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University's 101st anniversary was March 8

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University celebrated its founding with a series of events Thursday.
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 held events to celebrate its founding Thursday.
The day began with a convocation ceremony at Wright Auditorium.

Robert Greczyn Jr., chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees and president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, gave the centennial address on spirit, the theme of this year's celebration. He said it has been 39 years since he first came to Greenville as a freshman at ECU, a time of great change on the campus. The late 1960s saw college campuses changing all over the country, he said.

"In 1969, everyone was wearing a tie and a starched shirt, by 1970, everyone was wearing jeans and T-shirts," Greczyn said. "I fell in love with this place then because of its spirit."

He said he fondly remembers ECU as a school where professors actually taught classes. At other schools, many classes are taught by graduate students, but not at ECU, he said.

"I remember most of all the personal feel of the place," he said.

"We are today what I remember as a student and so much more."

VIRTUAL: Did you miss Friday's celebration? Pay a virtual visit with sound and images at reflector.com.

INDUCTEES: See a full list of Servire Society inductees with this story online.


ROBERT J. GRECZYN JR., chairman of East Carolina University's Board of Trustees, gives the centennial address Thursday at Wright Auditorium.

Between 1900 and 1910, North Carolina was seeing an average of one new schoolhouse everyday. The General Assembly created the East Carolina Teacher's Training School, which ultimately became ECU, on March 8, 1907, to supply much-needed teachers to the state.

The groundbreaking for the school was on July 2, 1908, and the first class was held in 1909.

ECU now serves more than 24,000 students.

Thursday's events continued with the presentation of the 2008 Centennial Awards for Excellence, presented by Patricia Anderson and Austin Bunch, co-chairs of the Centennial Task Force.

See ECU, A9.
ECU
Continued from A1

The chairs presented awards to staff in several areas including service, leadership, ambition and spirit.

Linner Griffin, associate vice chancellor for academic programs, then inducted the inaugural group into the Service Society. Service translates to service, and the members each completed at least 100 hours of volunteer service.

There were 110 faculty, staff and students inducted into the society at the event.

The celebration continued with the dedication of the Centennial Quilt at Joyner Library in the afternoon.

A 7-by-7-foot quilt featuring ECU buildings and landmarks was crafted by the Greenville Quilters Guild, 22 local women who worked on the quilt for more than two years.

The quilt serves as a page in the history of ECU, said Greenville Quilters Guild President Barbara Murphy.

Making the quilt brought the group closer together and expanded their skills, said guild member Sue Pennington.

"Everything we collected is being archived in the library and there will be a history of the making of the quilt," Pennington said.

The group used digital photographs of campus and converted the images into fabric. There are 23 images on the quilt. It will hang in Joyner Library permanently after being encased, Pennington said.

The day concluded with the rededication of the Carol G. Belk Building.

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 then moved to a new location near the Brody School of Medicine.

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

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

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Holland enjoying Wildcats' run

ECU's AD spent time as a player, a coach and an administrator at Davidson.

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector

For those outside North Carolina, Davidson's run to the Sweet 16 might be viewed as an anomaly. They likely perceive the Wildcats as a nice little basketball team that has beaten some pretty big odds, not to mention some pretty good teams, to make it this far in the NCAA tournament.

But most hoops fans in N.C. know that Davidson has established a tradition of excellence in its tiny community north of Charlotte, and East Carolina Director of Athletics Terry Holland was responsible for sowing some of those seeds of success.

Holland's influence has been felt in all aspects of Wildcat athletics, but his imprint on the basketball program is certainly the most permanent. He enjoyed great success as a player and a coach at Davidson and, although he's fully committed to ECU now, Holland is taking time to enjoy his alma mater's most recent appearance in the national spotlight.

"The NCAA victories of Davidson and (coach) Bob McKillop provide an exceptional reminder to all of us that sustainable success is built one brick at a time over a lifetime of commitment to a cause that is larger than any of the participants," Holland said in an e-mail Wednesday. "Davidson's success in an environment where the almighty dollar makes so many decisions and quick fixes are the rule rather than the exception is a shining example that patience, strong guiding principles and hard work will still provide a prod-

See HOLLAND, C3
HOLLAND
Continued from C1

uct of long-lasting value."

Holland played for Davidson from 1960-64 and the start of his collegiate playing days coincided with the beginning of Lefty Driesell’s Wildcat coaching tenure. As Driesell’s first freshman recruit, Holland helped lead Davidson to a 65-36 record during his four years in a Wildcat uniform, including a 22-4 mark his senior season. That campaign ended with Davidson earning its first-ever top-10 national finish.

One game from that season stands out for Holland.

“Even though it is ancient history, the 1964 win at Ohio State, breaking their 30-game home court winning streak, put Davidson on the national map,” Holland said, referring to a 95-73 Wildcat win in Columbus, Ohio, that season. “And I had 20-plus points in the game.”

Davidson, with Holland as an assistant under Driesell, made it to the Elite Eight during the 1967-68 and ’68-69 seasons, losing to North Carolina both times with Final Four berths at stake.

Holland, just 27 years old at the time, became the head coach in 1969 and compiled a 92-48 record in five seasons, earning Southern Conference Coach of the Year honors three times before taking over at Virginia.

While Holland enjoyed great success as a player and coach, his work as Davidson’s AD may wind up being what he’s most remembered and revered for in Wildcat circles. Serving as Davidson’s athletic director from 1990-95, Holland worked with McKillop, who was promoted from assistant to head coach in 1989, to amp up the Wildcats’ level of competition during the non-conference schedule. The thought was, and apparently still is, that the Wildcats should take their lumps playing high-pro-

file squads prior to conference play in order to make them tougher once the postseason rolled around.

“The strategy that Bob and I developed for Davidson was to play a tough non-conference schedule with the understanding that we might lose most of those games,” Holland said. “However, those games would teach us what we had to do to beat teams at that level when we won the Southern Conference championship and met teams of that caliber in the NCAA tournament.

“This year, Davidson played a particularly brutal early schedule that included games against UNC and UCLA, both No. 1 seeds, and Duke, a No. 2 seed. Even though Davidson lost six of their eight non-conference games, those games prepared Davidson’s players to believe they could win in the NCAA tournament against any team.”

And that’s exactly what McKillop’s club, led by standout Stephen Curry, has done.

Interestingly enough, the last Southern Conference team to make it to the Sweet 16 was Tennessee-Chattanooga in the 1996-97 season, a team led by current Pirate coach Mack McCarthy. McKillop also has Greenville ties, having played two seasons at ECU before going back to his native Long Island, N.Y., and finishing his playing career at Hofstra.

While Holland takes pride in what he helped the Wildcats accomplish, he’s doing so from a distance. He says he hasn’t been to any Davidson games because of his “loyalty to East Carolina” and Holland didn’t want his “presence in Raleigh or Detroit to be a distraction for either institution.”

However, if the Wildcats’ run continues, expect Holland to make it to at least one Davidson game this year.

“I will be at the Final Four and I truly hope to see Davidson there,” he said.

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Students lauded for stopping bus

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Two East Carolina University students were honored Thursday as heroes.

The Greenville Police Department and Mayor Pat Dunn awarded Cameron Kirby, of Cedar Grove, and Chelsea Mungar, of Winterville, with recognition and commendations as a result of their actions during a Feb. 27 bus wreck.

Police Maj. Kevin Smeltzer praised the two women as he described the scene that day. "On the morning of Feb. 7, I received a phone call that there had just been a bus wreck involving an ECU bus on 10th Street," he said. "I didn't know how bad the wreck was, but when I got there, the scene was like nothing I had seen in my 23 years with the Greenville Police Department."

The wreck he was describing occurred when the driver of an ECU transportation bus, Nathan Rennels, lost consciousness at the wheel.

Smeltzer described wreckage strewn along 10th Street from Charles Boulevard to Evans Street. The accident involved eight cars and a Greenville city bus, struck after Rennels had what police and university officials called "a medical emergency" and lost consciousness behind the wheel.

"It looked like mass chaos. It was only through a miracle that nobody was seriously injured, and I'm still amazed when I think about it," Smeltzer said.

See STUDENTS, A9
STUDENTS
Continued from A1

He credited the actions of the two women, the only passengers on board that morning, as the reason no one was injured.

Both women, who sat quietly during the ceremonies, were reserved, almost delicate — in stark contrast to the strength and action for which they were credited.

"I didn't have time to think. I just reacted," Kirby said from the podium.

She and Mungal struggled to steer the bus with an unconscious Rennels draped over the steering wheel, his foot on the accelerator.

She said she became more frightened afterwards, when she scanned the chaos.

"Thankfully, Chelsea was there for me afterwards," Kirby said of her fellow passenger, with whom she has developed a close friendship.

Mungal received her commendation next, introduced family and friends in attendance and looked back on the day she became a hero.

"The accident was stunning, but a lot of my reaction was instinctual," Mungal said. "I made a friend that day, the moment that things started going away. I'm very grateful for her... and better for it."

Mayor Dunn listed the ceremony as a highlight of the university's busy Founder's Day itinerary.

"Looking back, we all have weak knees wondering how that kind of an accident happened, but we're all very grateful," she said. "It must have been pretty scary being on the bus, but I guess you do what you have to do and some people think faster than others."

She presented individual certificates of commendation and paper weights to Kirby and Mungal.

"The City of Greenville awards these to you in appreciation for your brave and valiant efforts in the traffic accident on Feb. 7, and we thank you very much," Dunn said.

Kirby, a junior, is majoring in family and community services; Mungal, a sophomore, is majoring in recreation therapy. Both are 20 years old.

Deborah and Terry Mungal, Chelsea's parents, beamed proudly as they stood with her brother, Colin, and watched her handle the attention.

"Her career choice in health care as an occupational therapist is an indication that she's always there to help people," her mother said.

Mungal's father recognized her natural traits as a factor in her bravery that day.

"Chelsea's blessed with clear thinking and the ability to react when a situation like this happens. I knew she wouldn't let something like this unfold without doing something about it," he said.

Crystal Kirby, Cameron's mother, also described her daughter's caring nature for others as a motivation for her quick actions, including a phone call home after the accident to tell her parents that she was unharmed.

"My reaction was, 'Thank God she's alright,'" Kirby said.

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Our Views

101 years

East Carolina preparing for future

When the N.C. General Assembly founded East Carolina Teachers Training School in 1907, lawmakers could not have imagined the prominent education institution it would become. On Thursday, East Carolina University celebrated its 101st anniversary with appropriate pomp and the annual convocation ceremony.

As the school enters the final stretch of its centennial celebration, attention turns to the future growth and development of this important state and regional resource. That requires a focus on the fund-raising campaign, the further strengthening of academic programs and a continued dedication to its mission of service to eastern North Carolina.

Over 101 years, what began as a small school founded to address a shortage of school teachers has grown to become one of the most dynamic schools in the University of North Carolina system. It boasts a student population nearing 26,000, and nearly 200 bachelor's, master's and doctoral degree programs. East Carolina is a school with national prestige, complimented by a medical school whose graduates work in rural communities and urban centers across the state.

As remarkable as that development has been, the school now stands poised to expand and excel further in the years to come. The end of the centennial celebration will commence a new era for East Carolina.

A capital campaign is under way, the first in 15 years, with a goal of collecting $200 million by 2012. The money will help fund scholarships, faculty positions and other opportunities that will serve students to study at East Carolina.

The school already features a plethora of academic programs, but that will broaden when the school opens its dental school in the coming years. The medical school is slated for expanded enrollment, and the university, like any dynamic institution of higher learning, must seek new areas of study and research to remain competitive.

Under Chancellor Steve Ballard, the university is expected to deepen its commitment to its motto of Servire, To Serve. He wants the school to provide leadership to eastern North Carolina, to use its academic talents to improve life for low-wealth counties and expand economic opportunity for residents in the East.

Approval for East Carolina was originally granted on March 8 — Founders Day — but the events were moved this year to encourage the involvement of students, who are traditionally on spring break during that period. They are the lifeblood and, the heart of the school, and they will be the leaders of this state once they depart, diplomas in hand.

How this university prepares them for the challenges ahead — how it molds them and educates them and urges them to make a lasting difference — remains the university's premier goal. East Carolina has excelled in that effort for 101 years and should be focused on doing so for the future.
Panel: State employees know best which e-mails to keep

Governor-formed board meets for first time to examine, recommend changes to state law on retaining electronic correspondence.

By Gary D. Robertson
The Associated Press

RALEIGH — No matter what policies are in place, state employees ultimately must decide which of their e-mails should be retained as public records, members of a state panel said Thursday at its first meeting.

“They are the best ones to determine that,” said George Bakolia, the state's chief information officer and a panel member. “It's just a judgment and it's an individual judgment.”

Gov. Mike Easley ordered a review of e-mail retention rules within state agencies under his control after the fired spokeswoman for the state Department of Health and Human Services said state employees were told to delete e-mails they sent to the Governor's Office.

The Easley administration has de-

nied the allegations.

Easley asked the panel to recommend changes in policies or state law on retaining electronic correspondence by May 20. The governor is interested particularly in how to handle electronic messages sent on newer technology such as Blackberry units.

“We need to look at what we need to save in order to ensure the public is properly and well-informed as to what their government is doing,” said Franklin Freeman, a senior adviser to Easley and the panel's chairman.

State law makes clear that electronic communications are public records, just like paper documents, photos and other information.

The Department of Cultural Resources, a cabinet-level agency under Easley's oversight, sets guidelines for retaining e-mails. Other agencies are supposed to set policies based on those guidelines.

Not all e-mails of state employees must be saved. Those with short-term value — such as travel reservations or appointment confirmation — may disposed off in keeping with the guide-

See E-MAILS, B3

E-MAILS
Continued from B1

lines or "when they no longer have reference value to the sender or receiver of the message," according to the department guidelines, approved in 2002.

That means a state employee could delete an e-mail that's a valuable public record, either by mistake or on purpose.

Not everyone thinks the state public records law needs updating on e-mails. Instead, employees need to be better informed about what the law requires, one media lawyer said.

“I am concerned that the e-mail provisions will be tightened to weaken an already clearly worded North Carolina public records law,” said John Bussian, an attorney for the N.C. Press Association, who is expected to speak to the panel when it holds a public hearing April 3.

The 62,100 e-mail users in executive branch and cabinet-level agencies receive an estimated 884,000 incoming messages daily and the number continues to grow.

Employees are reminded once a month to delete e-mails in their account but to do so in keeping with retention rules.

The more e-mails are retained, the more it costs to store them, Bakolia said.

The panel is comprised of state officials, a city attorney, and at least two former journalists, Ferrel Guillory, once at The News & Observer of Raleigh, and Ned Cline, an ex-managing editor at the News & Record Of Greensboro.

Freeman is hardly technology savvy, saying he receives e-mail but doesn't write back.

“I do not communicate by e-mail,” he quipped. "If that qualifies me as an impartial writer of e-mail, I don't know."

The comment caused state GOP chairwoman Linda Dav-es to call on Easley to remove Freeman as chairman and appoint someone she said “with familiarity with the technology and issues involved in this important matter.”
Annual ECU event uses students to model clothing from local boutiques

The Daily Reflector

New York and Paris may have its fashion weeks, but Pitt County doesn't need to feel left out.

More than 60 models will strut their way down the catwalk at the Greenville Convention Center today.

East Carolina University's Apparel and Interior Merchandising Organization — AIMO — for short, will hold its fourth annual fashion show at 7 p.m.

All the models are Pitt County students in local high schools or attending ECU or Pitt Community College, according to advertising chairwoman Jenelle Conner.

"We have small models right through plus size," Conner said.

The fashion show will feature clothing from local boutiques The Charmed Peacock; ICON, Pink and ECU's Dowdy Student Store as well as sportswear from Reebok and Chique Physique. Interior fashions from Bostic Sugg Furniture will help set the stage for the event.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m., and people are encouraged to shop at the participating boutique vendors before the show starts. There will also be free snacks, a cash bar and a $1 raffle for prizes at the event.

While Reebok is an international brand, the label has a local connection. Greg Grauel, the vice president of merchandising for Reebok and Adidas, is on the advisory board for the Apparel Merchandising department at ECU. He approached AIMO about having the label in the show, Conner said.

This year's fashion show theme, "A Day in the Life of..." allows each boutique owner to give their interpretation of fashion and style.

"We chose that theme so each boutique could show its personal style," said AIMO Vice President Amy Lawrence.

This year's show is about variety. ICON was in last year's show, but the store is now under ownership of Leigh Greer, so it won't be the same as before. The Charmed Peacock and Chique Physique, a line of sophisticated active wear for all sizes, are new this year.

"We're really excited about the versatility of the lines this year," Conner said. "We are really trying to make it a family-friendly event."

Last year's "Battle of the Boutiques" was held in a downtown Greenville bar and the show sold out and had to turn people away. The organization decided on a change of venue to accommodate more people. The Greenville Convention Center is prepared to seat 500.

"We've already sold a lot of tickets in advance," Conner said. "Any remaining tickets will be sold at the door."

According to AIMO president Kathryn Giles, last year's fashion show raised more than $1,300 for the organization and the proceeds from this year's fashion show will help send a group of AIMO members and one ECU professor on an educational trip to New York.

An after party will be held at Still Life in downtown Greenville. Entry tickets from the fashion show will provide free entry.
Not-so-heated debate
Gubernatorial candidates focus on regional issues

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Only a handful of people turned out for Thursday night’s gubernatorial debate, featuring almost exclusively issues facing Eastern North Carolina.

Billed as the WTN-Inner Banks Media debate, it was moderated by WTN anchor Dave Jordan and local radio and TV announcer Henry Hinton. Democrats took center stage at 7 p.m., Republicans an hour later.

The event drew all of both party’s frontrunners save Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue, a Democrat, who declined the invitation.

The remaining Democratic contenders remarked on her absence.

“Candidates usually come around and talk to you when they’re campaigning and you see the most of them; you see the least of them once they get elected,” retired air force Colonel Dennis Nielson said on multiple occasions. “So I don’t know what would happen if some get elected, how much you’ll see them.”

Current State Treasurer Richard Moore also delivered a dig during his two minutes on mental health reform.

“It’s a real shame Bev Perdue’s not here with us tonight,” he said. “This is the kind of issue that the voters lose out on...I would love to hear a lieutenant governor defend six years of budgets she wrote.”

Overall the mood was jovial and both men agreed on the majority of questions. Few rebuttals were made on issues ranging from supporting small businesses to preventing the installation of outlying landing fields for the military.

Nielson harped continually on what he considers the three tenets of his campaign — trust, integrity and leadership — and admitted he does not have answers to several of the questions posed.

“We don’t have all the answers,” he said. “They come from you people...We should always be out there talking to you.”

Moore spoke to his time in office. There, he said, he is held accountable by hundreds of thousands of state employees and known as a “bean counter” when it comes to funding and budgeting.

The duo clashed, however, when debating taxes and installing toll booths. Nielson promised not to raise taxes during a first term as governor, while Moore did not make a pledge either way.

Nielson also was outspoken against installing toll booths on North Carolina roads, while Moore said he believed a trial run was a good idea.

“Only in the parts of North Carolina that want them,” he clarified, emphasizing lower rates for locals. “It’s a way to make our money go further.”

While questions aimed at Democrats centered around economic issues, Republicans answered a largely different set of questions.

“A more lively debate, Republicans spent more of their time attacking the incumbent Democratic leadership than each other after taking the stage.

They used questions on the dropout rate, the Golden Leaf Foundation and loss of trust in government to point out faults within the current administration and urge change.

Bill Graham, a Salisbury lawyer, was the most vocal about placing blame on current officials.

“Well, we’re certainly not going to fix the problem by electing the same

See DEBATE, B3

DEBATE
Continued from B1

crowd that we’ve had up there all these years,” Graham said. “That’s the problem, the solution.”

He also gave examples of education reforms that were, he said, happening “not because of Raleigh, but in spite of Raleigh.”

Within themselves, the issues spurring the mild disagreement were that same issue of faith in government and immigration.

Former N.C. Supreme Court Justice Bob Orr was the most tenacious, disagreeing first with Charlotte Mayor Pat McCrory. McCrory proposes instituting a state illegal immigration court and detention center, while Orr questioned who would fund such a project.

“I don’t think it’s fair to ask the North Carolina citizens to pay for it,” he said.

Orr later took issue with the omission of problems facing Eastern North Carolina during a question about equitable funding for ECU.

“There is a lot of poverty, a lot of dropouts,” he said of the region, citing a senator’s quote that Eastern North Carolina would be a third world country without ECU and the health care infrastructure.

“We’ve got to be prepared to address those kinds of challenges, not just in the bigger, urban areas.

State Sen. Fred Smith took two opportunities to mention his 100 county barbecue tour and, therefore, larger familiarity with the area.

He spoke strongly about improving education through options, voter ID cards and agreed with McCrory on tougher gang legislation.

“I’m a leader,” he said, the last to give his closing statement. “I’ve been tested and I’ve been tried.”

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Growth challenges UNC-CH

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — In 10 years or so, the bar could get a little lower for students hoping to get into UNC-Chapel Hill.

The reason: The university will admit more students.

Last fall, the average SAT score of the 6,993 students accepted to UNC-CH was 1,337. Nearly 3,900 enrolled.

By the time total enrollment tops 33,000 — most likely at some point in the next 10 years — the average SAT score of an admitted class is expected to drop to 1,327, according to a report released Thursday by a higher education consultant.

That matters, said Steve Farmer, the university’s undergraduate admissions director, because the institutions with which UNC-CH competes for students won’t have the same struggle.

“A 10-point drop in a class this size is significant,” Farmer said Thursday morning during a meeting of the university’s board of trustees.

UNC-CH has long taken a measured approach to enrollment growth, increasing its freshman class size at a much slower rate than many other state universities. But a new mandate from the UNC system, which expects 80,000 additional students to enroll at its 16 university campuses in the next decade, has UNC-CH leaders looking for ways to accommodate extra growth.

The state will see a major demographic shift in high school graduates, according to the study. The number of Hispanic public high school graduates will increase 377 percent, while the Asian-American high school graduate population will jump 72 percent.

The number of African-American high school graduates will increase just slightly — 9 percent — and the number of white graduates will remain essentially flat, according to the report.

As UNC-CH grows, it must improve the undergraduate experience, Farmer told trustees. Additional merit scholarships and other improvements would help as the university attempts to maintain its buzz as a top public institution.

“If students think we’re good, and if other students tell them they’ll get a fair shake here and have a good experience, we’ll be competitive,” Farmer said.

The state’s growth is part of the university’s problem. It will draw to North Carolina more recruiters from elite universities throughout the Northeast and other regions with stagnant or declining populations, said Ben Edwards, managing partner with Art & Science Group, which conducted the study.
Study: Nose perks up during danger

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Know how a whiff of certain odors can take you back in time, either to a great memory or bad one?

It turns out that emotion plays an even bigger role with the nose, and that your sense of smell actually can sharpen when something bad happens.

Northwestern University researchers found evidence of the surprising connection by giving volunteers mild electric shocks while they sniffed novel odors.

The discovery, reported in today's edition of the journal Science, can explain how our senses can steer us clear of danger. More intriguing, it could shed light on disorders such as post-traumatic stress disorder.

"This is an incredibly unique study," said Dr. David Zald, a Vanderbilt University neuroscientist who studies how the brain handles sensory and emotional learning. "We're talking about a change in our perceptual abilities based on emotional learning."

Scientists long have known of a strong link between the sense of smell and emotion. A certain perfume or scent of baking pie, for instance, can raise memories of a long-dead loved one. Conversely, a whiff of diesel fuel might trigger a flashback for a soldier with PTSD.

Could an emotionally charged situation make that initial cue be perceived more strongly in the first place?

The research team recruited 12 healthy young adults to find out.

Volunteers repeatedly smelled sets of laboratory chemicals with odors distinctly different from ones in everyday life. An "oily, grassy" smell is the best description that lead researcher Wen Li, a Northwestern postdoc fellow in neuroscience, could give.

Two of the bottles in a set contained the same substance and the third had a similar odor that normally would be indistinguishable. By chance, the volunteers correctly guessed the odd odor about one-third of the time.

Then Li gave the volunteers mild electric shocks while they smelled just the odd chemical. In later smell tests, they could correctly pick out the odd odor 70 percent of the time.

MRI scans showed the improvement was more than coincidence. There were changes in how the brain's main olfactory region stored the odor information, essentially better imprinting the shock-linked scent so it could be distinguished more quickly from a similar odor.

But the MRI scans found the brain's emotional regions did not better discriminate among the different odors, Li noted. That discrepancy between brain regions is where anxiety disorders may come in. If someone's olfactory region does not distinguish a dangerous odor signal from a similar one, the brain's emotional fight-or-flight region can overreact.

Researchers say that is a theory not yet tested.

WHAT IT MEANS

The brain seems to have a mechanism to sniff out threats.

That is almost certainly a survival trait evolved to help humans rapidly and subconsciously pick a dangerous odor from the sea of scents constantly surrounding us, lead researcher Wen Li said. Today, that might mean someone who has been through a kitchen fire can tell immediately if a whiff of smoke has that greasy undertone or simply comes from the fireplace.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Study finds hope in squid's deadly beak

BY RANDOLPH E. SCHMID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The razor-sharp beaks that giant squid use to attack whales might one day lead to improved artificial limbs for people. That deadly beak may be a surprise to many people and has long posed a puzzle for scientists. They wonder how a creature without any bones can operate it without hurting itself.

Researchers at the University of California, Santa Barbara report in today's edition of the journal Science that they have an explanation. The beak, made of hard chitin and other materials, changes density gradually from the hard tip to a softer, more flexible base where it attaches to the muscle around the squid's mouth, researchers found. That means the tough beak can chomp away at fish for dinner, but the hard material doesn't press or rub directly against the squid's softer tissues.

Herbert Waite, a co-author of the paper, said such graduated materials could have broad applications in biomedical materials. "Lots of useful information could come out of this for implant materials, for example. Interfaces between soft and hard materials occur everywhere," he said.
FDA looks into reports of suicide risk from Singulair

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Food and Drug Administration said Thursday that it is investigating a possible link between Merck's best-selling Singulair and suicide.

FDA said it is reviewing a handful of reports involving mood changes, suicidal behavior and suicide in patients who have taken the popular allergy and asthma drug.

Merck has updated the drug's labeling four times in the past year to include information on tremors, anxiousness, depression and suicidal behavior.

FDA said it asked the White-house, N.J.-based company to dig deeper into its data on Singulair for evidence of possible links to suicide. The agency said it has not established a "causal relationship" between Merck's drug and suicidal behavior. An agency spokeswoman said the review was prompted by three to four suicide reports since October.

Merck officials stressed that the FDA's inquiry is based on reports, not clinical studies — which are the standard tool for evaluating drug safety. The company said none of the 11,000 patients enrolled in 40 Singulair trials has committed suicide.
300 students at Davidson get free ride

The Charlotte Observer

Davidson College is expected to transport about 300 students to Detroit for the NCAA Tournament for free and would take more students if it could find more buses.

"We still have around 500 students who signed up to go," said Bill Giduz, director of media relations at Davidson. "We had four buses originally, and found three more today, but we are reaching the cutoff point."

On Wednesday the small private college near Charlotte (enrollment 1,700) had promised to take all students who wanted to go. On Thursday college leaders said they were overwhelmed.

The seven buses are expected to leave campus at 5 a.m. today to make the 7 p.m. tipoff for the game against Wisconsin. Students will stay to see Sunday's game if Davidson advances. Students will have their tickets, lodging and transportation for free.

Davidson's Board of Trustees is paying the estimated $120,000 cost (about $400 per student) to allow as many students as possible see the Wildcats in their first Sweet 16 game since 1969.
Make rich colleges pay

Opposing view:
They're hoarding a lot of money that could help working families.

By Dean Zerbe

For the first time in a generation, we have good news about the affordability of college education. Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Max Baucus, D-Mont., recently called on colleges with endowments over $500 million to consider spending more from their endowments and to target tuition assistance for working families.

The results are already coming in: Several colleges have announced that tuition will be free for working families. But more can be done. Over a hundred colleges with big endowments are sitting on their money while families struggle. Those endowments enjoy billions in tax breaks that we all subsidize.

Our nation's private foundations are required to spend 5% annually. Even so, they have flourished. Yet college endowments face no payout requirement, and very few pay out over 5%. A 5% payout could translate into tens of thousands of working families getting free or deeply reduced tuition. The ripple effect on keeping tuition increases under control would benefit many more.

The Chicken Littles are in full cry. The claim that spending needs to be fair to today's and future generations is actually an argument for a 5% payout. It is today's generation that's on the losing end — forgoing billions in revenue with little in immediate benefit. The next generation would enjoy a better world if today's generation received a good education. A 5% payout wouldn't deplete resources, considering endowments are seeing new giving and income far outpacing 5%. It seems that when it comes to helping working families, we hear a hundred excuses. But when it comes to a big pay raise for the college president, there is never a problem. In my work, I see companies struggling to keep good jobs in this country. I can't explain to the employees why, while they face stiff tax bills and dig deep to write tuition checks, colleges sitting on billions of tax-advantaged dollars aren't required to lift a finger.

With our country facing a hard economy, colleges need to get off their money bags and help. The syc won't fall if colleges unlatch the admissions door to working families.

Dean Zerbe, national managing director for Houston-based alliantgroup, was a former tax counsel on the Senate Finance Committee, where he was responsible for the committee's oversight of charities and colleges.
Today's debate: Higher education

Leave endowments alone

Our view: Congress dictating payouts won't necessarily lower student tuition.

Not that long ago, college presidents were towering intellectual figures who influenced public policy. Then they morphed into faceless fundraisers. Now, some are being portrayed as misers.

The reasons for their declining image are many, but they're all about money. Tuition costs have skyrocketed, and many colleges have added fees for nearly everything. College loan scandals have forced some institutions to change the policies of unpopular lenders. Many schools have adopted campus ID cards that double as debit cards in exchange for collecting fees from the banks.

But now comes a new criticism: hoarding.

Universities with endowments worth hundreds of millions of dollars, even billions, are sitting on them rather than using them to reduce tuitions, say some influential members of the U.S. Senate. They are threatening to force the colleges with the largest funds — perhaps the top 100 or so from the more than 4,000 two- and four-year institutions — to pay out 5% a year. The typical college now spends about 4% for various purposes.

No bill even exists yet, but the jawboning alone could be getting results. Harvard and Yale recently announced they'd begin spending more of their endowments to reduce tuitions. That's easy for both universities: Harvard has an endowment of $34.9 billion and Yale's is $22.5 billion, amounts that are wildly more than typical colleges have. The Senate Finance Committee recently asked 136 universities to provide information, and the institutions are plenty worried.

Given the rising tuitions, embracing the mandatory payouts is tempting. But for several reasons, that would be a mistake:

- **Impracticality.** The popular image of endowments as a big slush fund is inaccurate. Most college endowments are a compendium of hundreds or even thousands of gifts, many restricted by the donors for specific purposes, such as the arts or sciences. A federal mandate to pry open endowments is as likely to create more science labs as student scholarships.

- **Academic freedom.** Congress stepping in to dictate how schools should handle their endowments is akin to telling them how to recruit freshmen classes.

- **Future responsibilities.** College officials refer to this as "intergenerational equity," which means not spending down what might be needed in the future.

This last point is the most important. For colleges, the future looks expensive. A report released this month by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education predicts two trends with huge implications: High school graduating classes will shrink, and college-bound students are more likely to be poor and minority. That means colleges will have to compete for fewer and poorer students, which will require offering more assistance — potentially a lot more. The message: Hoarding for the future might not be such a bad thing. As tough as times look now, with middle-class families pressed hard and tuitions rising faster than inflation, things are about to get tougher.

Best to hold onto some money for the even rainier days to come, and best for Congress to look elsewhere if it wants to help.