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ECU prepares for budget process
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, April 10, 2010
East Carolina University officials are prepared for another difficult budget process as state revenues are below expectations.
Since 2008, ECU has faced state budget reductions of about $82 million, and officials are expecting further reductions this year, according to Kevin Seitz, vice chancellor for finance and administration at ECU.
"We are obviously working with UNC General Administration to work with the Legislature to let them know what our financial situation is, and we are working for the smallest reduction that we can possibly get," Seitz said.
Seitz said the university is following a plan developed during last year’s budget process to be prepared for a 5 percent state budget reduction, though he hopes it will not be that high. UNC system President Erskine Bowles is calling for the General Assembly to keep budget reductions to the state’s universities below 2 percent.
Gov. Beverly Perdue also is looking at a financial scenario for a 5 percent reduction to ECU. The governor’s budget is expected to be issued in the next few weeks.
Revenues continue to be below expectations in Raleigh, though officials will have a more accurate view of the state’s budget situation following this month’s due date for income taxes.
According to the March general fund revenue report and economic outlook, issued by the Fiscal Research Division of the N.C. General Assembly, state revenues were down by $45 million in February.
"Downward trends of economy-based taxes have flattened-out, but there are very few signs an upturn can be expected anytime soon," the report said. "This means budget pressures will continue to mount as prolonged weaknesses in the economy affect revenue collections the remainder of the fiscal year."
ECU’s enrollment has increased at historic levels since the beginning of the economic downturn and enrollment growth funding remains at the top of the list of state funding priorities, along with operating funds for the dental school opening in 2011 and funding for indigent care conducted through the health care programs administered by ECU.
The university also is seeking about $15 million in planning funds for a new science and technology building on campus.
Seitz expects the state’s budget to be tight this year and in 2011-12 because federal stimulus funds will dry up and temporary tax increases will expire in the 2010-11 fiscal year.
Managing budget reductions with no significant layoffs for faculty or staff, particularly in a time of increased enrollment growth, has been a major challenge for ECU’s administrators.
“We have to do a great job managing,” Seitz said. “It is really a balancing act to make sure we are using the dollars that come in wisely and make sure we are not over-enrolling to make sure we have the support for the students we have.”
Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
This photograph shows Grimes Plantation in 2009, before rehabilitation work began on the historic home. The original Federal-style portion of the home was built in 1790. The wings were added in 1820.

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1760 - 2010
This photo of the Grimes Plantation, taken in 1967, is among photos in The Daily Reflector Image Collection at East Carolina University's Joyner Library. Above, Bryan Grimes in 1864 or 1865.
This photo of the Grimes Plantation, taken in 1967, is among photos in The Daily Reflector Image Collection at East Carolina University’s Joyner Library. Above, Bryan Grimes in 1864 or 1865.

The life and times of Bryan Grimes
By Jane Welborn Hudson
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, April 11, 2010

The 250-year history of Pitt County is entwined with the history of the Grimes family — wealthy landowners who lived, died and are buried in the soil they once farmed. Gen. Bryan Grimes, the third generation of his family to live in the area of Pitt County now known as Grimesland, is one of the area’s most distinguished sons.

As the county celebrates its 250th anniversary, work is underway to rehabilitate the Grimes family plantation home.

So just who was Bryan Grimes, and why are he and his family so important to Pitt County’s history?

Early Grimesland Plantation
In 1760, the year Pitt County was formed from part of Beaufort County, Demsie Grimes of Edgecombe County bought a large tract of land on the Tar River in Pitt County. He and his new wife, Penelope, moved to the farm, which they called Avon Plantation.

Their only son, William, was born there in 1766. When he was 20, William Grimes married and bought his own property just down the river from Avon, naming it Grimesland Plantation.

Part of the parcel of land William Grimes purchased was once the site of a Tuscarora Indian fort with a cleared 10-acre field around it, according to Henry Thomas King’s “Sketches of Pitt County.”

And in about 1715, that same plot along the Tar River was home to Susie White, a native of Bristol, England, who was the sister of Edward Teach of Bath — the notorious pirate Blackbeard.
Tradition has it that when he needed a vacation from pirating, Blackbeard would visit his sister upriver. “Sketches of Pitt County” notes that a cypress tree called “Table Top” near the Tar was his reputed lookout spot, and tales were told of treasures he buried on the farm. William Grimes built the original Federal-style part of the Grimes Plantation house in 1790. His son, the first Bryan Grimes, who inherited the plantation, was an industrious farmer who accumulated great wealth and numerous slaves. He added two wings to the home in 1820 to house his growing family, including his namesake son—who was to become a hero of the Civil War and die tragically after returning home to Pitt County.

**Grimes the planter**

The junior Bryan Grimes was reared on Grimesland Plantation. In his book on the general, East Carolina University communications professor T. Harrell Allen pictured him as a young man riding horses, hunting and swimming, and searching for the cypress tree Blackbeard was rumored to have climbed. Grimes entered the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill when he was 15, graduating four years later. He returned home to Pitt County and, in 1849, his father gave him Grimesland Plantation, along with control of its 100 slaves.

“The general was big into agriculture,” Pitt County historian Roger Kammerer said. “He was one of the first ones around here to do peanuts. He also grew cotton, sweet potatoes, corn, and I wonder if there wasn’t some rice grown.”

He married Elizabeth Davis and they had four children in six years. After a son, Bryan Grimes III, died in childhood, his wife passed away as well—and the grieving master of the plantation left on a trip to Europe.

On his return, Abraham Lincoln was president and the South was in an uproar. After Fort Sumter, S.C., was bombarded to begin the Civil War, the people of North Carolina called for a secession convention. Grimes was elected Pitt County’s delegate, and he signed the Ordinance of Secession severing North Carolina from the Union on May 31, 1861.

**Grimes the war hero**

Although he had no military training, Grimes immediately signed on to fight for the South. He accepted the appointment of major in the Fourth Regiment of North Carolina, refusing Gov. John Ellis’ two other appointments of higher rank so he could gain needed experience, according to William S. Powell’s “Dictionary of North Carolina Biography.” He soon got that experience, fighting with his men for four years on nearly all the major battlefields in the East.

A portrait of Grimes in his Confederate uniform shows a young man with clear light eyes, long dark hair and a bushy beard wearing a military jacket with two rows of metal buttons and a collar decorated with stars and garlands.

Battles he participated in included the First Battle of Bull Run, Battle of First Manassas, Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania and Chancellorsville. Grimes had seven horses shot out from under him.

In the middle of the war, on Sept. 15, 1863, Grimes married Charlotte Bryan. He returned to the war and wrote her letters from the battlefields telling of his exploits. His displays of courage and leadership earned Grimes praise from his superiors and endorsements from his men that lead to promotions through the ranks. On Feb. 15, 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee promoted Grimes to major general, the last officer accorded that rank in the Army of Northern Virginia.

On April 9, 1865, Gen. Grimes lead the last Confederate attack at Appomattox Court House, Va. He refused to obey orders to surrender until they came from Gen. Lee himself.

**After the war**

Following the surrender, Gen. Grimes returned to North Carolina to live with his new wife at his home in Raleigh. According to his descendant Bob Grimes, he rented Grimesland Plantation to a
Yankee officer, who paid the lease in gold — allowing Grimesland Plantation to remain in the Grimes family.

In 1867, Grimes and his family returned to Grimesland Plantation to live. Pitt County historian Kammerer says Grimes wrote a Raleigh friend to complain that he had to round up the plantation’s furnishings from neighbors.

Grimes and his second wife had nine children together, including John Bryan Grimes, who would become North Carolina’s Secretary of State.

His great-grandson Bob Grimes of Washington, N.C., said the original family portrait of Gen. Grimes shows that he had the blue eyes prevalent on the Grimes side of the family; subsequent copies of the portrait picture the general with brown eyes. “I remember my grandmother, who would be the general’s daughter-in-law, telling me that the general’s eyes were blue, and I got a little upset that I had brown eyes,” Bob Grimes said. “The brown eyes were in the Bryan side of the family.”

In 1877, Grimes was named a trustee of the University of North Carolina.

The assassination
On Aug. 14, 1880, the general was returning in his buggy from shopping in “Little Washington” with a young neighbor’s son when they stopped at sunset to water the horse at Bear Creek, two miles from Grimesland Plantation. Someone fired a shot from the bushes, hitting the general. He told the boy, “I am shot and will die.” A bullet had gone through his arm and lodged in his heart. The youngster drove the general in the buggy to the closest neighbor’s house, but when they got there, his great-grandson Bob Grimes said, family history states that he was already dead. “He died shortly after he was shot,” Grimes said.

Pitt County historian Kammerer disagrees, saying that he found a coroner’s report stating that the boy first drove the carriage to Joseph Saunders’ house, where he raced up the long lane and yelled to the residents that Gen. Grimes had been shot. Then he continued on to Grimesland Plantation, where the general was carried upstairs to his bed — and that is where he died.

What isn’t in doubt is that Grimes survived some of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War, only to be assassinated near his home. He was buried in the family cemetery on the plantation.

Several days after Grimes died, 23-year-old William Parker, who lived on a small farm near Grimesland Plantation, was arrested for his murder. It’s thought that the Paramore brothers, who had engaged in a boundary dispute with Grimes, had hired Parker to kill the general so he couldn’t testify against them for arson and poisoning a well. Parker reportedly was paid $100, a horse and a suit of clothes.

In June 1881, after his first trial ended in a mistrial, Parker was acquitted of Grimes’ murder in Martin County. He immediately left the area.

But one night in 1888, Parker returned to Washington and, while drinking in a bar, bragged about killing Gen. Grimes. He reminded the locals that a jury had found him innocent of the crime and he couldn’t be retried for it, according to T. Harrell Allen’s book “Lee’s Last Major General: Bryan Grimes of North Carolina.”

A local policeman arrested Parker for public drunkenness. Later that night, an angry mob of masked men broke Parker out of the jail and lynched him. The next morning, his body was found hanging from the draw bridge over the Pamlico River at Washington, N.C. Pinned to his body was a note that read, “Justice at last.” According to “Dictionary of North Carolina Biography,” no serious effort was ever made to find out who killed Parker.

In 1887, the crossroads of Nelsonville was renamed Grimesland, in the general’s honor.

“Gen. Grimes was praised heavily, all over the place, in everything that is written,” local historian Kammerer said. “Militarily, he is the illustrious man in Pitt County’s history.”
Woody Peele column: Golf writer visits Greenville
Saturday, April 10, 2010
James (Jim) Dodson not only writes a good game of golf, he talks it too. The former Golf
Magazine columnist and the author of eight books, including “A Golfer’s Life” about Arnold
Palmer and “Ben Hogan, An American Life,” spoke to a gathering at Greenville Country Club on
Wednesday.
Dodson went from hilarity to serious and back again in his talk, then lined up to sign autographs
of his latest book “A Son of the Game.”
It gave me a chance to ask him a few questions, starting with how does he see golf today?
“Golf became too big in the 90s,” Dodson said. “It’s a lot like the overheated housing market.
Prices went up, up, up and suddenly the real value versus the perceived value is out of whack.”
That, he said, is very similar to what’s happened in golf. “A lot of the old clubs are having
problems but most of them will survive. They can cut dues, bring in younger players, modify
their programs and survive. This club has been here for 70 years.’’
The newer clubs, however, are the ones that may suffer the most. “Down at Myrtle Beach, they’re
plowing up one every week. They brought in a lot of new money, paid a lot for a Palmer and
(Jack) Nicklaus design and sold lots for a lot more than they were worth, so it just collapsed.
“But golf is a 400-year-old game and it’s gone through highs and lows and it will still be here
when the dust settles.”
One thing that Dodson doesn’t like is the fact that there are no more heroes out there. “In the past,
we had people playing the game like Palmer, Lee Trevino, Fuzzy Zoeller, who made the game
fun to watch. We wanted to be like them and they gave back, signing autographs and mixing with
the fans.
“But Tiger (Woods) has created a mentality (among the younger golfers) that you can’t get close
to any of these players; they don’t sign autographs. Arnold once told me that the most telling
thing about the Masters now is that the players walk up the center of the fairways, staying in their
own little world, while the older players walk the ropes to see the fans and react with them. Golf
has to get back to where it’s fun.”
As for Woods, Dodson said the jury is still out. “If you present yourself as a model for the young
and it’s a fraud, you’ve hurt yourself. A lot of people would like to see him come back and beat
Nicklaus’ records. But I think the first time he throws a club, spits or uses an expletive in front of
kids, they’re turn on him.”
Brody School of Medicine microbiologist Paul Fletcher holds a box with a Brazilian scorpion. Fletcher and researchers at N.C. State University have been studying scorpion venom and its effects on certain cells. Cliff Hollis/ECU News Services

John Kenney in the ECU Department of Physics studies a poster presented as part of ECU’s fourth annual Research and Creative Achievement Week in Mendenhall Student Center. This year’s event has a record
239 oral and poster presentations by undergraduate and graduate students. The theme of the week’s activities was “Leading the Way to Tomorrow.”

Cliff Hollis/ECU News Services

Li Yang

**Scorpion venom provides pancreatitis clues**

Saturday, April 10, 2010

**ECU News Services**

A Brazilian scorpion has provided researchers at East Carolina University and N.C. State University an insight into venom’s effects on the ability of certain cells to release critical components. The findings may prove useful in understanding diseases like pancreatitis or in targeted drug delivery.

A common result of scorpion stings, pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas. ECU microbiologist Dr. Paul Fletcher believed scorpion venom might be used as a way to discover how pancreatitis occurs — to see which cellular processes are affected at the onset of the disease. Fletcher pinpointed a protein production system found in the pancreas that seemed to be targeted by the venom of the Brazilian scorpion Tityus serrulatus and then contacted N.C. State physicist Keith Weninger, who had studied that particular protein system.

The pancreas specializes in releasing two kinds of proteins using separate cells: digestive enzymes that go into the small intestine and insulin and its relatives that go into the bloodstream, yet this same release mechanism is important in all cells for many processes.

Cells move components in and out through a process called vesicle fusion. The vesicle is a tiny, bubble-like chamber inside the cell that contains the substance to be moved, stored and released — in this case, proteins like enzymes or hormones. The vesicle is moved through the cell and attaches to the exterior membrane, where the vesicle acts like an airlock in a spaceship, allowing
the cell membrane to open and release the proteins without disturbing the rest of the cell’s contents. The proteins that aid in this process are known as vesicle associated membrane proteins, or VAMPs.

Weninger provided Fletcher with two different VAMP proteins found in the pancreas, VAMP2 and VAMP8. They were engineered to remove the membrane attachments so they could be more easily used for experiments outside cells and tissues. Fletcher’s team demonstrated that the scorpion venom attacked the VAMP proteins, cutting them in one place and eliminating the vesicle’s ability to transport its protein cargo out of the cell.

“We found that a particular enzyme in the scorpion’s venom removes a peptide, or small protein, that allows the vesicle to fuse with the cell membrane,” Fletcher said. “If you remove a pancreatic cell’s ability to absorb or release components, you end up with pancreatitis.”

“Viruses often exploit the same mechanism of vesicle fusion, but in reverse, in order to invade cells and replicate,” Weninger said. “This work furthers our understanding of a basic cellular process and may lead to treatments for viruses and advances in treatments like chemotherapy, by allowing targeted drug delivery only to cancer cells.”

The study was published in the March 5 issue of the Journal of Biological Chemistry.

**Accreditation for college extended**

The College of Business at ECU Wednesday received a formal six-year accreditation extension from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB), the premier accrediting agency of collegiate business schools and accounting programs worldwide.

The College of Business has been continuously accredited since 1967.

Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said, “We have accomplished some amazing, important, and long-lasting things as a team during the last five or six years — especially our efforts related to the new leadership and professional development curriculum, establishment of the Center for Student Success, and continuous improvement of our high-quality online programs. This accreditation extension is externally validated evidence that our efforts can — and do — make a positive difference in our students, our college, our university, our community and our world.”

As part of the re-accreditation process, the College of Business prepared a 100-page document that details accomplishments during the past five years, including governance processes, student learning outcomes, innovative activities, as well as information about faculty and programs. In addition, an AACSB Peer Review Team visited ECU from Feb. 14-16.

To maintain AACSB accreditation, a business program must undergo a rigorous review every five years, during which the program must demonstrate its continued commitment to standards relating to faculty qualification, strategic management of resources, interactions of faculty and students, commitment to continuous improvement, and achievement of learning goals in degree programs.

Less than five percent of business schools worldwide have earned AACSB accreditation. The College of Business at ECU is one of only two institutions in North Carolina — and only 120 institutions worldwide — that have been continually accredited since 1967 or before.

**Grant to aid cancer research at ECU**

An ECU scientist has received a $45,000 grant from Triad Golfers Against Cancer.

The grant will help Li Yang, an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, further his research into the interaction between tumors and their microenvironments, identify therapeutic targets and develop small molecules to modulate tumor microenvironment interaction for combination cancer therapy. Li’s research focuses on prostate cancer and melanoma, but is adaptable to other cancers.

Li’s project involves collaboration with Gordon Ibeau, an associate professor of pharmaceutical sciences at N.C. Central University.
Triad Golfers Against Cancer awarded $219,000 in grants this month to the four medical schools in North Carolina. Golfers Against Cancer, founded in 1997, is a national charitable organization. It has raised more than $18 million to fund cancer research. For more information, go to http://www.triapgac.org.

**Health student wins scholarship**

Bridget Ledford, a senior in the Department of Clinical Laboratory Science in the College of Allied Health Sciences, has been awarded a $1,000 scholarship by the American Society for Clinical Pathology. The award recognizes Ledford as one of the top 60 medical laboratory students in the United States.

The American Society for Clinical Pathology has 130,000 members working as pathologists, residents and other physicians, pathologists’ assistants, laboratory professionals, and medical and laboratory students.

The scholarship program was started in 1992 to encourage the best and brightest students to pursue laboratory careers. Awards are made on the basis of academic achievement, professional goals and leadership abilities.

**Upcoming Events:**

Today: ECU Gospel Choir 32nd Anniversary Celebration, 5 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Ticketed event. Contact: ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4788.

Tuesday: The Sixth Annual Holocaust Awareness Day on the mall at ECU. The Reading of the Names will begin at 7:30 a.m. and continue until 3 p.m., and 1,000 candle remembrance luminaries will be lit 6-9 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center. Call 328-2735 for more information.

Thursday: Up with Nursing in Haiti Diversity Day 2010, 10 a.m. to noon, College of Nursing. Contact: 744-6504.

See [www.ecu.edu/cssecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cssecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Chris Kempf, a detective with the Fayetteville Police Department, speaks about street gangs during the N.C. High Education Safety Symposium on Friday.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

**Investigator speaks on influence of gangs**

By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Friday, April 9, 2010

Gangs and gang signs are everywhere if you know what to look for.
Chris Kempf, a gang investigator with the Fayetteville Police Department, spoke about gang influences, their attractiveness to youth and the dangers associated with gangs at the N.C. High Education Safety Symposium held at East Carolina University on Friday.

"Being a part of a gang allows the gang member to achieve a status that appears unattainable outside of the gang culture," Kempf said.
He said the top four reasons young adults join gangs are for identity and recognition, protection, fellowship and brotherhood, and intimidation.

"Unfortunately it is not illegal to belong to a gang in North Carolina," he said. "I always try to direct teens to more positive things like sports or music because gangs are only negative."

Kempf’s talk included numerous examples of gang violence and signs in popular culture. He showed slides of popular musicians and movies that had a subtle gang presence.

The presentation was part of an entire day of safety-related discussions at the fourth higher education safety symposium hosted at ECU.
About 80 people attended the symposium in person and more than 2,500 participated by viewing the symposium online at nearly every university in North Carolina and places as far away as Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom.
The university decided to broadcast the symposium this year to save on travel arrangements for the safety officials and students who participated.
Bringing together experts from a wide selection of colleges and universities is very important to making sure the state’s campuses are safe, said Peter Romary, director of Student Legal Services at ECU.
“Sharing information obviously means we are engaging in best practices,” Romary said.
“We have the attorney general and UNC System reports from 2007 that say we need to be sharing best practices through a safety symposium.”
Officials examined issues from gangs and student engagement to counseling options for distressed students in the day-long summit.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Triangle scientists explore body chemicals' secrets

DURHAM -- A new world of medical discovery lies in the microscopic odds and ends that circulate in blood and other bodily fluids.

These tiny molecules are called metabolites. Byproducts and components of the body's energy factory, they can signal with great accuracy the onset of diseases, including ailments such as heart disease and diabetes.

Finding the biological markers and studying their pathways are the bases of the emerging science of metabolomics (meh-TA-boh-LOM-ics) Hailed as a noninvasive way to pinpoint when food, drugs, environmental pollutants and genes begin causing harm, metabolomic science is already producing tantalizing results.

This year, a team of Duke researchers reported that metabolic markers circulating in blood could identify people with cardiovascular disease. Not only that, they could also predict who was likely to suffer a heart attack or other life-threatening event - something no stress test or expensive catheterization can now do.

Two other Duke teams found that diabetes isn't just a problem of sugar metabolism, but that protein and fat also play a role in triggering the disease in people who are obese.

And scientists at RTI International, a private research group in Research Triangle Park, have found that certain metabolites correlate to early signs of liver damage from drugs such as acetaminophen, fostering hope that a simple blood or urine test might one day predict who will develop problems.

More findings are on the way. Last month RTI announced that it is committing $2 million to a new center that will include metabolomics research. And a Duke team, led by Dr. Svati Shah, a cardiologist, recently received a $3.5 million federal stimulus grant to continue metabolomic studies in heart disease.

"It speaks to the promise of this field," Shah said.

Originally a genetics researcher, Shah said she is fascinated by the link between genes and metabolism. But where genes provide a rough blueprint predicting a person's risk of disease, metabolites reveal the here-and-now evidence that problems are afoot.

"It's a strong fingerprint of a person's condition," explained Christopher Newgard, director of the Sarah W. Stedman Nutrition and Metabolism Center, where Duke's metabolomics research is concentrated.

Mapping 6,500 metabolites

Newgard oversees a 35,000-square-foot laboratory housed in a former biotechnology company's office complex north of downtown, far from the Duke University campus. He collaborates with scientists throughout the university, running analyses using sophisticated instruments that measure the masses and concentrations of molecules.
Because the science is relatively new, there's much to be done.

Like a road map of the United States, a giant wall chart hangs in Newgard's lab. It's a mind-boggling jumble of the estimated 6,500 individual metabolites produced in the human body.

Mapping these metabolites has been a mission of scientists in Canada, who announced in 2007 that they had accounted for 2,200 of the molecules in an effort not unlike the Human Genome Project that decoded DNA.

By knowing healthy, normal metabolic interactions, Newgard said, scientists can detect early, subtle changes that eventually lead to illness. One of the most promising features of the science is that these disruptions in metabolic processes are evident in blood, urine and saliva - easily accessed body fluids. As a result, the science could lead to simple screenings for toxic drug reactions, pollution exposures, diseases and genetic abnormalities.

Newgard said his mission is not simply to confirm a diagnosis, but to predict it and understand how it came about.

"What we want to stand for is new insights into biology," he said. "We've been doing this for six years, and for three years, it was pretty dry. Now the information is starting to come out."

Fats, proteins and diabetes

In diabetes studies that he co-wrote last year, Newgard said metabolic components offered a surprising finding about the role of fats and proteins in the development of diabetes. In that common disease, the blood sugar glucose is the standard metabolite everyone focuses on. A product of carbohydrate metabolism, glucose is elevated in a diabetic's blood because the body's cells can't take it in. All that excess glucose eventually damages organs.

But Newgard and the Duke teams found another metabolic marker in human studies that could offer a new explanation for how obese people develop type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease and one often associated with poor lifestyle choices. The new marker was associated with protein metabolism, not the usual carbohydrate culprit, and was highly accurate in predicting insulin resistance.

In addition, a group led by Deborah Muoio, an assistant professor of medicine, found that high levels of fat created a metabolic blockage that impaired the body's ability to switch between glucose and fat for fuel. Combined, the findings indicate that high-calorie, fatty foods - a common feature of the typical American diet - may trigger insulin resistance in obese people.

Some of those same metabolites were subsequently found to be associated with heart disease.

Dr. William Kraus, a Duke cardiologist who worked with Shah and Newgard on the heart disease study, said the researchers were amazed at how well the metabolic markers predicted severe cardiovascular disease.

Predicting heart-attack risk

They studied blood samples of patients who had undergone traditional screenings years ago at Duke, including catheterizations that hunt for blockages. Some of those people turned out to have no heart disease, and others had significant problems.
When the metabolomic team analyzed the patients' blood samples, they found that tell-tale metabolite clusters could indicate who was healthy and who had disease. In addition, one blood marker clearly predicted which patients would end up having heart attacks.

"This is really the holy grail in cardiology," Kraus said. "You can do a catheterization on somebody and see they have obstruction. But you can't predict who is going to have a heart attack."

The group is now working to determine whether the metabolic clusters are simply signals of disease, or somehow instigate it.

Shah said the possibilities of the new science are dramatic, particularly if a blood test can replace expensive procedures - and save lives.

"We live in a society where patients want an answer," she said. "Chest pain is a very common complaint. If we could come up with markers that are used either alone, or in combination with stress testing, and tell a patient with a greater degree of certainty that you don't have blockage, we can avoid a heart catheterization."

Detecting liver damage

A similar hope motivates the work of researchers at RTI, who have been using metabolomic science to detect liver damage that can occur with certain drugs. Therapies for tuberculosis or epilepsy - and even the main ingredient in Tylenol - can be highly toxic to the liver in some patients. But it's not clear which patients might develop problems.

Scientists at RTI have been observing metabolites in the urine of rats dosed with one of five drugs they have studied, including acetaminophen and a therapy for tuberculosis.

Susan Sumner, head of the metabolomics and obesity research program at RTI's new Consortium for Molecular Epidemiology, Genomics, Environment, and Health, said they have discovered metabolic signatures that suggest liver disease coming on.

"If we can go and validate this marker profile now for clinical use, all these people on drugs can be monitored," Sumner said, adding that doctors could then change treatment in time to avert permanent damage.

She said the research institute's new center will focus additional metabolomic studies on problems of obesity, working with doctors at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine.

"Obesity is fundamentally an energy imbalance," she said. And that disease state, like any other, starts with a few molecules gone awry.

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NEWS

A blast from the past

By MIKE VOSS
Contributing Editor
Published: Sunday, April 11, 2010 2:15 AM EDT

Washington's "mystery cannon" went on public display Friday during an open house and reception at the North Carolina Estuarium.

The origins of the cannon and how it came to Washington are unknown. The cannon, found in Washington's Harbor District during the renovation of the city's waterfront in 2001-2002, is believed to have been built in the late 1600s.

The cannon likely is of English, French, Spanish, Dutch or Scandinavian origin, according to Bradley Rodgers, a professor of maritime studies at East Carolina University. Rodgers, who delivered a program about the cannon at the open house, said he leans toward the cannon being of English origin.

"Most likely, it's English," Rodgers said in an interview before the open house and reception.

The cast iron cannon could have ended up in Washington as ballast from a ship that visited the city, he speculated. It could have been part of a battery on the city's waterfront in the early days of development in the area.

"This cannon could be contemporary with the period of time of the pirate Blackbeard's activity in North Carolina," reads the January 2003 edition of Stern to Stern, a maritime-studies publication of East Carolina University.

Rodgers said the cannon probably weighed about 1,500 pounds when built, but over the years its weight has fallen to about 1,200 pounds because of corrosion.

"It's definitely a naval gun," he said.

ECU and the city are pursuing grant funding to further study the cannon to determine, if possible, where it was made, when it was made and how it ended up in Washington, Rodgers said.

Former Washington Mayor Judy Meier Jennette told those at the open house that helping with the project to clean and stabilize the cannon was one of the highlights of her tenure as mayor. When she

Visitors at the N.C. Estuarium view a centuries-old cannon, found nearly 10 years ago during excavation on the Washington waterfront. A program about the discovery of the cannon and how it was stabilized and cleaned was presented at the Estuarium on Friday. (WDN Photo/Mike Voss)
and others — referred to as the “cannoneers” — agreed to be a part of that process, she recalled that Blount Rumley, director of the Estuarium, asked her a specific question: “Do you want to be the ramrod, swabber or powder monkey?”

The cannon was discovered by city employees during excavation of the waterfront near Respess Street and Stewart Parkway. Initial measurements of the cannon’s muzzle and bore dimensions indicated the cannon may have been sized to fire six-pound projectiles that were 3.49 inches in diameter.

After being turned over to ECU’s maritime-studies department, the cannon underwent cleaning and preservation work by maritime-studies students under the direction of Rodgers. The ECU program is one of two such programs in the nation, he said.

While cleaning and preserving the cannon, students worked to determine how the cannon was made and how it came to Washington.

Eventually, the cannon was returned to the city. During a three-year stay in the city’s warehouse, it showing signs of deterioration. Last fall, Rodgers, student assistant Theresa Hicks and four students in ECU’s advanced archaeological and museum artifact conservation class returned the cannon to the ECU maritime conservation lab, where it was refinished.

“It was in bad shape. It was terribly concreted,” Rodgers said.

The cannon was delivered to the Estuarium on March 29. It was placed on a carriage paid for by the Washington Area Historic Foundation and built at the N.C. Maritime Museum.

Friday’s reception was organized by the Washington Area Historic Foundation.

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ADs often struggle on coaching hires

Athletic directors at most major colleges are expected to tress academics, constantly ind new ways to raise money, make wise coaching hires and oversee annual operating budgets that routinely top $30 million.

Though a specific order of priorities for those athletic directors is almost never spelled out by schools, there’s little question that hiring coaches is the task most closely watched by fans. It’s also the area in which most ADs have the least experience.

A prime example is Clemson’s Tony Don Phillips. In his eighth year at the school, Phillips has had to make only one hire each in men’s basketball and football, the only sports that generate significant revenue.

In 2003, Phillips hired basketball coach Oliver Purnell away from Dayton. Then, near the middle of the 2008 football season, Clemson hired 10-year coach Tommy Bowden.

Phillips appointed assistant Dabo Swinney as interim head coach. After winning four of seven games, including an important one over rival South Carolina, Swinney was given a five-year contract at an annual salary of almost $1 million.

With Purnell’s decision to leave Clemson for DePaul last week, Phillips now is facing his second basketball hire. That, too, is likely to require a minimum commitment of $5 million over five years for the school.

TUDOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

It’s an interesting salary equation. Most ADs at public schools in the ACC are paid in the $250,000 to $400,000 range annually. Few head coaches in football and basketball earn less than $1 million. Most make considerably more.

N.C. State’s Lee Fowler, during the school’s search for a basketball coach to replace Herb Sendek, called the interviewing and hiring process the most stressful aspect of the job.

“There’s so much at stake, and no matter who we settle on, there’s not a coach on earth who comes with a money-back guarantee,” Fowler said at the time.

Fowler and school eventually turned to preferred son Sidney Lowe, who has had limited success in four seasons.

Shortly thereafter, Fowler brought in Tom O’Brien from Boston College to take over for Chuck Amato in football. O’Brien, in three seasons, also has struggled.

Fowler, at State since 2000, is catching heat from a section of the fan base on both decisions.

Phillips and Wake Forest’s Ron Wellman, who has been in his job since 1992, are prime candidates for fan criticism as they go about the current ACC basketball searches.

Wellman recently had to take the measure of firing his own men’s basketball hire — Dino Gaudio, who had a 61-31 record in three seasons. If the move was an unsightly reflection on Gaudio, the same has to go for the person who hired him.

The overall record shows that while most ADs are good businessmen, energetic fundraisers and gifted organizers, few have a Midas touch as headhunters.

Historically, the recognized master of big-sport hiring was former Duke AD Tom Butters, who found Mike Krzyzewski at Army in 1989 and Steve Spurrier in the now-defunct U.S. Football League in 1987.

Remembered less is the fact that in his 30 years a Duke, Butters also hired five football coaches — Mike Mc Gee, Steve Sloan, Red Wilson, Fred Goldsmith and Barry Wilson — who had combined conference records of 44-118-4.

A former major league baseball pitcher, Butter once said of the hiring game, “Even Babe Ruth didn’t buy a 1,000.”

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Budget woes might cost 1,000 UNC system jobs

FROM STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM — A year after the UNC system eliminated about 900 positions across the state, President Erskine Bowles is warning of more severe cuts this year.

If the UNC system is asked to cut another 5 percent from its budget this year, about 1,000 jobs would be lost, half of them faculty members, Bowles told the UNC system’s Board of Governors on Friday.

The UNC system isn’t being told to make a cut that large; the current expectation is a 2 percent cut, which would amount to $52 million across the system.

The larger number comes from the Office of State Budget and Management, which weeks ago asked state agencies to prepare 5 percent cut scenarios — a common exercise in tight economic times. The eventual number could be higher or lower.

But after the UNC system eliminated 935 positions last year, most in administration, on orders to reduce $294 million in spending, Bowles said Friday that he thinks it has done its part.

The UNC system could handle another 2 percent cut, as is expected. Any more, Bowles said, would be disastrous.

He and other UNC system leaders largely protected the academic side last year by focusing heavily on administrative positions, gutting middle management and reducing or eliminating more than 100 centers and institutes.

Cutting faculty is another matter.

At N.C. State University, officials have tried to enlarge the faculty in response to a continuing surge in enrollment, said Randy Woodson, who is in his first week as NCSU’s chancellor.

"It’s the wrong direction," Woodson said of faculty cuts. "You make career investments in faculty, so decreasing the size is a very difficult thing."
It’s not HBO, it’s college: ‘The Wire’ as textbook

By Matt Ehlers
Staff Writer

Durham - Watching 80 hours of television might seem like the college course of a lifetime, but “The Wire” was no ordinary program, and its Duke University counterpart is not a typical class.

Fans, during the five-season run on HBO of “The Wire,” praised it for its nuanced approach in taking on the gritty social ills affecting inner-city Baltimore, including drugs, violence, political corruption and a distressed public school system. As a class, “The Wire” provides enough intellectual ignition on enough different subjects to be classified under four departments: African and African-American studies, cultural anthropology, international comparative studies and sociology.

This is not a media or pop-culture course; there are no quizzes on arcane “Wire” trivia. Instead, a recent session featured clips from the show, the lecture “Gender Violence and The Violence of Gender,” and conversation that veered from parochial schools to sexual slavery to Machiavelli’s “The Prince.”

Anne-Maria B. Makulu, an assistant professor of African and African-American studies and cultural anthropology, devised the course after being encouraged by her department to come up with new classes that would appeal to undergraduates. She initially proposed a class on global ghettos.

Then Makulu, who specializes in studying South African cities, devoted part of a semester-long leave last year to watching all 60 episodes of “The Wire.” She realized that the neighborhoods portrayed in the show had a lot in common with the African neighborhoods she has long studied.

“Those shantytowns might as well be the West Baltimore of Cape Town or Johannesburg,” Makulu said. “They have the same structural difficulties. They

SEE ‘WIRE’, PAGE 4A
are places of grave, grave unemployment and underemployment. They are kind of caught in the trap of how this global economy operates to make certain people not useful to it any longer.”

If it sounds like heavy stuff, it is. In the words of Austin Boehm, a senior majoring in political science and political theory: “It’s been pretty intense.”

Drawing on their lives

“The Wire” focused on criminal activity in Baltimore, with drug dealers and police officers as its main characters. Its title is a reference to a police wiretap.

Shifting perspective each of its five seasons, the show focused on dockworkers, Baltimore public schools, politics and journalism. Often described by critics as one of the best, if not the best, show ever to appear on television, the final new episode aired on the premium cable channel in 2008. Its influence on popular culture has grown as people watch it on DVD and universities devote courses to it.

Middlebury College in Vermont offers the class “Urban America and Serial Television: Watching the Wire.” Harvard University will offer a class on “The Wire” this fall.

Makhulu’s students seem highly engaged. During a class last week, six to eight hands seemed to go up each time she asked a question. During a conversation about the problems students face in public schools, students shared their own not-so-long ago experiences with teachers, both good and bad. Students used the show to draw parallels in their own lives.

“A lot of this is about race and class and inequality and injustice and corruption and sexuality and sexual violence and abuse,” Makhulu said in an interview after class. “These are things that can be really tough to talk about, but once you get going, people have an enormous amount to say. Most people have some personal jumping-off point.”

Teaching “The Wire” might be new, but using television to teach highbrow concepts is not. Richard J. Pioreck, an adjunct associate professor of English at Hofstra University in New York, has taught “How ‘The Simpsons’ Saved American Literature” for years. Much as Makhulu uses “The Wire” as a gateway to other topics, Pioreck relies on “The Simpsons” to introduce great works of literature. Halloween episodes of “The Simpsons,” for example, provide entry for studying the short stories of Edgar Allan Poe.

If there’s a knock on modern students, Pioreck said, it’s that they know how to take tests but not think on their own. But he has found that subjects like “The Simpsons” give students a familiar place to begin intellectualizing.

“When you give them an opportunity to synthesize and think, they can do very well,” he said. “They make the connection. They don’t need me to point everything out to them.”

Assigned to watch

Students in Makhulu’s class are expected to watch all 60 episodes of “The Wire.” In addition, there are assigned readings that inform what they’ve seen, and a blog to which they are expected to contribute.

There are no traditional tests, but each student must complete a final project that is based on a theme from the show. Some of the possibilities include sexuality, music and the drug trade. The projects do not have to take the form of a traditional research paper, although a written portion is required. Students are encouraged to produce a video, write a piece of music or compile a scrapbook.

Xavier Watson, a 20-year-old junior from Chicago, has thought about making the underground economy and sex work the subject of his project. A strip club plays an important role in “The Wire,” as do the deaths of women smuggled into the country as part of a sex-slave operation.

“It’s easy to think of ‘The Wire’ as a show about drug dealers or cops,” he said, “but we’ve gotten past that pretty quickly.”

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NCSU trims S. Korea plans

Revenue questions worry officials

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — N.C. State University is scaling back a plan to offer degree programs at a new global university campus in South Korea.

Last year, NCSU accepted $1 million from the South Korean government to examine whether it could offer undergraduate and graduate programs at a $200 billion university city under construction near the port city of Incheon.

But NCSU officials say now that the plan to offer degrees in seven undergraduate disciplines and about a dozen graduate areas is too complicated, particularly given the difficulty the university has had getting straight information from the South Koreans.

So NCSU has decided to start a new feasibility study and consider just a handful of graduate programs.

NCSU would be one of about seven American universities to offer degree programs at this campus. Though South Korea has pledged to cover the program’s costs, NCSU officials say they aren’t convinced of that yet and have concerns about revenues, expenses and other issues.

The South Koreans running the project want more, not less, said NCSU Provost Warwick Arden.

“They’re not overly happy with this,” Arden said. “They really had their heart set on N.C. State coming in with a whole suite of undergraduate courses.”

But there are many questions, Arden told members of the UNC system’s Board of Governors, which met this week on the N.C. Central University campus in Durham. NCSU originally considered undergrad programs in business administration, fashion and textiles, biology, computer science and other areas but hasn’t been able to gauge the level of interest among South Korean students.

And there are obstacles related to accreditation, faculty hiring and ways of evaluating professors, Arden said.

Though NCSU has programs in several other countries, including India and China, this would be its first overseas campus.

For years, American universities have been courted by Asian and Middle Eastern nations building university cities for citizens. But the relationships don’t always work.

In 2002, UNC-Chapel Hill considered a plan to open a campus in Qatar, an oil-rich nation in the Persian Gulf. UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp, then director of the campus planetarium, was involved in that decision-making process and remembers similar questions over financial terms.

“There’s always people coming to us [with global campus proposals], and we’re always kicking the tires,” Thorp said Friday. “But you usually can’t prove it’s going to be revenue-neutral. You can’t do these things if it’s going to cost the campus money.”

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Study Finds a 1.2 Percent Increase in Faculty Pay, the Smallest in 50 Years

By TAMAR LEWIN

Academic pay has been squeezed by the recession, according to the annual salary survey by the American Association of University Professors.

Over all, salaries for this academic year are 1.2 percent higher than last year, the smallest increase recorded in the survey’s 50 years — and well below the 2.7 percent inflation rate from December 2008 to December 2009.

The survey found that average salary levels actually decreased this academic year at a third of colleges and universities, compared with 9 percent that reported lower average salaries in the previous two surveys. Private and church-related universities reported shrinking average salaries more often than public institutions.

And the academic pay situation may be even worse than the survey indicates, according to John Curtis, the association’s director of research and policy.

“An awfully lot of faculty are losing ground, and the data probably underestimate the seriousness of the problems with faculty salary this year, because we’re only looking at full-time faculty and, as we’ve seen for several years, there’s an increasing number of part-time faculty, who are not included,” Mr. Curtis said. “Also, the survey doesn’t capture the effect of the unpaid furloughs a lot of faculty were forced to take this year, because the numbers we have are the base salaries agreed on at the beginning of the year, not the actual payroll results.”

Over all, the average salary for a full professor was $109,843, compared with $76,566 for an associate professor, $64,433 for an assistant professor, $47,592 for an instructor and $53,112 for a lecturer. At every type of institution in almost every class of faculty, men were paid substantially more, on average, than women.
Generally, administrative salaries at colleges and universities have been increasing far more quickly than pay for faculty members.

Given the widespread distress about high college costs, shrinking state support for public universities and plummeting endowment values at private universities — and the fact that college tuitions have been rising far more quickly than inflation — some experts said this year's small faculty salary gains were not unexpected.

"It's a necessary thing," said Jane Wellman, executive director of the Delta Project on Postsecondary Education Costs, Productivity and Accountability. "It reflects the real level of fiscal stringency in higher education and probably understates the magnitude of resource reductions for faculty, since one of the ways institutions have been saving money, where possible, has been to replace full-time tenured faculty, who are paid the most, with part-timers who earn much less."

The survey found other evidence of universities scrimping in their support of faculty. About 14 percent of colleges and universities reduced their retirement contributions this year, and some ended them. In addition, some universities cut back on sabbaticals, travel budgets and research support.

Ms. Wellman pointed out that because the costs of benefits, especially health care, are rising so rapidly, total compensation is not sloeing as much as salary growth. "Unless we get control over the growth in spending on benefits," she said, "we're going to continue to crowd out the resources necessary to get faculty in the classroom."