THE DAILY CLIPS

April 11, 2011

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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
The College of Nursing is East Carolina University’s oldest professional school. It marked its 50 years with a series of events and celebrations that concluded Saturday with a gala at Rock Spring Center in Greenville.

Nursing has grown from a tiny school training mostly rural nurses for eastern North Carolina to a college that graduates more new nurses than any school in North Carolina. Milestones mark that journey. From offering its first master’s degree program in 1977 to enrolling doctoral students in 2002, the college’s development mirrors the growth and complexity of the nursing profession itself. That 50-year journey and its themes — versatility, leadership, skill and innovation — are best seen through the experiences and accomplishments of graduates representing the five decades of the college’s life.

FIRST CLASS
Donna Thigpen, change maker
Dr. Donna Thigpen’s first job was typical for a rural nursing graduate from East Carolina in the 1960s.

She worked as a public-health nurse in Pitt County, recording birth certificates and checking on babies born at home. She traveled a lot of dirt roads by herself, but was not afraid.
“The uniform was my shield, and people knew I was there to help,” said Thigpen.
Her most recent full-time role — the one from which she retired five years ago — was as
president of Bismarck State College. There, she successfully lobbied the North Dakota
legislature to start associate degree nursing programs in the state’s community college
system.

That meant changing a state law requiring nurses to have baccalaureate degrees.
In between, she taught nursing at the Medical College of Virginia (now Virginia
Commonwealth University), started the associate degree nursing program at James
Sprunt Community College in Kenansville and served as dean of student services at
14,000-student Trident Technical College in Charleston, S.C. She recently took a role as
a consultant for Edgecombe Community College, helping its nursing program obtain
accreditation.

Thigpen credits her training for that versatility. Nursing teaches you to work with people,
to think critically and solve problems, she said.

“No other degree would have prepared me better to be a college president,” Thigpen said.
Thigpen’s experiences mirror the myriad opportunities that have opened to ECU nursing
graduates in the five decades of the school’s life.

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particular a premature 3-pound baby in a pasteboard box, surrounded by flat whiskey
bottles filled with hot water to keep her warm.

Decades later, as a college president she led an effort that increased the supply of nursing
graduates in a rural state.
“In this country we need twice as many nurses as we have,” she said. “There’s going to
be a lot of old folks and no one to take care of us.”

— by Crystal Baity

SPIRIT OF 76
Bill Vurnakes,
non-traditionalist
The path that carried Bill Vurnakes to nurse anesthesia is as non-traditional as it gets.

Besides being male when he enrolled as a nursing student in the 1970s, he was a Vietnam
veteran, the son of Greek immigrants and already had one college degree — in business.

He earned his nursing degree in 1976, but it took another 15 years for him to reach his
larger goal: finish anesthesia school. In 1991, at age 48, he took his first job as a new
nurse anesthesia graduate at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville. He is still
there.
“I absolutely love what I do and wouldn’t do anything else,” Vurnakes said.
His diverse path points to the role non-traditional students play in the College of Nursing and its development. “He brought a perspective that other students didn’t have,” said Dr. Phyllis Horns, now vice chancellor for health sciences, who was Vurnakes’ pediatric nursing instructor. “He asked challenging questions and participated in discussions. In those days we didn’t have that many men students.”

Now, Vurnakes gives back by helping lead younger anesthetists. A recent bout with chest pains led to triple bypass surgery, he said, and a much enriched understanding of his patients.

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A NURSE’S NURSE
Donna Zekonis’ unexpected calling
Donna Zekonis transferred to ECU to play basketball and earn a bachelor’s degree in physical education. She emerged an emergency room nurse, and now, a family nurse practitioner.

An unexpected personal tragedy shifted her path as a student in 1983. A drunk driver hit the car carrying her, her twin brother and her father home to Monroe from Greenville.

Her brother and father died. Zekonis was seriously injured. She reassessed her plan, drawn by a calling to help the sick and injured.

“My intentions were to be an exercise psychologist or basketball coach, but I had an epiphany,” she said. “Maybe the world didn’t need another coach.”

Zekonis enrolled in nursing, sought a second bachelor’s degree, took an Emergency Medical Technician course and volunteered with Eastern Pines Fire and Rescue as a paramedic. Her career mirrors the variety of options that opened to nursing graduates in the 1980s thanks to rapid advances in care.

She worked as a staff nurse on the night shift in the emergency room at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. In 16 years she held a number of roles, from direct patient care to staff education to forensic evidence collection.

In 2009 she earned her master’s degree in nursing and in 2010 began work as a family nurse practitioner in the East Carolina Heart Institute at PCMH. Change in two decades has been swift, she said. Diagnostic equipment and technology now allow nurses to deliver higher levels of care more rapidly and in far less institutional settings. “A lot of the procedures we used to do in the emergency room we now do at the bedside,” said Zekonis. “What was in-patient care, people are now sent home.”
GIVING BACK
Brenda Myrick, paying it forward
It took a number of years, but Brenda Myrick found out her grandmother was right.

She should go to nursing school, Evelyn Boone, Myrick’s grandmother, told her when she first arrived at ECU in 1977. After sampling psychology and biology courses,

Myrick ended up with an associate’s degree in nursing from Pitt Community College. In 1992, 15 years and one child later, Myrick graduated with a bachelor’s of nursing degree from ECU. Now, she’s a graduate student in ECU’s nursing leadership option. The experience is nothing like her former college days.
“All my courses are online,” Myrick said. “It is totally different from being in a classroom setting.”

Myrick is administrator of operative services at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, where she has worked for 25 years. She manages a 23-bed operating room and 132 full-time employees in the level one trauma center.

Myrick’s background let her sample pediatric, operating room and intensive care nursing. Then she spent a decade in the emerging field of nursing informatics as a hospital systems analyst.

Myrick also steps forward to help others outside her professional role. For example, she is the first African-American to serve as chair or president of any of ECU’s affiliated boards.
“She breaks down barriers with class, diplomacy and a servant-style leadership that is an example to others,” said Paul Clifford, president of the ECU Alumni Association.

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FUTURE LEADER
Ryan Lewis,
Rookie of the Year
Ryan Lewis thought he wanted to be a doctor until he realized he was more interested in the therapeutic aspects of medicine.

“From my experience, medicine is more concrete and diagnostic and nursing is more about being therapeutic and serving others in the spirit of humility,” said Lewis, 24, a 2008 graduate of the College of Nursing.
Lewis works at Pitt County Memorial Hospital as a staff nurse in the Medical Intermediate Unit/Respiratory Intermediate Unit. He is a graduate nursing student at ECU, with a goal of becoming a nursing educator. Men are no longer anomalies in the field of nursing. Yet there are still more women nurses than men. That has prompted Lewis to be active in the American Assembly for Men in Nursing, which promotes gender diversity in the workplace. He is a national board member.

He also earned the Rookie of the Year award in 2009 from the North Carolina Nurses Association, where he serves on the northeast region board of directors. Lewis said he sees time invested in those professional associations as an opportunity to be a change agent.

Lewis’ aspirations illustrate the distance the College of Nursing has traveled in 50 years: from training clinical nurses in response to a dire public need to training advanced nurse educators who direct the future of the profession.

—by Jennifer Julian

**TIMELINE**

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**College of Nursing Then & Now**

47 Number of students enrolled in fall 1960
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Nursing dean looks ahead to the next 50 years

BY CRYSTAL BAITY
ECU News Bureau

Sylvia Brown is the fifth dean of the College of Nursing. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from ECU and a doctorate in education from North Carolina State University. In this Q&A she looks ahead at the next 50 years for the profession and for nursing education.

What changes do you foresee in the delivery of health care in rural areas and how will the role of nurses be affected?
The 21st-century model of health care will see patients make health decisions with assistance from a variety of health-care providers. Telehealth, telepharmacy, and electronic medical records will increase access to health care for all, especially those individuals living in rural underserved areas. The recent Institute of Medicine Report on the Future of Nursing recommends that advanced practice registered nurses be able to practice to the full extent of their education and training and to be full partners with physicians and other health-care professionals in redesigning health care in the United States. Nurses will play a significant role in ensuring the delivery of safe, patient-centered care across all settings. The use of telecommunication and computer technologies will enable health-care providers to provide services from a distance to rural areas that may have limited access to enhance patient care.

What developing technology will affect nursing and the way future nurses are educated as simulation mannequins and full-scale operating rooms have in the past?
Technological advances are increasing opportunities to improve dramatically the quality of and access to nursing education. The sophistication of simulation equipment is phenomenal and now we are using serious game strategies in a virtual world to educate our students in ways that were unimaginable just a few years ago. Teaching can take place in a complex multidisciplinary, multifaceted environment with learning through a the senses. Changes in health care are requiring nurses to be technically competent and able to quickly adapt to using technology in their practices. Mobile apps are now being used in the clinical setting to enable nurses to quickly find information at their fingertips. The challenge facing nursing is to integrate...

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be essential in meeting the health-care needs of our community and reducing health disparities that exist among minority populations.

Why will people be attracted to a career in nursing in the coming decades?

The U.S. is projected to have a nursing shortage that will intensify due to additional need for health care and aging baby boomers. One of the fastest growing jobs in the next decade is nursing. It is anticipated that nursing careers will grow faster than most other careers through 2018, with over 580,000 new jobs in registered nursing alone. Job security, flexibility in roles, and competitive pay are all elements that attract individuals to a career in nursing. However, the one core component for choosing a career in nursing that has not changed over the decades is the desire to help patients and their families to improve their health or adapt to illness. Nurses make a real difference in people’s lives every day.

How do you describe the ECU nurse of the future?

The ECU nurse of the future will hopefully have the same inherent values as our first graduates who began 50 years ago. Certainly the health-care system will be quite different, with more emphasis on health care being managed in the community and home. Future nurses will need to be prepared for constant change and be lifelong learners. An interdisciplin ary team of health-care providers will be providing the services to patients and their families with nurses serving as team members and leaders for a patient-centered health-care system. The ECU nurse will be committed to providing excellent patient care, improved quality and safety, and better outcomes. The ECU nurse of the future will be a leader in advancing health-care services.

How do we take what we learned from the last 50 years of educating nurses at ECU and carry it forward to the next 50?

I am amazed at the foresight of the first class of nursing students that began in 1960. A time-honored tradition that still exists in nursing is receiving a nursing pin at completion of the program. Most nurses still wear their pin on their uniform (or scrubs) in their daily work as a nurse. The ECU College of Nursing pin was designed by our first students. They wrote a description of the pin, which characterizes the values that still persist in our school today. The pin is designed in the shape of a shield, which they referred to as a modified shield of trust taken from the university seal. The three points of the shield stand for love, mercy, and understanding—all critical characteristics of nurses. Symbols on the pin include a globe as a never-ending circle representing the world; a book, quill, and inkpot symbolizing knowledge and scholarship; a nursing caduceus representing the profession of nursing; and a lamp symbolizing service and light. The flame in the lamp represents a vibrant life. Across the pin is the University motto “Severe,” to serve. These symbols of nursing will be carried forward from the past 50 years to our future nursing students.
Safe campuses start with safe students
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, April 9, 2011

Educational institutions have an increased responsibility in keeping their students safe, but students must realize that campus safety starts with them as aware and empowered individuals.

That was the theme of the fifth annual Higher Education Safety E-Symposium hosted by East Carolina University on Friday. Held in the East Carolina Heart Institute in Greenville, speakers and discussion panels were streamed live over the Internet to satellite sites at all University of North Carolina system schools, as well as schools overseas.

“We are all responsible for our own security,” said keynote speaker Bob Grenier, a former global chief of counter-terrorism for the CIA. “That doesn't let professionals off the hook — they must enable citizens and students to protect themselves.”

The symposium covered a range of topics including threat management, reporting policies, personal safety, identity theft, bullying and cyberbullying, date rape and sexual assault and campus security. More than 2,500 people watched the symposium last year, according to director of legal services Peter Romary, one of the founding organizers who started the symposium at ECU. The digital format has been popular and successful because of budget concerns, he said.
“Before college, students have generally not been making safety decisions on their own and tend to rely on others for safety,” said panelist Darby Dickerson, dean of the Stetson University College of Law. “They perceive that the institution has made it safe for them. But safety is a shared responsibility.”

“They live in a bubble, and that bubble is called campus,” NBC and CBS security analyst Bill Stanton said. “They don't need to be paranoid, but they need to be prepared.”

Speakers stressed the importance of awareness and speaking up or calling authorities when something isn't right.

“If you see something, say something; it is within your power,” threat management expert Marisa Randazzo told students.

“It's a college campus, not a penitentiary; no one wants a guard every ten steps,” Stanton said. “But with a short tutorial all 20,000 students could be deputies. Just being aware, having that radar on, and everyone watching each other's backs, that's what's going to do it.”

ECU Dean of Students Travis Lewis, who previously served as director of student services for Pitt County Schools, said he was leaving the symposium with an increased awareness as well.

“In K-12 or higher education, our job is to teach students not only how to read and write and think critically; we must also teach them how to be responsible for their own safety and security,” Lewis said. “I think ECU is a safe campus in the measures that our police and administration take, but there's always room for improvement, that's part of why we have a symposium like this, so we can continue to make it even better.”
Meryl Thomas works under a fume hood in a chemistry lab at N.C. State's Dabney Hall. The school is saving money with its efficiency upgrades, which are guaranteed to pay for the costs of the improvements over time.

Universities pay later, save now with new upgrade deals
BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer
RALEIGH -- North Carolina's cash-strapped public universities and state government agencies and several local governments are turning to an unusual way to pay for energy-saving building renovations: not paying.

At least not up front. They're using an increasingly popular approach called "performance contracting" in which upgrades to heating, cooling and lighting systems are paid for over time by the lower utility bills they create.

The improvements are so efficient that they are expected to more than pay for themselves over the period of the agreements, typically 20 years or less.

Such contracts have been completed at the N.C. Museum of Art, a state administration complex in Raleigh and at UNC Greensboro.

The tactic is becoming particularly popular at universities, in part because years of state budget cuts have left them with a backlog of more than $2 billion in facilities maintenance. Work is now under way on three
performance contracting jobs at universities, and at least 10 more are planned.

All told, more than $200 million of these contracts are signed or in the works, most by universities. More than a dozen school systems and several community colleges around the state have used the approach since 2003, as well as a handful of local governments.

And now, at least six more community colleges, nine school systems and 25 local governments are pursuing the idea, said Seth Effron, a spokesman for the North Carolina State Energy Office. Among those are Chatham, Durham, Johnston and Orange counties, and the cities of Raleigh and Durham.

**NCSU catching on**

Two of the biggest university projects, totaling nearly $80 million, are under way at N.C. State University.

In the first, the university is getting $20 million in improvements to 13 buildings totaling 1.6 million square feet. Schneider Electric is installing digital control systems for heating, cooling and lighting, major mechanical systems and upgraded light fixtures. And it is weather-proofing the buildings.

Schneider is being paid as it would on any typical contract, as the work is completed, said Barry Wilhelm, an executive with the company. The work is being financed by a bank, with NCSU's payments spread over 19 years. The payments come from money budgeted by the university for utility bills.

As part of the contract, Schneider guarantees the improvements will generate enough savings to make the payments, and monitors each monthly bill to ensure that happens. An independent third-party company hired by the university verifies the savings.

Another company broke ground just weeks ago on a similar, nearly $60 million project.

The upshot, said Kevin MacNaughton, associate vice chancellor for facilities at NCSU, is that the university is able to make crucial upgrades it otherwise could not afford.
Replacing old systems
"We're not only saving energy but also taking care of some HVAC systems that were worn out, putting in better controls and redoing things like ductwork," MacNaughton said.

"Things like that not only allow us to control the systems better but also to improve air quality, save money and deal with some of our deferred maintenance."

The total savings for NCSU is actually projected to be more than the contract, Wilhelm said.

That's in keeping with the results from earlier projects. In December, the state energy office reported that the three state projects completed so far were yielding monthly savings that were greater than those guaranteed by the contractors.

Perfect time to save
A confluence of situations has made the time ripe for these unusual arrangements. Among them are tight state budgets; a backlog of maintenance needs; advances in technology that allow the new systems to generate such big savings compared to current equipment; and high energy prices.

While the benefits may seem obvious, it has taken a while for performance contracting to catch on. One reason, said Schneider Electric's Wilhelm, is that the financial part of the deal is so different from what contracting officials with governments and universities were used to.

"This is new for many of them, not typical, so sometimes it takes some educating," he said.

His company has worked on several similar projects elsewhere in the country, and smaller ones with Wilson County and the Southeastern Baptist Seminary in Wake Forest. Last week, it signed a contract with Beaufort County.

More than half a dozen other universities in the state system have signed or plan to sign such deals.
East Carolina University is seeking bids to retool eight buildings, and UNC Charlotte is planning about $10 million worth of work. Also, the state is planning a $15 million deal for the Department of Correction and a $10 million one for the Department of Transportation.

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SHAWN ROCCO - srocco@newsobserver.com
New energy-efficient exhaust fans sit on the roof of Dabney Hall on Friday at N.C. State University.
An audience listens as latino leaders discuss past experiences and challenges facing the new and rapidly growing population Sunday afternoon at ECU's Joyner Library. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

ECU honors local Latino leaders
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Monday, April 11, 2011

Twelve stories never before told are now online for the world to see.

They are the stories of local Latino immigrants. And while they come from many countries, speak varying dialects and work in different fields, each aims to make life better for those following their footsteps into the United States.

“I don't think my life is big or really amazing but ... everybody has a talent you can put into service for others,” said Marisol Barr, a Washington, N.C., resident and Chilean native who works with victims of domestic violence.

East Carolina University anthropologists and librarians partnered to launch this oral history archive. It's the first of its kind for this region, many said at a forum on the project Sunday afternoon.

Assistant Director for Special Collections Maury York said Joyner Library is committed to chronicling and preserving eastern North Carolina history for future generations. “We really have neglected certain areas of the population,” York said. “Immigration has been one of the strengths of our country since its founding.”

Several forum participants agreed that it's high time.
Mexican-born Greenville activist Juvencio Rocha Peralta said many took note of the recently released U.S. Census figures which show at an 118 percent increase in Pitt County Hispanics.
But with that population growth comes growing pains.

Two educators out of the 30 people in attendance Sunday spoke about the importance of schools reaching out to Latino parents on their timetables, as happened recently at North Pitt High School. Often that means working around non-traditional work schedules. But those parents must be engaged and supportive of their children dreaming bigger, Barr said.

Puerto Rican Willie Cartegena said Latino children can be astronauts or senators, not just work at Burger King or Taco Bell. He added youth must avoid turning to criminal activities to make fast money, and that the consequences of those actions must be taught, too.

Cartegena runs Wayne County's Hispanic Community Development Center, which teaches English, offers computer access and helps guide immigrants through various American political systems. He also said Americans must treat immigrants with respect.

“We have always been treated as second-class citizens because of our language,” forum attendee Luis Guzman said. “The barrier. We're beginning to have a voice in eastern North Carolina.”

That's why the leaders honored in the study and others working behind the scenes are so important, Peralta said. “A lot of work needs to be done,” he said. “This is just the beginning of this work to identify these individuals.”

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or 252-329-9566.
Retired ECU professor Donald Collins stands in a trench surrounded by mounds of dirt that was used as a Confederate fort during the Civil War along Hwy. 43 in Pitt County. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

Pitt County's place in Civil War history
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, April 10, 2011

Old Fort Road in the private Blue Banks neighborhood off N.C. 43 is aptly named.

Down that lane and a second, unpaved route dividing the pines is an earthen Confederate fort, its walls eight feet tall and trenches still present, though covered in leaves and briars. Retired East Carolina University professor Don Collins knows it's there, but he's not sure many others do.

“To the untrained eye, you won't see anything,” he said. “The sites that have been protected the best were like this one, in the trees where you can't farm the land.”

Artillery would have overlooked a bend in the Tar River, Collins said. That's one of his gifts. He can look at a town or piece of land and envision what happened there. It's on private property today, but he said he would love to see the state intervene and conserve it.

Collins became an expert on the Civil War in eastern North Carolina during his academic career and the research continues today. He can recount attempts by the Union troops occupying New Bern and Washington, N.C., to reach and destroy the rail line from Wilmington to Weldon. On their way, skirmishes with Confederates occurred throughout the area, Collins said.

A church was burned on what is now Fire Tower Road during one altercation. Two Union soldiers posed as Confederates with a Union prisoner to gain entry to a stronghold near Swift Creek and take a dozen Confederate soldiers hostage. Union calvary under Gen. Edward E. Potter's leadership raided homes in the county for food and valuables during his campaign in 1863.
“(The Union soldiers) were fascinated by the girls in Greenville because they thought they were pretty,” Collins said, smiling. “(The women) wouldn't pay them any attention, of course, because they were Yankees.”

There were no major Civil War battles fought in Pitt County. Greenville is no Gettysburg, Antietam or Vicksburg — though locals enlisting in the Confederate army often participated in such battles.

But evidence of the war between the states dots eastern North Carolina. This week marks the 150th anniversary of the firing on South Carolina's Ft. Sumter, considered the start of the Civil War. That set off the call for volunteers and the secession of Virginia, Tennessee, Arkansas and our own Old North State from the union.

North Carolina historians are marking the occasion by compiling lists of sites and trails online and hosting lectures across the state.

ECU History Department Chair Gerry Prokopowicz predicts it won't be commemorated to the degree the centennial was, partly because 100 is a “nice, round number,” but also because of cultural shifts.

“In 1961, this was the heart of the Civil Rights Movement,” Prokopowicz noted. “(That commemoration) was a thinly veiled way of refighting the war. A way of seeing current events through a prism. A lot of those passions have changed.” He described it as including a lot of “The South Will Rise Again” rhetoric.

Prokopowicz did say this year's commemoration should be about more than re-enactors reliving battles. There were troops from both sides, black regiments and ordinary residents caught up locally in the nation's bloodiest conflict.

“The statue (in memory to Confederate dead) is not the sole picture of Pitt County,” he said. “Many people were touched by the war.”

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or 252-329-9566.
More than 85 Pitt County middle school students were exposed to the fun side of science, technology, engineering, math and medicine on April 1. Making this day camp a little different: The participants were all girls.

The first STEM2 Girls Conference brought eighth-grade girls from 11 Pitt County schools to East Carolina University's campus to encourage the girls to pursue advanced math and science courses during high school.

“Research has shown that up to sixth grade girls want to go into science and math, but then it plateaus in the seventh and eighth grade,” said Margaret Wirth, director of the Center for Science, Mathematics and Technology Education. “We're trying to stop that curve.”

Wirth and others on the steering committee rounded up funding from the College of Education, College of Technology and Computer Science and the Thomas Harriot College of Arts & Sciences to pay the approximate $2,800 cost of the one-day program. The ECU Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund also supported the event.

Others on the Steering Committee are Evelyn Brown, engineering, College of Technology and Computer Science; Mary Farwell, biology; College of Arts & Sciences; Susan Ganter, mathematics education, College of Education; Leslie Pagliari, technology systems, College of Technology and Computer Science; and Cindy Putnam-Evans, biology, College of Arts & Sciences.
After arriving on campus and hearing a pep talk about career options, the girls went to lab stations that focused on the five areas emphasized in the camp — science, technology, engineering, math and medicine. At the math station, girls played Nim, a math game of strategy, and solved logic games. And at the medicine station, they touched human aorta and heart tissue.

Touching a heart made an impression on Katlyn Winfield of Grifton School, who listed it as one of her favorite activities of the day.

“I also really liked when we smashed cans at the engineering station. I want to go into engineering or chemistry so I liked those,” she said. At the engineering lab, the girls learned about different material properties and how those properties play a role in design, such as in a car body.

Mikayla Meeks of Bethel School said being able to see and touch an actual heart was her favorite activity of the day. Mikayla, who has been accepted into the Pitt County Schools Health Sciences Academy, said she wants to go into the medical field, either as a pediatric nurse or “be the person who goes with children into surgery to be their buddy.”

The tour of the ECU campus was impressive to Mattie Ocker of E.B. Aycock Middle. “It was exciting to see the buildings and everybody talking and walking around,” she said. “I really liked the engineering (station). We crushed a can and saw physics in action.”

The girls’ school counselors who accompanied them said they noted a trend during the day. “We noticed during different sessions how much more engaged they were to volunteer and take part. Of course, the subject matter was one they were really interested in. It was good for them to see the different possibilities and career options. And it was non-threatening because it was all girls,” said Lee Kearn, instructional coach at Wellcome Middle School.

Fellow chaperone Jane Shrader, a counselor at Pactolus School, said, “It's been fabulous. The girls are relaxed and focused, no competition.”

After lunch at Todd Dining Hall, the girls gathered for a closing ceremony, which included putting their hands to work along with their brains. Led by Ellen Hilgoe, associate director of N.C. Early Math Placement Testing Program, a state agency housed at ECU, the girls made origami boxes, which they filled with Smarties candy. Hilgoe, a former high school math teacher, sneaked a little geometry into her directions for each step in the process: What do you know about a square? What kind of angle is this? Fold on the diagonal and now notice we now have four triangles in this square. What are they called?

She also encouraged the girls to challenge themselves in high school when choosing their math courses.
That message was repeated by Wirth as she dismissed the girls. “When you're in high school, take the highest math and science class every year. Don't be afraid of a challenge.”

This year the STEM2 Girls Conference was one day, but the steering committee plans to hold a summer camp in 2012 bringing girls to campus for a week. The group has received a Mathematics Association of America $6,000 Tensor grant to fund that project.

**Concert to feature student award winner**
The East Carolina University Symphony Orchestra will feature student violinist Janice Lee, winner of the 2010-11 ECU Concerto Competition, during its concert at 7:30 p.m. Monday in Wright Auditorium. Jorge Richter will conduct.

Lee has performed as a soloist with the Raleigh Symphony Orchestra as a winner of their annual Rising Stars Concerto Competition. As an orchestral musician, she has performed with the American Youth Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra and Long Bay Symphony in venues including the Kennedy Center and Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington D.C., Wolf Trap in Vienna, Va., and Boston Symphony Hall. She is a senior in the ECU School of Music studying with Ara Gregorian.

Lee will perform Tchaikovsky's “Violin Concerto in D major” with the orchestra. In addition, the orchestra will perform Wagner's “Prelude” from “Die Meistersinger” and Paul Hindemith's “Symphonic Metamorphosis of Themes by Carl Maria von Weber.” The concert is free and open to the public.

**ECU schedules Earth Day events**
Journalist and best-selling author Richard Louv will discuss the growing use of technology and if it hinders children's connection with nature and the outside world during a free, public presentation at ECU in conjunction with two Earth Day events co-sponsored by the North Carolina Center for Biodiversity.

Louv will present “Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder,” at 7 p.m. Friday in the Science and Technology Building, Room C-307. Based on his book by the same name, Louv has stimulated an international conversation about the relationship between children and nature. His coined term, nature-deficit disorder, has become the defining phrase of this issue. A book signing will follow Louv's presentation.

“We are very excited to have Mr. Louv join us for our Earth Day celebration,” said Heather Vance Chalcraft, assistant director of outreach for the North Carolina Center for Biodiversity and ECU professor of biology. “His efforts have been instrumental in reminding the world that even in this age of technology, children need to have a deep connection with nature.”

In addition to authoring seven books, Louv has written for The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Times of London and other major publications. He also serves as the chairman and co-founder of the Children & Nature Network, an organization helping
build the movement to connect today's children and future generations to the natural world.

In continuation of Earth Day, on Saturday, a free, family-oriented outdoor event will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at River Park North. Many ECU and community organizations will be present with interactive, hands-on exhibits and natural history activities.

For additional information about either event, contact Vance Chalcraft at 328-9841 or vancechalcraft@ecu.edu.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday:** “A Thousand Kisses,” a new radio play, will be performed live for the first time, 8 p.m., Science & Technology Building, Room C-209. Written by Frederic Raphael, the play is based on the life of the Roman poet Catullus. Contact: John Given at 328-6538 or givenj@ecu.edu.

**Tuesday:** ECU Office of Aging Studies will present a career awareness event focusing on job opportunities working with older adults and their families, 4-5:30 p.m., Mendenhall Great Room 3. Contact: Carol Jenkins at jenkinsca@ecu.edu

**Wednesday:** Town hall meeting and panel discussion focusing on “Why Cultural Competence is an Imperative for 21st Century Graduates,” 2 p.m., Hendrix Theatre in Mendenhall Student Center, sponsored by the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations. Keynote speaker will be Rick Anicetti, former CEO of Delhaize America (Food Lion).

**Wednesday:** “Women's Issues: 100 years back, 100 days forward,” 4:30-6:30 p.m., The Croatan Green Room, sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations. Valeria Lee, vice chairwoman of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, will present the keynote address.

**Wednesday:** Screening of “Aphasia,” 6:30 p.m., auditorium of the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU, 115 Heart Dr. It is the true story of North Carolinian Carl McIntyre, an actor who had a massive stroke at age 44. He now lives with aphasia, an acquired communication disorder that impairs a person's ability to process language. This free movie is sponsored by the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders and will be followed by a short talk and question-and-answer session with McIntyre. Call 744-6142 for more information.

**Friday:** “Sir Walter Raleigh in Life & Legends” with author Mark Nicholls, president and librarian of St. John's College, Cambridge, 3-4:30 p.m., Joyner Library, Room 2409. A book-signing will follow with copies available for purchase.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Several weeks ago I stood in a room on campus that reminded me of my high school biology lab. The room felt comfortable and well-used. The cabinets were scarred, the edges of the lab stations smooth, and there was not a lot of shiny technology.

There was, instead, on shelves behind glass doors, the instrumentation needed to “characterize and classify” — a mantra of the graduate students who spend a lot of time in the lab where I stood in the Howell Science Complex.

I was standing where Dr. Mark Brinson, a renowned naturalist and wetlands ecologist, spent many hours teaching and conducting research. The occasion was the naming of that lab for Brinson and his colleague Dr. Bob Christian. Deirdre Mageean, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies said, “Mark and Bob were hard-wired to work because it was the right thing to do,” even when encouragement and support were scarce.

More than 100 colleagues and friends came together to contribute to the naming, which also sadly was in recognition of Brinson's sudden death. As I stood in the Brinson-Christian Ecology Lab, I could imagine the long hours and volume of work over the years. The modest space reflected the enduring legacy of Brinson's teaching, research and service, which are sure to continue through his devoted students who perpetuate the values of scholarship and dedication evident in his work at ECU, nationally and internationally.
Christian described his friend Brinson as “a thoughtful, hard-working and creative wetlands ecologist who not only advanced wetlands science but also provided important links between science and environmental management.”

Christian said Brinson never backed down from the rigor of evaluating variability of ecosystems, which requires considerable fortitude. He said, his friend “was known by some as ‘mad dog’ for his tenacity.”

For example, Christian described a 1,600-meter line that Brinson established across a marsh to gather weekly samples for more than three years. Further, Christian said, “As most older academic ecologists know, the more senior you are, the less time you have to be in the field. Mark cherished his time in the field and managed to leave the computer and desk as often as he could.”

I have this theory that the best teachers have a sense of theatrics. Although I never sat in class with Professor Brinson, one of his former students, Paul Farley, said his teacher and mentor “could have made millions as a stand-up comedian” if he hadn't chosen science.

What a treasured connection!

A highlight of the occasion as well as a demonstration of deep affection was music performed by Department of Biology faculty members Roger Rulifson on guitar and Carol Goodwillie on flute.

The achievements and recognition of Mark Brinson and Bob Christian exemplify their leadership. They stand out as professors who nurture leadership in their students. At ECU we want all our students to have this experience and to believe in their own capacity to make a difference.

Nancy Ballard, a former public relations professional, is married to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard. Her column about ECU and community people and events appears here on an occasional basis.
Bold look of the border dilemma
Author delves into complexities of immigration policy

By Vincent Bosquez
Special to the Express-News

THE FENCE: NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ALONG THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER
BY ROBERT LEE MARIL
TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY PRESS, $29.95

Good fences, it's said, make good neighbors. But, depending on its purpose and which side of it you're on, a fence or even the semblance of one can potentially do more harm than good.

Dividing the United States and Mexico is a 2,000-mile border that in places is hard to distinguish since physical, virtual and at times a nonexistent fence marks the international boundary between the two countries.

Robert Lee Maril, a former resident of the Texas borderlands and now a professor of sociology and the founding director of the Center for Diversity and Inequality Research at East Carolina University, has taken a comprehensive look at America's border and the people who live and work alongside it in “The Fence: National Security, Public Safety, and Illegal Immigration along the U.S.-Mexico Border.”

Maril takes an investigative look into the lives of the residents who live on both sides of the boundary and how they have negotiated, mitigated or passively tolerated the laws, regulations and policies imposed upon them by federal offices in Washington and Mexico City.

Through interviews with U.S. military, minutemen, customs and border protection agents, and ordinary citizens of both countries, along with his analysis of government documents from 1999 to the present, Maril makes a case for fiscal mismanagement by Congress, wasteful defense contracts and broken political promises regarding the country's southern border region.

Maril divides his work into two sections.
The first covers what he describes as “A Virtual American Dream.” The author questions the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security's Secure Border Initiative, or SBI, which is designed as “a comprehensive multiyear plan to secure America's borders and to reduce illegal immigration” by constructing a concrete-and-steel fence, along with a “virtual” fence called SBINet.

The second section, titled “Crossing to Safety,” decries the new border fence in all its various forms as a failed symbol of public security and safety.

Maril acknowledges that while it is more difficult to cross and re-cross the Mexican border because of the increased number of border agents and the tactics employed by law enforcement agencies, there remains an overriding political miscalculation that sophisticated equipment can resolve intricate immigration problems.

In the final chapter, Maril offers a brief overview of how the construction of the border wall as an integral part of our system of national security fails to achieve its stated objectives and at the same time places the public in jeopardy, while also recommending several reforms that fall far outside the traditional law enforcement paradigm.

“The Fence” does an exceptional job revealing the complexities surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border and America's struggle to find an equitable solution to the international crisis. With illustrations, notes and a concise bibliography, Maril has delivered an authoritative work on border policy and immigration issues which, apparently, no fence can contain.

Vincent Bosquez is president emeritus of the Society of Latino and Hispanic Writers of San Antonio and coordinator of veterans affairs at Palo Alto College.
ECU raises money for tsunami victims
Sunday, April 10, 2011

East Carolina University raised $4,000 for victims of the earthquake and tsunami in Japan through the efforts of Asian studies director John Tucker, who coordinated the distribution of contribution canisters around the campus. The university's Air Force ROTC, which donated $600 toward the fund, presents a check to Summer Woodard, executive director of the Pitt County chapter of the American Red Cross.
As Greenville's Redevelopment Commission prepares its annual work plan, we want to share information on the commission's activities and goals. Our goals include improving the quality of life for all, enhancing the city's economic potential, strengthening its sense of place and working with local partnerships.

Funding for these projects comes from the 2004 bonds approved by the voters. Last month, the West Fifth Street Gateway was opened with beautiful brick artwork commemorating the old Eppes High School. The Eppes Alumni Association generously contributed to this project. We invite you to stop and enjoy this new gateway.

Another project soon to be completed is Five Points Plaza. This project renovates an existing parking lot so it can better host events like Freeboot Friday and the Uptown Umbrella Market. It will have market shelters, lighting, basic utility services, improved parking as well as new vegetation and public art. The new plaza should be ready for spring activities.

The State Theater's renovation is also progressing. A preliminary assessment of renovation costs for the facility was funded and we have partnered with the Magnolia Arts Center to raise money for the project. They have primary responsibility for the fundraising effort and have just gone public with their campaign.

This past fall the redevelopment commission and the Recreation and Parks Department completed a Town Common Master Plan which reflects the area's past culture and heritage while outlining the rich potential of this 10-acre park.
Another partnership with the Eastern North Carolina Regional Science Center is the Go-Science Center that will be located in the old Pugh Tire Store on Dickinson Avenue. This building will become a science center with exhibit space, a portable planetarium and a Challenger Learning Center. Go-Science will up-fit the property, be responsible for programming and ultimately purchase the building from the commission. Refurbishment should begin later this year.

The next major project will be the Evans Street Gateway at the intersection of Evans Street and 10th Street. This intersection will be the central focal entrance with the completion of the 10th Street Connector linking the center city/university area to the western entrances to Greenville.

The commission also supports local businesses with grants for façade improvements and small business development. We are exploring the development of a small community business incubator to be located in west Greenville. In addition, we are working with staff to improve downtown parking. Soon pay stations will be located in several lots permitting the removal of parking meters.

The commission likewise seeks to improve the city's aesthetic quality of life through public art. The rotating sculpture at Reade and Cotanche plaza is a prime example. The Pitt County Arts Council has been selected by the commission to assist with the creation of a Public Art Master Plan. Similarly, the new way-finding signage will soon be installed in the center city area.

We invite all to attend our meetings on the first Tuesday of each month in the City Council chambers at 5:30 p.m.

Bob Thompson is chairman of the Greenville Redevelopment Commission and the director of the Master of Public Administration Program at East Carolina University.
Bob Griffin, a contracts manager, recently retired from the East Carolina University Department of Materials Management.

Griffin joined ECU as a purchasing agent in 1995. He was the assistant director for contracts, HUB coordinator and purchasing specialist overseeing contracts for preventive maintenance, service, consultant services, personal/professional services, construction projects, and medical contractual agreements; and approval of contractual services payment request forms.

Griffin also was involved with numerous, significant contracts including the exclusive pouring rights contracts, dining contracts, copier services contracts and security contracts.

“Any successes I have achieved can be linked to the strong support I have received from administrators, faculty and staff,” he said. “One of the things I will miss about East Carolina is working with people across campus on such a wide variety of projects. Helping put together bids and seeing projects come to fruition has been very rewarding.”

Nellie Taylor, retired director of Materials Management, called Griffin instrumental in drafting a Contractual Signature Authority document for the university. She said the document will help provide guidance to the university community as it provides for appropriate language to be used in writing contracts.

Griffin is married to Linner W. Griffin, associate provost for academic program planning and development at ECU. They reside in Grimesland.
Ireland visits ECY Nephrology
Monday, April 11, 2011
WorkWeek

Shad Ireland, the only dialysis patient in the world to have completed an ironman triathlon, delivered a message of hope and courage to nephrologists and support staff from ECU Nephrology and Eastern Nephrology Associates on March 10.

Ireland, who lives in Atlanta, has been on kidney dialysis for 29 years. He attributes his success story to his individualized dialysis regiment, proper nutrition and exercise. As a spokesperson for Fresenius Medical Care, he travels across the country sharing his experiences of triumph.

His enthusiasm and dedication inspire other dialysis patients to incorporate exercise into their lives. Fresenius Medical Care operates the ECU Dialysis Center.

The Shad Ireland Foundation and its programs are focused on improving the lives of Americans living with kidney disease while educating those who are at risk for developing a renal diagnosis. For more information visit www.shadirelandfoundation.org.
NCCU may force out 519 students over poor grades
BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer
DURHAM – A new policy at N.C. Central University aimed at improving academic standards has put more than 500 students in danger of failing out of school.

The policy, instituted just several months ago, requires students to have a cumulative GPA of at least 1.9 to enroll in fall classes, up from the previous minimum GPA of 1.7.

As of last week, the fates of 519 students - 9 percent of the undergraduate class - were in question.

"It certainly is a larger number than we would like," said Bernice Johnson, dean of NCCU's University College, which shepherds students through the first two years of college.

The new policy is the latest in a series of methodical steps the university has put in place to raise academic standards and expectations on a campus that has long struggled to retain students and get them to graduation.

It is being phased in over two years; by next fall, students will need a 2.0 to remain academically eligible.
While more than 500 students are currently in danger of being suspended, some are in worse shape than others. Many have GPAs close to what they need and will likely reach that minimum with good grades this semester and a strong performance in summer courses.

"Most of these students can be successful," Johnson said. "If they're close, one or two good classes will help."

But those with a far steeper hill to climb will be encouraged to leave NCCU and get their grades up at a community college. If they can complete an associate's degree at a community college, they can apply to return to NCCU, Johnson said.

"We tell them we want them to finish here, but they may need to take a different route," she said. "But we want to make sure those students don't get lost."

**Spurning mediocrity**
The emphasis on higher standards kicked in several years ago, coinciding with the arrival of Chancellor Charlie Nelms and a shift away from a previous UNC system enrollment model under which this small, historically black university grew 50 percent in five years.

The academic infrastructure couldn't keep pace with that surge in enrollment, though, and too many students struggled to stay in school. Now, NCCU is lowering the size of its freshman class slightly this fall, preferring instead to bolster its undergraduate population by more heavily recruiting community college students.

Those students tend to be older, more mature and academically seasoned - a better bet for a university trying to spend less money teaching first-year students and to increase its number of graduates.

Earlier this year, the university announced a plan to improve the intellectual climate on campus. The plan, still in development, will likely include a series of campus lectures and other events of broad interest. The idea is to get students interested in important world issues and current events outside their chosen area of study.
That's all fine with Dwayne Johnson, an NCCU senior and president of the student government association. He's tired of the low expectations many of his fellow students have long had for themselves. He believes they'll rise to meet higher standards as long as they understand what's expected of them.

"The expectation in past years has been mediocrity," he said. "You could get over by being mediocre. Some students would disagree, but maintaining a 2.0 is not hard at all."

**A time of soul-searching**

Many of the students in the academic danger zone are freshmen and sophomores, a great deal of whom don't take academics as seriously as they should at first, said Bernice Johnson, the college dean. A key challenge, she said, is to make first-semester students prioritize academics, she said.

"Some students think it's understood they won't do well the first year," she said. "Our whole focus is on expectations."

Suspended students who want to return to NCCU face a hard slog. After getting their grades up elsewhere, they'll have to appeal for readmission in writing, provide references and persuade Johnson, the dean, that they deserve a second chance - in a one-on-one meeting.

Often, these meetings offer soul-searching moments. For many students, getting kicked out of school is a shame that motivates.

"I have to look into their eyes to make sure they're serious," she said. "They usually do some deep thinking. Often, the difference between when they leave and when they come back is night and day."

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CHRIS SEWARD - cseward@newsobserver.com
UNC Charlotte professor Diane Browder is applauded by attendees after she received her award at the UNC Board of Governors meeting Friday in Chapel Hill.

Prof wins UNC system's top honor
BY PETER ST. ONGE - The Charlotte Observer
CHARLOTTE--Diane Browder, a professor of special education at UNC Charlotte, was presented Friday with the O. Max Gardner Award, the UNC system's highest faculty honor.

Browder is the first UNCC recipient of the award, which has been given annually by UNC's Board of Governors since 1949.

In brief remarks, Browder told the board and the audience about successes she's had in the field of special education. She thanked board members for recognizing her work, which has fundamentally changed educational policies at local and national levels with a simple and revolutionary premise: Children with severe developmental disabilities can learn academically. She didn't have time, however, to tell them about Beth.

During summers two decades ago, Beth Browder traveled from Virginia to Pennsylvania to visit her aunt, the college professor. "Aunt Diane's Summer
"Camp" is what Diane Browder called it, because Beth, who had severe developmental disabilities, would work with Diane, a researcher in special education.

The pair would explore the latest strategies in the field, which at the time centered on the teaching of basic living skills. Beth did some teaching, too - showing her aunt that what makes sense to researchers sometimes doesn't work with the children they want to teach. But sometimes, it does.

"For most of the history of special education, children with significant cognitive disabilities were defined by what they could not do," said Mary Lynne Calhoun, Dean of the UNC Charlotte's College of Education. "Diane's work has taught us that we set our expectations too low."

Until the late 1990s, those expectations revolved around children with intellectual and developmental disabilities being trainable. They could learn basic skills such as tying shoes, and they could learn "survival words" - such as "women" for women's bathroom.

Browder, a Duke grad who became a member of UNC Charlotte's faculty in 1998, began to examine if these children were capable of more. She had seen glimpses, as do many parents of children with severe disabilities. Beth, she remembered, eagerly mimicked her parents' magazine reading by flipping pages and identifying pictures and words.

With help from her College of Education colleagues, Browder crafted methods of teaching basic concepts of literacy, math and science. She cultivated a partnership with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, applying her research in classrooms through special ed teachers.

"The children began making gains that were so exciting," Browder said. "It was not just an idea or a dream. It was, 'This can be done.'"

Browder and teachers found that children could learn words and concepts from material that was a blend of pictures and words read aloud. A 10th grader could learn the essence of Macbeth, for example, or basic elements of science, such as cells and atoms.
"I thought, 'This is astounding, truly astounding,'" said Jane Rhyne, assistant superintendent for exceptional children at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. "This is the future of special education."

**From Chicago to Texas**

Today, Browder's Early Learning Skills Builder, a specialized reading program, has been implemented in more than 800 school systems, including Chicago Public Schools and Texas state schools. Teachers tell her "You've made me a real teacher." Parents tell her educators finally caught up with what they knew about their children.

Some, however, are skeptical, including a handful of colleagues who aren't sure that severely disabled children can learn both life skills and academic concepts.

Browder remembers similar worries about a decade ago, when states were beginning to notice her research - an exciting and fearsome prospect. "I thought, 'Am I taking us in the wrong direction? Am I giving people false hope?'"

It was then that a Charlotte-Mecklenburg teacher, Bree Jimenez, asked her to visit a classroom in which an elementary-aged child was learning the book version of the movie "Toy Story."

At one point, the teacher held up a board of pictures for the child to see, then asked when the second toy, Buzz Lightyear, first came into the story. The girl leaned over to a picture of a cake - symbolizing a birthday party - and blew on it.

"That girl reads now," said Browder.

Early Friday, the professor, her friends and colleagues formed a caravan to Chapel Hill, where she was honored for all the lives she has changed.

She has thought, too, of Beth, now 27. "I'm sad that she wasn't able to benefit from this," Browder says, but she was a part of it.
Survey Finds Small Increase in Professors’ Pay
By TAMAR LEWIN

Average faculty salaries rose 1.4 percent from 2009-10 to 2010-11, even though average pay decreased at 30 percent of colleges and universities, according to the annual pay report being released Monday by the American Association of University Professors.

This year’s results are just slightly higher than last year’s increase of 1.2 percent, which was the smallest rise reported in the survey’s 50 years. On average, full professors at doctoral universities earned $127,296 for the current academic year, and assistant professors $72,893.

But the report found a widening pay gap between public universities, where full professors averaged $118,054 and assistant professors $69,777, and private institutions, where full professors’ average salary was $157,282 and assistant professors’ $86,189.

Pay is substantially less at liberal arts colleges and community colleges. And at every type of college and university, men continue to earn substantially more than women.


Such appointments now make up more than three-quarters of total faculty, compared with two-thirds in 1995.

And in the last three years, the number of tenure-track faculty members dropped 4 percent, while the number of full-time, non-tenure-track faculty members increased 8 percent.
“We’re not even hiring tenure-track faculty to replace the tenure-track faculty that’s retiring,” said John Curtis, director of research and public policy at the association.

Terry Hartle, senior vice president at the American Council on Education, said the long-term shift to contingent faculty members could be seen as good or bad — positive because colleges could more easily respond to changing student interests, negative because the loss of longtime tenured professors erodes a hallmark of American universities.

Either way, Mr. Hartle said, the change seems to be here to stay.

“Just as American companies have sought to maintain flexibility in their human resources policy, so are colleges and universities,” Mr. Hartle said. “And given the precarious financial situation facing most public colleges and universities, I don’t see anything on the horizon to change the long-term trends we’ve been seeing.”

The American Federation of Teachers has been working for several years for legislation at the state level that would both increase the number of full-time faculty members and the pay and conditions for part-time members.

“Given the economy, it’s been very difficult to make any headway,” said Craig Smith, deputy director of higher education for the federation. “But some states, like Oregon, have taken the concepts and put them in place.” At the association of professors, Mr. Curtis said he was particularly struck by the widening gap between faculty salaries and salaries of presidents.

Over the last three years, the average salary increase for presidents was twice the average faculty salary increase at public institutions, and nearly three times the faculty salary increase at private institutions.

“Even in a period when they’re asking everyone else to sacrifice, university presidents seem to think it’s still O.K. for their salaries to go up significantly,” Mr. Curtis said.