THE DAILY CLIPS

April 7, 2008

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

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

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
Study: Concerns high over children, hospitals

By Lindsey Tanner
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Medicine mix-ups, accidental overdoses and bad drug reactions harm roughly one out of 15 hospitalized children, according to the first scientific test of a new detection method.

That number is far higher than earlier estimates and bolsters concerns already heightened by well-publicized cases like the accidental drug overdose of actor Dennis Quaid's newborn twins last November.

"These data and the Dennis Quaid episode are telling us that... these kinds of errors and experiencing harm as a result of your health care is much more common than people believe. It's very concerning," said Dr. Charles Homer of the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality. His group helped develop the detection tool used in the study.

Researchers found a rate of 11 drug-related harmful events for every 100 hospitalized children. That compares with an earlier estimate of two per 100 hospitalized children, based on traditional detection methods. The rate shows some children experienced more than one drug treatment mistake.

The new estimate translates to 7.3 percent of hospitalized children, or about 540,000 kids each year, a calculation based on government data.

Simply relying on hospital staffers to report such problems had found less than 4 percent of the problems detected in the new study.

The new monitoring method developed for the study is a list of 15 "triggers" on young patients' charts that suggest possible drug-related harm. It includes use of specific antidotes for drug overdoses, suspicious side effects and certain lab tests.

By contrast, traditional methods include nonspecific patient chart reviews and voluntary error reporting.

The researchers said their findings highlight the need for "aggressive, evidence-based prevention strategies to decrease the substantial risk for medication-related harm to our pediatric inpatient population."

The study is being released Monday in the April issue of the journal Pediatrics.


Patient safety experts said the problem is likely even bigger than the study suggests because it involved only a review of selected charts. Also, the study didn't include general community hospitals, where most U.S. children requiring hospitalization are treated.

Study author Dr. Paul Sharek said evidence is needed to show whether a big push to prevent medical errors in recent years has put a dent in the problem since 2002, when the data were gathered.

Homer, of the children's healthcare initiative, said some hospitals have started using trigger methods similar to those in the study. But he added, "we still have a long way to go."

Among triggers on the list was use of the drug naloxone, an antidote for an overdose of morphine and related painkillers. Symptoms include breathing difficulty and very low blood pressure.

More than half the problems the study found were related to these powerful painkillers, including overdoses and allergic reactions.

While 22 percent of the problems were considered preventable, most were relatively mild. None were fatal or caused permanent damage, but some "did have the potential to cause some significant harm," said Sharek, who is medical director of quality at Stanford University's Lucile Packard Children's Hospital.
Concert is chance to offer praise, thanks

By Kathryn Kennedy

The audience was treated to an unforgettable night as the East Carolina Gospel Alumni Choir took the stage in Wright Auditorium on April 5, 2008. The event was a fitting capstone for the group's 30th anniversary celebration.

The choir, which has a long history of excellence, began its journey in the 1980s. Since then, it has evolved into a cherished part of the University community, providing a platform for alumni to connect and celebrate their shared passion for music.

More than 25 alumni joined forces to produce a night filled with emotional and inspiring performances. The event was not just a concert, but a chance to offer praise and thanks to the choir members and the audience alike.

"We're here today," said alum Tara Worrell, "and we're reconnecting with the campus." Worrell emphasized the importance of the anniversary concert in bringing together alumni and current students.

The evening was a testament to the choir's dedication and hard work. The performers showcased a range of musical styles, alternating between traditional and contemporary pieces. The choir, directed by Arturo Cummings, captivated the audience with their harmonious voices and dynamic performances.

The audience was treated to a variety of events, including a reception, dinner, and a variety of musical performances. The percussion and vocalists were particularly captivating, with their energetic and soulful renditions.

Members of the East Carolina Gospel Alumni Choir sang during their performance Sunday in Wright Auditorium. Their plan was to offer more than 15 praise songs, alternating between traditional and contemporary pieces. Director Arturo Cummings said, "We don't want people to fall asleep," he joked. There was little chance of that.

The choir members marched in wearing their flowing purple robes, glinting with gold trim. They were dancing in the aisles as they opened with "Everybody Clap Your Hands" — a fitting start to the evening.

A handful of people stayed on their feet, swaying and clapping, throughout the choir's two-hour performance. But nearly every seat in the house emptied once the alums took the stage. Dressed in their best purple and black and sounding as though they'd never left, Worrell led them through two energetic songs.

All that joyful noise was interspersed with prayers and blessings, but also thanks for those who kept the choir alive for 30 years.

"Without them we would not be possible," said choir member Larry Cummings of the alumni in attendance. "We stand on their shoulders.

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at k.kennedy@coxnc.com or 328-9566.
Our Views

In disrepair
Probation system in need of attention

The murder of Eve Carson, student body president at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has illuminated egregious problems in the state's Division of Community Correction, which supervises thousands of criminals on probation. The two men charged with that crime were the responsibility of that agency and the handling of their cases shows a stunning pattern of neglect.

This week, Robert Guy, the head of the state's probation office, announced his intention to assert direct control of the offending offices in order to correct the mess. But it will take significant effort, and perhaps a broader examination by state officials, to restore the public's trust what seems to be a shattered system.

Demario Atwater, 21, and Laurence Alvin Lovette, 17, were no strangers to the criminal justice system before they were charged with Carson's murder last month. Lovette served time in juvenile prison and was charged with three felonies by age 16. He is also faces charges of killing Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato. Atwater was a multiple felon, convicted on breaking and entering and possession of stolen property charges.

Both were under the supervision of Triangle-area probation offices when Carson was killed, but the handling of those cases was deeply and profoundly flawed.

Lovette was assigned to a probation officer in Durham who had yet to receive basic training after seven months on the job and, despite his prison time and his conviction on misdemeanor charges, he was assigned the most lenient level of probation.

Atwater was under the supervision of the Wake County probation office for three years, and was assigned to 10 officers and supervisors in that time. He had not spoken with a probation officer for more than a year when charged with the Carson slaying, and a motion to revoke his probation status was static for months awaiting a signature.

Three managers involved with the case in Wake County have been subsequently reassigned. Guy has sent veteran administrators to examine cases in Wake County and Durham to assert a greater level of authority and attentiveness there. Those are welcome steps, even though they come late.

However, this episode should be considered a call to action across the state, where 2,012 officers are responsible for the 128,000 people on probation or serving community service in North Carolina. This violation may be the most alarming, but the likelihood exists that other, smaller offenses are taking place and criminals are not receiving the supervision that courts demand and citizens deserve.

If the probation system intends to keep offenders close to the justice system and reduce the recidivism rate, then case officers and managers must be active and aggressive in their work. Only that can boost confidence in this damaged system.
ECU student honored for drug study

Dan Kane, a bioenergetics doctoral student, researched a drug for diabetes.

The diabetes research of an East Carolina University student has received national recognition.

Dan Kane, a doctoral student in the bioenergetics program, has been recognized by the American Physiological Society's Environmental and Exercise Physiology Section.

Kane, of Adrian, Mich., received the post-doctoral award for his research that tracks how an anti-diabetic drug, Metformin, reduces free radical development in skeletal muscle tissue.

Kane was one of the lead researchers on this project, supported by two grants from the National Institutes of Health. He works closely with mentors Ronald M. Cortright and P. Darrell Neuffer, associate professors in the departments of Exercise and Sport Science, College of Health and Human Performance, and of physiology at the Brody School of Medicine. The researchers also made use of a new method to look at the free radical production in skeletal muscle, recently developed by Neuffer and fellow ECU researcher Ethan Anderson.

Whichard lectures set

The 2008 Whichard endowed chairs will present their lectures this month.

Maria Socorro Tabuenca Córdoba, a professor of Romance languages, will present "Ghost Dance in Ciudad Juarez: Women's Murders Representations" at 7:30 p.m. tonight in Room C-209, Science and Technology Building.

Anne Goodwyn Jones, a professor of Southern literature, will present "The Burden of Southern History: Southerners Rewrite the Civil War" at 5:30 p.m. April 16, in Bate 1028. Jones will examine how and why 20th century writers rewrite the Civil War as they do. She will focus on C. Vann Woodward's "The Burden of Southern History," Flannery O'Connor's stories, including "A Late Encounter With the Enemy," and William Faulkner's stories in "The Unvanquished."

There are two Whichard Distinguished Professors in the Humanities, both endowed chairs in honor of David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard of Greenville. The professorships rotate yearly among the humanities departments and programs in the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

CBS reporter lecture

Byron Pitts, CBS national correspondent and former Greenville newscaster, will present "Leading the Way to Social Justice: The High Cost of Failure" at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Hendrix Auditorium.

---

See ECU, B3
ECU
Continued from B1

um. Pitts will discuss leadership in the context of social justice and challenges set before American leaders today. Sponsored by the ECU Student Union Programming Board and the College of Human Ecology, Carolyn Freeze Baynes Institute for Social Justice. For more information call, 328-2832.

Tibet teach-in scheduled

The Religious Studies program is holding a "Tibet Teach-In: What Happened and Why?" at 7 p.m. Wednesday in ECU's Science and Technology Building Room C-209. Derek Merah, co-director of ECU's Religious Studies program, will discuss the recent violence in Tibet, the Dalai Lama, human rights in China and the Olympics in Beijing.

Holocaust victims to be remembered

ECU will hold a series of events Thursday to commemorate those who perished in the Holocaust. Activities begin at 6 a.m., with "Unfo Every Person," a recitation of the names of the victims and the camps where they died. Volunteer readers are still being sought.

At 4 p.m., in the multipurpose room of the Student Health Center, Holocaust survivor Giselle Abramson will share her personal story growing up in Poland and surviving the death camps.

At 3 p.m., in the Department of Theater and Dance, will present the "Sholem Asch Radio Hour" in a Reader's Theater format. E-mail volunteer@ecu.edu or call 252-737-2221 for more information.

Open House planned

ECU will host its spring Open House on Saturday. The event will begin with an opening session at Wright Auditorium at 9 a.m. The event is for prospective students and families. Contact the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at 328-6640 for more details.

Harriot Symposium

As part of ECU's Voyages of Discovery Thomas Harriot Lecture, ECU will host a symposium "Raleigh and the Atlantic World." Thursday and Friday. The first lecture, delivered by Mark Nicholls, president of St. John's College at Cambridge University, will discuss "Sir Walter Raleigh and the Elizabethan World of Thomas Harriot," 7 p.m. Thursday in Science and Technology Building, Room C-307. The symposium continues from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday at Joynor Library featuring panel presentations about trans-Atlantic life, literature and history of Sir Walter Raleigh. At 6 p.m., in Joynor Library, historian Carole Levin from the University of Nebraska will present "Queen Elizabeth in Love." Free.

Alumni awards scholarships

The East Carolina Alumni Association awarded scholarships to 24 students April 5.

Four students received the first-ever East Carolina Teachers College and/or East Carolina College award. The $1,000 scholarships are provided by the alumni of ECT and ECC. Recipients are: Lauren Everett of Fayetteville; Katie Maloney of Kinston; Amanda Nicholas of Fort Belvoir, Va.; and Ashley Person of Louisburg.

Twenty students also received a $1,000 scholarship from the East Carolina Alumni Association. Scholarship recipients are selected based on academic performance, service to the university and recommendations. The 2008 recipients have an average grade point average of 3.87 and were selected from a group of 224 applicants. This year's recipients are:

- Tiffany Lee, Maria Maldo-
Bower joins surgery department at Brody School of Medicine

Dr. Curtis Bower has joined the Department of Surgery at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University as a clinical assistant professor.

Bower worked in private practice in Danville, Va. He has a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Bower completed an internship and residency in surgery at ECU and Pitt County Memorial Hospital. His clinical and research interests are minimal-access surgery, natural orifice surgery and endoluminal surgery — a type of minimal-access surgery — for gastroesophageal reflux disease and obesity.

Bower sees patients at Moye Medical Center at 521 Moye Blvd.
ECU wrapping up first Relay for Life event

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University is to conclude its first Relay for Life effort to benefit the American Cancer Society today. The two-day effort began Friday and is to end at noon at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. About 74 teams were scheduled to walk in the effort sponsored by Colleges Against Cancer and the Student Government Association.

In the months leading up to this event, the 1,000 participants have raised more than $44,000 and donations are still expected, said Harry Lundy of ECU's Public Relations Student Society of America, an event organizer.

"There will be a few days afterward when people can still donate online, on the Web site," Lundy said.

The event was held overnight to symbolize the reality that cancer never sleeps. It included an opening ceremony and a luminaria ceremony in addition to activities such as flag football and karaoke. Several bands provided music, and midnight madness fun was planned with a "Miss"ter Relay Contest.

Donations may be made online at www.events.cancer.org/rflecu. For more information, contact Nicole Betschman at eurelay@ecu.edu."
Couple robbed at mall

A woman said she was dragged through the mall parking lot until the strap of her purse broke and her attacker ran off with it.

The Daily Reflector

A Greenville couple was assaulted and robbed as they headed to their car to leave the Colonial Mall on Thursday night.

Hong Li and her husband, Yong Wang, both employees of East Carolina University, finished shopping at Belks in the mall and left the store at about 8:30 p.m., Li said.

"I was walking with my purse on my left shoulder and my husband was at my left side as we walked, the purse between us," she said. "The car was not far from the store."

Two young black males ran up to them, Li said. One punched Wang in the head, knocking him down, and the other pushed Li to the ground and grabbed her purse, she said.

Li said she was dragged through the parking lot until the purse strap broke and the robber ran off with it.

"My husband ran after them, but they jumped into a dark green sedan driven by another young man that pulled up to them and drove off," she said. "I had my cell phone in my pocket and called 911." Officers arrived promptly after the call, she said, but the robbers were already gone.

Both of Li's knees are scraped and bruised, and her husband scraped and injured one of his knees, she said.

The robbers made off with her purse, worth about $100, several pieces of Li's identification and some cash and credit cards, she said.

"I thought we were safe because it wasn't very late and we were together," Li said. "I won't shop there at night anymore, and I will make sure I'm with a group of people."
How do N.C. schools compute?

BY PATRICK M. VALENTINE
GREENVILLE

In this day of grade inflation, North Carolina schools get only a B in K-12 educational technology. Even so, a national report gives U.S. schools an even lower C+. But North Carolina schools are slightly ahead because of setting better policy, not better performance.

Education Week and the Education Research Center have released their 11th annual report, Technology Counts 2008, based on 14 individual indicators spanning three core areas of state policy and practice. These are access to instructional technology, use of technology and capacity to effectively use educational technology.

In effect, the report examines whether classrooms have enough computers, whether states require technology in classroom use and whether teachers and administrators are required and supposedly able to teach technology. All this is self-reported by the state and not based on independent assessments.

North Carolina's overall B- is actually 81.5 on a 100-point scale. The nation as a whole received 78.9, which rounded off as a C+ but on many grading curves would be a C. The overall grade is an average of scores on access, use and capacity.

North Carolina and the nation scored best on access: 98 percent of our fourth graders had access to computers — or at least were reported as having access — versus 95 percent of the nation, and, curiously, only 87 percent of our eighth graders. One would have thought that use of computers would go up after keyboarding is taught and when young minds are better able to use computers and have more complex research needs.

There was one computer for every 3.9 fourth-graders and every 3.8 eighth-graders. The report did not ask what kind of computers, or how old they were. The state earned a C+ in this area, slightly ahead of the national average (78.8 versus national 75.3).

North Carolina has policies on student use of technology, on testing students on technology, on establishing a "virtual school" and on offering computer-based assessments. Having such policies earned the state an A. This is where North Carolina vaulted above the national B-average (100 versus national average of 80.1).

In the capacity to use technology category, North Carolina included technology in its teacher standards, but not for administrators or new teachers or for recertification requirements. But neither did most other states. We scored 65.8 against a national average of 75.5. The technology level of librarians and other staff was not addressed.

The report did not assess actual computer use in classrooms or libraries nor whether students, teachers, librarians or administrators possess real knowledge of computers. Having a computer is not the same as using it, much less using it effectively.

For instance, under "Capacity," all a state needed to do was include some aspect of technology in its teacher or administrator requirements — not say what level of knowledge was required. Even so, the report shows we have a long way to go. (The report is at www.edweek.org/media/ew/tc/2008/30NC_STR2008_jz27.pdf.)

In my graduate online courses delivered across the state, I teach teachers who are switching from classroom education to libraries. I have seen that some schools make less than effective use of computer technology. There are, however, many schools with fully prepared and trained teachers, administrators and librarians who are trying hard, but their attention is distracted by all the End Of Grade and End-Of-Course testing and reporting.

They are rated by how well they teach taking standardized tests, not on how well they teach subjects and abilities, how well they strengthen and nourish young minds, or how well they inspire moral and ethical values. No Child Left Behind really means No Child Left Standing and No Teacher Left Teaching.

The Technology Counts report gives us a quick glimpse of the rather mediocore technology scene of the schools in our state and nation.

Patrick M. Valentine is an assistant professor of Library Science & Instructional Technology at East Carolina University.
Davidson is an overnight celeb

Hoops wins put college on the map

BY KATHRYN THIER
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER

This is the new reality for Davidson College in the post-tournament world:
Orders for commemorative T-shirts from China, Australia and Italy.
A 262 percent increase in Web site traffic.
Worries there won't be enough freshman housing next year.
Each televised game during the school's Cinderella ride to the Elite Eight of the NCAA tournament exposed Davidson to the world in a way that years of academic excellence never could.

The day the team came within two points of beating Kansas, and a earning a trip to the Final Four, "Davidson College" was the No. 7 term searched on Google. No. 25 was "Davidson basketball." And so on.

"During the Kansas game, on TV someone was holding up a big sign that said: 'Davidson College. Google it,'" said Stacey Schmeidel, the school's communications director. "And I think people did."

The college added six servers to support the increasing hits to its Web site.

"The big question on campus right now, of the 900-plus students that were offered admission (last Thursday), what will the yield be?" said Chris Gruber, dean of admissions and financial aid.

With 196 already committed through early decision and prior deferrals, the college is hoping only about 275 of the 900 say yes. The school's enrollment total enrollment is 1,700.

At the campus bookstore, faculty, staff and students are pitching in to keep up with online orders of everything Davidson.

Auxiliary services director Richard Terry said he used to think the store carried too many different baseball caps. "But not when you come an inch away from making the Final Four," he said.

"It seems like folks have discovered us and said, 'This is a great story, and we want to be a part of it somehow,'" he said.

TOTAL VISITORS TO WWW.DAVIDSON.EDU:
In March, before the tournament, about 20,000 a day. During the tournament, about 75,000 a day.

DAILY SALES AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE OF NONTEXTBOOK ITEMS:
About $40,000 a day during the week of the Sweet 16 and Elite Eight appearances.
(The usual: about $1,700 a day.)

TRANSFER APPLICATION INQUIRIES:
About 12 a day, two weeks past the deadline. (The usual: about one a day.)

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS VISITING THE ADMISSIONS OFFICE:
In March, 1,325—the school's highest monthly total.

MASCOTS OF DEFEATED TEAMS STUFFED IN THE CAMPUS WILDCATS STATUE:
One bulldog and two badgers.
BRIEFS

Early morning fire kills three students

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MENOMONIE, Wis. — A house fire near a University of Wisconsin campus killed three students who never made it out of the rooms where they were sleeping early Saturday, even though neighbors said they heard alarms.

Rescuers found two women and a man in three second-floor bedrooms near the University of Wisconsin-Stout. All three were pronounced dead at a hospital, authorities said.

The smoke detectors were working, and neighbors called police when they heard the alarms, said Menomonie Police Chief Dennis Beety. Police don't know why the three victims didn't wake up and leave, and it was unclear whether alcohol was a factor.

The cause of the fire was still being investigated Saturday.
Dorm room raided in drug investigation

DURHAM — Bags and cigarettes of "green leafy vegetable matter" along with a bag containing 119 unknown pills were among the long list of items seized from a Duke University dorm room Thursday.

A search warrant recently made public detailed a Duke police drug investigation. No arrests had been made as of Saturday. This is at least the third major drug incident involving Duke students within the past year.

On Feb. 28, an informant told Duke police detective R.W. Isley that two undergraduate students who live in the room "are major drug suppliers of marijuana in the area of East Campus," according to the warrant. Eight days later, Duke police responded to Randolph Residence Hall for a report of a smell of marijuana.

After confirming the identity of the room's occupants, Isley took out the warrant on Thursday and served it on Friday. Among the seized items were two plastic bags of white powder, jewelry, including a ring with a cannabis design, alcohol, cash, cameras, computer equipment and a folding knife.

Duke police spokeswoman Maj. Gloria Graham did not return a phone call about the investigation Saturday afternoon.
Post Card to Ravinna

The last time I visited my grandparents, they were in their 90s and neither was well. One night, as I was setting their table for dinner, I found an unexpected treasure. For the remainder of my visit, my mind kept wandering back to it. The bittersweet discovery reminded me of the fragility of the future while letting me step for a moment into a comforting past.

Take anything you want, she says, her past is open for the asking.
She points at Fiesta ware, Depression glass, clutter alchemized to treasure on shadowed attic shelves.
I'm flying, I remind her. My luggage is brimming, my emotions are too. Goodbyes do this to me.
Tea service? There in the corner, shrouded in plastic, a dusting of time across it, purple bruises of tarnish visible on the tiny feet of sugar bowl and creamer.
A little silver polish will bring it to life, she says.
"But what I really want is the penny post card nestled among linen napkins in the oak chest downstairs. Dear Madam, it begins, its front a photograph of my grandfather, age fourteen, April 1917.
Spring leaves pile around the young man balancing on two legs of a ladder-back chair, the legs atop bottles. There's no effort, it seems, no quick-motion blurring of hands or feet, his face wearing the serenity of one not yet tested.
A few years later, he'd catch a ride with a barnstormer, crash into a wire fence, emerge unscathed.
After that, become a safety engineer, the events unrelated.
But "actor" is what someone once penned in the faded-sky border of the photograph, ink dripping onto the picture itself, a pool of black amid the leaves. I ask for the card and receive it, along with a quizzical look: Is that really all? Its shadows are the color of old book leather, unbidden dreams pressed onto its surface.
Into my stationery box it goes for the flight home, unbreakable, weight negligible, no silver polish needed, my grandfather forever fourteen, perched on the edge of his future, cushioning all goodbyes.
Colleges worry: Who will come?

Admissions offices play guessing game

By Justin Pope
The Associated Press

Another year of record-breaking competition for slots at elite colleges is over. Now it's time for the colleges to sweat.

Continuing a long-term trend, the acceptance rate at many of the country's most selective colleges dropped this year to ever-more agonizing levels for parents and students. Harvard (7.1 percent), Yale (8.3 percent) and Stanford (9.5 percent) were among the growing number of schools where more than nine in 10 applicants are denied. Middlebury (18 percent) and Duke (19 percent) are among the many others reporting record selectivity.

But now, the pressure switches to colleges, which generally give students a month after April 1 admissions notifications to make up their minds whether to attend.

If colleges admit too few students, they can end up with empty spaces. Too many, and they could get stuck housing extra freshmen in trailers on the quad.

This year, it's a bigger guessing game than ever. The decisions by Harvard, Princeton and the University of Virginia to eliminate early admissions this year forced those schools to tear up decades-old models that allowed them to accurately estimate how many students who were admitted would actually come — decisions that trickle down to other schools.

Meanwhile, several dozen colleges, among them Harvard, Dartmouth, Swarthmore and Tufts, announced expansions of financial aid in recent months. Nobody knows exactly what effect that will have on students' choices.

"From an admissions perspective, it's quite a guessing game," said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the National Association for College Admission Counseling. "The story of the year seems to be the continued and even increasing uncertainty that faced both students and colleges."

Students who have just endured the process probably won't mind seeing the tables turn when it comes to anxiety.

"I can tell you we modeled in mathematically, spiritually, humanistically — in a million ways — and nobody knows how many will come," said William Fitzsimmons, a former statistics teacher and now dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard.

Added John Blackburn, Fitzsimmons' counterpart at Virginia: "It's been scary, no ifs, ands or buts. It's scary for both sides — the schools and the students' families. With a population bubble increasing the number of teenagers, elite colleges can seem incredibly difficult to crack."

Among other colleges releasing numbers this week, Princeton admitted a record-low 9.3 percent of applicants; Columbia, 10 percent; Penn, 16 percent; Boston College, 26 percent; and Virginia, which is state-supported, 38 percent.

Still, that's not quite the full story. Nationally, the average acceptance rate for colleges is roughly 70 percent — about what it was 20 years ago.

What has really changed is that more colleges are recruiting all over the country, and more students are applying to a large number of schools. The trend feeds on itself. Students apply to more schools, each school gets more applications, and the admission rate goes down. Students get scared, so they apply to more schools and the cycle continues.

Although this means good students are more likely to get rejected by at least some top-tier schools, they are getting more acceptance letters, too.
LEVINE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

an active license to treat, diagnose or operate on patients.
But the move is different from surrendering a license, because it will not trigger a report to the National Practitioner Data Bank — an electronic network that all medical licensing agencies and malpractice insurers can access to monitor actions against doctors.

Still, the move would not ward off an investigation by the medical board. Thomas Mansfield, director of the board's legal department, said he is barred by law from discussing investigations of individual doctors. But he said the board has jurisdiction over all doctors, even those whose licenses are inactive.

"It happens pretty often that we investigate someone who is inactive," Mansfield said, adding that serious complaints often take precedence over others. "The more serious it is, the more serious it gets fast-tracked."

More complaints

Since then, at least 20 people have contacted Carmen L. Durso, the Boston lawyer, and Elizabeth Kuniholm, who practices law in North Carolina. About half of those patients are from North Carolina, Durso said Friday.

"This is not over," Durso said, noting that the allegations against Levine stand, even though he has quit practicing medicine. "I hope people who are coming forward to talk to the medical board or law enforcement won't say now it's over. He is still denying he did anything wrong to those people."

Durso said many patients may still be mulling whether to call and could have suffered psychological harm. He called for investigations by the medical board, law enforcement agencies and the institutions where Levine practiced, including UNC Healthcare in Chapel Hill and Children's Hospital in Boston.

Karen McCall, vice president of public affairs at UNC Healthcare, said the hospital has not heard from any patients with complaints about Levine but would "absolutely" begin an inquiry based on a patient's concerns or allegations.

"Any kind of inquiries we get from patients always are investigated," McCall said. "And then appropriate steps are taken, based on the investigation."

levine.gives.up.medical.practice

The pediatrician, a former director of a UNC-CH center, is accused of fondling patients years ago.

BY SARAH AVERY
STAFF WRITER

After a week of allegations that he fondled patients in his care years ago, Dr. Melvin Levine quit practicing pediatrics Friday by pulling his medical license from active status.

Levine, 68, had been the director of the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning at UNC-Chapel Hill. He retired from full-time work in 2006 but continued to see patients twice a month.

University officials said this week that he had voluntarily decided to stop seeing patients as a result of the lawsuits against him claiming sexual misconduct.

Levine's attorney in Raleigh, Alan Schneider, said the doctor "adamantly denies that he has ever been abusive in any way to any patient." He said Levine's decision Friday to pull his medical license should not be construed as admitting guilt.

"His voluntary transfer to inactive status is in no way an acknowledgement of wrongdoing or improper conduct," Schneider said. "He looks forward to the opportunity to discuss this with the N.C. Medical Board, which licenses and disciplines doctors, said Schneider, who is representing Levine in the context of a potential medical board investigation. He added that Levine is eager to detail "the manner in which he has evaluated, examined and treated children in 40 years of helping patients and their families."

By taking his medical license out of active status, Levine effectively quit practicing. Doctors must have

Levine denies having abused patients.

SEE LEVINE, PAGE 7B
Sex trafficking seldom prosecuted

BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Sex trafficking is a crime mostly hidden — even from the law enforcement officers charged with stopping it.

Government and advocacy agencies estimate that hundreds of thousands, perhaps more than a million women and children are transported across borders and forced into slavery each year. Most end up as involuntary prostitutes. The Carolina Women’s Center at UNC-Chapel Hill estimates that thousands are trafficked into the Southeast alone.

Yet law officers and legal advocates can count on their fingers the number of sex trafficking cases being investigated in North Carolina.

“We probably have not been attuned to what could possibly be there,” said Sabrina Garcia, a domestic violence and sexual assault specialist with the Chapel Hill Police Department.

“We just don’t know what to look for.”

To raise awareness, Garcia and hundreds of other women — and dozens of men — participated in “Combatting Sex Trafficking,” a conference held Thursday and Friday at UNC-Chapel Hill.

The conference featured academics, social workers, bureaucrats, lawyers and law enforcement. Also among the speakers were a former prostitute and an actress who played one on TV.

To start the conference, Kika Cerpa shared her story of being lured to New York from Venezuela as a young woman by a man who promised to care for her.

Instead, his female cousin took her passport and her $2,000 in life savings and forced her into a brothel, where she had sex with dozens of men every night while her captors collected the money.

“I felt wounded inside,” Cerpa said.

She came to see police as enemies, as they not only patronized the brothel but also arrested the women and not the pimps or the Johns. Cerpa ended up marrying a customer — a man who had threatened her at gunpoint — to escape the brothel.

SEE TRAFFICKING, PAGE 4B
TRAFFICKING
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Actress Sharon Lawrence, a Raleigh native and UNC-CH alumna who starred in "NYPD Blue," said playing prostitutes has helped her to understand that many are victims, rather than criminals, a main theme of the conference.

"It's allowed me the chance to investigate the kind of desperation and manipulation that goes along with women who are in that situation," she said.

John Price, a special agent with the FBI's Civil Rights Program in Charlotte, said Cerpa's story echoes those of the women his agency has rescued from forced prostitution. He said traffickers, have brought Latin American, African and Asian girls as young as 15 to North Carolina to work as prostitutes.

"Nine times out of 10, they've made false promises to get them up here," said Price, speaking by phone from Charlotte. "We're dealing with the truly enslaved as opposed to the people who are willing participants.

Price said the FBI hasn't convicted any sex traffickers in North Carolina during his three years in Charlotte, nor has the state convicted any since passing an anti-trafficking law last year.

The story is the same in Illinois and New York, states that sent representatives to the conference to talk about their experience.

"We've been called in Chicago a hub of human trafficking, and we've identified several victims of trafficking in the last two years," said Larry Sachs, director of grants management with the Chicago Police Department. The low success rate, he said, "has affected people's motivation to put a lot of time into this."

Not so hard to spot

But New York's Ken Franzblau, the only state director of human trafficking education in the United States, said prostitution rings and, by extension, the traffickers that enable them, are fairly easy to spot. Their ads are on popular Web sites such as Myspace and Craigslist, which has an "erotic services" section updated every few minutes that includes pornographic pictures of available prostitutes in every metropolitan area.

"[Founder] Craig Neumark is the biggest pimp in America," Franzblau said. "Uncovering this is not as hard as we've all made it out to be."

Last fall, Craigslist President Jim Buckmaster told the New York Times his company discourages illegal activity but that his 24-member staff cannot patrol the constantly changing listings — 20 million per month. It counts on viewers to flag objectionable ads, which are promptly removed.

Franzblau and other speakers said there's not enough "political will" to stop sex trafficking because many people view prostitution as "the oldest profession," assuming that demand is insatiable because "men will be men."

There's a disconnect between public rhetoric and private behavior, embodied in disgraced New York Governor Eliot Spitzer, who helped to pass that state's anti-trafficking law last year.

"There's probably been no better politician on this issue," said Franzblau, appointed by Spitzer before the governor admitted last month to hiring prostitutes. "Ultimately, he doesn't get it."
PirateFest
SATURDAY, GREENVILLE

As far as we know, Captain Kidd and Jack Sparrow are not East Carolina alums. But the Greenville university is the home of the Pirates, and they sound pretty friendly, inviting people over for music, food from around the world, a pig-cooking contest, arts and crafts, theater, baseball and — what’s this? — a treasure hunt. Let us know if you find any pieces of eight. (252) 328-4500, www.ecu.edu
Brand names vs. generics

There are those who swear by brand name products, and there are those who say generics are best. But for all of us, here's some food for thought:

A study ([www.dukcnwes.duke.edu/2008/03/apple.ibm.html](http://www.dukcnwes.duke.edu/2008/03/apple.ibm.html)) shows that people may be more influenced by corporate logos than they would like to admit. Professors Gavan Fitzsimons and Tanya Chartrand of Duke University and Grainne Fitzsimons of the University of Waterloo, Canada, conducted an experiment with college students.

Students saw footage that researchers said was for a "visual acuity task." A quick glimpse of either the Apple or IBM logo was slipped in. The logo passed so quickly that the subjects were not aware they had seen it. Later, when asked to list the uses for a brick other than building a wall, the students who saw the Apple logo were more creative in their responses than those who had seen the IBM logo.

Did a logo associated with a creative company make the students who saw it think more creatively? That's some serious branding power. What do you think?