GPA or higher. More than 2,175 individuals made the honors, dean’s or chancellor’s list last fall — about 41 percent of all freshman and first semester transfer students, according to ECU EXCELS coordinator Stephanie Bailey.

EXCELS connects high achieving students with faculty members conducting research, volunteer and leadership opportunities and professional organizations within their field. Bailey said administrators are aware ECU is “a plan B” for many high achieving students, and some students attend for a semester to raise their GPA before transferring to another institution.

“We want to show (students) ECU has these excellent programs,” Bailey said. “We want to keep you here.”

The recognition ceremony varies at each of the nine participating colleges.

“We do so much … for our students with academic difficulties,” said Jennifer Cabacar, academic advisor with the School of Communication. “We felt like we were missing a piece of the puzzle.”

The College of Fine Arts and Communication held its installment Friday, Feb. 3, featuring a musical performance and student and faculty speakers.
Parents were also invited to attend — an opportunity Havelock native Theresa Holtz’ family took advantage of.

“It means I survived,” the art education major said of Friday’s ceremony. “This last semester was a very tough semester with school and home so I’m very happy to be here.”

Michael Dorsey, interim dean of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, said the event not only celebrates last semester’s accomplishments, but also provides encouragement for students to “maintain that pace.”

Freshman Natalie McHale hopes to improve on that challenge.

“I feel like going to college is a privilege, and I want to take advantage of what I’m being given by my parents,” the communications major said. “I actually want to do better this semester and try to get straight As. That’s my goal.”

The last of this year’s ECU EXCELS ceremonies is scheduled for Wednesday. It will recognize more than 450 students in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences.

Professor helps with sea-level research

ECU researcher Reide Corbett will join a team of colleagues studying sea-level rise and flooding from hurricanes along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts, thanks to a 3-year, $1.5 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Corbett is a professor in the Department of Geological Sciences and a research scientist in ECU’s Institute for Coastal Science and Policy. He will work closely with the project’s lead investigator, Dr. Benjamin Horton, associate professor in the Department of Earth and Environmental Science at the University of Pennsylvania.

“Coastal North Carolina may see significant changes in the future due to rising seas and continued tropical cyclone activity,” Corbett said.

“To effectively adapt to a changing coast, we need to better understand the relationship between climate and sea level variability,” he said. “That is one of the main objectives of this study — using the past as a key to the future.”

The team will combine sea-level rise scenarios with state-of-the-science hurricane and storm surge modeling at six study sites from Florida to Massachusetts. This will enable them to map coastal flooding for the current climate and the best- and worst-case climate scenarios of the 21st century.
This spring, researchers will begin to meet with coastal managers to get input about how sea-level and flooding projections might best be put to use.

“It’s important that we present our scientific results and products to local communities,” Corbett said. “We will be providing information and products that will aid in future planning.”

**ECU to host FAFSA Day on Saturday**

ECU will host a FAFSA Day from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday in Joyner Library.

Staff from ECU, Pitt Community College and Miller-Motte College will help students and families complete the federal application for financial aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is used to determine eligibility for most financial aid programs to assist in the cost of higher education.

FAFSA events will be held at more than 300 locations across the state, concluding a week of attention to financial aid awareness. Gov. Beverly Perdue proclaimed Financial Aid Awareness Week in North Carolina on Feb. 13-19, urging students and families to learn more about applying for financial assistance for college.

Registration is recommended. To register or for more information, visit www.cfnc.org/ffasaday or call 866-866-CFNC (2362).

Another option for students and parents with a few questions is the FAFSA Phone-In offered every Tuesday in February between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. to the toll-free number, 866-866-CFNC (2362).

Financial Aid Awareness Week is sponsored by the N.C. Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators. The association, College Foundation of North Carolina and the State Employees’ Credit Union join to make FAFSA Day available.

**Joyner Library hosts illustrator at summit**

The seventh annual Librarian to Librarian Summit was held on Feb. 4 at Joyner Library’s Teaching Resources Center.

The conference, one of two statewide, featured more than 30 diverse roundtable discussions from understanding cultural diversity in elementary education to copyright and app exchanges.

“Joyner Library strives to provide an environment for scholarship and collaboration,” said Larry Boyer, dean of academic library and learning
resources. “One outstanding example of this is our Librarian to Librarian Summit, a unique conference hosted by our Teaching Resources Center, providing the venue for professional development to school librarians and media specialists from across North Carolina.”

North Carolina native and award-winning children’s book illustrator James Ransome gave the keynote address. Ransome has received both the Coretta Scott King Award for Illustration and the IBBY Honor Award for his book, “The Creation.”

For Ransome, who was raised in Rich Square by his grandmother, the story always has been his inspiration and uses his writing and illustration to instill in children the unique qualities of our cultural and racial differences.

**Upcoming Events:**

Today: Joanne Bath, violin, and Charles Bath, piano, performing in ECU School of Music faculty recital, 3 p.m., A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Free and open to the public.

Monday: Lecture: Measurement of Resistance Exercise/Strength Training in Women, presented by Dr. James Morrow Jr., professor at University of North Texas, 4 p.m., Belk Building Room 1503.

Tuesday: Southern Circuit Tour of Independent Filmmakers screening of “The Toe Tactic,” 7 p.m., Greenville Museum of Art. Filmmaker Emily Hubley will be on hand to discuss her work. Free.

See [www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Richard Licko’s heart ticked faster when he learned a French pocket watch that likely belonged to his grandfather was a valuable piece of jewelry during Greenville’s version of “Antiques Roadshow.”

The free sixth annual event held by the Pitt County Historical Society drew about 60 people to the Historic Red Banks Primitive Baptist Church on Sunday. They came to hear local experts deliver a friendly verdict on the value of their treasures: antique, collectible or garage sale fodder.

The panel of four men versed in the realm of antiques was enthusiastic about Licko’s key winder gold watch, circa 1870.

“It’s a real treasure,” said society officer Henry Doskey, a retired East Carolina University professor and former antiques dealer. “It’s probably the most valuable thing here.”

The group declined to estimate its value, saying that’s in the realm of a specialist.

The items displayed and discussed ranged from a tintype photo to a collectible ship model to late 19th-century fish knives with ivory handles.

Panelist Carlyle Windley, a former antiques dealer, said the knives were worth between $400 and $500.
The owner of the knife set said he bought it in London years ago and had thought it was worth about $45. There was clapping about his surprise windfall.

Another valuable item was an ivory carving of a goddess that Windley said dated before World War II. “The carving is unusually good,” he noted. A bent fingertip didn’t detract from its overall value of $500 to $600.

An ebony wood cane with an ivory handle, circa 1850, also proved to be worth up to $450. Its owner said he bought it 55 years ago when he was a teenager. By pulling on the cane handle, a saber is unsheathed.

Panelist Dan Roberson of Dan’s Dapper Antiques and Collectables joked that it probably came in handy when defending a “bride or girlfriend.”

Roberson’s examination of a spice box noted its attributes — it’s a complete set — and its deficits — a stenciled name instead of a hand-painted one. The panel’s consensus placed it at circa 1910.

“It’s a wonderful ornamental piece,” Windley said, adding he’d price it at $125 but would be willing to negotiate.

And there were the oddities, like an 18th-century oil burner from Spain. And there were the suspected imposters.

One woman’s Japanese figurine was deemed a likely fake. Jack Taft, a history buff on the board of the nonprofit East Carolina Village of Yesteryear, interjected if that it were authentic, it’s value would fluctuate based on demand.

The figurine’s owner was undeterred, joking that if she keeps it long enough, and everyone else breaks their statues, it will be worth something.

And there were the pieces deemed lovely to look at by the panel but lacking in monetary value.

Taft said a Victorian jewelry box with inlaid mother-of-pearl was of a style popular item in Europe. While Roberson dubbed the box beautiful, his assigned value was in the $25 to $75 range.

The free assessments were fun for the onlookers, including the owner of the jewelry box. “It was fun to hear them talk about it,” Mary Kathryn Thornton said.

Doskey said it’s interesting to see what people have discovered at these events.
“It’s exciting to see what people are hiding in their closets at home that they’ve inherited from their family or just found in shops — the curiosities that people have,” Doskey said. Unsuspected treasure may be unearthed, but that’s not the point. Society chairman Tom Harwell joked that the event is a “local production” of the PBS show that’s just for fun. Nothing is for sale. Several owners said it is the sentimental value or the family connection that mattered most.

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Blackburn joins Brody staff
Monday, February 13, 2012

Dr. Randy Blackburn has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Blackburn, a radiation oncologist, is a clinical professor in the Department of Radiation Oncology at ECU and director of radiation oncology at Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville. He has nearly 25 years of experience as a radiation oncologist and anesthesiologist/pain medicine specialist.

Blackburn has a medical degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. He completed an internship at Doctors Hospital in Massillon, Ohio, and residency training in radiation medicine at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics and at the University of Kentucky. He also completed a residency in anesthesia at Cuyahoga Falls (Ohio) General Hospital. Blackburn also has a physician’s executive health care master’s of business administration degree from the University of Tennessee.

In 2010, Blackburn’s cancer program at Davis Memorial Hospital Cancer Care Center in Elkins, W.Va., was the recipient of the Commission on Cancer New Program Outstanding Achievement Award.
Blackburn’s clinical interests are the care of cancers of the brain, head and neck, breast, lung, rectum and prostate, intensity-modulated radiation therapy, image-guided radiation therapy and practice management. He sees patients at OMH/Onslow Radiation Oncolo
ADA News

Dental program weds 30 years of service, destiny for its volunteers
February 06, 2012
By Stacie Crozier, ADA News Staff

Linthicum, Md.—A venerable international dental program now in its 30th year has brought pain relief and a better quality of life to more than 56,000 people in the mountains of the Dominican Republic, but the impact of the Dominican Dental Mission Project has also been personally life changing for many of its volunteers.

Dr. Francis G. Serio, founder and past director for the project, admits that his first volunteer trip to the Dominican Republic in 1982 was a learning experience and a personal journey.

“The first year I went by myself,” Dr. Serio said. “I didn’t speak Spanish. I didn’t know anything about the country or about development. I didn’t know what I was doing.”

But after his first summer trip, he said he was hooked.

“I had no grand designs at the beginning,” said Dr. Serio. “After my first trip, I held a little lunch and learn session at Maryland where I was an assistant professor (the University of Maryland Baltimore College of Dental Surgery) and some dental students volunteered to go the next summer. That’s how it got started. Five of us went the second year.”
Almost three decades later, one of the original five volunteers, Dr. Douglas D. Wright, a general dentist in Harrisonburg, Va., volunteered for the 2011 mission and brought his 17-year-old son as well.

To mark its 10th anniversary, the program was honored at the White House with the President’s Volunteer Action Award from President George H. W. Bush and was again honored on its 20th anniversary with a Daily Points of Light Award from President George W. Bush.

Some 500 dentists, dental students and lay volunteers have worked with the project and at least $9 million in care has been provided at the DDMP’s three clinic sites, San Jose de Ocoa, Hondo Valle and El Cercado.

“Hondo Valle is literally at the end of the road, two miles from the Haitian border,” said Dr. Serio. “The village and its church organize it with us, and we set up our portable equipment for the clinic in the parish hall. We plugged the program into the context of their other ministries so it works in context with the community.

“One year we got a letter from the missionaires that said they know that because the dentists come to Hondo Valle every year the villagers know that God has not forgotten them,” he said. “You could have knocked me over with a feather when I read that. Hope is the greatest gift you can give to someone who is despairing. And we are honored and humbled that we can do that.”

Dr. Serio, now interim vice dean, professor and associate dean for clinical affairs at East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine, served as the Dominican Dental Mission Project director for 20 years before passing the leadership role to his colleague and DDMP volunteer Dr. Steve Pohlhaus in 2001. Dr. Pohlhaus, a general dentist in Linthicum, Md., and University of Maryland professor met his destiny while volunteering in the Dominican Republic.

“I went on the trip as a dental student in 1988 and made my first return visit in 1992,” said Dr. Pohlhaus. “It was the next year when I met my wife, Dr. Jenny De La Cruz Pohlhaus, when she joined the group as a dental student from the Autonomous University of Santo Domingo. We became friends and saw each other each summer on the project and a few years later as they say, one thing led to another and we were married in 1998.

“The trip has meant so much to both of us,” Dr. Pohlhaus added. “We have many friends in the Dominican Republic who treat us like family every year
and the trip would be impossible without their help. We feel fortunate to have the opportunity to apply our skills to help our friends every year.”

Dr. Serio’s brother Stephen Serio, a Chicago-based photographer, also met his wife on a DDMP trip.

“My brother went on a trip with us to photograph the mission and to be my right-hand guy with the equipment,” Dr. Serio said. “One of my former students, now Dr. Michelle Serio, was also on the trip. She and my brother had met briefly before the trip, but working together on the mission really brought them together.” Stephen and Dr. Michelle Serio now live in suburban Chicago.

A third union is also credited to the project, Dr. Serio added. Colleague and volunteer Dr. Raymond Zambito of Locust Valley, N.Y., brought his daughter Christine on a trip because she spoke Spanish, and she ended up meeting the Dominican man she later married.

“Besides these marriages,” said Dr. Serio, “It’s important to note that my wife, Dr. Cheryl Serio (now director of advanced education in general dentistry at East Carolina University) and I went on a mission trip right before our wedding. She saw how important the project was to me. She didn’t go for several years after that, because she was the support system at home for our young children, but now that they are grown, we are able to go together. My mother and several of my siblings, as well as my children have gone on trips. It means so much to our family to be a part of this.”

“The personal impact of the Dominican Dental Mission Project is impossible to measure in my life as well as in the lives of many volunteers,” said Dr. Pohlhaus. “Life is full of twists and turns that one can never predict. We simply can look at our two daughters and understand that without both our decisions to be a part of the project, they would not be there smiling back at us.”

For more information on the project, visit Dr. Pohlhaus’ website: www.laserdentistbaltimore.com/dominican-republic-dental-project.

Visit the ADA’s International Volunteer Web page, http://internationalvolunteer.ada.org, to search for volunteer opportunities by organization, country/region, program type and more, or contact the ADA Division of Global Affairs at 1-312-440-2726 for more information.
Lung cancer survivor Taylor Bell never smoked and was a college soccer player. She is now working to raise awareness of the disease. Photo by Paul Stephen.

**Here Now - Lung cancer survivor still battling disease's stigma**

By Si Cantwell
Si.Cantwell@StarNewsOnline.com

Taylor Bell faced a dilemma Wednesday morning as she pondered that night's big basketball game.

“I root for Carolina but Duke saved my life,” she said.

Two weeks after her 21st birthday, she was told she had a 3-centimeter mass in her lung.

“I thought it was a death sentence for me,” she said.

It wasn't. She had the cancerous mass removed at Duke University Medical Center and she's been cancer-free for more than four years.

But Bell is exceptional: Only 16 percent of lung cancer patients live five years past diagnosis.

Bell wants you to know two things about lung cancer.

1. Since there are so few survivors, it's hard to create awareness and attract research dollars.
2. No one deserves lung cancer.

“When I tell people I had lung cancer, the first question is, ‘Did you smoke?’” she said.

She thinks that's unfair.

“You don't ask people with breast cancer, ‘How did you get breast cancer?’”

Bell played varsity soccer for four years at New Hanover. When she graduated in 2005, she expected to play soccer at East Carolina University.

And she did during her freshman year. She began to feel a tingling and numbness in her toes. Then she couldn't pass her fitness test, a series of sprints she'd previously done without difficulty.

Eventually she left the team.

During Christmas break her sophomore year, she contracted pneumonia, then got sick again a few weeks later. The student health center took a chest X-ray, which she recently brought to the StarNews for a photo session. But no one realized it was lung cancer until the following fall.

“I was shocked and scared,” she said. Her grandmother had died of lung cancer, as had a great-grandfather and great-uncle.

Bambi MacRae, a lung cancer survivor whom I wrote about last year, helped connect Bell with Duke thoracic surgeon Thomas D'Amico.

“Keyhole surgery” pulled much of her left lung out through a small incision in November 2007. Since then, twice-yearly scans have proven negative for cancer.

Bell, who graduated in 2010 with a B.S. in political science, has become an activist and advocate.

She has appeared with D'Amico before medical providers, and traveled to Washington to lobby on behalf of lung cancer survivors.

Lung cancer takes more lives than breast, prostate and colon cancers combined, according to the National Lung Cancer Partnership.

But with the low survival rate, Bell said, “there's not a lot of people to talk about the story.”

She said there's a stigma attached to lung cancer. People tend to assume that those who suffer from it are somehow to blame.

Bell was a Division 1 college athlete. She'd never smoked and hadn't been exposed to secondhand smoke on a regular basis.
But even if she had smoked, she said, “Does that make you care less? No one deserves lung cancer.”

Bell works in Greenville as community outreach coordinator with the Carolina Well survivorship program (CarolinaWell.org), a Chapel Hill-based organization that supports cancer survivors.

Her local counterpart is LaSonia Roberts-Melvin, who says New Hanover Regional Medical Center's Zimmer Cancer Center offers a program to help survivors transition to life after cancer.

To find out more, contact Roberts-Melvin at 342-3403 or LaSonia.Roberts-Melvin@nhrmc.org.

Column idea? Contact Si Cantwell at 343-2364 or Si.Cantwell@StarNewsOnline.com, or follow him on Twitter.com: @SiCantwell.
DURHAM—Arthritic knees, it turns out, try hard to repair themselves. That finding by a team of Duke and UNC-Chapel Hill researchers, published Friday in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, suggests that if a method can be found to halt the breakdown of knee tissue, then the body itself may be able to reverse damage from osteoarthritis. Such treatments are already under study.

The cartilage in knees can wear down significantly over time, and obesity and common sports-related injuries can speed the process. An unrelated study released Friday shows that more than 4 million Americans have had at least one knee replacement, and about 500,000 of those have had more than one.

That data, from a study led by a Harvard researcher, is the first national estimate of the number of knee replacements.

Arthritis is the main reason for knee replacement, which cost on average about $40,000. Modern knee replacements, which date to the 1970s, have been improving and can greatly enhance a recipient's quality of life.

But they don't always work well and can need replacement themselves after wearing out.

That is particularly troubling for the increasing number of people in their 40s and 50s who are getting the surgery, often after sports-related injuries or obesity accelerate wear on the joint. Many could live long enough to need a second or even third replacement of the same joint.

The Duke-led study also looked at hip joints, which did not show a similar robust repair response. That could mean that arthritic hip joints would have to be treated differently, with some method to stop degeneration and another technique to trigger a response that would help fix the joint.

"At least with the knee you've got an ongoing repair response that we didn't appreciate until now," said Dr. Virginia Kraus, a professor of Rheumatology and Immunology at Duke, who led the research team. "If you could capitalize on that and turn off the degradative (breakdown) processing, you might have some good effects."
The researchers used new tools they developed to analyze knees and hips and found that osteoarthritic knee joints are in a constant state of repair, but hip joints are not.

The knee is easily accessible for injections, so if agents are found that can turn off the processes that erode the joint, they perhaps could be delivered periodically with close monitoring, Kraus said.

The researchers now plan to investigate the reasons for the difference between how knees and hips handle degeneration, and also look at the ankle joint's approach to repairing itself.

Price: 919-829-4526
North Carolina surprisingly waits until just before the season to fire football coach Butch Davis.

Attorney: 'Butch Davis was the logical scapegoat'

BY ANDREW WESTNEY - Staff Writer

Robert Orr, a Raleigh attorney who represented UNC football players Quinton Coples and Devon Ramsay during the school's recent NCAA-related problems, said Friday that the firing of Butch Davis and hiring of Larry Fedora as head football coach would not fundamentally change the chances of similar issues cropping up at the school.

"I'm not aware of any circumstances that lessen the risk of problems occurring again," said Orr in an interview after delivering a presentation called "The NCAA and Athletes' Procedural Rights" to an audience of lawyers and academics at the Friday Center for Continuing Education.

Orr said that coaches can only affect players' behavior so much and that no matter how many rules are imposed, violations will still occur. In the UNC case, Orr said, "somebody's head had to fall, and it wasn't going to be the chancellor's, wasn't going to be anybody on the academic side. Butch Davis was the logical scapegoat."

Orr reserved his strongest criticism for the current NCAA disciplinary system, in which a school punishes athletes for infractions of NCAA rules in an effort to prevent NCAA sanctions on the school itself, calling it "broken."
Speaking of Ramsay's case, Orr said: "One of the real fallacies of the system is nobody really cares about guilt and innocence, except his mother. It's all about how quickly we can get him back on the field."

Ramsay missed all but the first four games of the 2010 season after being held out by UNC, despite eventually being found not to have committed any violations.

UNC and other universities have capable lawyers who could help defend students' rights, Orr said, but their first priority is to protect the institution from NCAA sanctions. "I hate to say schools are terrified of the NCAA, but there's a real element of truth in that," said Orr.

Orr also spoke about the imbalance in a system in which college athletes cannot make money off their own names and images, while the universities they play for can.

A former associate justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court and constitutional law expert, Orr said his association with the NCAA issues has "gotten more attention than anything else I've been involved with."
ND university system chancellor says no discipline planned for awarding of unearned degrees

By Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. — No immediate discipline is planned for any Dickinson State University employees in the wake of an audit determining the school awarded hundreds of degrees to foreign students who didn’t earn them, the chancellor of North Dakota’s university system said Saturday.

However, the university vice president in charge of overseeing the program in which the students studied resigned Friday after the audit was released. Jon Brudvig, Dickinson State’s vice president for academic affairs, will continue to work at the university in a yet-to-be determined role while he looks for another job, Chancellor William Goetz told The Associated Press.

The audit did not mention Brudvig by name, and Goetz said his resignation wasn’t requested.

“It was a decision (Brudvig) made not to continue with those responsibilities,” he said. “It was his decision.”
Goetz wouldn’t discuss whether the apparent suicide of university administrator Doug LaPlante was connected to the audit’s Friday release. The audit didn’t mention LaPlante, but many affected students studied in the business program he led.

LaPlante, 59, the dean of Dickinson State’s college of education, business and applied sciences, was found dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound Friday afternoon near an intersection.

“I cannot say whether his unfortunate death may have had anything to do with the audit,” Goetz said.

LaPlante and many other university officials were told about the audit before it was released Friday morning, but no one faced immediate sanctions as a result of its findings, he said.

“I won’t draw any conclusions at this time,” Goetz said. “We certainly want to make certain issues are handled appropriately.”

The audit determined only 10 of the 410 foreign students who earned joint degrees from Dickinson State and the students’ home universities since 2003 had completed all their requirements. Most were Chinese, it said. The rest were Russian.

Goetz said hundreds of students may have their degrees revoked, but they will receive the opportunity to legitimately earn them.

“Certainly they did not meet the requirements of the degree that was granted them,” Goetz said. “We will grant them the opportunity to fulfill those requirements.”

The report also recommended Dickinson State cancel the 127 agreements it has with international schools pending a fresh evaluation of each. It found many of the agreements weren’t properly registered with the appropriate university office and didn’t contain detailed implementation plans.

Goetz is retiring in August, when he finishes his fifth year as the North Dakota university system’s top administrator. The system includes six four-year universities and five two-year colleges, an enrollment of almost 49,000 students.

Goetz is a former state lawmaker and administrator at Dickinson State.
ANN ARBOR, Mich.—University of Michigan officials said Friday they have ordered an outside review of campus security in the wake of a botched response to child pornography found on a medical resident's computer flash drive.

An internal investigation determined a hospital attorney aware of the discovery decided after a month there wasn't enough evidence to tell police and closed the matter in June.

But the case was reopened after doctors expressed concern in the wake of the Penn State University scandal, in which former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky awaits trial on child sex-abuse charges and other leaders including late football coach Joe Paterno were pushed out.

Charges were filed in December against a resident physician. The flash drive containing child porn was found in a staff lounge.

The six-month delay was a "serious failure on the part of our institution - there is simply no other way to describe it," U-M President Mary Sue Coleman said in a statement accompanying the audit.

"A university attorney must not assume the lead role in investigating a potential crime of this nature," Coleman said. "This is solely the responsibility of the police."

The attorney, whose name was not released, left the university in June for reasons unrelated to the case, the school said.

Coleman said in the statement that it wasn't solely the actions of that attorney, but a "significant breakdown" among numerous individuals and departments as well as "poor judgment on the part of several employees who could have done more." She commended a medical resident for twice reporting what she saw and apologized to that person for not properly investigating in May.

"It took an act of courage to come forward again, and it is because of her that the case is now moving forward in the legal system," Coleman said in the statement.
Recommendations made by the internal review panel include developing an extensive set of common guidelines for reporting security incidents, raising awareness of patient, employee and student privacy rules, and boosting understanding of the duty to report suspected criminal activity.

The university audit said outside experts will be hired by April 1 to "assess our safety and security culture and help us achieve needed change." An improvement plan will be developed within the following 60 days.