THE DAILY CLIPS

April 14, 2008

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Events shine despite the rain

PirateFest and associated activities survived the weather to have a successful weekend.

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Rain, shine or tornado, the organizers of PirateFest were determined to show residents and visitors a good time Saturday. In spite of the threat from Mother Nature, most feel the weekend events were a success.

"All in all it was a great day," said festival co-chair Carolyn Thompson on Sunday. "We feel very fortunate we were able to get in what we did."

Thompson cited the parade of pirates led by a bagpipe escort and the unveiling of the painted pirates as lauded events untouched by stormy weather.

"I was glad to see that come to fruition," she said of the painted pirates. "I heard so many people comment that it was such a neat day."

Events were cut short around 4 p.m., she said, which was disappointing to vendors and organizers even if those attending didn't mind. The street fair was scheduled to run until 6 p.m., with musical events until 8 p.m.

"Some of the bigger bands were scheduled to go on later," she said, sighing, "We lost almost four hours."

The Purple/Gold Spring Football Game, however, really drew the short straw. Their time was cut in half when athletics department officials made the decision at 3:42 p.m. to clear the stands when the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for northern Pitt County.

Teams were headed to the locker room and fans were asked to go under the stadium stands — a pre-selected location for weather emergencies — until the warning passed. Twenty-five minutes later they called off the remaining half.

Fortunately, noted Assistant Athletics Director Lee Workman, things had cleared in time for baseball against Marshall that night, and the Pigskin Pig-Out enjoyed good turnouts throughout the weekend.

"I know we sold out of barbecue plates about 10 after two (p.m.)," Workman said, gauging crowd size. "We had a great weekend, great attendance and great involvement."

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at kkennedy@coxnc.com or 329-5566.
MED SCHOOL DECIDES TO END USE OF LIVE ANIMALS

Medical students will train on simulators instead

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Following a national trend, the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University will halt its use of live animals for medical student training.

Gregory Hassler, chief legal counsel to the Brody School, states in a letter addressed to a law professor at Duke University that, effective July 1, 2008, the Brody School of Medicine will discontinue use of live animals in its medical student courses.

The announcement comes after a two-year effort by the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine to get the medical school, along with others around the country, to eliminate live animal use from its curriculum. After July, only eight medical schools will continue this practice.

"We have been moving towards more use of training simulators over the last five years," said Dr. Nicholas Benson, vice-dean of the Brody School. "We feel the benefits of these simulators outweigh the benefits of using live animals."

Dr. John Pippin, senior medical and research advisor for the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, said eventually all medical schools must stop using live animals because they will not be able to withstand the fact that all other medical schools have halted this "archaic means of education."

"We are delighted to hear that they are stopping," Pippin said, "and we congratulate ECU on making the right decision. It's the right decision ethically, economically and educationally."

The only course that uses live animals at the Brody School is surgery clerkship, which uses live pigs.

According to the Animal Welfare Act, research facilities such as ECU are required by law to get all forms of live animal testing approved by the school's Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

The problem, Pippin said, is this committee may not understand all of its responsibilities.

"Oftentimes, there is no ill intention," Pippin said. "The principal investigator (professor) doesn't think there is a need to justify anything and the IACUC may think the principal investigator knows best."

Pippin filed an animal welfare complaint with the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service last year. The results of the investigation cited Brody for "inadequate alternatives narrative," including a lack of justification for the animals being used.

"We filed the complaint because nothing was happening," Pippin said. "We weren't grandstanding; we were just trying to get to the root of the problem."

William Reppy, professor

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BRODY Continued from B1

specializing in animal law at Duke University, sent a letter to the interim dean of the medical school last month and strongly urged it to stop using live animals, claiming it is unlawful. Reppy said he was the "first person to write the letter because he is from North Carolina and has certification."

"The most important thing in my letter was challenging the IACUC to find a reason why they need live pigs," Reppy said. "They probably hadn't even thought about it."

From a financial point of view, both Benson and Pippen said the simulators will eventually be more cost effective than using live animals.

Pippin said once a school makes the commitment to alternative methods, it ends up saving all the expenses of housing and feeding live animals.

"We are always showing how this is a win-win," Pippin said. "It's humane and in the long run it is less expensive."

Tom Marine can be contacted at tmarine@coxnc and 329-9567.

Something to say?
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Understand all of its responsibilities.

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William Reppy, professor

See BRODY, B3
ECU sets goal of $200M in 4-year plan

By ECU News Bureau
Special to The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University has kicked off its Second Century Campaign, the university’s first capital campaign in 15 years.

Launched on Founder’s Day, March 27, ECU Vice Chancellor for Advancement Mickey Dowdy announced the financial target for the campaign, $200 million by Dec. 31, 2012. To date, $91 million has been raised.

“Although we have set a financial target for the campaign, its true focus is not fundraising; it is enriching, changing and saving lives at East Carolina in the region and state as a whole,” Dowdy said.

The Second Century Campaign will raise funds to fulfill the strategic plan set out by Chancellor Steve Ballard last fall. The plan’s initiatives include expanding and strengthening scholarship programs, establishing distinguished professorships, endowing established cultural programs, strengthening research programs with a direct impact on economic development, expanding research into the cause, treatment, and cure of diseases most prevalent in the region and state, and supporting new campus construction.

Dowdy also announced a leadership gift by former state Sen. Thomas F. Taff and his wife, Elizabeth Doster Taff, a professor at East Carolina’s College of Education, to the Second Century Campaign. Their contribution to ECU will provide $1.25 million in support for the university’s College of Education to fund math and science education.

With matching gifts from the C.D. Spangler Foundation and the UNC system, the Taffs’ donation will fund a distinguished professorship for science education and endow a scholarship fund for students studying math and science education in ECU’s College of Education, the largest producer of educators in North Carolina.

Additional information on the Second Century Campaign can be found at www.ecu.edu/devt.

Student speeches planned tonight

The School of Communication will host a student oratorical exhibition from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight at Mendenhall Student Center’s Hendrix Theater. Students will deliver five to seven-minute speeches on the theme “Where I stand.” Free.

Whichard lecture set

Ann Goodwyn Jones, the 2008 Whichard endowed chair at East Carolina University will present her lecture Wednesday.

Jones, a professor of Southern literature, will present “The Burden of Southern History: Southerners Rewrite the Civil War” at 5:30 p.m. in Bate 1028.

Ten chosen as Scholar Teachers

Ten faculty members have been selected as Scholar Teachers.

They were recognized April 3 at a luncheon during Research and Creative Achievement Week, where they each made presentations of their work.

The Scholar-Teacher Awards recognize faculty members who demonstrate excellence in the classroom; have an outstanding record of scholarly accomplishments; effectively integrate research and creative activity in classroom teaching; and mentor developing scholars, both students and faculty. One teacher is selected from each college.

This year's award winners are:

- Xinoming Zeng, College of Allied Health Sciences
- John Stiller, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences
- John Reisch, College of...
ECU
Continued from B1

Business
- Sid Rachlin, College of Education
- Laura Prividera, College of Fine Arts & Communication
- Nelson Cooper, College of Health and Human Performance
- Mel Weber, College of Human Ecology
- Bruce Leonard, College of Nursing
- Danny Morton, College of Technology and Computer Science
- Kathryn Verbanac, Brody School of Medicine.

Health sciences faculty honored

Fifty-nine health sciences faculty members were honored April 2 for their published works at the 3rd annual Faculty Author Recognition Awards.


Brody School of Medicine faculty members honored were: Shaw Akula, Diana Antonacci, Yan-Hua Chen, Kim Dixon, Peggy Goodman, Donald Hoffman, Christy Isler, Timothy Johnson, Kathryn Kolasa, Isabelle Lamason, Brian McMillen, Justin Moore, John Moskop, Barbara Muller-Borer, David Musick, Dala Newton, Lloyd Novick, Ronald Perkin, Walter Pories, Sy Saeed, Todd Savitt, Harmeet Singh, Ann Sperry, Robert Tanenberg and Kathryn Verbanac.

Allied Health Sciences faculty members were honored: Paul Bell, Martha Chaplin, Anne Dickerson, Lloyd Goodwin Jr., Monica Hough, Walter Jenkins, Terry Jones, Elizabeth Layman, Nathalie Mizelle, Timothy Reistetter, Shari Sias and Mark Stebnicki.

College of Nursing faculty members who were honored include: Sylvia Brown, Martha Allgood, Rebecca Benfield, Nellie Droe, Melydia Edge, Martha Engelke, Laura Gantt, Phyllis Horns, Darlene Elizabeth Jesse, Bruce Leonard, Martha Libster, Sharon Lours, Martha McAuliffe, Connie Mullinix, Janice Neil, Dorothy Rentschler, Mary Ann Rose, Sharon Sarvey, Melissa Schwartz, Linda Steele, James Steele and Nancy Stephenson.

Alum’s gift makes 20 scholarships

A gift from ECU alumni David Bond will enable the College of Business to establish more than 20 new scholarships.

The David Bond Access Scholarships will be awarded annually to students who demonstrate both academic excellence and financial need targeting full-time students pursuing degrees in the College of Business. The amount of each scholarship will total $5,000, covering the cost of in-state tuition, fees, and books.

"Being an ECU College of Business graduate has given me the opportunity to succeed in the world of business," Bond, a 1978 graduate, said. "Unfortunately, many qualified students cannot advance their education because of financial constraints; hopefully these scholarships will be an entry point for some of those students."

Bond, of Raleigh, is the former president of the HealthMatics Division of Allscripts. He serves on the Business Advisory Council at ECU and is a frequent guest speaker in business classes. Bond also serves on the ECU Educational Foundation and is a board member of the ECU Foundation.

The first seven recipients of the scholarships will be announced in May.
Our Views

Signature look

Apply logo debate's energy elsewhere

As the Greenville City Council contemplates the design of a series of directional signs for the community, the inclusion of a tobacco leaf has featured in the discussion. While some residents consider the symbol a useful way to highlight the city's long history of tobacco cultivation, others believe it detracts from the vision of Greenville the signs intend to project.

While the final design deserves due consideration, the battle to preserve Greenville's history, or highlight its complicated relationship with tobacco, seems poorly directed. The city should work to celebrate and protect a connection to the past, but that energy can be best applied elsewhere.

Greenville intends to install a series of signs as part of a wayfinding system. The signage will feature a logo and direct motorists and pedestrians to key destinations and prominent locales throughout the city. Considering its purpose and cost — an estimated $1.3 million — it is a project of significance.

Debate has stirred over the logo to be used on the signs. The Greenville Redevelopment Commission, which has been reviewing the choices, recommended using the blue and green colors from the city flag, and a large G with a tobacco leaf. Opponents argue that the inclusion of the leaf fails to project a community of health and education, and that it contradicts anti-smoking efforts. Proponents are eager to preserve the link with the city's rural past and its lengthy history of tobacco cultivation.

It is unlikely that a series of signs that intend only to direct people around town would have such dire consequences either way. It will not encourage kids to light up, nor erase this community's tobacco experience. But the debate highlights two avenues the city should pursue.

First, Greenville should continue to tout its strong and growing health care community, which is helping to redefine the region. Pitt County Memorial Hospital and East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine stand as valuable resources, and they will be bolstered in the coming years by the East Carolina Heart Institute and a new dental school. Greenville is laying claim to the title “City of Medicine,” and those efforts demand relentless promotion.

Second, the city must be attentive to the preservation of its history and its importance to the community’s identity. The city has compiled a poor record of protecting culturally significant sites, though it has improved of late. Nor has the city done much to highlight the rich and complicated history of tobacco in this community, an evolution that mirrors Greenville’s growth. A tobacco museum, housed in one of the remaining warehouses, could prove a strong addition to the city were one to be founded.

The decision before the City Council deserves careful consideration. But energy can be applied more constructively in these alternative directions.
**Brody School of Medicine**

Dr. Moahad Saeed Dar, Dr. Sohail Ejaz and Dr. Mark Marilley, all internal medicine physicians, have joined the faculty of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Dar, an endocrinologist, has joined ECU as an assistant professor. He comes to ECU from Pollocksville, where he was in private practice.

Dar is a graduate of the Brody School of Medicine and completed a residency in internal medicine at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation in Ohio and a fellowship in endocrinology at Duke University. He is board-certified in internal medicine and endocrinology.

Dar's clinical and research interests are metabolic bone disease, diabetes, thyroid disease and studying how gastric-bypass surgery resolves diabetes. He sees patients at the Brody Outpatient Center under the auspices of ECU Physicians, the group practice of the medical school.

Ejaz, a nephrologist, has joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor. He has a medical degree from King Edward Medical College in Lahore, Pakistan.

Ejaz completed an internship in Pakistan and residency training at Overlook Hospital in Summit, N.J. He completed a fellowship in nephrology and hypertension at ECU. He also has taught at Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk.

Ejaz is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. His clinical and research interests are interventional nephrology, hypertension and chronic kidney disease.

Ejaz sees patients at the ECU nephrology and hypertension office at 2355 W. Arlington Blvd. under the auspices of ECU Physicians.

Marilley, a gastroenterologist, has joined the faculty as a clinical associate professor. He has a medical degree from Columbia University and completed residency training at the University of Iowa and a fellowship in gastroenterology at the University of Michigan.

Marilley is certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine. His clinical and research interests are colonoscopy and other procedures used to examine and diagnose gastrointestinal issues; probiotics, or dietary supplements containing potentially beneficial bacteria or yeasts; and antibiotic-associated diarrhea.

Marilley sees patients at Mayo Medical Center at 521 Mayo Blvd. and Pitt County Memorial Hospital.
Storms interrupt activities

Staff, wire reports

Thunderstorms punctuated by a tornado warning brought an abrupt end to many of Saturday's PirateFest events around Greenville.

Downtown, an announcement from the amphitheater stage on the Town Common warned those in the area of dangerous weather and advised them to seek cover.

At Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Pirate fans enjoying the spring purple and gold game were sent beneath the stands.

Even former President Bill Clinton, who visited the area earlier in the day, was caught in the weather as he visited Wayne County.

"The way the news reports are," he joked during a Goldsboro campaign stop, "Hillary's campaign might get blamed for natural havoc in North Carolina."

No damage was reported in Pitt County, but the National Weather Service said winds took the roof off a doublewide mobile home in a rural area west of Goldsboro around 3:15 p.m. and ripped up trees about five miles north of town.

In Greenville, festival-goers

See STORM, A8

STORM

Continued from A1

and Pirate fans were relieved to see the storm pass without incident.

Tom McClellan, ECU sports information director, said department officials made the decision at 3:42 p.m. to clear the stands when the National Weather Service issued a tornado warning for northern Pitt County.

The game had just reached the halfway mark, and the teams were headed to the locker room when fans were asked to go under the stadium stands — a pre-selected location for weather situations like that — until the warning passed.

"We kept monitoring the weather and decided, 25 minutes later, to discontinue the spring game," McClellan said. "It's a part of living where we live."

A funnel cloud was reported near the intersection of N.C. 903 and N.C. 33, north of Greenville, around 4 p.m., according to Hal Austin, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

The cloud did not form a tornado and no damage was reported. The Pitt County Sheriff's Office reported that they received no reports of storm damage.

However, high winds, estimated at around 60 mph, were responsible for a power pole falling along Wesley Church Road, 2 miles outside of Farmville, Austin said.

Several shingles were blown from a roof in Walstonburg due to the high winds.

The Wayne County twister was reported the same time.

Thunderstorms broke out starting around 3:15 p.m. and rumbled northeast across the Pitt County for an hour or so.

Pitt County was under a tornado warning from 3:24 p.m. until 4 p.m.; the county remained under a tornado watch until 8 p.m.

The forecast for today includes a slight chance of showers after 2 p.m. with a high near 69 degrees.
Crowds pack pirate-themed events

PIG PARTY: Online photo gallery captures pig cooking, pig parading and big fun from Friday night's Pigskin Pig-out Party events. Check it out at reflector.com/scenearound

CAMERON BOWEN, 4, walks near an inflatable pirate ship as her hair sails behind her.

Arts Festival kicked off with a parade of pirates from Fifth Street to the Town Common. Bagpipes led the way as costume-clad pirates marched along the route.

Another large area of downtown was blocked off for artists and vendors to peddle their wares to the thousands in attendance.

Fine arts and crafts were on sale all along Evans Street from Fifth Street to the Town Common.

See PIRATE, B3

PIRATE

Continued from B1

Blackbeard's Marketplace on Evans Street was filled with handmade crafts and several varieties of food.

The City of Greenville International Festival across First Street was busy with games and rides for kids and international food from such diverse countries as Bosnia and Greece.

"This is a lot of fun," Greenville resident Paula Bowen said. "There is stuff for kids and adults, so it's a good mix."

Dozens of children joined the fun by dressing up as pirates for the day.

Britton Laughinghouse, 6, and his buddy, Adam Hathaway, 6, dressed the part as they played on a large inflatable pirate ship at the Town Com-

mon. Fake beards and all, the boys were decked out in pirate outfits for the day's fun.

Pirates from several area groups roamed the streets all day, taking photos with children and performing on several small stages around downtown.

This was the first year that PirateFest was set up as an umbrella festival encompassing the Uptown Arts Festival, the International Festival and the Pigskin Pig-Out, which was celebrating its 25th year.

PirateFest begins Friday night with the Uptown Art Walk, though carnival rides have been open in the grass behind the Pirates' baseball stadium since Thursday.

The weekend of events concludes today as the Pirate baseball team wraps up its series against Marshall. Carnival rides will continue through the evening.
PirateFest in full swing today

PirateFest kicked off with an ArtWalk on Friday and will continue today with the 25th annual Purple/Gold Pigskin Pigout and other activities.

Blackbeard's Marketplace, at First and Evans streets, will be full of handmade crafts, manufactured goods and food galore. But beware, a sword fight is sure to break out at some time and place during the day. Roving pirate entertainers will share their music, storytelling, swordplay and dress.

A parade of pirates will be held at 11 a.m. at the corner of Fifth and Evans streets and will follow the Wake & District Pipe Band along Evans Street to the Town Common. A pirate costume contest will be held at 1:20 p.m. at the Buccaneer Bash main stage, corner of Fourth and Evans streets. Prizes will be awarded to the top three pirates, as determined by the judges.

There will be a Pirate Alumni 5K and 1-mile Fun Run at 9 a.m. beginning at Reade Circle. The entry fee is $25 and registration will be held from 7:30-8:30 a.m.

The Uptown Greenville Arts Festival will feature artists, arts organizations and Uptown Greenville restaurants. Fine arts and crafts will be for sale and on display along Evans Street between Fifth and First streets from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Area arts organizations will also have booths, as well as

See FEST, A11

FEST

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demonstrations and children's arts activities. There will be live music throughout, as well as a beer and wine garden.

Historical bus tours led by local artist and historian Roger Kammerer will be held at 1 and 3 p.m., each lasting about one hour and leaving from the corner of Fifth and Evans streets.

Celebrate diversity at the International Festival on the Town Common all day Saturday, featuring music, food and attractions from nations around the world.

A large cultural pavilion will feature costumes, games and crafts from the native lands of many people who call Greenville home.

And the 25th annual Pigskin Pig-Out will be held at ECU's Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, offering live entertainment, southern barbecue, carnival rides, fireworks and the Pirate's spring football game at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are $5.

Free shuttle service will be provided from noon to 6 p.m. today from the Pigskin Pig-Out to downtown Greenville. Stops include: the Town Common at First and Cotanche streets; Fifth and Evans streets; Gold Lot outside Minges; and the Belk Building. Also, Greenville Area Transit (GREAT) is offering a Free Ride Day for all routes.
Darts & Laurels

Good sports

Laurels — To the hundreds of athletes, as well as organizers and volunteers, who participated at Pitt County’s Special Olympics on Wednesday. J.H. Rose High School served as the setting for the events, and about 300 athletes from the area’s special population competed in a number of track and field games. Those contests serve as preliminaries for the state games, scheduled for June 6-8 in Raleigh.

Darts — To reckless boaters who necessitated the help of emergency responders after mishaps on the Tar River. Recent rainfall has swelled the river and quickened the current, making boating a challenge. This week, two individuals needed the assistance of Greenville Fire-Rescue due to the swift current. The community can be thankful for a lack of serious injury and those contemplating time on the water should proceed with extreme caution.

Laurels — To an informative event planned for Tuesday that will see the six candidates for the Democratic Party nomination in N.C. Senate District 5 together in Greenville. The crowded and competitive field will gather at a lunch event sponsored by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce. There is an admission fee, but it is a rare chance to see all six candidates together to discuss the issues important to the district.

Darts — To the looming tax deadline on Tuesday bearing down on procrastinating filers. Expect the post offices to be bustling through April 15, as taxpayers come down to the wire finishing their federal and state forms. The Internal Revenue Service reminds Americans that they must file a 2007 tax return to receive the economic stimulus payment, to be distributed starting in May. Those with questions should consult the IRS Web site.

Laurels — To Holocaust Awareness Day, marked at East Carolina on Thursday. The slaughter of 6 million Jews in Europe, along with the senseless murder of millions of Gypsies, Catholics, homosexuals and others during World War II, stands as the most horrific act of the 20th century. It reminds us that preventing genocide and ethnic cleansing deserves our devoted and relentless effort.

Pig and pigskin

Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

Laurels — To East Carolina University’s spring football game, the centerpiece of the 25th annual Purple and Gold Pirate Pigskin Pig-Out. Make sure to get some barbecue and take the kids out for the rides nearby before catching the game today. Those not interested in football will find events all day as part of the second annual PirateFest downtown. There will be something for everyone.

Laurels — To today’s planned visit by former President Bill Clinton and the signal it sends about North Carolina’s role in the Democratic Party’s nomination fight. In December, state voters seemed like an afterthought to the major party candidates. Now, the former president is speaking at South Central High School. My, how times change. Best wishes to him on his tour through eastern North Carolina.

Compiled by Brian Colligan, editorial page editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at 329-9507 or via e-mail at bcolligan@coxnc.com.
PCMH surveillance program targeting MRSA

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Officials from Pitt County Memorial Hospital recently presented preliminary data about their new MRSA surveillance program at the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America's annual meeting in Orlando, Fla.

Dr. Keith Ramsey, medical director of Infection Control at PCMH, said the program is making significant progress in reducing the number of patients bringing MRSA into the hospital.

As a result, the hospital experienced a drop in ventilator-associated pneumonia stemming from MRSA, he said.

MRSA, short for methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus, is a type of bacteria that is resilient to most commonly used antibiotics and has the capability of causing serious infections. It can cause longer hospital stays, larger medical bills and a higher mortality rate, according to a press release from PCMH.

"In spring 2006, we realized we had a greater burden of MRSA," Ramsey said. "If we eliminated MRSA first, we would make the hospital even safer. We would reduce infections across the board."

Ramsey said the hospital made a considerable investment in its "search and destroy" approach to MRSA, totaling $950,000 for new technology, kits and employees.

PCMH has the ability to run 30 MRSA tests at a time in its detection system for up to 150 tests per day.

Ramsey said the hospital is now looking at an automated system that would increase the amount of tests performed each day while lightening the workload of the staff.

"The key was to purchase the new technology," Ramsey said. "In spring 2006, we realized we had a greater burden of MRSA," Ramsey said. "If we eliminated MRSA first, we would make the hospital even safer. We would reduce infections across the board."

Stove Lawler, president of PCMH, said he is excited about the hospital being one of the national leaders in reducing the amount of MRSA-related infections.

"Our MRSA-testing program has had a great halo effect in identifying other areas of improvement," he said.

Lawler said he has been leading an effort on the VHA Central Atlantic Region's Board of Directors to adopt a new quality initiative to reduce the number of infections caused by MRSA.

For the patients testing positive for MRSA, Ramsey said he and the rest of the hospital staff are working on reinforcing the educational component for the antibiotic cream used to treat the bacteria.

Ramsey said PCMH is one of three hospitals in the nation that screens 100 percent of its patients.

"If we show that this has the results that we've seen in the first year, that very well may occur," Ramsey said, referring to the screening trend that may be starting in hospitals across the country. "(Other hospitals) have both had pressure to step up. They are looking into programs similar to this."

Right now, he said there are two camps in the medical field — those who believe in this type of surveillance program and those who do not.

"We happen to be in the camp that does believe this," Ramsey said.

Tom Marine can be contacted at tmarine@coxnc.com and 329-5567.
Campuses see rise in crime hoaxes

Swifter reaction and notification by college officials may encourage the false reports.

BY MARLON A. WALKER
STAFF WRITER

Media attention and new campus alert systems established after the mass shootings at Virginia Tech may be responsible for a recent jump in false crime reports on college campuses nationwide.

In the past two months, at least three crimes have been falsely reported at North Carolina college campuses. About a half-dozen more have been publicized across the country within the past six months.

"For some people, it's the attention-seeking. For others, it's revenge. For still others, it's the feeling of power they get by watching a college campus react," said Daniel B. Kennedy, a professor in the Criminal Justice Department at the University of Detroit Mercy. "It's like starting a fire, then sitting back and watching the commotion."

False reports that trigger campus alert systems may not cut into the budget, but they can be costly when it comes to credibility, Capt. Jon Barnwell of the N.C. State University Police Department said.

Several conversations take place at NCSU before a message is sent out through the university's campuswide alert system, Barnwell said.

SEE HOAX, PAGE 5B

Memorial events mark Va. Tech shootings

On April 16, 2007, a mentally disturbed Virginia Tech student killed 32 students and faculty members before killing himself in the nation's deadliest shooting rampage. Memorial events, protests and vigils marking the one-year anniversary are scheduled for Wednesday at the Blacksburg, Va., campus and also in North Carolina.

Two events -- a midmorning remembrance ceremony and an evening candlelight vigil -- will take place on the Virginia Tech campus.

Gun control advocates in five North Carolina cities will stage protests with 32 demonstrators at each location, symbolizing the number murdered in the massacre. The protesters will lie on the ground for several minutes, signifying how little time it took for the shooter to buy his gun.

The protests will be held at:
- Charlotte: noon, Tryon Street and East Sixth Street, southeast corner.
- UNC-Chapel Hill: noon, Polk Place near Gardner Hall at UNC.
- UNC-Wilmington: noon, Clock Tower at the Center of UNCW campus, 601 S. College Road.
- Winston-Salem: 10:30 a.m., Clock Tower at Winston-Salem State University.

SOURCES: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS AND WWW.REMEMBRANCE.VTEDU
HOAX

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

"You've got to define your parameters of when you use it," he said. "You've got the situation of the person who cries wolf ... how long can you go before it's construed as 'Oh, this is a message from the Listserv, I'm going to delete it,' as opposed to 'this is something I don't get often, so I'm going to read it.'"

On Wednesday, memorial services commemorating the nation's deadliest shooting rampage will be held at the Blacksburg, Va., campus, where 32 students and teachers were killed by a student gunman who later killed himself.

But the Virginia Tech killings, and a more recent shooting spree in February at Northern Illinois University that left six people dead, including the gunman, aren't the only incidents making campus officials nervous and perhaps more susceptible to hoaxes.

Three weeks after UNC-Chapel Hill student body president Eve Carson was killed, the Tar Heel campus was again on high alert. UNC-CH senior Brian Sharpe reported that a man armed with a gun had attacked him in a robbery attempt Friday morning. Campus officials sent e-mail messages to alert the campus community of possible danger.

The crime was never substantiated. Sharpe, instead, was charged with filing a false police report. A second e-mail blast debunking Sharpe's report was sent to students and staff.

Meagan Shallcross, a freshman at UNC-CH, said it was disturbing to learn that the report was false, especially coming just weeks after Carson's death.

"It's always going to scare people, but I think it seems so disrespectful," she said.

Testing of the new components of the UNC-CH campuswide emergency alert system had been well-publicized for several weeks, spokesman Mike McFarland said.

Two days before Sharpe made his claims to campus police, the campus had undergone a drill that included sounding new emergency sirens. The sirens, as well as emergency text and e-mail messages, are part of a revamped emergency alert system that campus officials designed after Hurricane Katrina.

Those drills also could have been a catalyst for Sharpe's false report, Kennedy said.

"It's just a vicious circle. Something bad happens, and the general publicity generates the most false reports," he said.

Shallcross did not fault campus safety officials for disseminating the false report.

"I think that they're trying to put things out there as soon as they happen," she said. "You don't expect someone to lie about it."

Six weeks earlier, on Feb. 14, a gunman killed five people and wounded 16 others in a Northern Illinois University lecture hall before taking his own life.

Several weeks later, on March 3, Matthew Haney told authorities at Appalachian State University in Boone that he had seen a gunman near the west end of campus. Schools officials sent out a campus alert and canceled evening classes. Authorities later said he made the false accusations because he feared having to pay for damage to the front door at his campus apartment. Haney was charged with filing a false police report.

Three days later, a woman told Duke University police officials she had been sexually assaulted near Duke Hospital. She later recanted, saying she had not even been near the campus at the time. Officials decided not to file charges against the woman.

Duke officials sent an alert when the report was made, said Aaron Graves, Duke's associate vice president for safety and security. Another one went out after the woman recanted.

"We have to make an announcement when there is a significant event that is reported on campus," he said. "We sent out another one when she recanted. It takes some time to investigate and pull the facts together."

Randy Young, spokesman for the UNC-CH Police Department, said though the first alert sent out was found to be inaccurate, he was pleased that investigators were able to weed through Sharpe's story.

"From our point of view, valid and verified information is what we want to put out, and in the end, that is what occurred," he said. "We're glad that information is out there in the hands of the university community. That supersedes anything. It's our primary goal."

Staff writer Jesse James DeConto and news researcher Brooke Cain contributed to this report.

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UNC volunteers mark 40 years of free care

BY CHERYL JOHNSTON SADGROVE
STAFF WRITER

CARRBORO — Anna McCullough was only three or four-weeks into her master's program at the UNC School of Social Work when she volunteered at a Carrboro free clinic run by students from the School of Medicine and other medicine-related disciplines taught at UNC.

But she remembers helping a patient in mental crisis feel more stable that first night and linking him to resources that could assist him.

"I thought, ‘This is what it’s all about,’" McCullough said.

On Sunday, McCullough invited current and former student volunteers and the faculty who support them to a celebration at the Carrboro ArtsCenter, marking 40 years of the Student Health Action Coalition, known as SHAC.

The organization runs a free medical clinic every Wednesday night in the Piedmont Health Services clinic in Carrboro and a twice-weekly dental clinic in Carr Mill Mall.

SHAC has made its place in history by being the longest existing student-run free clinic in the United States, said Jim Emory, who researched the history for his master's degree in public health.

SHAC is unique in its interdisciplinary approach and its community-service focus, Emory said. Students who volunteer are challenged to learn from the community they serve.

When Hallam Gugelmann volunteered as a student leader at the clinic two years ago, he learned that there was a need for free dermatological services. A new relationship was formed with UNC's dermatology department, and a woman who had recently arrived from Mexico was able to get a large skin cancer removed from her nose as a result, Gugelmann said. Now, a dermatology clinic is offered twice a month.

Seven disciplines at UNC work together to run the clinic — medicine, nursing, dental, pharmacy, physical therapy, social work and public health. Faculty members in UNC's Department of Family Medicine take turns overseeing the students running the clinic.

Tom Wroth, a UNC faculty member in the Department of Family Medicine, has been doing just that, and is now stepping up his involvement by becoming a faculty adviser to SHAC.

Wroth said providing medical care to underserved patients feels good.

"If you have a patient who hasn't had medical care in 15 years and you diagnose that patient with hypertension or diabetes, that can be a lot more satisfying than fine-tuning someone who has a lot of monetary resources," Wroth said.

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Appalachian State sit-in ends in arrests

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BOONE - Six students were arrested at Appalachian State University, ending a sit-in protest about working conditions in factories where school-licensed clothing is made.

The Winston-Salem Journal reported that the students were charged Friday with disorderly conduct and trespassing. All posted their bail.

The sit-in began Wednesday morning in the school's administration building. It involved members of United Students Against Sweatshops, which wants Appalachian State to join the Designated Suppliers Program.

The students say that would ensure that university-licensed apparel isn't made in factories that have unfair labor conditions.

Administrators said the school is affiliated with the Fair Labor Association.
Top student’s rejection highlights college squeeze

Applicants face tougher standards

JMU spokesman Don Egle said the university’s admission process is very competitive, with 20,000 applications this year for a class of 3,960. The university, he said, considers test scores, awards, recommendations, activities, grades and essays.

The one apparent flaw on Robinson’s application was his 3.4 grade point average, when the JMU average is about 3.6. He managed a 5.0 in ninth and 10th grade, when he was preoccupied with troubles a friend faced, two of his great-grandparents died and mononucleosis put him in bed for four weeks.

Many selective schools tell applicants that if they finish strong in high school, mediocre early report cards won’t mean so much. In the past two years, his GPA has been 4.1 and rising. Aydelotte said he thought that with an SAT score among the top 10 percent for JMU students and literary skills that awe his teachers, Joe Robinson would not have a problem because of his grades.

Among my 18 students who applied to JMU [7 admitted], I rate Joe as the finest overall scholar,” Aydelotte wrote in his appeal. Robinson Secondary, with about 4,000 students in grades 7 to 12, is the state’s largest public school.

Geography matters

But Shirley Bloomquist, a college admissions consultant, said many northern Virginia families overlook the fact that large numbers of students in the region have high test scores and good grades. Many of them, she said, are in competition with one another. Bloomquist is a former guidance director at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Fairfax.

The top state undergraduate institutions, such as U-Va., the College of William & Mary, Virginia Tech and JMU, “cannot take all of their students from northern Virginia,” Bloomquist said. “They have to leave room” for students from other parts of the state.

On the role of geography in admissions, JMU’s Egle said, “We are interested in the best high school students from all of the regions across the state.” Greg Roberts, associate dean of admission at U-Va., said through a spokesman, “Our primary goal is
to enroll an academically strong and diverse class of first-year and transfer students each year. As a state institution, we are interested in enrolling students from all areas of the commonwealth.”

Not sure things

The competition for spaces in state universities is also intensifying. “I believe the downturn in the economy this year has made public schools hotter than ever,” said New York-based educational consultant William Short.

David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the National Association for College Admissions Counseling, said JMU is an example of what many top students have long considered a good “safety” school. But he said, “We can see that it is not, in fact, a sure thing for these students anymore.”

Bloome said she has expunged the term “safety school” from her vocabulary and speaks instead of “likely schools.” She said that in the past few years, “I have become very conservative.”

Even for students with records as good as Robinson’s, she said, she might suggest adding to their lists a wider range of state universities. That would force students to apply to more colleges, but several experts said expanding the pool of likely admissions prospects seems better than what happened to Joe Robinson.

In the meantime, some Virginia lawmakers have called for tighter limits on the number of out-of-state students admitted. But the higher out-of-state tuition, $8,693 this year at JMU compared with $3,333 for in-state students, helps pay faculty salaries as the state government grapples with lean budgets amid a difficult economy.

Students in Robinson’s situation are not without options. Often, they can seek admission in the late spring to colleges that still have openings. If his appeal to JMU is denied, Robinson said, he might spend a year at a community college and then try again, focusing next time on Notre Dame.

His school’s principal, Dan Meier, a former counselor, said he has talked to Robinson about his rejections and wonders why more room can’t be found for Virginia students.

“I have been frustrated by this for many years,” Meier said. “We have such wonderful state colleges, but it is so difficult for our students to get into them.”
CHAPERONES URGED

Several of the patients who accused Levine said they were alone in the room when he examined them, without the supervision of a parent or nurse.

There is no law requiring a third person to be present during physical exams, but both the American Medical Association and the N.C. Medical Board recommend having a third party, known as a chaperone in the room during exams. Here is a brief summary of their guidelines:

- The N.C. Medical Board's position statement, adopted in 1991, "strongly advises" that a chaperone be present during an examination of the genitals.

- The American Medical Association's Code of Medical Ethics says doctors should have chaperones available at all times and that they should make patients aware, either verbally or with signs, that they can request one. The guideline was adopted in 1998.

LEVINE

have come forward to report being molested by Levine, 68.

Officials at the UNC School of Medicine, which has employed Levine since 1985, say they are investigating a similar complaint, received last weekend.

Now, Levine's legions of fans patients, doctors and teachers are trying to reconcile the man they revere with the allegations that could destroy his career.

Many parents see Levine as a savior, the first doctor to understand their child's unique struggles. Levine built his career by defying conventional wisdom about learning disabilities, refusing even to use the word disability or to diagnose children with specific disorders. Instead, he has espoused the idea that each child has a different learning style. He is widely described as a genius.

Levine, who lives in Rougemont, declined to comment.

"Dr. Levine has received an outpouring of support over the last couple of weeks," said his Raleigh attorney, Alan Schneider. "For a man who has spent his entire life trying to save troubled families .. these are the worst type of allegations. It's heart wrenching."
‘The ray of hope’

They are damaging allegations against a man whose life has been defined by success and acclaim. A native of New York, Levine graduated from Brown University and was a Rhodes scholar before getting his medical degree from Harvard Medical School in 1966. He enlisted in the Air Force during the Vietnam War and served as a pediatrician at an air base in the Philippines.

Even as a teenager, he took an interest in troubled children.

Bob Bolderson, now a yacht builder in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., said he was 9 years old when he met Levine, then a student at Brown. Levine was part of a club that mentored boys from poor and broken homes.

Bolderson said Levine took him and other boys camping and mountain climbing and introduced them to classical music. “The ray of hope that many of us saw was the time we spent with Mel,” Bolderson said.

Bolderson said he has talked to many of the boys Levine mentored at that time, and he has never heard a single allegation of inappropriate conduct.

In 1985, UNC-CH recruited Levine from Children’s Hospital in Boston. At Chapel Hill, he took over the Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning, which specializes in care for children with learning problems.

His innovative approach — he shunned labels such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder and focused on detailed evaluations and individualized learning plans — drew patients from across the country. Doctors also flocked to study at Levine’s side.

Many of Levine’s patients were invited to his farm, where he keeps 240 geese, some of them rare and endangered species, along with pheasants, peacocks, swans and donkeys.

He and his wife Barbara, known as “Bambi,” have no children. Levine, who submitted a 14-page autobiography to The News & Observer, described himself as a connoisseur of single malt scotches, a lover of poetry and an avid traveler.

While in North Carolina, he published 13 widely read books on child development and, in 1985, founded a nonprofit institute called All Kinds of Minds, which offers teacher training and other services.

During travels to promote his methods, Levine wrote in his autobiography, he realized “that I have a very vocal, vast, yet decided unsought, cult following.”

UNC knew of lawsuits

Levine retired from UNC-CH, where his yearly salary was $258,000, to work full-time for the institute in 2006. Until the allegations surfaced, he continued to see patients there two days a month for no pay, said Karen McCall, a spokeswoman for the School of Medicine.

McCall said the university was aware of the lawsuits against Levine, but there were no judgments against him and, until last weekend, none of his North Carolina patients complained. She declined to comment on whether the university investigated after hearing of the lawsuits.

“We thoroughly investigate any complaints and take appropriate action,” McCall said.

Durso has enlisted the help of Raleigh attorney Elizabeth Kuniholm to handle complaints that have surfaced in North Carolina. “I think these are very serious complaints,” Kuniholm said.

She said she is weighing the possibility of filing suits in North Carolina, but the state’s three-year statute of limitations may stop some of them. She said she will report allegations to the N.C. Medical Board, which licenses and disciplines doctors.

Officials at the Medical Board say they are prohibited by state law from disclosing whether they have received complaints about Levine or whether they are investigating him. The board has never disciplined him.

Dr. Gary Schoener, a psychologist in Minnesota who treats victims and perpetrators of sex abuse, said abuse victims often suppress memories and come forward only after they hear of other victims. Schoener said that’s why widespread molestation by priests went undiscovered for decades.

“It’s off the map, the number of people who think, ‘I was the only one and that must mean that something is wrong with me,’” Schoener said.

Allies defend Levine

Levine’s defenders say they worry that Levine’s prominence has attracted people who hope for a payoff.

Dr. Edwin Sumpter, a retired pediatrician, said he studied under Levine and watched him treat patients. He never saw anything inappropriate.

Sumpter chafed at Durso’s contention that genital exams are often unnecessary for children with learning disorders. Sumpter, who lives in Raleigh, said a child’s sexual development can be linked to psychological disorders.

“When you see a child you need to know the whole child,” Sumpter said. “It’s quite different than with a fully formed adult.”

Boyles said her son, Benjamin, saw Levine about twice a year for more than a decade.

She said physical exams were key to monitoring her son’s progress, and she left the room to give her son privacy.

She said Levine helped her son go from struggling in special education to flourishing in college. He is now a student in dental school, and Levine wrote his letter of recommendation.

“Mel, when he met with kids, he just told them they could do anything; he inspired them,” Boyles said. “They walked out of there feeling good about themselves.”

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