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An obstacle to a proposed state Medicaid change appears to have been removed, which likely will result in higher Medicaid reimbursements to the clinical practice of East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine and University of North Carolina's Health Care.

Officials at private, not-for-profit WakeMed Health & Hospitals had opposed the state's pursuit of a federal option for higher Medicaid payments. The option only is available to state-supported medical schools — in North Carolina that limits it to ECU's clinical practice and to UNC Health Care, which is associated with UNC at Chapel Hill School of Medicine.

WakeMed — which competes with UNC Health Care in Wake County and the surrounding area — said the funding option would give those facilities an unfair advantage when recruiting physicians, according to earlier media reports.

ECU officials had said WakeMed's opposition had the potential to derail the proposal. But on Thursday, an agreement was signed between WakeMed and UNC Health Care officials that assuaged WakeMed's concerns, UNC Health Care spokeswoman Karen McCall said on Friday.

“UNC and WakeMed were able to reach an agreement for the physician upper payment limit to move forward,” she said, adding state officials would submit the agreement to the proper parties.

UNC officials agreed that any physicians they hired after July 1, 2010, would not be eligible to receive the higher Medicaid payments, McCall said.

Officials at WakeMed declined to comment for this story.

The proposed amendment to the state's Medicaid plan must be approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the federal agency that administers those programs. It would be retroactive to July 1, 2010.

Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine, said Friday that he was “happy to hear the news because we feel our situation has now changed, and this has been useful so we can move ahead with this project.”
Cunningham said that the proposed increase to Medicaid payments would help offset the financial losses seen by Brody's clinical practice, ECU Physicians.

“We lose at least $10 million a year in providing safety net services and indigent care,” he said. “It will help us to survive financially but we've been struggling with this for years so it's not like it's going to be a windfall.”

Roger Barnes, assistant director of finance management for the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services' division of medical assistance, which pays Medicaid claims, said the amendment was submitted to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services in September 2010. Answers to follow-up questions were sent March 15. Public notice was given in advance of the original submission. No comments have been received by the state.

“We're willing to help the schools improve their cash flow and bring in additional dollars without taking additional dollars from the state budget,” he said. “At this time, we're not aware of anything that would cause it to be denied.”

Currently, Medicaid claims in North Carolina are funded 72 percent with federal dollars and the balance with state funds. The proposed amendment change would result in the state receiving a larger share of federal dollars without contributing more state funds, Barnes said.

Brian Jowers, executive director of ECU Physicians, said they've seen more Medicaid patients in recent years due to the area's growing population and the economic downturn. “Medicaid right now pays well below other health insurances, and it doesn't even pay as much as Medicare does,” he said. “The medical school lost about $2 million last year and most of it can be related to the underfunded and unfunded care.”

Jowers said that private insurance and other payments helped ECU Physicians recoup about $8 million of the $10 million shortfall it incurs annually providing care to federally funded and unfunded patients.

To help offset the losses incurred by treating indigent patients, patients who pay on a sliding-fee scale, and those with Medicaid, ECU Physicians has worked to expand its patient base to include those with private insurance or Medicare, he said.

Even so, ECU Physicians is projecting a shortfall of $1 million for the current fiscal year, Jowers said. However, the financial picture would be less bleak if the higher Medicaid payments were approved since they would be applied retroactively to July 2010.

It's estimated that ECU Physicians would at least break even instead of operating at a loss if its share of Medicaid dollars grew, Jowers said.
McCall of UNC Health Care said that system has seen an increase of about 20 percent in its Medicaid care in recent years and the higher reimbursement rate would help lighten the financial load it has been absorbing.

“Last year, our physicians lost about $15 million from Medicaid payments,” she said. “We think it might reduce the deficit by about half.”

David Brody, chairman of ECU's Board of Trustees, who previously said the position taken by WakeMed officials against the higher payments has threatened the proposal's viability, was pleased that an agreement was hammered out between WakeMed and UNC Health Care.

“I'm relieved that we'll finally be able to get past this,” he said. “It's obviously a big thing for ECU.”

Before the agreement was reached, Brody had said that the issue had become political to ECU's detriment.

“When two animals fight, it's the small animal that gets hurt and ECU is the small animal,” Brody said. “We don't own a hospital. We don't own a system. All those schools do.”

ECU's medical school is named in honor of the Brody family whose members helped fund its construction and who continue to support it financially and in other ways. Brody said the agreement between UNC Health Care and WakeMed provides a solution to the conflict.

“It's always a good thing when two parties can sit down and work things out reasonably and it certainly is the best outcome for East Carolina.”

Cunningham also has made statements alluding to WakeMed's tactics. “You can influence the politics of it in such a way that it can cause delays,” he has said of WakeMed's reported lobbying efforts.

“We just hoped that it would end with a positive outcome for us,” he said of the negotiations that led to the agreement. “Whatever money we get will provide for our mission and for providing services for our Medicaid population.”

Cunningham said the increase in federal money would help close the gap between the actual cost of providing care to Medicaid patients and the lesser amount that's reimbursed.

“It could come at no better time than when the economy is struggling and we're seeing a higher proportion of Medicaid patients,” he said.

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Editorial: ECU's blueprint for future
Monday, March 28, 2011

When the N.C. General Assembly first authorized the establishment of a teachers college in Greenville more than a century ago, it could not have predicted the remarkable growth that would come in the ensuing decades. What began as a small school to provide educators for state classrooms has blossomed into one of North Carolina's largest and more important academic institutions.

Sound planning is critical for East Carolina University to extend its record of success, making the master plan released this week an essential blueprint for how the school hopes to look in the coming years. By holding tight to that plan, the university can meet the expectations of the next generation of students and continue to serve the communities across eastern North Carolina.

If the master plan set forth this week is realized by East Carolina, downtown Greenville around the central campus will look starkly different in the next 20-25 years. At a series of public events on Tuesday, the school offered its vision for the future, complete with additional academic buildings, new parking decks, an additional student center and an expanded campus that would include several areas adjacent to the current campus boundaries. The full plan will soon be available online at the East Carolina website.

Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of the plan involves parking. In last week's presentations, a representative of the design team that constructed the plan outlined the hopes of removing all vehicular traffic from the campus core. New buildings will be constructed on existing surface lots and parking decks would replace the space lost in that area. That represents a significant shift from the current approach to traffic and would not address what most agree is a lack of available parking in and around the campus.

Initial reaction to the master plan has been supportive, particularly among students, but the success of the endeavor will depend on other corners of the community. With East Carolina already occupying the center of the city, its growth and expansion sets the tone for how Greenville will look in the coming decades. Therefore all residents have a stake in how the project proceeds.

What is clear is that this blueprint envisions a future in which East Carolina University continues to be a dynamic force in this community, the hub of education and the economic engine that powers the region. That bodes well for eastern North Carolina, which should hope for another century of success from the school.
EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
From left, Andrew Stuart, Joseph Kalinowski and Michael Rastatter of East Carolina University have developed the SpeechEasy device.

Device is help for stutterers
BY ELIZABETH WITHERSPOON - Correspondent

Joseph Kalinowski, a professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at East Carolina University, is a stutterer who has spent 14 years researching treatments for the disorder that was at the heart of this year's Oscar-winning movie, "The King's Speech."

Working with colleagues at ECU - Michael P. Rastatter and Andrew Stuart - Kalinowski developed the SpeechEasy device used by stutterers to improve fluency. The device is worn like a hearing aid and creates an audio signal that eases stuttering in up to 70 percent of cases.

Q. Do you know what causes stuttering?
No, and I don't think anyone does. There seems to be a genetic component. That is, there is a higher incidence of stuttering in families who have the pathology.

Q. How prevalent is it?
About 5 percent of children between ages 2 and 5 show symptoms of stuttering. After about two to 10 months, 80 percent will have spontaneous recovery. So, in the end, about 1 percent of the general population stutters. Stuttering occurs in boys four to five times more often than girls.
Q. Is there a cure?
No. There are treatments to help people become more fluent, but there is no cure.

Q. How do you treat stuttering?
Speech therapy helps. Techniques include behavioral strategies (slowed speech, breathing strategies, etc.), cognitive therapy (desensitization, confidence building) and altered auditory feedback (SpeechEasy, delayed auditory feedback, frequency-altered feedback). All these strategies can be used together or alone; the choice of therapy used is up to the client and the clinician.

Q. What is the SpeechEasy?
This device fits into the ear and emulates the effect of choral speech. Choral speech is when two or more people speak at the same time saying the same thing, like reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Stutterers often can be more fluent when speaking chorally, and this device gives you feedback in one ear while you are speaking to copy that effect.

Q. What did you think of the movie "The King's Speech"?
It was an accurate portrayal of the internal turmoil and frustration that a person who stutters faces on a daily basis, whether they are kings or commoners. For me, the power of the movie is that it illustrated that despite all the power, prestige and wealth of kingdom, the king was devastated by his inability to communicate.

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Marine Corporal Matthew Roberts, 25, talks about the benefit he has received after he began using the SpeechEasy hearing-aid device to help with his stuttering as he speaks during an interview at The Daily Reflector Monday, March 21, 2011. Roberts was wounded in Fallujah, Iraq, when a car bomb exploded beside his vehicle causing a concussive blast which created brain lesions and a subsequent stutter when he speaks which has become manageable thanks to intensive therapy and the new SpeechEasy aid. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

**Movie brings attention to speech device**

**By Kim Grizzard**  
The Daily Reflector  
Sunday, March 27, 2011

In 2003, Queen of Talk Oprah Winfrey gave a royal public relations boost to a speech aid developed by East Carolina University researchers. Nearly a decade later, the film “The King's Speech” has again helped create a platform for the device.

As the box office figures for the movie have increased, so has public interest in Janus Development Group, a Greenville-based corporation established to coordinate the development and sales of the SpeechEasy.

“Our web traffic has increased significantly as well as the daily inquiries that we get from people going to the website and requesting more information,” Janus President Alan Newton said. “It (the movie) has certainly raised awareness overall of stuttering.”

“The King's Speech,” winner of four Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Actor, stars Colin Firth as Britain's King George VI, whose heritage makes his struggle with stammering nearly unbearable.

Joya Cogdill understands that feeling. The Buies Creek native began stuttering in early childhood in a home where everyone else seemed to be the epitome of eloquence. “It was just hard for me as a child because my father is a preacher, and my mom was a teacher, and my brother was a lawyer,” Cogdill, 31, said. “Then I come along, and I don't want to talk.”
The Stuttering Foundation of America estimates that about 5 percent of children will experience a period of stuttering that lasts six months or more, but 75 percent of those will recover by late childhood.

Cogdill was among the 1 percent — more than 3 million Americans — to have a long-term problem with stuttering. While she participated in once-a-week speech therapy in school until sixth grade, Cogdill struggled with assignments such as oral reports, and she hated being called on to read aloud in class.

“I remember when I was a kid, I never understood why when we had to read in unison at my church I never had trouble,” she said. “I never knew why.”

She did not learn the answer until 2003, when her mother called to tell her about a stuttering device she had seen featured on “Oprah.” The SpeechEasy simulates the so-called “choral effect,” which describes how stuttering is significantly reduced or even eliminated when a person who stutters speaks in unison with others.

The device, worn like a hearing aid, uses altered auditory feedback technology to recreate the effect. When SpeechEasy users speak, the device replays their words into their ear with a slight delay and at a modified frequency, as though they are speaking along with someone else.

For some, the results are instantaneous. Cogdill, who has used a SpeechEasy device since 2004, remembers the first time she tried it.

“I remember (the speech therapist) had me read something, and she recorded my errors,” she said. “I had 96 errors or hesitations (before). Then she put the SpeechEasy in my ear, and I read the exact same essay, and my errors were like five on the whole page. I sat there and cried.”

Amber Snyder, Janus clinical services manager, said tears are not uncommon. “I have some clients that we have the box of tissue sitting right there because they start crying, parents start crying, I start crying,” she said. “I've seen clients who are 40 years old who say ‘I'm the only person I've ever met who stuttered' and they didn't think there was anything else out there. There's certainly relief.”

While SpeechEasy has been shown to reduce stuttering, it is not promoted as a cure. Newton said Janus avoids touting SpeechEasy as a “medical miracle,” terminology used to describe the device on “Oprah.”

“That disenfranchised a lot of speech pathologists,” he said. “Those were not our words; those were her words. They thought that it came from us, so we had to do a little bit of damage control afterward within the profession.

“SpeechEasy is not just a stand-alone product but part of an overall treatment.”
Stuttering is considered a communication disorder and is not classified as a medical condition. Speech-Easy is not typically viewed by insurance companies as a medical product, meaning most will not cover the $4,000-$5,000 expense to purchase one. In some cases, Newton said, Vocational Rehabilitation Services funding may be available for people who can demonstrate that they could gain better employment through use of a fluency device.

It took Matthew Roberts more than two years to convince the government that he needed a Speech-Easy to help fulfill his duties as a corporal in the Marine Corps.

Roberts has not had a life-long battle with stuttering. Though he experienced some stuttering in childhood, the problem did not recur until 2008, when he suffered a traumatic brain injury in an explosion in Iraq. He tried speech therapy, cognitive therapy and even hyperbaric oxygen treatment before being fitted for a SpeechEasy in December.

He wears the device daily and makes the trip from Camp Lejeune to Greenville for speech therapy twice a week. “I'm 25 years old, and this (stuttering) is new to me,” Roberts said. “It was driving me crazy, so this is like a real big deal to me. ... It's helped me a lot.”

Cogdill said SpeechEasy has helped her realize her calling as an elementary school teacher. While she already had completed her undergraduate degree before she began using the device, Cogdill's stuttering made interviews difficult, leaving her unable to find work in her major. She took temporary jobs but struggled with tasks such as answering the phone.

In 2005, she returned to her alma mater, Campbell University, to pursue her teacher certification. She went on to be named “First Year Teacher of the Year” at McGee's Crossroads Elementary in Johnston County, where she teaches first grade.

“Sometimes I am amazed that my worst fear in life is now what I do all day every day, which is public speaking,” Cogdill said. “Somehow or another it's become not easy and not flawless, but it's become easier.”

King George VI found success as well, even 60 years before altered auditory feedback technology was developed. Gary Hassell, national sales manager for Janus, believes the “The King's Speech” is inspirational to people who are hoping to find help for their stuttering.

“It actually creates awareness,” Hassell said. “Really, we haven't had anything like that for stuttering. It just makes them start searching. When they search they will find lots of options.

“We think it's a big deal,” he said, “especially for something that was developed right here in Greenville.”

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A Pulitzer Prize-winning graduate of East Carolina University will discuss her career and thoughts on 21st century journalism during the fifth annual CommCrew spring reception scheduled for next Saturday.

Margaret R. O'Connor, class of 1971, was photography director for The New York Times at the time of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. She and her staff went on to win two Pulitzer prizes for breaking news photograph and feature photography for coverage of the event and its aftermath.

O'Connor will discuss the details of Sept. 11 during the event, to be held at 6 p.m. Saturday at Emerge Art Gallery, 404 Evans St. Tickets are $25 each and still available.

“I think people were thinking the still photograph was dead but that story, being so visual, you couldn't report it without pictures,” O'Connor said. “I think photojournalism came back in a big way that year.”

O'Connor said she wants to have an audience discussion about the Internet and social media and its role in modern journalism. The technology gives everyone the ability to be a journalist, she said.
While once wary of the idea, O'Connor said she's gone from thinking there are too many opinions to believing that the good will rise to the top.
A native of Roanoke, Va., O'Connor came to ECU to study art, earning a bachelor of fine arts degree. Her early career was spent in advertising.

She came to journalism accidentally. She had moved to California in the 1980s and went on a job interview thinking she was applying for a design position with a Sunday magazine. It was, in fact, the art director's position for the San Francisco Examiner.

Newspapers were starting to rethink their presentation of news and were focusing on how the page looked and how photographs and graphics could be incorporated into storytelling. O'Connor was intrigued and took the position.

“It's one of the most important lessons I've learned, that plans often turn out better than you think it is going to be,” she said.

The Examiner at that time offered employees with five years of service a six-month sabbatical. She had wanted to live in New York for some time so she decided to take the sabbatical, moved back east and started taking freelance assignments. She soon joined The New York Times' features department.

The Times had a tradition of emphasizing words and stories over images, O'Connor said. An informational pie chart on the front page was the extent of their graphics usage. “When color came to the paper, that certainly opened things up to photos and graphics,” she said.

Howell Raines was appointed executive editor of the Times in September 2001. He talked about wanting more images in the paper. “He asked what we wanted and I said just run our pictures,” she said. “He was a good friend of the photo department. I don't think anyone would dispute that.”

Then terrorists attacked the United States on Sept. 11, slamming jets into the two World Trade Center towers, the Pentagon and crashing a fourth into a Pennsylvania field. In the hours after the attack, the newsroom was flooded with photographs from photographers, professional and amateur.

“We looked at everything — digital, throwaway cameras, Polaroids — we looked and used everything,” she said. The photograph that ended up running on the Times' front page was a vertical shot taken from the Brooklyn Bridge just as the second plane crashed into the towers. It was taken by a professional photographer but he wasn't a photojournalist, she said.

Prior to the attacks, little thought was given to using submitted photographs to tell a story, O'Connor said.

O'Connor retired in 2008. She is active with the university's Women's Roundtable, which encourages increased involvement from the school's alumnae.
The reception also will feature the presentation of the School of Communication's Distinguished Alumnus Award to Olivia Collier, class of 2002 and 2004. Collier is chief of local and regional affairs for the N.C. Department of Commerce.

Tickets for the Comm-Crew reception are available by sending a check to Cyndee Mueller, School of Communication, Joyner East, East Carolina University, Greenville N.C. 27858. They also can be purchased by credit card by calling 328-4227.

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About 120 Scouts attended an interactive career event Saturday at East Carolina University that zeroed in on nursing.

Sponsored by the ECU Beta Nu chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, the international honor society for nursing and the school's College of Nursing, Scout Out Nursing, held every other year at the nursing school on the West Campus off West Fifth Street, aimed to address the nation's predicted nursing shortage and offer a chance for Scouts to earn patches and badges.

Games, crafts, first aid primers and a chance to learn what the heart and lungs sound like were just a small part of the offerings as Scouts rotated every 20 minutes through rooms featuring surgery, military field operations, midwifery, history and other themes.

“What we're trying to do is encourage the young people to enter the profession of nursing,” Gina Woody, an assistant clinical professor at ECU's College of Nursing, said. “There's many different avenues nurses can take.”

“Kids need a realistic understanding of what nursing is,” said Elaine Scott, president of the Beta Nu chapter of Sigma Theta Tau who said television often offers unrealistic portrayals of medicine.

“We really want them to see what nurses do, and we want diversity in nursing,” she said. Eagle Scout and first-semester undergraduate nursing student John Berger, one of about 75 faculty and student volunteers, said he was happy to help teach fellow Scouts.
“It's been awesome,” he said. “The kids seem to really enjoy it. They learn a lot. A lot of them know a lot more than you might think about first aid.”

Marisa Crisp, 10, a fifth-grader from Ridgewood Elementary School, was intrigued by the past's most influential nurses.

“I think it's really cool to learn the history of the nurses, learning about the different people who are nurses,” she said.

Fellow Troop 463 member Bobbie Kochlin, 11, said she was inspired by obstetrics, for the chance it offered to bring life into the world, but was equally drawn to trauma. “It saves people's lives,” she said.

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Airport to display ECU students’ sculptures
By Sue Book
2011-03-24 19:33:39
Coastal Carolina Regional Airport will begin displaying a new group of outdoor sculptures by East Carolina University art students Friday.

A reception and presentation from seven artists is scheduled for 1 p.m. in the main airport terminal that is open to anyone interested in hearing artists “tell the public a little bit about their piece,” said Tom Braaten, airport director.

This is the third year Coastal Carolina Regional Airport has commissioned art from students of ECU professors Honna Jubran and Carl Billingsley. The arrangement commits the airport authority pay for materials for those selected from drawings and models and to purchase one of the sculptures. It also leaves all of those commissioned on display on the airport grounds for one year.

Braaten said student artists are scheduled to take the 2010 sculptures beginning at 11 a.m. Friday and put up the new ones selected from models and plans from ECU art students participating.

The authority bought a sculpture that looked like a paper airplane with pencils propped up against it which will remain.

“There are some really neat ones this year,” Braaten said. “There is more color than we have had in the past — some are bright flashy ones kids and adults will like.”

He said the purpose of the sculpture project is several-fold.

“We want to add a little public art display at the airport. With all the bears, fire hydrants and park benches in town it adds to that. It gives the traveling public something to look at while they are waiting.

“And it gives the art students a real challenge,” Braaten said. “They have to design something, describe their inspiration, build something that will
withstand weather elements, and stand in front of a group to talk about their work.”

Braaten said the 1 p.m. event has been promoted in a variety of ways including Chamber of Commerce newsletters in Craven, Pamlico, Carteret, and Onslow counties.

“I think we’ll have a nice group and all are welcome. It’s supposed to be a great day with sunny, blue skies.”

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Technical glitches don’t halt global classroom
ECU News Services
Sunday, March 27, 2011

The technology balked, yet the learning went on in East Carolina University's global classroom.

Some 70 ECU students who stayed up late for a first-ever campus get together with peers in Iraq didn't get the experience they expected. The connection flittered, and instructors had to improvise.

Yet for many participants in the event dubbed the “Midnight Special,” the hour they spent conversing, on and off, with students at Kufa University via satellite reinforced lessons they'd been learning in the classroom.

“Working across the globe will obviously have its difficulties and it's just something we have to work around,” said ECU student Jonathan Breton, 20, of Charlotte. Jami Leibowitz, a professor of anthropology and lead teacher of ECU's Global Understanding Teaching Team, said that's an important part of what the university's global understanding course tries to teach students.

“We hope students come away with some specific skills that will help them interact in the world with people who speak English as a second language,” Leibowitz said. “How to adjust your communication, how to ask a question, we hope we've begun to help them develop these skills.”

War-torn Kufa University is ECU's newest partner in the Global Partners in Education program, where technology and distance learning let students and faculty interact in broad ways across disciplines. Some 30 other partners participate, including universities in Malaysia, Brazil and the Czech Republic. Kufa joined last year, and the “Midnight Special” welcomed Iraqi students to the program. They will formally participate in classes in the fall.

“We are particularly excited about this relationship,” Leibowitz said. “Our students are unaware of people in that part of the world and the image of them they have is what they see on the news. This is a chance to get to know more.”

The odd hour here — midnight, Monday, March 21 — reflected the need to work around a standing curfew in Iraq. Officials planned for ECU students to do a musical production. Iraqi students planned a fashion show from the ages.
Instead, a connection that blinked in and out only allowed the students to talk briefly about what they liked to do for fun. On ECU's end, the musical performance went on and was taped. It will be sent to Kufa. A handful of ECU students who stayed late eventually got to see the Iraqi fashion show.

Snafus, however, didn't keep students such as Breton from taking away insights. “When you go straight to the source and learn from the ones who have experienced it, you will gain a whole new perspective on life,” he said.

Students need that perspective and the skills that come with it to be successful in today's world, Leibowitz said. That's the point of teaching a course in global understanding. “It's not just about understanding Iraq,” she said. “It's about understanding those who are different from you.”

**Hochman awarded Avery Fisher grant**
An ECU School of Music faculty member has been named a 2011 recipient of an Avery Fisher Career Grant, given through the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts to talented instrumentalists believed to have great potential for solo careers.

Pianist Benjamin Hochman will receive an award stipend of $25,000 to use for specific needs to further his career.

The Avery Fisher Career Grants were established at the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in 1974 by Avery Fisher, a lifelong lover and benefactor of classical music. The program, administered by the Lincoln Center, has been recognized as one of the most prestigious in the music world.

Since 1976 when the first career grants were given, 121 artists have been recognized with the awards; all recipients are working musicians. According to the Avery Fisher Artist Program, artists do not apply directly for these awards and have no idea that they are even under consideration.

Hochman, who is assistant professor of piano at ECU, has earned widespread acclaim for his performances with the New York and Israel Philharmonics and the Chicago, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and National Arts Centre orchestras, and the Vancouver Symphony among others.

He has collaborated with the highest echelon of chamber musicians on a number of special projects, including the Tokyo, Casals, and Daedalus Quartets, the Zukerman Chamber Players, and instrumentalists such as Miklós Perényi, Jaime Laredo, Cho-Liang Lin and Jonathan Biss. His first disc on Artek was released in 2009 and included solo works of Bach, Berg and Webern.

Born in Jerusalem, Hochman is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and the Mannes College of Music. He joined the ECU faculty in fall 2010.
He has participated in three prestigious residencies, including the Chamber Music Society Two at Lincoln Center.

His honors include the outstanding pianist citation at the Verbier Academy and first prize at the National Piano Competition of the Rubin Academy of Music.

**ECU will host National History Day**

More than 250 middle and high school students are expected to participate Wednesday in the regional National History Day competition at ECU.

Judging at the event, themed “Debate and Diplomacy: Successes, Failures, Consequences” will begin at 10 a.m. in Mendenhall Student Center. The public is invited to attend, said Chad Ross, teaching assistant professor of history.

“You'll see the excitement and energy in these kids' faces,” said Ross, who is in his third year of organizing the event.

The regional NHD will draw students from counties east of Interstate 95. Winners will proceed to the state competition in Raleigh, which precedes the national contest in College Park, Md.

More than half a million students nationwide participate annually in NHD by writing papers or preparing exhibits, performances, websites or documentaries.

NHD helps students across the country develop critical thinking, research and presentation skills. It also fosters self-esteem and helps develop a sense of responsibility for an involvement in the democratic process.

A study released in January found that students who participated in National History Day perform better on high-stakes tests, are better writers, more confident and capable researchers, and have a more mature perspective on current events and civic engagement than their peers.

The ECU Department of History sponsors the regional contest as part of its efforts to interact with the community and bring history to people, Ross said. For more information, contact Chad Ross, teaching assistant professor of history, at 328-6089 or rossch@ecu.edu.

**Youth Arts Festival coming on Saturday**

The seventh annual Youth Arts Festival is expected to bring more than 100 visual and performing artists to ECU on Saturday.

Musical and theatrical groups will also be featured at the festival, which will be on the campus mall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.
Featured will be the Paperhand Puppet Intervention, the Flag of Hope which is made with handprints of North Carolina's diverse communities, and Mandolin Orange, a folk and roots musical group.

Children will have the opportunity to create their own artwork as they visit with artists demonstrating activities, such as wheel-thrown ceramics, traditional watercolor painting, weaving, felting, papermaking, printmaking, portraiture and a myriad of other visual art media. For more information and event times, visit the festival's website: http://www.ecu.edu/soad/youtharts.cfm

**Upcoming Events:**

**Tuesday:** Lecture on leadership: “Leading the Project Mission: From the roads of North Carolina to the battlefields of Iraq,” presented by Brigadier General James H. Trogdon III, assistant adjutant general for U.S. Army, North Carolina National Guard and Chief Operating Officer, N.C. Department of Transportation, 12:30-1:45 and 3:30-4:45 p.m., both in the Science & Technology Building, Room 144 NW.

**Wednesday:** Lecture: “The Complexity of the Veil,” 4 p.m., Bate Building Room 1032. Dr. Charlotte Armster, professor of German and women's studies at Gettysburg College, will present this lecture on the increasing presence of scarves and long coats as part of tesselur, dressing according to Islamic advice. Free and open to the public.

**Thursday-Saturday:** “Mary Stuart,” a lyric tragedy in two acts by Gaetano Donizetti, presented by the ECU School of Music Opera Theater, 7 p.m., A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, conducted by J. Christopher Buddo and directed by John Kramar. Tickets available at 328-4788 or (800) ECU-ARTS or www.ecuarts.com. See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.

Air Force commander, ECU alum, extends condolences to Japanese
By Tech. Sgt. Matthew Mcgovern
Pacific Air Forces Public Affairs
Sunday, March 27, 2011

HONOLULU — The Pacific Air Forces commander, a graduate of East Carolina University, expressed his sympathy to the Japanese people during a recent visit to the nation's Consulate General's office in Hawaii.

Gen. Gary L. North, a 1976 graduate and native of Charlottesville, Va., signed an official condolence book along with federal, state, city and county government agency officials who penned their expressions of sympathy for the deadly destruction after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and destructive tsunami hit Japan March 11.

The general was accompanied by Yoshi Kamo, consul general of Japan, Brian Woo, PACAF political advisor and Lt. Col. Shinya Kitamura, Japan Air Self Defense Force international affairs liaison officer.


The U.S. Air Force, sister services and supporting commands continue are working with their a with their Japanese counterparts on a to coordinate government of Japan requests and rapidly respond with critically needed capabilities and supplies in times of crisis.
The U.S. Air Force has flown more than 230 missions and transported more than 3.2 million pounds of supplies and equipment in support of Operation Tomodachi as of March 23.
In a year that North Carolina faces a revenue shortfall estimated to be $2.4 billion, no aspect of state government should expect to be spared its share of hardship in the coming fiscal year. Lawmakers will be asked to divide sparse and precious resources and to invest public dollars in order to stimulate economic growth and put residents back to work.

It makes little sense, then, that Gov. Beverly Perdue would propose a budget that sharply cuts funding for student growth at the state's community colleges. Institutions like Pitt Community College provide vital instruction to the community's workforce and are invaluable to business, making them an ideal recipient of public money and not a place to cut corners.

Budget worries topped the discussion list at the PCC Board of Trustees meeting this week as the school prepares for bad news from Raleigh. The governor's budget proposal does fairly well to protect education, but would see a reduction in spending on community colleges of about 10 percent. Perdue offsets those cuts with a $25 million one-time investment in equipment, unspent money remaining from the current fiscal year.

For PCC President Dennis Massey, however, that may not be enough. He worries that with a continually growing student population and more demands on the school's programs, that PCC will not be able to meet the needs of this community. A reduced appropriation for operations would harm a college that already struggles to provide degree programs, distance education, advanced study for secondary students and worker training.

There is also a likelihood that community colleges will see lottery money dry up. Though the game won approval with a pledge to devote some proceeds to construction needs at the state's 58 colleges, the tight budget year has lawmakers eying the redirection of those funds for other needs. At a school like PCC, which ranks last among community colleges for its available space per student, that would cause significant discomfort.

Ultimately, Massey and PCC administration will have little choice but to play the cards they are dealt by Perdue and the Legislature. They expect to see some funding cuts and will not protest them, knowing that all of state government must share the burden. However, the state should not give short shrift to the valuable work of the state's community colleges when they can help rebuild a broken economy and prepare North Carolina for the future.
N.C. State University officials have sent an ultimatum to tiny Loyola University in New Orleans: Get over calling yourself the Wolfpack.

The Jesuit school in Louisiana has called itself the Wolfpack for more than a half-century, but N.C. State says it owns the exclusive legal right to use the Wolfpack name and logo.

N.C. State Assistant General Counsel Shawn Troxler last month notified Loyola officials that their use of the Wolfpack image constitutes trademark infringement. Loyola's use of Wolfpack could lead to confusion and misunderstanding in the marketing-intense, big-money world of collegiate sports.

"People could think something is being sponsored by N.C. State," Troxler said Sunday. "We're in the beginning stages of discussion of how they could use the term 'Wolfpack.'"
N.C. State is proposing options that would let Loyola license the nickname for a fee, or require the school to use "Wolfpack" in combination with Loyola but not as a stand-alone moniker, he said.

Loyola spokesman Matt Lambert said the school's legal office has not issued any updates on the status of the talks. But Lambert jokingly said it might be safer to rename the Jesuit institution the Tar Heels.

Loyola, a century-old institution with just under 5,000 students, traces its self-deification as the Wolfpack back to the 1930s, while N.C. State's usage dates back to 1947 for athletic and sporting events. However, N.C. State registered the trademark in 1983, at a time when Loyola had discontinued its intercollegiate athletic program.

Loyola's sports program was reinstated in 1991, and today Loyola Wolfpack men and women, dressed in maroon and gold, compete in about 10 sports in the National Association of Intercollegiate Conference.

This is not the first time N.C. State has defended its Wolfpack credentials. In 2008, it reached an agreement with the University of Nevada for use of a mascot logo similar to N.C. State's.

As part of that settlement, Nevada agreed not to use red and white or show its wolf donning a top hat (N.C. State's wears a sailor's cap), but the school has since redesigned its wolf's head to present a profile view. Also, Nevada's mascot name is written as two words: "Wolf Pack."

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UNC-Chapel Hill sophomore James Wilson takes notes during the weekly Cornerstone Campus Crusade for Christ Bible study. The group's website, ehrmanproject.com, is in rebuttal to New Testament scholar Bart Ehrman.

**Evangelicals counter UNC-CH Bible scholar**

BY YONAT SHIMRON - STAFF WRITER

The release of a new book by UNC-Chapel Hill's pre-eminent New Testament scholar, Bart Ehrman, has long been an unnerving and occasionally intimidating time for evangelical Christians on campus.

The pugnacious professor, whose challenges to cherished Christian beliefs make him a nemesis among some, relishes the role.

The titles of some of his bestsellers - "Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why," and "Jesus Interrupted: Revealing the Hidden Contradictions in the Bible" - testify to his penchant for knocking dogmas.

Now he's at it again with "Forged: Writing in the Name of God - Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are" (HarperOne, $26.99). This time, campus evangelicals are better prepared.

In January, leaders of Campus Crusade for Christ, an international student ministry at 1,140 colleges and universities, decided to fight back with a website critical of Ehrman's conclusions.
In a polite, straightforward way, The Ehrman Project, ehrmanproject .com , attempts to offer students alternative views to those drawn by the superstar scholar whose Introduction to the New Testament class draws hundreds of students each semester.

"A lot of people struggle with what he teaches," said Miles O'Neill, director of Campus Crusade for Christ at UNC-CH. "We just wanted to give students other resources because we feel he gives a one-sided view."

The site consists of short video clips of scholars from evangelical schools offering their views on Christian orthodoxies:
Does the Bible include errors?

Did the early church leaders conspire to misrepresent what Jesus said to conform to their emerging theology?

The website's scholars, professors at conservative evangelical schools such as Asbury Theological Seminary and Dallas Theological Seminary, maintain that the Bible is reliable and that the changes made by scribes over the years are trivial.

But, Ehrman contends, their views do not represent the consensus among scholars using historians' techniques to analyze ancient texts.

"Look at their credentials," said Ehrman, 55. "None of them teaches at state universities, Ivy League schools, or prominent four-year liberal arts colleges," he said. "People with those views would never get a job at UNC."

**Challenging literacy**
The website's creators acknowledge that the views presented on their site are one-sided. They even give Ehrman credit for helping educate people about Christianity.

"Bart Ehrman is challenging evangelical Christians' literacy," said Dustin Smith, a senior who helped create and maintain the site. "Leaders in the Christian community haven't raised issues such as apparent contradictions in Scriptures. We're not for an ignorant faith. But we want students to know there are other conclusions."
These Christians ask why Ehrman, who calls himself "a happy agnostic," finds it necessary to indulge students in his personal loss of faith and to delve into issues of good and evil, as he did in a book called "God's Problem."

Ehrman said he talks about his loss of faith because students ask.

His main task, he said, is to apply techniques used by historians to ancient texts. He believes Jesus was a historical figure, but in his research he shows how ancient scribes altered the early manuscripts of the New Testament to promote their particular theological viewpoints on Jesus.

This kind of scholarship is not new. It's been going on for at least 150 years. But few churches have kept pace and, as polls consistently show, most Christians know little about their faith, even less about how the Bible came to be. A 2010 survey on religious knowledge by the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life showed most Americans were able to answer correctly only half of the survey's questions about the Bible.

'Pseudepigraphy'
Many students who went into Ehrman's class with a strong Christian faith said the professor drove them to wrestle with facts and examine what they had taken for granted.

"It's been very challenging for me," senior Will Lamb said. "I've had to study the Scriptures to understand why I disagree with him."

What students don't like is Ehrman's tone, which students described alternately as "arrogant" and "sarcastic."

Take his most recent book, "Forged."

Scholars have long resisted the term "forgery" to characterize Biblical writings made under false authorship. For centuries, scholars labeled some writings, such as the six New Testament epistles attributed to the Apostle Paul but actually written by others, with a technical term, "pseudepigraphy."

Ehrman dispenses with such formalities. Even the ancients, he said, knew that writing a book in someone else's name was deceitful.
"This common view that it was acceptable is flat-out wrong," Ehrman said. "It's not acceptable."

Book tour
Over the next few weeks, Ehrman will be taking his book on a five-city tour including Boston, Philadelphia and Washington. This is Ehrman's fourth title written for a wide audience.

Meanwhile, Christian students at Chapel Hill are working hard to keep the faith.

Since the site launched, they have gotten more than 60,000 page views. They're getting the word out on social networking sites and building their case.

"Ehrman takes everything at face value," Lamb said. "But there are many things Christians believe that can't be historically proven."

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Points made
Bart Ehrman argues that early scholars altered the ancient manuscripts of the New Testament to conform to their theological convictions. Here are two examples:

The story of Jesus and the woman accused of adultery - in which Jesus famously said, "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her" - was added to John's Gospel. It does not appear in earlier versions.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus met a leper who said, "If you are willing, you can make me clean" - Mark 1:40. In the earliest manuscripts, Jesus responded to the leper "with anger." In later versions, scribes changed it to "Jesus was filled with compassion."

Want to go?
Bart Ehrman will read from his new book, "Forged," at the following bookstores:
7:30 p.m. today, Quail Ridge Books, 3522 Wade Ave. Raleigh. For information, call 919-828-1588.

7 p.m. Tuesday, Regulator Bookshop, 720 Ninth St., Durham. For information, call 919-286-2700.
The author Toni Morrison, a Nobel and Pulitzer winner, will give the Rutgers commencement address on May 15 in Piscataway, N.J.

With $30,000 for Graduation Talk, Rutgers Joins Colleges Paying Speakers
By RICHARD PÉREZ-PEÑA
On May 15, the Nobel Prize-winning novelist Toni Morrison will give the commencement address at Rutgers University in New Jersey. For her trouble, she will receive an honorary doctorate of letters — and a check for $30,000.

Rutgers said Friday that the payment would be its first for a graduation speech in its 245-year history.

For generations, an honorary degree was reward enough at most colleges and universities; if schools paid any money, it was usually for the speaker’s lodging or travel expenses. But more substantial honoraria are becoming common, and experts say that hundreds of schools have paid them — though quietly. Colleges and speakers’ bureaus are reluctant to discuss the arrangements.
“A lot of colleges are not very open about what they do,” said Jeffrey J. Selingo, editor of The Chronicle of Higher Education. “It’s very hard to pin them down about whether they paid a speaker or not. And we’ve tried.”

Michael Frick, president of Speakers Platform in San Francisco, said, “Schools don’t like to talk about it, since there are people who object and have a perception that it should be pro bono.”

Fees ranging from $5,000 to $50,000 are fairly standard, and some speakers receive more, said Mark Castel, president of AEI Speakers Bureau in Boston.

“Paying 30 grand for a big-name speaker at a big school, that is not uncommon,” he said.

Speakers’ bureaus say the most prestigious universities are unlikely to pay because they can draw top speakers free, often through their alumni networks. Mr. Frick and Mr. Castel both said they had booked speakers for college commencences, but would not name the colleges, the speakers or the fees. Calls to an agency that works with Ms. Morrison, the American Program Bureau, in Newton, Mass., were not returned on Friday. Several colleges and other speakers’ bureaus also did not respond to messages.

The State University of New York has no policy on paying commencement speakers, said Morgan Hook, a university spokesman. “It’s a campus-by-campus decision,” he said, “but folks here are not aware of ever having paid a fee.”

The University of Connecticut said it did not pay.

Sometimes a university lands a sought-after speaker who can command big fees, but the speaker has waived the charge, especially when there is a personal connection. The writer John Grisham was not paid last year by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill for addressing a graduating class that included his wife, Renee.

Similarly, former Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani of New York spoke without charge last year at the University of Southern Mississippi’s commencement. Beth Taylor, a university spokeswoman, said the president of the alumni association at the time, a friend of Mr. Giuliani’s, drew him there.
As for Rutgers, “an honorarium was required to attract a speaker of Ms. Morrison’s caliber,” said Greg Trevor, the university’s senior director of media relations.

Last year, the speakers were Eleanor Smeal, president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, and Gov. Chris Christie. In 2009, the fashion designer Marc Ecko gave the commencement address. In 2008, it was the journalist Gwen Ifill.

Rutgers is trying to make its graduation a bigger occasion, moving the event to its football stadium in Piscataway and inviting all undergraduates to attend.

Spokesmen for the university said Ms. Morrison’s fee would not come out of money provided by the state or tuition paid by students, but from a vending contract with PepsiCo, though that is still money that could have gone into academic programs. At some colleges, speaking fees come from alumni gifts earmarked for that purpose.
N.Y.U. to Establish a Degree-Granting Campus in Shanghai
By JOSEPH BERGER
New York University, which has long been expanding beyond its home base at Greenwich Village’s Washington Square to neighborhoods like the East Village, is turning its eyes much farther eastward — announcing on Sunday that it will establish a degree-granting liberal arts campus in Shanghai.

The university set up a degree-granting campus in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in September and it has long sponsored a dozen smaller programs in other countries. But the campus in China will give it a powerful presence in the world’s second largest economy, and in a country that sends more students to study in the United States than any other.

In recent years, American universities have been setting up outposts in nations where the opportunities for higher education are far narrower or of lesser caliber than in the United States, becoming, in effect, global universities. Such programs help these institutions lure professorial and research talent and enlist tuition-paying students. They also allow American students interested in, say, Middle-Eastern or Chinese culture to study and conduct research in the relevant lands.

Allan Goodman, president of the Institute of International Education, a nonprofit organization, said that while about 80 American universities have branch campuses, it is rare for research universities like N.Y.U. to have degree-granting branches. Temple has had one in Japan for 40 years, and Yale is planning one in Singapore, he said.

In an interview by telephone from Shanghai, where he was scheduled to sign an agreement on Monday with Chinese officials, John E. Sexton, N.Y.U.’s president, compared the more cosmopolitan horizons of today’s students and professors to the Italian Renaissance, when talented artists moved from their homes to cities like Florence, Milan and Venice to pursue their work. Now the migration is global, he added.
“The idea,” Mr. Sexton said, “is that in a century where more and more people as well as ideas are operating beyond national boundaries, the professoriate and the talent class will be highly mobile,” he said.

N.Y.U. Shanghai will start teaching its first cadre of roughly 150 undergraduates in September 2013 on a campus being built by China in the Pudong district of Shanghai. Eventually, N.Y.U. — which currently offers the chance to spend a semester or year abroad in Shanghai and 10 other cities — foresees an enrollment of 3,000.

Classes will be conducted in English and “and in accord with the principles of academic freedom,” an N.Y.U. statement said.

“We’re comfortable that we will be able to offer an N.Y.U. education in Shanghai the way we offer it in Abu Dhabi or New York City,” Mr. Sexton said, when asked whether China might exercise the kind of censorship foreign to American colleges.

Mr. Sexton said representatives of China had invited N.Y.U. to set up the Shanghai branch. Forty to 50 percent of the students will come from China. Most of the professors would be regular N.Y.U. faculty members who volunteer or agree to spend a few semesters abroad. The curriculum has not yet been developed.