THE DAILY CLIPS

March 26, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
University celebrates founding little later

March 8 was the 101st anniversary of the legislation that created East Carolina.

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University will celebrate its founding a little later than usual this year.

March 8 was the 101st anniversary of the legislation that created ECU. But that date fell on a Saturday and the first full day of spring break, so the university will hold events to celebrate its founding Thursday.

ECU continues its centennial celebration with a focus on spirit and service with a convocation set to begin at 10 a.m. at Wright Auditorium on campus.

Bob Greczyn Jr., chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees and president of Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina, will give the keynote speech.

Chancellor Steve Ballard also will speak.

The convocation will include the inaugural induction for members of the Service Society, a recognition of ECU students, staff and faculty who have performed 100 or more hours of volunteer service, followed by a presentation for the Centennial Awards for Excellence.

The Centennial awards, now in their second year, recognize outstanding university leaders or leadership teams in four categories: leadership, service, spirit and ambition.

There will be a luncheon on the mall following the convocation.

The university will open the permanent display of the Centennial Quilt at Joyner Library at 1 p.m. The quilt was crafted by the Greenville Quilters Guild.

The university will then re-dedicate the Carol G. Belk Building on Charles Boulevard.

See ECU, A11

Continued from A1

The three-story Belk Building was completed in June 1972 and served as the home of the College of Allied Health Sciences until the summer of 2006. The College of Allied Health Sciences moved to a new location near the Brody School of Medicine.

Work on the $8 million renovation project began in December 2006.

Funds for the project were part of the $3.1 billion in higher education construction bonds approved by the voters of North Carolina in 2000.

It is the last major ECU construction project to be paid for with those bond funds, said ECU spokesman John Durham.

The building is now the home of the College of Health and Human Performance.

ECU was founded as a teacher's college in 1907. It now serves more than 24,000 students.
College-town record stores out of tune with music's digital age

By Justin Pope
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — You need a college, of course, but that's not the only ingredient in a good college town. You need quirky bookstores. Coffee shops — preferably not all chains. A diner. An artsy cinema. A dive bar.

There's one other thing you need, and it's getting harder to find: a local record store. The kind of place with poster-covered walls, tattoo-covered customers, and an indie-rock aficionado at the cash register; somebody in a retro T-shirt who helps you navigate the store's eclectic inventory.

A few years ago on just one block of Chapel Hill's Franklin Street, the main drag in what's been called America's ideal college town, four or five such places catered both to locals and University of North Carolina students.

But with the demise of Schoolkids Records, the last one is gone. Schoolkids had planned to gut it out through March, but couldn't even make through its final week and shut down Saturday. It's just the latest victim in an industry hit by rising college-town rents, big-box retailers, high CD prices, and — most importantly — a new generation of college students for whom music has become an entirely online, intangible hobby they often don't have to pay for.

Chapel Hill is hardly alone. In recent years, perhaps hundreds of independent and small-chain record stores in college towns have shut down or consolidated as music downloading all but eliminated the demand for them.

In State College, Pa., Arberia and Vibes have closed. Iowa City, Iowa, used to have BJ's, Salt's Music Emporium, and Real Records.

Boulder, Colo., has lost at least a half dozen. Albums on the Hill, a holdout across from the University of Colorado's campus, is down from 18 full-time employees to three part-timers.

"I'm just trying to decide when I'm going to go online and close my brick and mortar," said Greg Gabbard, owner of City Lights Records in State College, near Penn State's campus. "I'm trying to stay here as long as I can because I love the people. We're all teachers."

Big record chains aren't doing much better. But somehow, customers never seem to miss them as much when they close down.

"You walk down the hall of the dorm and hear everything possible, and you will be influenced by all these people," said Ric Culross, who managed Schoolkids and has been in the business 35 years. "They've come to a store such as ours to feed off of that, just like they go into a bookstore."

But these days, most just go online. Culross said he'd hoped this year's freshmen might arrive with a revived passion for CDs and even vinyl albums, which have experienced a minor resurgence.

It turns out many have never even bought a single non-digital one.
Danger lurks in early births

Duke finds higher risk of death later

BY JEAN P. FISHER
STAFF WRITER

Children who are born prematurely are at increased risk of death well past the toddler years, and are significantly less likely to have children of their own.

In the largest-ever study to document the long-term effects of preterm birth, researchers at Duke University Medical Center analyzed data from 1.2 million Norwegian births, including about 60,000 premature infants.

The results were published Wednesday in the Journal of the American Medical Association, and shed light on the long-term prognosis of premature babies, many of whom survive despite being born with undeveloped lungs, eyes, hearts and skin.

"We have many more survivors but we have many more survivors with some degree of health problems," said Dr. Kate Veness-Meehan, a neonatologist at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill who was not involved in the study.

The findings come at a time when more babies are born preterm. That figure has been rising steadily over the past 25 years. Now, 12.8 percent of babies nationally, and about 13.6 percent in North Carolina, are born too early, according to the March of Dimes, which fights birth defects. Doctors don't fully understand the reasons for the rise in prematurity.

Medical breakthroughs, such as the use of special lubricants that help preemies' fragile lungs function better, mean infants that once would have died in the hospital are now living. Lung problems, impaired vision, and physical and developmental delays remain common complications.

And many babies don't survive; premature birth is the leading cause of infant mortality in babies younger than 1 year old, with the highest death rates occurring among the earliest preemies. But little data has been available about risks in late childhood or adulthood.

The Duke study found that death rates were higher among girls born early up until age 5; in boys, the risk of death was higher up until age 13. Researchers did not look at reasons for the childhood deaths.

Also, the number of infant deaths was very small. Even among the earliest preemies — those born with less than 27 weeks of gestation compared to a full term of at least 37 weeks — only about 1 percent of girls, died by age 5. Deaths among girls carried to full term occurred at a tiny fraction of that rate.

"It's certainly nothing that should be cause for alarm," lead author Dr. Geeta Swamy, who practices high-risk obstetrics at Duke, said of the increased death rates. "But it's important for parents to understand they may have problems down the road."

Physicians and public health experts cautioned that the findings in the Duke study may not apply generally to the United States, which is more racially and socioeconomically diverse than Norway. Also, the births analyzed occurred between 1967 and 1988 — well before modern medical advances that now increase survival rates among preemies.

Still, Melissa M. Adams, a public health expert and scientist at RTI International, wrote in an editorial accompanying the JAMA study that the findings offer some optimism for preterm babies and their families. She also noted that patients should tell their medical providers if theirs was a premature birth.

"This information may help clinicians identify and manage childhood and adult chronic conditions," wrote Adams, who is based in Atlanta.

Duke researchers also observed that being born early had a significant effect on reproduction, especially among the earliest preemies, though they could not say why. Just 25 percent of the earliest preemie girls had children of their own, compared with about 88 percent of full-term girls. Girls who were born prematurely were also significantly more likely to deliver early. Among boys, the gap was even wider. Just 13 percent of boys born between 22 and 27 weeks of gestation fathered children; more than half of full-term boys became parents.

Born at 26 weeks

Betty Marrow-Taylor of Durham was convinced her son Ezekiel "Zeek" Taylor would suffer profound disability when he was born 26 weeks into her pregnancy in January 1999. The placenta detached from Marrow-Taylor's uterus, forcing her to have an emergency Caesarean section.

"I was sure he was going to have cerebral palsy, blindness — all those things that can happen with a 26-weeker," Marrow-Taylor said.

Zeek was one of the lucky ones. He had to have surgery to close a hole in his heart, laser surgery to treat eye problems associated with early birth and procedures to correct serious reflux, which is common among preemies. But today, at age 9, Zeek has normal vision, is outgoing and active, and tests at or above grade level in all subjects at school. He has no physical impairments.

"I'm just so grateful that it turned out that way," Marrow-Taylor said. A cousin's experience a few years ago was starkly different. Her daughter, also born at 26 weeks, died of complications before leaving the hospital. "I've seen the other side."

jean.fisher@newsobserver.com
or (919) 829-4753
Davidson underdogs don't sweat Sweet 16

By Peter St. Onge
The Charlotte Observer

Davidson — Tom Ross was a freshman from Greensboro in the spring of 1969, the last time Davidson College made a run through the NCAA men's basketball tournament. He remembers an excited campus that year, the old Johnston Gym rocking.

Ross also remembers that his ball counselor was on that basketball team, and he knew several other players that year. They were regular students, part of the school community, like everyone else. It made the victories that much sweeter.

Today, as Davidson students return from an Easter break, they again find themselves in one of the best places in college basketball — an underdog in the Sweet 16, unburdened by expectations, floating in that fine space between pinch-me and don't-pinch-me-yet.

Their Wildcats play Wisconsin on Friday night at the Midwest Regional in Detroit. The basketball is different now, the spotlight more intense, but Davidson remains resolutely Davidson — a rigorous school small enough to do its students' laundry, a place where students sign and live by an honor code, a community that believes its basketball successes are richer because the kids on the court are part of the family.

"Would we like to go to the NCAA tournament for 10 straight years? Sure," says Ross, now the school's president. "Do we want to play big-time basketball the way it is at some other schools? We want to be successful, but we want to do it the right way."

At Davidson, one of Division I's smallest schools at 1,700 students, about a quarter of the students play sports. Those athletes are required to take course loads as daunting as every student's, and the grade-point average among athletes is higher than the general student population.

"Our guys don't walk around with entitlement in any part of their life here at Davidson," basketball coach Bob McIllop said. "They know they aren't going anywhere. They work for it."

This week, the president's phone has been ringing and his e-mail inbox has been dinging. ESPN The Magazine was on campus early in the week, and CBS' "The Early Show" will broadcast from here Thursday morning.

Says Ross: "It makes this week sweet for everybody."

Staff writer Kevin Cary contributed to this report.
WHERE PHARMA MEETS COLLEGE

Academic drug discovery centers offer ex-execs a new niche

BY SABINE VOLLMER
STAFF WRITER

Imagine universities as the pharmaceutical companies of tomorrow. The thought isn’t as far-fetched as it sounds.

In the past six months, Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill have opened drug discovery centers and recruited GlaxoSmithKline executives to lead them. As director of Duke’s new center, Dr. Allen Roses plans to go one step further. A researcher who has spent most of his career studying Alzheimer’s disease, Roses wants to establish a virtual pharmaceutical company at the university.

The idea is to “combine the brainpower of academia with the know-how and money of the pharmaceutical industry,” he said.

Several universities have created drug discovery centers in the past year or two, including Emory University in Atlanta and Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn.

The efforts follow years of turmoil in the pharmaceutical industry. Despite major funding increases for research and development — from about $15.2 billion in 1995 to $44.5 billion last year — the number of new medicines receiving regulatory approval has stagnated. Meanwhile, large drug makers are increasingly squeezed by competition from cheaper generic medicines.

Struggling to make up billions in lost sales every year, drug makers have restructured, reorganized and laid off workers to reduce expenses. In the past year, Pfizer, GSK, Novartis, AstraZeneca and Bayer have announced nearly 30,000 job cuts worldwide.

Pharmaceutical executives who lost their jobs in mergers and cutbacks used to go to the competition or become chief executives of small biotechnology companies.

Some, of course, still do that. But this time around, academia beckons with a promising new opportunity. “Academia should help them if pharma can’t do it all,” said Dr. Sandy Williams, senior vice chancellor at Duke, referring to accomplished researchers looking for greener pastures outside the troubled pharma industry.

Williams contends that the business model of the pharmaceutical industry is under siege. But at the same time, he said, the National Institutes of Health is offering universities a new source of funding to speed up the discovery and development of drugs. By 2012, the NIH grant program aims to establish a consortium of 60 academic medical centers and provide them with $500 million a year.

Duke University was one of the first grant recipients in 2006; it will receive about $12 million annually over five years. In the spring of 2007...

SEE ROSES, PAGE 3D
ROSES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1D

Williams started talking to Roses about returning to Duke. It seemed a natural fit.

Roses had made a name for himself in the 1990s, when he went public with data linking a gene to Alzheimer's disease. He developed his theory after becoming the first director of Duke's Joseph and Kathleen Bryan Alzheimer's Disease Research Center in 1985.

The theory was groundbreaking and controversial. Researchers working in Roses' laboratory at Duke were scrutinized in scientific publications, and Roses fought with the NIH over federal funding, the lifeblood of medical research at a university.

In 1997, Roses left Duke to join Glaxo Wellcome, a GSK predecessor. The company had bought the rights to his Alzheimer's discoveries three years earlier.

After 10 years, a merger and two changes in the company's research and development leadership, Roses had had enough. About to turn 65, he retired from GSK on Oct. 5, 2007.

He wasn't ready to call it quits, but he didn't want to go to another large pharmaceutical company or start a biotech company.

What he wanted to do was act on lessons he had learned while he was in charge of research departments at GSK's U.S. headquarters in Research Triangle Park.

Roses blames the pharmaceutical industry for a lot of its drug-discovery failures.

"It's the discontinuity when it takes 10 to 15 years to make a product," Roses said.

Stephen Frye, GSK's former head of drug discovery research in RTP, agrees. "Every time there's new leadership, priorities are reassessed, and many projects are killed," said Frye, who left GSK in August to head UNC-CH's drug discovery center.

In 20 years at GSK, Frye worked through two mergers and started five research and development teams. He retired on Oct. 5, 2007.

Frye said he asked himself: Do I want to stay and watch that movie play out again? He didn't, so he joined his alma mater in October to build the Center for Integrative Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery from scratch.

Frye plans to match physicians at UNC's medical school with chemists from the pharmacy school to generate innovative drug research. "We're trying to unlock the gridlock," he said.

Scanning the patents

At Duke, Roses is reading patents in hopes of finding drug research ideas that the pharmaceutical industry isn't pursuing. He has seen several that look promising for his virtual company.

Roses is the company's only employee; he works out of a conference center on campus.

Roses has found seven experts in different areas of drug development who are willing to help him turn the ideas into experimental drugs that can be tested in animals and humans.

In two to three years, he hopes to sell the rights to a couple of experimental drugs to pharmaceutical companies interested in bringing the medicines to market.

"The idea is to prime the pump with a few successes," Roses said.

If it works out, Duke stands to benefit from any deals Roses' company makes with the pharmaceutical industry.

The university is worried that NIH funding for basic research will decrease in coming years, but it could receive millions in milestone and royalty payments.

"He's a very clever guy," Duke's Williams said about Roses.

sabine.vollmer@newsobserver.com
or (919) 829-8992

RISING R&D COSTS

The members of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America have tripled the money spent on research in the past 15 years.

Funding in billions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>$13.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>$26.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>$38.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>$44.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PhRMA

FEWER DRUGS

The number of innovative new medicines receiving regulatory approval has stagnated in the past 15 years.

Number of drugs approved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Through Nov. 30
Source: Food and Drug Administration
The News & Observer