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The East Carolina University Board of Trustees is expected to vote on a plan for campus expansion when it meets today.

The proposed master plan calls for a new student center and a new biosciences building, amid several other projects phased over the next 20-25 years, depending on available funds and economic conditions.

“This is a living document,” Rick Niswander, vice chancellor for administration and finance, told the trustees at an informational luncheon on Thursday. “It’s intended to be looking 10, 15, 20 years down the road, and with the fiscal situation as it is now, probably even more.

“None of us can know what 15 years from now will bring for certain. We can provide some direction in making decisions as we go forward,” he said.

After the lunch, the finance and facilities committee approved the plan and recommended it for the full board’s approval today.

The final draft of the plan was released last June after about three years of development and collection of campus input. In addition to the main campus, the plan covers the health sciences campus, athletic facilities, the downtown warehouse district, the north recreation complex as well as parking and transportation.

“This is one of the most comprehensive master plans that I’ve seen at any university, you should be very proud,” said Neal Kessler with Smithgroup/JJR, the planning and design firm that generated the diagrams for ECU.

“The purpose of this is to give enough direction so that you can make decisions in a meaningful way on a project-by-project basis and continually consult the document, but also be flexible enough because we know that things are going to change,” Kessler said. “The principals of the plan should guide (growth) even if the physical elements change.”

The majority of the plan is slated for land that the university already owns. The priority projects will be grouped into three phases during the next 15 years.
The new student center would be located near Mendenhall, and a new parking deck would be built on the present main Mendenhall parking lot. Mendenhall would be kept and repurposed. A separate student center for the health sciences campus also is planned.

The plan calls for parking decks at the edges of campus while the core would be more pedestrian-oriented and closed to through-traffic. A new academic building for business and education with an attached parking deck is planned for the corner of 10th and Cotanche streets.

A new biosciences building is planned for the location where Christenbury gym stands now so it can be adjacent to other science facilities.

Students and alumni objected to tearing down Christenbury during forums last spring, so the plan is to incorporate the facade of the historical physical education building into the new science structure.

Since the core of campus between Fifth and 10th streets is full, the plan directs expansion north along Reade Street downtown. That area includes an alumni center, visitors center, visual and performing arts center as well as a hotel and conference center.

If the plan is approved as presented, it will be posted to the master plan website at www.ecu.edu/masterplan.

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At Thursday's Board of Trustees meeting, Chancellor Steve Ballard speaks about the future of college athletics and the Pirates' conference affiliation.

ECU officials envision changes
By Tony Castleberry
Friday, February 24, 2012

Steve Ballard envisions a college athletics landscape without automatic qualifiers or a Bowl Championship Series, and the East Carolina chancellor seems to think those changes will happen in the not too distant future.

While discussing the still uncertain future of ECU’s conference affiliation at Thursday’s Board of Trustees meeting in the Mendenhall Student Center, Ballard mentioned five “contextual things” concerning Pirate athletics and concluded with an opinion on the state of affairs in college football that likely won’t be echoed by Southeastern Conference chancellors.

“I think the Bowl Championship Series and automatic qualifying, which have gotten so much attention over the last (few) years, are on the way out,” Ballard said. “They’re under serious attack. There’s only one conference that likes them; I’ll let you guess which one that might be. ... There’s no need for them anymore.

“I think it’s highly likely we will no longer have either a Bowl Championship Series or automatic qualifying status to get into particular bowl games (after 2013).”

ECU, a football member of Conference USA since 1997, is one of 16 schools set to join a league that will combine teams from C-USA and the
Mountain West Conference and begin play in 2013. The merger eventually
could include as many as 24 teams.

The impetus for forming so-called superconferences seems to stem from
college athletic programs chasing automatic qualifying status and BCS
dollars, making Ballard’s assessment of the future of the BCS a unique one.
But the chancellor’s view on what really is most important for modern day
college sports in general and football in particular serves as a reminder of
what drives every school’s sporting interests.

“TV contracts in 2012 mean everything,” Ballard said. “Ten years ago when
conferences were realigning, in the last major shuffle, TV contracts were
important, but were one factor out of probably four or five that were the
determining factors. Today, without question, TV contracts are over 90
percent of the entire decisions made when teams are asked to. ... move from
one conference to another.

“I don’t like that. I don’t think it’s value-based, but it’s a given.”

ECU Director of Athletics Terry Holland told the board regardless of how
the C-USA-Mountain West merger eventually shakes out, he’s determined
to maintain regional football rivalries with North Carolina, N.C. State,
Virginia Tech and West Virginia. That jibes with Ballard’s comments on
television contracts since regional viewership of a State-ECU game almost is
guaranteed to dwarf that of a Pirate game at current C-USA foes like Rice or
Southern Methodist.

Holland went so far as to say that, despite East Carolina’s football team
having won Conference USA titles in 2008 and ’09, the Pirates have
achieved a higher national profile due to who they played outside the
confines of C-USA. He also said developing rivalries with schools in the
new league is imperative, but an emphasis will be placed on staying as close
to home as possible.

“Our program was actually built on our nonconference schedule,” Holland
said. “In the meantime, we’ve built some really good rivalries in Conference
USA East. We’re losing one of those (with Central Florida’s move to the
Big East). ... The other two that have been developed — Marshall and
Southern Miss — are very strong, good rivalries for us.

“We have been constantly pushing to enlarge the divisions in Conference
USA. That’s essentially what we’re doing with this merger. ... We will be
playing most of the same (league) teams every year, which will enable us to
broaden that base of true rivals in all sports, but particularly in football.”
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ECU held the Vote Against Project, where the public is invited to a free photo shoot wearing the Vote Against t-shirt. The organization calls their efforts "striking a pose against discrimination" and was held at Mendenhall Student Center on Thursday, Feb. 23, 2012. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

**Students protest marriage ban**  
Friday, February 24, 2012

East Carolina University students and others “struck a pose against discrimination” and took a stand at a free photo shoot Thursday in the Mendenhall Student Center.

The event is part of the Vote Against Project which aims to create a portrait of North Carolina unity, according to organizers. It’s designed to give voters an opportunity to share that they will vote against Amendment One on May 8.

If approved, the amendment would add to the state’s constitution language defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

The photo project was founded by Raleigh photographer Curtis Brown and a group of volunteers.

The event at ECU is part of a four-month, statewide tour of photo shoots. Participants were photographed in T-shirts that read “Vote Against.” Staff provided T-shirts for the photos and the shirts also were available for purchase.

All photos share the spotlight at www.voteagainst.org. Participants can share their photos through social media networks and share their sentiments about the constitutional amendment.

For more information, call 919-270-6175 or email at beth@voteagainst.org.
East Carolina baseball player Tim Younger, right, is awarded the honorary No. 23 jersey during Saturday's Meet the Pirates event at the Murphy Center. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

**Editorial: Classic honors coach's spirit**

Friday, February 24, 2012

East Carolina University baseball fans may be among the most optimistic in the country, forever believing their team can compete with those at the highest levels of competition. Each year begins with talk of Omaha, the site of the College World Series and a dream for the Pirate faithful, which longs to see its team return triumphantly to Greenville with a national championship.

That outlook — one of possibility rather than improbability — came courtesy of Keith LeClair, the former head coach who encouraged those aspirations and put the pinnacle of college baseball as the program’s goal. This weekend, it is that spirit — one of determination, dignity and unimaginable courage — that will be celebrated in his memory.

Nearly 10 years have passed since LeClair last stood along the third-base line at old Harrington Field on the East Carolina campus. The program he once led bears little resemblance to the one he inherited in 1997. Sure, the colors and logos may be the same, but so much has changed since his battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, often referred to as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, forced LeClair from his post in 2002.

That is not to say that Pirates baseball is without LeClair’s fingerprints some six years after his death from the disease. Not at all. There is, of course, the stadium that bears his name, a gem that opened in 2005 with the former East Carolina skipper on hand for the festivities. Look out in the field and one
will still see a Pirate wearing LeClair’s No. 23, as it is awarded each season to a deserving player.

Yet, LeClair’s memory is best represented in the expectations of Pirate baseball and the way the team plays the game, with a relentless determination reflected on and off the field. Those who fill the stands know the team will play its hardest each and every night and the schedule reflects a squad unafraid to take on the sport’s traditional heavyweights. It is that optimistic, unyielding spirit the university honors with the Keith LeClair Classic, this year featuring Purdue and Maryland with LeClair’s alma mater, Western Carolina, for a weekend tournament.

Ten years may be a considerable period in the life of a college, where the student population changes every four years. But, as this annual event reminds, LeClair’s memory remains strong here, both in the program he led and among the fans whom he encouraged to dream.
Grayson Sandford plays John Merrick plays the Elephant Man during a dress rehearsal from the ECU production of "The Elephant Man" held at the McGinnis Theater on Monday, Feb. 20, 2012. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

**Inner beauty shines in Elephant Man**
*By Kelley Kirk*  
Friday, February 24, 2012

"The Elephant Man” is a play that truly embodies the spirit that one should not judge a book by its cover.

John Merrick’s body was horribly disfigured but he was still a beautiful person, as seen in Bernard Pomarard’s play “The Elephant Man.”

The ECU/Loessin Playhouse presents “The Elephant Man” at 8 p.m. today-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday-Tuesday in McGinnis Theater.

The play is based on the book by Dr. Frederick Treves called “The Elephant Man and Other Reminiscences,” in which he detailed the life of Joseph Carey Merrick who was grossly disfigured as the result of genetic disorders.

Grayson Sanford plays Merrick in ECU’s production of “The Elephant Man.”

But don’t expect to see extensive makeup or prosthetics as part of his character’s portrayal.

Sanford instead relies on using his own body to convey the deformities of his character.

“I wasn’t sure if they were going to do prosthetics or makeup,” Sanford said. “But I was told that it was going to be very Brechtian, which meant that it was assumed the audience would know about the character.”
“The Elephant Man” playwright said there should be no attempt to make the actor look like Merrick. The actor must portray Merrick’s physical disfigurement through his actions.

Sandford studied Merrick’s walk, how he held himself and how he could not use facial expressions because of his disfigurement, which is very physically demanding for the actor since he must maintain the physical position for the entirety of the show.

“I have a fairly extensive warm-up, about 20 minutes of stretching before the show and then stretching again before bed,” Sanford, 21, said.

Sanford didn’t know the details of Merrick’s life, and researching his life discovered that even though he was physically disfigured, he was an amazing man.

“He did nothing for himself. There was no form of ‘better than thou’ about him. He was so selfless and tried to make other people happy,” Grayson said. “That’s the most beautiful, beautiful thing about this man.”

Merrick was born in Leicester, England, in 1862. Evidence suggests that Merrick’s body began to develop his debilitating deformities around the age of 5. Merrick ran away from home, eventually finding work when he was 17 at the Leicester Union workhouse.

After four years at the workhouse, Merrick was approached by a traveling freak show that wanted to exhibit him as “The Elephant Man.” He eventually traveled to London to be exhibited in a shop. While there, he was visited by Dr. Frederick Treves, who invited Merrick to be photographed and examined at the London Hospital. After a horrible trip to Europe, Treves took Merrick back to the London Hospital where Merrick lived the rest of his life.

The ECU production will include medical photographs taken while Merrick was at the London Hospital, some of which include full frontal nudity.

Jeff Woodruff, managing director for the School of Theatre and Dance, also said there is a scene where a woman reveals herself to Merrick. Her back is to the audience but Woodruff does want people to know that the production is not for children.

Merrick died when he was 27 years old. The official cause of death was listed as asphyxia, most likely as the result of a dislocated neck. He would sleep sitting up because of the weight of his head.
Treves autopsied Merrick and believed that he had attempted to sleep lying down, causing the dislocation. Merrick wanted to be like other people.

Merrick’s condition is still unclear, however, it is now believed that he suffered a combination of rare genetic disorders neurofibromatosis type I and Proteus Syndrome.

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Meredith professor helps TV star trace his family history

BY BROOKE CAIN - bcain@newsobserver.com

A Meredith College professor who specializes in Southern history got a taste of Hollywood when he helped actor Blair Underwood navigate his family tree for NBC's genealogy-themed reality show, "Who Do You Think You Are?"

The episode airs tonight at 8.

Professor Dan Fountain said he was first contacted last summer by a show researcher who had read Fountain's 2010 book, "Slavery, Civil War and Salvation." The show wanted Fountain's help in interpreting some documents that were uncovered while researching Underwood's family. After several consultations, Fountain was invited to appear with Underwood in the episode.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" is in its third season in the United States. Adapted from a British show of the same name, the program helps celebrities track down their family histories, and many times, uncover family secrets.

"It's a neat operation in terms of the research staff they've put together and the thinking that goes into each of these episodes," Fountain said.

During each episode, a celebrity starts off with a general idea of family history and perhaps some assumptions about what he or she might find. The participants typically travel to numerous libraries and archives across the nation. They often make trips overseas to trace the family line back as far as possible.

Underwood, like all subjects in "Who Do You Think You Are?" was kept in the dark about what he would learn at each stop so that his reactions would be genuine and more dramatic.

"It was real human reaction to what was going on and what he was learning," said Fountain, who has been teaching at Meredith since 2004.

During early conversations with the show's researcher, Underwood's identity was never revealed. But Fountain said he had a hunch it might be Blair Underwood, because he knew the person's first name and knew it would be an African-American celebrity.
Coincidentally, the day Fountain spent filming with Underwood in Lynchburg, Va., his class was back at Meredith watching Underwood in a 2002 movie about the underground railroad in Delaware, "Whispers of Angels."

Fountain said filming of his time with Underwood took about eight hours, and he was struck by how quickly the actor pieced things together on the fly.

"He was a very astute observer of the records," Fountain said. "He was really fun to work with.

"It was much like helping a student on a research project that you're both excited about because it's a fascinating topic."

Cain: 919-829-4579
Former Duke researcher loses job in South Carolina

BY JAY PRICE - jprice@newsobserver.com

The former Duke cancer scientist accused of possible misconduct in his research and of hyping his credentials has been fired from his job as a doctor with a South Carolina-based chain of cancer clinics.

The parting between Coastal Cancer Center of Myrtle Beach and Dr. Anil Potti was a sharp one: The company announced it in a news release this week via a public relations agency.

"A recent '60 Minutes' story concerning an investigation of Duke University's cancer research programs and Dr. Potti's work there prompted many concerned people to contact Coastal Cancer Center with comments and questions," Dr. Lawrence B. Holt Jr., president of Coastal, said in the release. "It has become obvious that this issue is going to take precious focus away from patient care."

In July 2010, Duke placed Potti on administrative leave after he was accused of falsifying his credentials. Three clinical trials in which he had enrolled 111 lung and breast cancer patients were halted that same month after questions were raised about his research. He resigned from the university in December 2010.

Duke recommendations

Coastal said in its news release that it had hired Potti in March 2011 after conducting "a deep and thorough investigation of Potti's credentials."

Glowing letters of recommendation from top medical officials at Duke University had been key factors in the company's decision to hire Potti, according to the news release.

While he was working with the company, Potti's work was exemplary, Holt wrote.

Potti left Coastal on Feb. 21, nine days after the "60 Minutes" report reiterated various accusations against him.

Potti, who could not be reached for comment, worked as an oncologist mainly at Coastal Cancer Center's clinics in Brunswick County near Wilmington and just across the state line in Loris, S.C.
According to records posted on the N.C. Medical Board's website in December, Potti had agreed to settlements in at least 11 malpractice cases against him, each resulting in a payment of at least $75,000.

Also, in a consent order negotiated with the medical board, Potti agreed to accept a formal reprimand for unprofessional conduct, and admitted to having inaccurate information on his résumé and in official Duke biographical sketches, and to using those flawed credentials in research grant applications.

Price: 919-829-4526
Number of U.S. adults with college degrees hits historic high

By Daniel de Vise

Representing a historic high, three in 10 adult Americans held bachelor’s degrees in 2011, census officials reported Thursday.

College attainment has crept upward, slowly but steadily. In 1947, just 5 percent of Americans 25 and older held degrees from four-year colleges. As recently as 1998, fewer than one-quarter of the adult population held college degrees.

“We believe this is a notable milestone,” said Kurt Bauman, chief of the Census Bureau’s Education and Social Stratification Branch, during a telephone news conference to announce the data.

The Washington region remains the nation’s best-educated metropolis. As of 2010, 46.8 percent of adults in the area held at least a bachelor’s degree, the highest rate among the 50 largest metro areas. California’s Silicon Valley ranked second, with 45.3 percent college attainment.

In 2009, President Obama set a national goal of reclaiming the world lead in college attainment, which the United States once held. But instead of gaining ground, the nation has fallen in global rank, slipping from 12th to 16th in the share of people ages 25 to 34 holding college degrees, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. South Korea, Canada and Japan are the world leaders.

The new data show African Americans and Hispanics gaining ground in college completion. From 2001 to 2011, Hispanics rose from 4.4 percent to 6.1 percent of the nation’s college-educated population. In the same span, blacks rose from 6.7 percent to 7.6 percent of all degree-holders.

But in terms of future earnings, education level matters less these days than in previous generations, and field of study matters more.

Census data show that an associate’s degree in engineering or computers is worth as much or more, on average, than a bachelor’s in education or the liberal arts.
An associate’s degree in engineering yielded $4,257 in monthly earnings in 2009, compared with $4,000 for a bachelor’s in the liberal arts and $3,417 for a bachelor’s in education.

A two-year degree in computers fetched $4,000 a month, the same median earnings as a four-year degree in the humanities.

Even a vocational certificate, a credential that generally requires months — not years — of school, can yield more future earnings than a bachelor’s degree in a low-paying field. Employees with construction certificates earned $4,904 a month in 2009, better than the median pay for a bachelor’s in the humanities.

“So the point here,” Bauman said, “is that sometimes a subject a person has pursued is as important as how far they went in school.”

The data come from several new reports and are largely drawn from the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey.

Although certain fields pay well at any education level, the data suggest that going to school remains a shrewd investment. Median monthly pay for a professional degree reached $11,927 in 2009. That was more than twice the monthly pay for someone with a bachelor’s degree: $5,445. By contrast, a high school diploma was worth $3,179 a month, and an elementary school education yielded $2,136 a month.

College-educated people were less likely to lose their jobs during the economic downturn. Unemployment peaked at 17.9 percent in early 2010 for those without a high school diploma; for those with bachelor’s degrees, the highest unemployment rate was 5.9 percent.

Women still “earn less than men at every level of education,” Bauman said. Men with advanced degrees earned almost 50 percent more annually than women in 2009: $89,400 compared with $61,500.

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U.S. Bachelor Degree Rate Passes Milestone

By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA

More than 30 percent of American adults hold bachelor’s degrees, a first in the nation’s history, and women are on the brink of surpassing men in educational attainment, the Census Bureau reported on Thursday.

The figures reflect an increase in the share of the population going to college that began in the mid-1990s, after a relatively stagnant period that began in the 1970s. They show significant gains in all demographic groups, but blacks and Latinos not only continue to trail far behind whites, the gap has also widened in the last decade.

As of last March, 30.4 percent of people over age 25 in the United States held at least a bachelor’s degree, and 10.9 percent held a graduate degree, up from 26.2 percent and 8.7 percent 10 years earlier.

For many years, colleges have enrolled and graduated more women than men, and a historic male advantage in higher education has nearly been erased. In 2001, men held a 3.9 percentage-point lead in bachelor’s degrees and 2.6 percentage points in graduate degrees; by last year, both gaps were down to 0.7 percent.

Among Hispanics, the share of adults holding bachelor’s degrees grew from 11.1 percent in 2001 to 14.1 percent last year, and among blacks it climbed from 15.7 percent to 19.9 percent. But the distinction rose even faster among non-Hispanic whites, from 28.7 percent to 34 percent.

Asian-Americans remain the nation’s best-educated racial group, with 50.3 percent having bachelor’s degrees, and 19.5 percent holding graduate degrees.

The figures come from the Census Bureau’s annual Current Population Survey, and were released along with a series of reports taken from another ongoing canvass, the American Community Survey. One of those, examining major fields of study, shows that taken together, engineering and science are the most common areas for bachelor’s degrees, representing 34.9 percent of the total.

The persistence of men in those fields is waning, a significant trend given that engineers and people with science backgrounds tend to be in high
demand, and have above-average incomes. Among college graduates 65 or older, only 23 percent of those with degrees in science or engineering majors are women; among people 40 to 64, the proportion of women rises to 36 percent; among those 25 to 39, 45.9 percent are women.

The same report also found that engineers and science majors are most heavily concentrated on the East and West Coasts, with the highest percentages in the District of Columbia, California, Washington and Maryland, and the lowest in Southern and Plains states.