A new student center, parking decks, a new biosciences building, a visitors center and increased pedestrian pathways are all part of a plan for the future of East Carolina University.

A preliminary version of the ECU campus master plan was released Tuesday afternoon during a public forum in the recently rebuilt Croatan building. A second evening session also was held. Another session focusing on the health sciences campus plan will be held today at 12:30 p.m. in the East Carolina Heart Institute, along with a concurrent session for students in West End Dining Hall.

The preliminary master plan outlines planned expansions of the campus within the next 20-25 years.

“We feel pretty good about a lot of these ideas, but we still want input,” said Neal Kessler, a representative of Smithgroup/JJR, a planning and architecture company that generated the diagrams.

The plan will be made available online. This step is the last collection of public input before a final plan is expected in late summer or early fall.

“The main campus has almost reached its capacity in terms of a number of buildings,” Kessler said.
Additional facilities are planned to the west of Cotanche Street and north along Reade Street. There is room for a biosciences building — a top priority — according to Kessler. A new student center is planned to occupy the parking area south of Mendenhall Student Center.

While a number of new parking decks are planned, some surface lots will be turned into building space, so parking will roughly break even in terms of number of spaces, according to Kessler. The plan has a number of additional pedestrian paths linking different areas of campus. Most notably Faculty Way and the middle portion of Founders Drive will be converted to pedestrian walkways that still will allow access to service and emergency vehicles.

“The goal is to get cars out of the core of campus,” Kessler said. No new dorms are planned, but Belk Hall is set to be torn down and replaced with a larger facility. Dorms like Umstead now serving as offices will be converted back to student residences, Kessler said.

Planners are working with the city, county and Department of Transportation. The ongoing 10th Street connector project and a planned multi-modal transport center were taken into consideration. The university also recently purchased the Stratford Arms apartment complex to create more parking near Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

The plan was well-received by many members of the audience.

“I'm really pleased with what I see,” said public health professor Chris Mansfield, whose residence shares a property line with campus. “The vision is how to grow compatibly with the environment around the university. There will be some adjustments for sure, but it's well-planned.”

“This is very impressive, I love the idea of the new parking decks,” said Melissa Tilley, a property manager who rents houses mostly to students and she lives within a few blocks of campus.

“It's important to have connectivity between uptown Greenville and the university,” said Denise Walsh, executive director of Uptown Greenville. “I'm pleased to see expansion in that direction.”

Retired pharmaceutical worker Charles Pennington said he likes the plan, especially pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly aspects.

“When I moved here in 1970 with Burroughs Wellcome, it was a small campus,” he said. “I really got into the theater productions. I've been a fan ever since and watched it grow.” For more information visit www.ecu.edu/masterplan.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Plans are under way to memorialize an East Carolina University graduate student killed in a head-on crash this week in Wilson, university officials said Tuesday.

Amanda “Mandy” Kelly, 24, a College of Business accounting major who worked as a graduate assistant in the Office of Student Transitions and First Year Programs, will be honored by co-workers and supervisors. Arrangements have not been completed, officials said Tuesday.

Kelly was driving a 2000 Ford Taurus about 8:30 a.m. Monday on U.S. 264 Bypass near Black Creek Road when she struck a 2006 Chevrolet Silverado driven by Johnnie Page III, 31, of Sims.

Kelly was pronounced dead at the scene. Page was treated at Wilson Medical Center and released.

Investigators said it appears Kelly was driving east toward Greenville when she ran off the road, overcorrected, crashed through the center median and into oncoming traffic.

A native of Ontario, Canada, she had recently been in Raleigh and had dropped off her parents in the city Friday so they could catch a plane home, university officials said.
Kelly was described Tuesday by supervisors and co-workers as a pleasure to be around. An avid Pirates fan, she frequently could be seen at football games and had great school spirit, said her friend and co-worker, Brittany Shifflett.

“She's always just a positive person,” said Shifflett, 23, a native of Winterville. “She was really fun to be around. She always had a crazy story about something that would brighten your day. “She loved ECU.”

Program director Mary Beth Corbin said Kelly recently had accepted a job offer from a Charlotte accounting firm and had completed two of the four-part exam necessary to begin her career as an accountant.

She said the young woman had great poise.

“No matter what was going on in Mandy's life, every morning when I came in this office — anyone who came in — she always stopped and lifted her head to say hey,” she said. “I thought that was pretty impressive for a young student,” Corbin said. “Mandy really cared about people.”

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UNC System task force: Defining academic misconduct

Written by Josh Ellis/David Horn
Tuesday, 22 March 2011 09:05
CHAPEL HILL) -- A UNC System task force is looking into issues involving academic integrity surrounding athletics programs. The panel was put together by UNC System President Tom Ross after incidents of academic misconduct sidelined several UNC football players.

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard, who is serving as chairman of the task force, said one challenge is determining what constitutes academic fraud. "Today if you talk to student athletes and if you talk to tutors there's much more confusion. It's in part because of the internet. It's in part because tutors are charged now with making athletes academically eligible," said Ballard.

The panel is expected to have a draft list of recommendations sometime in May, according to Ballard.
Two witnesses at James Richardson's capital murder trial told jurors Tuesday they watched a man fitting his description walk from The Other Place nightclub, open his trunk, pull a gun and cock it.

Moments later, just after 2 a.m. on June 30, 2009, Andrew Kirby and Landon Blackley were shot down outside the Fifth Street club.

Jeff Sealey, Kirby's roommate, said he had been with Kirby, Richardson and others earlier at nearby Dr. Unk's, where Richardson bought them drinks, he said. Sealey saw Richardson later at The Other Place, but did not interact with him there, he said. When an altercation started about closing time, the bouncers suggested everyone head home, he said.

He was outside waiting for Kirby when he saw Richardson in the street with his friends, Sealey said.

"I heard Richardson say, 'I'm gonna come back and kill you.' I took the threat seriously and decided to leave toward the campus on Fifth Street," he said.

When Sealey rounded Reade Street, heading north, he was across the street from where Richardson had parked his car, he said.

"I saw him get out of the driver's door, go to the trunk, pull a gun out and cock it. I heard him say, 'F--- this s--,'" Sealey said.
Sealey ran to a friend's house and called 911.
“I heard shots while I was running,” Sealey said.

Another witness, Rachel Burke, told jurors she and her friends were at an ATM across from The Other Place when they saw a commotion in the street. Burke saw a tall man wearing basketball shorts, a white T-shirt and flip-flops with socks.

“I noticed the clothes because I knew that OP had a strict dress code,” Burke said. “I saw him gesturing with his hand held like a gun. He said, ‘I'll be back,’ as he walked away,” Burke said.

Burke followed the tall man down Reade Street as she headed toward her car. In her car, she reached for her seat belt and looked in her driver's side mirror at a car across Reade Street.

“I saw the door open and the same man from the fight got out,” Burke said. He went to the trunk, opened it, pulled out a gun and cocked it. I definitely saw him cock the gun.” The man got in the car and drove it the wrong way down Reade and turned onto Fifth, she said.

Matt Blackmon, owner of The Other Place, described how he stood outside and watched Kirby and Blackley get shot.

Blackmon testified that he was summoned to intercede in an altercation between two groups of people, including Richardson. When he was unable to calm the situation, he called on his bouncers escort Richardson and the men with him out the front door and the other men out the back.

Darin Kennedy testified Friday that he was the man who had the altercation with Richardson. Kennedy said his group was ejected after Richardson's but left through the same front door.

Blackmon said Richardson had come in the club before. “He was very loud then and tried to get the mic from the DJ,” Blackmon said. “He was flashing money and said he was going to make the club ‘rain ones.’ I recognized him (on June 30, 2009) as soon as I saw him.”

Once outside, the arguing got louder and soon turned to shoving, Blackmon said. He grabbed Richardson as a crowd of shoving and pushing men formed around them, and the two went to the ground, he said.

Richardson freed himself and went into the middle of the street, Blackmon said, then walked away quickly with at least two friends near him on the sidewalk, heading toward Reade Street.
In Blackmon's written statement given to police later that day and read aloud Tuesday in court, he said Richardson shouted, “We have something for you. We're gonna come back and shoot you up.”

As Blackmon stood outside the club talking with Daniel Mustian, he saw a white car turn right onto Fifth Street from Reade and “barreled down” to the club, where “six to eight shots were fired,” according to Blackmon's testimony.

Blackmon said the hand holding the gun protruded out the passenger window from the driver's side.

He said Kirby got jarred back against the club window, cracking it, and fell to the ground.

“I looked up and saw Blackley, who was farther down the sidewalk, closer to Lucky's, grab his side. He walked four or five steps and fell to the ground.”

Blackmon described Richardson as wearing a white T-shirt, tan hat and long dark pants while in the club.

That contradicted some of the earlier testimony by Mustian, owner of Rumors nightclub. Mustian's description of Richardson was consistent with Burke's and others who said he was wearing basketball shorts. He also said that the hand that held the gun reached to the open passenger window, but did not protrude out.

“One shot went directly over my head, then Kirby just collapsed in front of me,” Mustian said.

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Elizabeth Warnke "Betty" Reddick

Elizabeth "Betty" Warnke Reddick died Thursday, March 17, 2011, at Martin General Hospital. She was born Feb. 2, 1922, in Hackensack, N.J. to Harry Frederick Warnke and Mamie Ulrich.

While a chemistry student at Guilford College in Greensboro, she met another student, a young man who was knitting. Although she thought he was a little bit on the small side, she nevertheless found him to be interesting and fun. Betty and Haul were married on Feb. 5, 1944, and made their lives together until his death on Sept. 5, 2010.

In 1943, she graduated from Guilford College in Greensboro with a degree in chemistry and later in 1985 earned a Masters Degree in Library Science from East Carolina University. She was a pioneering woman. She was a college graduate and worked as a professional chemist in an era when professional women were uncommon, working at both Esso Bayway in New Jersey and Monsanto in Boston.

In 1944 she came to Williamston, as a business partner with her husband Haul and they were successful business people for over 40 years. They started with nothing except a determination to succeed.

While living in a Main Street apartment, they would ride their bikes to and from the property where they were establishing their farm machinery retail business. From those humble beginnings, Reddick Equipment Company became one of the leading companies in the great transition in eastern North Carolina from mules to tractors and mechanized machinery.

Later she partnered with her husband again in the business Reddick Fumigants, Incorporated, which became one of the ground breakers in agricultural fumigation. She loved to tell stories of being a "cylinder wrangler" which entailed calling customers and asking them to send fumigation cylinders back.

While still working at Reddick Fumigants, she again set an example for others by earning a graduate degree at the age of 65 when others were retiring.

She was always curious about the world and especially loved exploring nature. Perhaps that is why she was so fond of and understood cats so well. She was a great reader and collector of books and imparted to all her children a wonderful love of reading.
She was creative and artistic and even designed a custom home for her family where she lived for over half a century. She had a distinctive style of knitting which is just now becoming popular and her children showcased her sweaters.

She led by quiet example, but she also knew when to speak up for building a better world. She was known in the community for her active lifestyle, keen intellect and curiosity and her love of reading, horticulture, animals and nature. With all of this, she was most of all in her heart the mother of her five children. She said many times that her greatest joy and the love of her life were her children both as children and adults; however, she admitted that their teenage years had been trying.

She was an active member of the Church of the Advent, Episcopal, where she served on the vestry and Altar Guild and sang in the choir and was a lay reader for many years. In the Winston-Willamston Community, Betty served as a Girl Scout leader and a Boy Scout den and pack leader. Betty was part of the Martin Community Players from its inception, working behind the scenes as a board member and president as well as performing on stage in many of the productions. In addition, over the years she served in various capacities with a number of community organizations such as United Way and American Heart Association. Betty established the Haul and Elizabeth Reddick Scholarship at Guilford College and was a long time contributor to it.

Her surviving children include sons, Haul Reddick III and his wife, Mary, of Arizona, Bruce Reddick and wife, Bethylee, of Williamston, and their children, Richard and Clint of Raleigh, Charles "Chuck" Reddick and his wife, Sue, of Franklinton and their children, Kathryn of Wingate and Max of Franklinton; and daughter, Cathryn "Kit" Reddick of Williamston. She is also survived by grandchildren, Ashley Reddick Farrell and Garrett Reddick, children of her son, Mark Reddick, who died on March 3, 2007. In addition, her family included her beloved sister, Harriet Warnke Niles of Melrose, Fla., and her children, Jay Niles, Leslie Niles Harley, and Linda Niles of Florida.

Betty will be remembered at a Service of Choral Evensong at 5 p.m. on Sunday, March 27, 2011, at the Church of the Advent, Episcopal. All are invited to a light supper in the church Parish House following the service.

At Betty's request, her ashes will be committed to the Atlantic Ocean to "join the ever-moving atmosphere and ever-moving waters and the ever-moving beach sands." Betty was always thinking about how to care for and educate a new generation. In that spirit, the family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorials be given to the Haul and Elizabeth Reddick Scholarship at Guilford College, Guilford College, 5800 West Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27410 or the Mark Reddick Scholarship at the Church of the Advent, P.O. Box 463, Williamston, NC 27892.

Published in The Daily Reflector on March 22, 2011
Contributed photo/ Katie Shytle, Eleanor Sojka and Mary Ann Ray were selected to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program.

Three Scotland High School seniors looking to pursue a career in education just received a combined $78,000 to help achieve that goal.

Mary Ann Ray, Katie Shytle and Eleanor Sojka were notified that they will be receiving scholarship from the prestigious North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

The scholarship is valued at $26,000 over four years. Upon acceptance of the scholarship, the student agrees to teach for four years following graduation from college in one of North Carolina’s public schools or United States Government schools in North Carolina.

Only 500 Teaching Fellows scholarships are awarded to various colleges and universities throughout the state each year. Ray, the daughter of Bob and Debbie Ray, will be attending East Carolina University. Shytle, the daughter of Chip and Evelyn Shytle, will be attending Meredith College. Sojka, the daughter of Nick and Lucy Sojka, will be attending the University of North...
“We are so proud of these young ladies,” said Toni Blount, Scotland High School scholarship coordinator. “The process for Teaching Fellows is extremely demanding, but Mary Ann, Katie and Eleanor worked hard and they are very deserving recipients.”

The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program was enacted by the General Assembly in 1986. The mission was to recruit talented high school graduates into the teaching profession and to help them develop leadership qualities such as visionary thinking and risk-taking; qualities that have not, in the past, been valued in teachers.

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Obama urges states to raise college completion rate

By Nick Anderson

It is a truism among certain education advocates that what gets measured gets done.

If they are right, then many states are doing little to advance President Obama’s goal for the United States to move from ninth place to first in the world in college completion by the end of the decade.

So far, only 19 states — including Maryland and Virginia — have set their own targets for raising completion rates. But on Tuesday, the Obama administration hopes to nudge the others into action.

The Education Department is making public its calculation of how much each state must progress to achieve Obama’s 2020 goal, along with some suggestions on “no-cost or low-cost” strategies to boost the number of college graduates.

As of 2009, according to the department, about 39 percent of people ages 25 to 34 had a college degree of some sort. Obama aims to raise that figure to 60 percent. The department estimates that the completion rate for Virginia is 44 percent and for Maryland 45 percent. To reach 60 percent, both states will need to add more than 200,000 young adults apiece to the ranks of college graduates.

Massachusetts had the highest completion rate among states: 54 percent. (For the District, which is of course not a state, the rate was 65 percent.) Other states have much further to go. Five have completion rates below 30 percent: Arkansas, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico and West Virginia. The Texas completion rate is 32 percent.

Suggestions from the feds for boosting the completion rates include: setting goals and making a plan; offering financial incentives to colleges that make big strides; making it easier for students to transfer among colleges; and targeting adults who have some college under their belts but no degree.
Kevin Carey, an analyst with the independent think tank Education Sector, offered this analysis: “It’s a good, comprehensive set of policies aimed at college completion. There’s nothing revolutionary here — but that’s the point. If states just do common-sense things they’re not doing now, like setting goals, tying appropriations to completion, shifting governance away from a narrow ‘funding and completion’ mindset, and adopting best practices ... a whole lot more students will graduate from college.”

By Nick Anderson | 12:01 AM ET, 03/22/2011
Bob Child/Associated Press
Details about Monty, the Yale Law School therapy dog, have been kept quiet. The dog pictured is Mugsy, who had a stint as Yale's mascot, Handsome Dan, starting in 2005.

**For Law Students With Everything, Dog Therapy for Stress**
By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS


An Introduction to Legal Reasoning? Check.

Small, cute dog? Check.

Yale Law School, renowned for competitiveness and its Supreme Court justices, is embarking on a pilot program next week in which students can check out a “therapy dog” named Monty along with the library’s collection of more than one million books.
While the law school is saying little so far about its dog-lending program, it has distributed a memo to students with the basics: that Monty will be available at the circulation desk to stressed-out students for 30 minutes at a time beginning Monday, for a three-day trial run.

“It is well documented that visits from therapy dogs have resulted in increased happiness, calmness and overall emotional well-being,” Blair Kauffman, the law librarian, wrote in an e-mail to students.

The school is not saying what sort of dog Monty is; what happens to him when school is out of session; or how Monty himself may be kept from becoming overstressed with all his play dates.

Sebastian Swett, 26, a second-year student at the law school, said he had signed up for a session with the dog, but does not necessarily think that it will relieve all the pressures that come with being a student at Yale. “I don’t think its going to solve anybody’s anxiety problems, but it’s certainly nice to play with a dog for half an hour.”

Monty, according to the memo to students, is hypoallergenic and will be kept in a nonpublic space inside the library, presumably away from those who don’t much like dogs.

“We will need your feedback and comments to help us decide if this will be a permanent ongoing program available during stressful periods of the semester, for example, during examinations,” the note to students reads. A handful of other universities offer similar services, including the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh.

Yale Law School has kept its dog-lending plan so quiet that some faculty members were not even aware of it.

“I’m surprised to hear of it,” said John Witt, a professor who was awarded a Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship last year for a project on the laws of war through American history. “I’ve always found library books to be therapeutic. But maybe that’s just me.”
University of California Los Angeles students protest education funding cuts and rising tuition rates last year. Fees at UCLA have increased 61 percent over the past five years.

Wisconsin government workers aren’t the only ones feeling the pinch because of budget cuts. Governors of cash-strapped states are now putting public colleges on the chopping block.

Forty-three states have cut higher education since the start of the recession in December 2007, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. And many states are now considering more drastic measures such as closing departments or entire campuses, curtailing student enrollment and laying off staff — even tenured professors.

Tuition hikes are inevitable, so students will be paying more for more crowded classrooms and fewer services.

Nevada’s Board of Regents met March 11 to discuss the dire situation in the state's universities after a rough week. Hundreds of protestors gathered on the Las Vegas Strip to oppose school cuts earlier in the month, and Moody’s Investors Service identified the University of Nevada at Las Vegas as the most likely candidate to declare "financial exigency," similar to bankruptcy.
UNLV "is on the brink" of such a filing, says Edith Behr, vice president at Moody's and one of the authors of the report.

That would allow the university to lay off tenured faculty, a move that Chancellor Daniel Klaich, says is being considered.

Higher education an easy target
Nevada isn’t the only one hurting. California, Florida, Pennsylvania, Arizona and Illinois are among states where lawmakers will face tough decisions in coming months as the vast majority of federal stimulus money is set to run out by the end of the fiscal year and tax revenues are declining.

It is the third year in a row that states are experiencing budget pressures brought on by the recession. Many governors ran on campaigns promising not to raise taxes, so the only attractive option to make up budget shortfalls is to cut spending. While the majority of states have already made cuts to higher education, the next round of chopping will inflict more pain, experts believe.

"This year may well be the most difficult budget year since the start of the recession," says Phil Oliff, policy analyst at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, which focuses in issues affecting lower- and middle-income Americans. "More states are cutting higher education than we’ve documented in other areas."

One reason: Going after higher education tends to be the easiest target. "There is political opposition to cutting K through 12 education, and state laws sometimes prevent that," says Tracy Gordon, a fellow at the Brookings Institution. "But higher education is a more flexible area."

Up to two-thirds of the typical state budget goes toward education and health care costs, but when it comes to cutting, many constituents say hands off health care. Only 31 percent of people support cuts in funding for public colleges, according to a PEW Research Center Survey, but even fewer favor getting rid of health-care services (21 percent) or funding for K through 12 schools (18 percent).

In Nevada, the Board of Regents decided against closing or merging any colleges at the March 11 meeting, but hundreds of employees are likely to face layoffs once the state budget is finalized, probably in June.

Gov. Brian Sandoval has proposed shaving $162 million from Nevada's higher education budget over the next two years: from $558 million this year to $395 million in 2013. Nevada has been hit hard by the recession and housing crisis and has the nation's highest unemployment rate at 14.2 percent.
California isn't far behind, with the nation’s second-highest employment rate — 12.4 percent as of January, the most recent figures available. On the table is a proposed reduction of $1.4 billion from the state’s higher education budget.

The University of California system already has increased tuition by 32 percent over the past two years, and the Cal state system forced faculty and staff to take two furlough days a month last year for a 10 percent cut in hours and pay.

"Classes are getting bigger, and it takes longer to graduate," says Patrick Murphy, a political science professor at the private University of San Francisco, referring to cuts in the state's public university system. "That is raising the price without raising tuition."

Florida, which also faces high unemployment and foreclosures, is poised to absorb a roughly $320 million bite out of higher education next year or a 9 percent cut to public universities, even though schools have already laid off faculty.

Pennsylvania is on similarly shaky ground. Temple University notified 20 to 30 non-tenure-track professors that their jobs are at stake as Gov. Tom Corbett unveiled his latest budget, which had no new taxes, but plenty of cuts. He is hoping to slash $625 million, or 52 percent of state funds, for the 18 colleges that receive state money, including Temple and Lincoln universities.

Graham Spanier, president of Pennsylvania State University, was shocked by the magnitude of the proposed cuts, saying that if they happened, the school might have to close some of its smaller campuses. He told the Philadelphia Inquirer, "The proposal would be the single largest percentage state cut in the history of American public education."

A risky move
While UNLV is the only school that has publicly said declaring financial exigency is a possibility, the serious move remains a last resort.

"That would be the most-dire result and would allow us to shorten notices on contracts and lay off individuals and close programs with very abbreviated notice," says Klaich, the Nevada chancellor. "It's certainly not a place where anyone wants to be."

Behr of Moody's says public universities simply be using the threat of financial exigency as a tool to convince legislatures to give them more money or as a necessary way to reduce expenses faster.

"If [a school] declares financial exigency and it needs to take out bonds to pay for a parking garage or something, no one will lend them money at the same rate," says Tom Auxter, president of United Faculty of Florida, which represents 23,000 faculty members and university professionals. "That means things are so bad you can't pay all your bills."
But Behr adds: "If one school does it and many follow, and it's handled in a way that stakeholders understand and respect, then (financial exigency) could be a good avenue."
With all these higher education cuts, it's likely that public universities will have to change. Some campuses might consolidate and other schools might get rid of poorly performing programs.

"I hope that out of the crisis, there'll be new solutions, but I don't think that is happening," says Murphy, the University of San Francisco professor. "Instead schools will just get smaller and more expensive and more exclusive."