The number of East Carolina University students who have reported money stolen from their accounts in recent weeks has risen to more than 200, according to officials.

Greenville police continue to take reports of fraudulent transactions following a security breach at the privately owned University Book Exchange last month. But the local agency does not have jurisdiction in the case because the stolen account numbers were used throughout the country, according to spokesman Carlton Williams.

“No federal agency has picked it up, and they are probably not going to at this point,” Williams said. “The feds operate on a dollar amount threshold, and this case does not meet that threshold.”

A total amount of money stolen and the minimum required for federal intervention were not immediately available, Williams said Monday.

The breach is believed to have occurred between Jan. 5 and Jan. 25. While it is unknown how many accounts were compromised, investigators believe the breach originated from overseas. U.B.E. owner Don Edwards said he continues to make upgrades to security.

The majority of the fraudulent transactions have occurred for ECU students with accounts issued by a separate company called Higher One that provides financial aid account services for ECU. Students' financial aid refunds are deposited once per semester into debit accounts managed by Higher One and backed by MasterCard that function like a normal checking account. Higher One does not issue any means of credit. A small number of reports have come from adults or students with private banks, according to Williams.

While some students have gotten their money back, some are still waiting.

“They (Higher One) told me today that I would get my money back by March 1, but I'm not sure if it will happen or not, I hope it will,” recreation therapy major Nicholas Orrison said last week. “Everybody I talked to has lost thousands of dollars. For me they only took a little bit, but it was enough to overdraw my account.”

Higher One's policy is to provide a response within 10 days of a disputed transaction being reported and an update on the status every 15 days after that while the dispute remains open, according to campus relations coordinator Aaron Poach. It can take 60-90
days to get the money back, Poach said. Each student's case is handled individually; some students get the money back temporarily under a provisional credit while the case is closed out. Compromised accounts are closed, and students are issued new cards.

“Higher One itself is not a bank, but we have a full banking partner in MasterCard, so the account is a full-service fully-insured checking account,” Poach said. “We do have MasterCard's zero liability fraud protection policy, but there does need to be that process.”

Poach said he could not give a total number of disputed transactions reported or the number that have been cleared.

Students have had different experiences dealing with Higher One and the university, but agree the situation has been a lot to deal with.

“I'm not mad at any particular person, it's just been a hassle, more stress,” Orrison said.

“Everybody's been very polite and professional, it's just been a huge inconvenience,” said junior Lindsey Rossa. She recently got her money back on a provisional credit after losing $3,000 in 10 transactions at Target stores in California at the end of January. She noticed when she went to withdraw February rent at an ATM.

“I was upset when I called them (Higher One), it seemed like they had no clue,” said senior Lilybeth Medina, who lost $2,000 in at least five transactions at stores and hotels in Brooklyn, N.Y. “They never gave me a clear date when I would get my money back. I don't understand why it would take so long.”

“How did they (Higher One) not get a red flag that this many Greenville cards were being used in different areas in a similar time frame?” Rossa asked.

Higher One does provide balance updates like text alerts if students sign up for them, “but with over 1.5 million accounts, it's hard to proactively monitor all of them. But students are being made aware of it,” Poach said.

Some students expected more of a response from ECU; only the Student Government Association has sent a studentwide e-mail alert.

“I know it's not ECU's fault, but it happened to ECU students,” Orrison said. “I wish they'd get the information out.”

“I go here, I want my school to do something,” Medina said.

University officials are working on posting fact sheets and setting up online chats so students can get answers, according to Virginia Hardy, vice provost for student affairs.

“We are there to provide all the help we can,” said Chancellor Steve Ballard. “It occurred at a private business but we do have a communication responsibility.”
Officials at Higher One and ECU are encouraging students to keep a close eye on their account and report any suspicious transactions to Greenville police.

Poach directed students to find more information about Higher One cards at https://ecucard.higheroneaccount.com/.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Prostate cancer study branches out
By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, March 1, 2011

A report by the American Cancer Society found that black men diagnosed with prostate cancer have twice the mortality rate of white men nationally, and a state study found that mortality rate was higher in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, black men are three times more likely to die from the disease than their white counterparts, said researchers citing information from a recent report from the North Carolina Center for Health Statistics. The center is under the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' division of public health.

This racial disparity prompted an ongoing study by East Carolina University assistant professor Lisa Campbell that is branching out into a second study focused on the supportive care needs of the disease's survivors by University of Virginia assistant professor Cathy Campbell. The two researchers are sisters.

Research volunteers are being sought for that new component.

“My piece is really focusing on physical symptom management and education for the man and his family around those concerns,” Cathy Campbell said. “And helping them to develop some skills to manage the effects of the treatment on quality of life.”

Cathy Campbell worked as a nurse providing care to cancer patients before she began teaching at the university's School of Nursing.

Lisa Campbell began researching prostate cancer disparities about seven years ago while working as a clinical and health psychologist at Duke University. “The broader program of research focuses on the continuum, so the central issue is prostate cancer disparities or increased mortality rates experienced by African-American men,” she said of her current study that began in 2008. “The research program is trying to understand what's happening upstream in terms of heath literacy among young men and how that feeds into their health behaviors related to prostate health.”

She has been compiling data based on survey and intervention research with college-age men. She's also working with men who have recently been diagnosed with prostate cancer.
The research project is a joint effort between the psychology department where she teaches and ECU's Center for Health Disparities Research, where she is a research scientist.

“Because there is a disparity, there is a particular group of men who experience a disproportionate burden of the disease,” she said. “Additional focus and priority is needed on this population of men and their families who are experiencing this excess disease burden.”

Cathy Campbell said she and her sister want to get the word out about the latest research study, which will look at the disease's long-term effects on black men in North Carolina who have been treated for the cancer more than once.

“We're looking for people to participate in the research study as a way for us to understand some of the challenges that families with prostate cancer face, and also to share what other families have learned so we can help other families in the future.”

To learn more about the latest study, call 744-5052.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or (252) 329-9588.
A man who taught children at a state juvenile detention facility in Greenville for more than two decades is leaving his post.

Mike Bowman has been delivering short bursts of education to boys and girls ages 8-17 at the Pitt Regional Juvenile Detention Center for 22 years.

State law requires at least five hours of classroom attendance each day for the children at the center. The education part, however, has not always gotten equal attention, said Bowman, who retired Monday.

“When I first came here in 1988, we just kept everything at a happy medium,” he said. “Now, everybody has to be kept at grade level in their course work, in alignment with the North Carolina standard course of study.”

When a boy or girl arrives, school records are not instantly available, so a counselor conducts an intake session to assess the child's education level. Bowman assigns textbooks to the children, often the same ones used at the school.

The big challenge for Bowman has been to impress a positive personal and educational outlook upon the young people with whom he has worked. The key is to keep it simple, he said. “I explain to them that it's important to eat a good breakfast and then start school in earnest,” Bowman said. “It sure beats being locked up in your room all day, and you might learn a little something.”
Because of the relatively small number of inmates at the center — 15-20 on average at any given time — the teacher and the center's staff of counselors, who double as teacher's aides, can give more one-on-one attention to students who find it difficult to adjust to the program, Bowman said.

“We keep them centered and focused,” he said. “I tell them that the behavior they're showing by keeping on task and doing the work is what they need to take back to the school they attend. I tell them, ‘Prove to those people back there that they were wrong about you. Show them your new side, and they will meet you half way.’”

Bowman found a career at the detention facility after working as an administrator at East Carolina University and a middle school teacher in Edgecombe and Nash counties. He's been good for the system, center director Andy Foreman said.

The facility has taken in youth since 1994. Length of stay varies from five days to several months, and many youth make repeated trips through the process, Foreman said. Officials have not decided who will replace Bowman.

Bowman said he planned on staying at the job at least another six years, until his children finished college. But he maxed out on his pay level three years ago and had accrued more than 40 years of state service, he said.

He said he appreciates the occasional encounters he has with former students who thank him for his care and guidance.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabromowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
Letter: Dance program worth celebrating
Tuesday, March 1, 2011

I was thrilled to hear Dayton Contemporary Dance Company was coming to Greenville.

Thank you to East Carolina University and the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series for bringing more outstanding dance performances to Greenville. I especially want to thank Dayton Contemporary Dance Company for bringing its high-energy, dizzying movement quality to prove that contemporary dance is not “boring,” as I hear from many people.

It was fabulous to have the dancers on stage collaborating with local singers, musicians and dancers from Pitt County schools and East Carolina University. I was especially thrilled that four of our dancers (from Greenville Civic Ballet) were selected to perform with the group. Outstanding work DCDC, and thanks for an awesome show.

Congrats to the girls from Greenville Civic Ballet — Ellie Stevens, Nicole Shank, Hayley McRoy and Natalie Shammas.

KIMBERLY GRAY-SAAD
Greenville
Taiyyaba Qureshi graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill's law school last year bursting with ambition. She'd soon be righting wrongs and improving people's lives. Her idealism knew no bounds.

But the job market had other plans. Nine months later, Qureshi is a lawyer without a full-time employer, the victim of a job market weakened by the recession. So she's cobbling together part-time assignments and has offered her fledgling legal expertise for free.

"We have this save-the-world complex, and we're so pumped and motivated," said Qureshi, who is from Raleigh. "It's hard to reconcile the big ambitions with the reality that you can't put that dream into action."

Qureshi is far from alone. The recession has hit law firms hard, experts say, particularly those tied closely to banking and other industries at the forefront of the economic collapse. The result has been a marked slowdown in offers for new lawyers and a dearth of the summer jobs that are critical for law students hoping to make initial contacts.
The struggles prompted UNC law school dean Jack Boger to end e-mail to his alumni network this month pleading for help.

Even unpaid positions would be welcome at this point, Boger told alumni. "Students will line up for those jobs now," he said in a recent interview.

Though not totally immune to economic ebbs and flows, the legal industry has traditionally offered plenty of entry-level jobs to new attorneys. Many had work lined up long before graduation day, while law students often had their choice of summer jobs.

**Openings vanish**
The recession changed the rules. Suddenly, government jobs dried up in the face of budget cuts, while private law firms scaled back or consolidated services and cut staff in response to lesser workloads.

"The law firm economics have changed drastically," said Stephen Zack, president of the American Bar Association. "You see major law firms disappear overnight. And as businesses and industries consolidated, so have their legal needs."

That's playing out in North Carolina, where firms specializing in structured finance, banking or commercial real estate have scaled back considerably, Boger said. A firm that several years ago might have hired 20 to 30 law students for summer positions might now hire two or three. Some have even scrapped summer programs entirely, he said.

**Too many lawyers?**
But these lean times don't mean there are too many attorneys, law school officials argue. Local universities say they don't shrink enrollment when the job market tightens up, in part because of the lag time - law school takes three years - and in part because not all graduates become practicing attorneys.

"You're not just creating lawyers," said Linda Spagnola, N.C. Central University's assistant dean for career services.

"Many go into teaching or writing or become a politician. Some just want the degree," she said.
Schools try to help
To help its students, UNC's law school offers summer grants worth $3,000 for students who do volunteer work. And it created more research assistant positions for students who want to spend the summer getting a dose of academia.

NCCU offers summer stipends for unpaid public service positions and urges young lawyers to attend bar association luncheons and other gatherings where they can do some networking. A lot of students rely solely on job postings, to their detriment, Spagnola said.

"Law students think network is a four-letter word," she said. "They're so nose-in-the-books, I think they have a disinclination to put themselves out there."

It helps to have a built-in network.

Turner Sothoron, a third-year law student at NCCU, is the son of a judge. That connection helped him line up a clerkship after graduation in Maryland, where he's from.

"I'm lucky," Sothoron readily admits. "Connections play a huge role. It's a relief."

Lace Wayman could use a connection. The second-year law student at UNC-CH doesn't have summer work lined up yet, and though she always expected law school to be stressful, the uncertainty is wearing on her a little. At this point, she's willing to work outside public practice, the field in which she plans to specialize. She did so last summer, working for the Staff Judge Advocate in the N.C. National Guard.

"It's not where I plan on ending up, but it was great to have the experience," said Wayman, who is from Cary. "You don't necessarily have to get a job in a field you'll end up in. You just need legal experience."

Persistence pays
Some new grads are now weighing whether to work for free in the legal field or find paying work temporarily doing something else. Though they need experience, many grads leave law school saddled with debt. At UNC-CH,
more than 70 percent of law students have loans, and the average debt at graduation is $56,000, said Boger, the school's dean.

Qureshi, the recent UNC grad, feels lucky because she has no debt and her husband has a steady job. That has eased her stress over the past nine months, during which time she has done a two-month, unpaid internship and now earns $20 an hour doing part-time case work for two separate law firms.

Boger urges his recent graduates to keep at it. Keep networking. Keep applying.

"It's like marriage," he said. "All you need is one 'yes'"

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Need some advice?
Stephen Zack, president of the American Bar Association, advises new graduates to find work wherever they can get it. The experience, he counsels, is more valuable than money.

"Find a place to practice your craft, and don't focus on the economics," he said. "Find any position that gives you an opportunity. It may not be ideal, but there are lots of needs in this country for lawyers."

Most Triangle grads land jobs
According to the most recent data, 96 percent of recent UNC-Chapel Hill law school graduates now hold jobs. But that data is for the class of 2009, and law school dean Jack Boger said he expects the 2010 numbers to be worse.

The data is based on surveys conducted nine months after graduation, and it doesn't distinguish between jobs in the legal field and those students who may be working retail jobs or doing something else just to pay the bills.

The national rate for 2009 grads is 88 percent, down nearly 4 percent from the previous year.

All 2009 Duke University law school graduates were employed nine months after graduating, according to Duke law school data. At N.C. Central University, 85 percent had jobs; at Campbell University, 92 percent.
**49ers get their football coach**

By David Scott

The Charlotte 49ers finally have a face for their fledgling football program. The 49ers are expected to announce the hiring of Wake Forest defensive coordinator Brad Lambert as their first head coach, a university source confirmed Monday, at a noon news conference today.

Lambert, 46, will need to hit the ground running for a program that will begin play in 2013. He can begin recruiting immediately for an incoming redshirt freshman class in 2012. Lambert can hire two assistant coaches this year before filling out his staff in 2012.

Lambert, who has no head-coaching experience, has been at Wake Forest since 2001 and was one of Deacons coach Jim Grobe's top lieutenants. He was the defensive coordinator since 2008, beginning his stint at Wake Forest as linebackers coach before being promoted.

He will make a base salary of $175,000. The 49ers appear to be following the pattern of Old Dominion, which began football in 2009 and hired Bobby Wilder, a longtime assistant at Football Championship Subdivision program Maine who had no previous head-coaching experience.
The Monarchs have gone 17-5 in their two seasons (9-2 in '09, 8-3 in '10) under Wilder, against competition that closely mirrors what Charlotte will play (a mixture of NCAA Division II and FCS teams).

Charlotte will play at the FCS level at first but plans to move to the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly Division I-A) eventually.

Athletics director Judy Rose has been looking for a coach for several months and said she wanted to have one hired by April 1, four weeks before the school is to break ground on its on-campus stadium. She was impressed enough with Lambert to beat that deadline by a month.

"I've been surprised that in the last few years Brad hasn't moved from Wake," said James Madison coach Mickey Matthews, who coached with Lambert at Marshall and Georgia. "I've gotten several inquiries about him from Big 12 and SEC schools, about him possibly moving from Wake for an assistant's job there.

"And every time I called him about something like that, he would say he has the best assistant's job in the nation and wasn't interested."

Lambert, a second-team all-Big Eight defensive back at Kansas State, began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Oklahoma in 1988-89. He went on to Marshall (1990-95) and Georgia (1996-2000) before Wake Forest.

Lambert coached many of the best defensive players in Deacons history, including linebackers Aaron Curry (Seattle Seahawks), Jon Abbate (All-ACC) and Stanley Arnoux, as well as defensive back Alphonso Smith.

In 2010, Lambert's third season as coordinator, the young Deacons struggled defensively. They ranked last in the ACC in points allowed per game (35.8), 11th in total defense (430.7 yards) and pass defense (143.8) and 10th in rush defense (192.5).

"He's the right guy for UNC Charlotte from my standpoint," said Jim Donnan, head coach at Marshall and Georgia while Lambert was there. "He's been around college football on both levels, (FBS and FCS). He knows about fund raising. He's a very competitive guy and very adaptive, which he's going to need since he's starting a new program there."
Lambert was part of several successful teams with Donnan. Marshall won the NCAA Division I-AA championship in 1992 and lost in the championship game in three other seasons. At Georgia, Lambert was linebackers coach on teams that won four straight bowls. Wake Forest won the 2006 ACC championship and played in the Orange Bowl that season.

"He's got a really good feel for how to handle people and players," said Donnan. "Every guy has a motor that runs differently. He makes sure he taps into that."

Donnan said Lambert understands what's involved in not only his first head-coaching job, but starting a program from scratch.

"They don't have helmets, shoes or anything there yet," said Donnan. "But when we were at Marshall, we were building a new stadium, so he knows what it's like to have your office in the gym, to take a bus to practice, things like that. He's done that.

"Marshall, it was so different from Oklahoma. So he had to learn with me about partial scholarships, Pell Grants, getting transfers in ... the things he's going to have to do starting up a new deal at Charlotte. He's not going to get the pick-of-the-litter players. He's going to have to bring them in and develop them, which he's done before.

"And he has the one ability to meet people. He's very genuine. He gets his message across and can get people dialed in and behind him. He's going to need that support."
Internet Cheating Scandal Shakes Japan Universities

By MARTIN FACKLER

TOKYO — At first, the postings on a popular Web site last week seemed innocuous enough: a user soliciting help for answers to a series of difficult math and English questions.

But it later became clear that the questions were taken straight from an entrance exam to prestigious Kyoto University. And they were being posted — and receiving answers from other users — while the exam was still underway.

On Tuesday, police launched a manhunt for one or possibly more users who are believed to have used a single online handle, “aicezuki,” to cheat on exams at Kyoto University and three other top universities. The schools say they suspect test takers used cell phones to post the questions on the site and get the answers while the tests were still in progress.

While it is unclear whether more than one person was involved, the incident has become a full-blown national scandal, raising questions about how to monitor the grueling exams, the main route to success in Japan, in an era of smart phones and instant Internet access.

It also touched a nerve in a proudly egalitarian nation that has struggled to come to terms with its growing economic and social inequalities. Many here are wondering aloud whether admission to top universities — a ticket to a top corporate or government job — remains as merit-based as it used to be, or whether some youth are unfairly getting a leg up, in this case from misuse of new technologies.

“This is a heinous act that undermines the fairness that should be the basis of the university entrance system,” Japan’s largest daily, the Yomiuri Shimbun, warned in an editorial on Monday.

Japan has reacted with outrage at the apparent test-taking scam, which targeted universities that stand at the apex of the nation’s rigid education
system. Admission to a top university often requires students to toil away much of their childhood at evening cram schools, where they learn how to regurgitate reams of facts and figures.

Stung by the outcry, Japan’s Education Ministry said it may ban cell phones and other communications devices at exam sites. South Korea, which has similarly demanding admissions tests, implemented such a ban after a 2004 cheating scandal that also involved cell phones. During the current scandal, Japan’s national NHK broadcaster has repeatedly shown footage of Korean students being searched by metal detectors before taking exams.

Japan’s education minister, Yoshiaki Takaki, said that measures must be taken immediately to ensure the fairness of the exams, which are given every year in late winter and early spring.

“This is unforgiveable,” Mr. Takaki told reporters.

One of the four Japanese schools, Waseda University in Tokyo, said it will compare the answers posted on the site with the completed entrance exams of 9,935 applicants, to see if any match. It may also ask the 462 teachers and graduate students who monitored the exams if they noticed anything suspicious.

The exams often take one or two days, and are usually administered in large halls where up to hundreds of applicants scribble in hushed silence.

“The fairness and justice of our exams are the basis of our institution,” said Zenta Uchida, a spokesman for Waseda.

The four schools, which also include Doshisha University in Kyoto and Rikkyo University in Tokyo, have asked the police for help, and promised to take measures to prevent cheating by cell phone in the future. Toshiyuki Awaji, the vice president of Kyoto University, said in a statement that anyone found to have cheated will be denied entry to the school.

The suspected cheating took place during this year’s entrance exams. The universities said they believe that at least one applicant used his cell phone either to type out exam questions and post them on the site, or to take photos, which would have been posted with the help of an accomplice located at a different location.
The questions were posted on a site run by Yahoo Japan called Chiebukuro, or “Pearls of Wisdom,” on which users can ask each other for answers to questions. Yahoo Japan, which is a separate company from the American Internet provider, said it is willing to cooperate with authorities.

In the case of Kyoto University, a user posted six math questions on Friday and two English questions on Saturday, all from the university’s two-day-long entrance exam, the university said. It said one of the postings could only have been made by someone who was physically present at the exam, since it involved a correction to the question that was written on a blackboard.

Users on the Yahoo site posted answers to some of the questions within minutes, in time to be used for the exam. The universities said it was unclear if those who gave answers knew the questions came from an entrance exam. The postings gave no indication where the questions came from.

While cheating itself is not a criminal offense, police said they would investigate whether those involved had violated laws that prohibit obstructing the operations of institutions like schools.

Makiko Inoue and Yasuko Kamiizumi contributed reporting.