THE DAILY CLIPS

April 18, 2011

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Hold on new programs frustrates campus heads
BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

The UNC system won't be approving many new academic programs for a while, a move some campus leaders find distressing.

System officials are putting the brakes on the usual review process for programs proposed by campuses, wary of starting anything new while others are being cut. The slowdown comes as the system is lobbying for its share of diminishing state dollars, and its leaders want to avoid the perception that the system is in growth mode.

"It's a hard thing to convey because it can send out the wrong signal at a sensitive time," said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system's Board of Governors. "We're trying to be thoughtful about expansion, but the danger is that we do nothing and not move forward with things we need."

For now, the system is moving forward with only two campus requests for new degree programs - from N.C. Central and N.C. A&T - and will wait until fall to review others, said Steve Leath, the UNC system's vice president for research. There are 37 other proposals in the pipeline that won't get a hearing until fall at the earliest, Leath added.

That's when a comprehensive review of existing programs is expected to conclude. The analysis, to be led by James Woodward, the former UNC Charlotte chancellor, is an attempt to root out unnecessary and duplicative programs.

"We're going to be cautious about approving new programs for a while until we see where the process goes," Leath said.

Money tied up, too
The pause is frustrating to campus leaders like Randy Woodson, N.C. State's chancellor. Woodson fears even a temporary lull will create a backlog and hurt institutions trying to do long-term planning.

"If we're going to keep this system strong, we can't stop planning for the future," he said.
Woodson has high hopes for three proposed professional master's of science programs - in biomanufacturing, climate change and electrical power systems engineering - that can respond to the state and nation's demonstrated need for more workers in science, engineering and mathematics. Each program targets people looking to join the workforce quickly rather than pursue a doctorate and likely academic career.

"They're popular with students because they're related to real employment needs in this country," Woodson said.

NCSU received hundreds of thousands of dollars in public money to develop two of the three programs, including $700,000 a couple years back from the National Science Foundation for the biomanufacturing program. It was submitted to the UNC system for review and approval in early December, and NCSU officials say they'll be in a tough spot if it gets put on hold until fall.

"It's hard to explain to a federal agency who has given us [money] why it's taking three years to get a master's degree program off the ground," Woodson said.

NCSU received $3.5 million over three years from the Department of Energy to develop the engineering program.

Woodson's frustration resonated last week with at least one member of the UNC system's governing board. Priscilla Taylor of Chapel Hill remembers hearing of the NCSU proposals a year or two ago. When first proposed, they were cheered by board members ready to respond to industry needs for more workers trained in science and math disciplines.

"When we heard about it, we almost jumped up and down," Taylor said. "We pushed it, and we said, 'Go do this!'"

All three NCSU proposals would cost little in new state money, officials there say. They would use existing faculty and be supported by tuition revenue and money associated with expected enrollment increases. They might require more manpower in the future if they prove popular, as expected, said Warwick Arden, NCSU's provost.

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ECU's McNeill tackles his weight loss
BY EDWARD G. ROBINSON III - Staff Writer
GREENVILLE–East Carolina coach Ruffin McNeill knew there was only one choice.

He prayed and then accepted the fact that undergoing weight-loss surgery would offer him a healthier, more active life.

When he thought about those around him - his family, assistant coaches, players and fans - the decision was clear.

"A lot of people are depending on me," said McNeill, who underwent the surgery as a precursor to a badly needed hip replacement. "I want to be here. ... I want to be part of the Pirate family and Pirate nation for years to come. ... In order for me to be here a long time, I have to make sure I take care of myself."

As the Pirates take the field for their annual spring game today, observers may notice the early results of McNeill's commitment. Four months after gastric bypass surgery, a quick glance at the second-year coach reveals a slimmer man, one who has lost 90 pounds from a high of 388.

"He looks great," ECU senior Doug Polochak said.
Dr. William Chapman performed surgery on McNeill at Pitt County Memorial Hospital in January - just weeks after the coach led the Pirates to the Military Bowl in his first season.

The Pirates finished with a 6-7 record and a loss to Maryland in the bowl game. But few know how much pain McNeill had endured on the sidelines as he guided the Pirates to a fifth consecutive bowl appearance.

It was determined before the season started that McNeill needed hip replacement surgery. Throughout the season, his right hip gradually became more painful, forcing him to limp and use a golf cart during practice.

**Second surgery**

Over years of inactivity, McNeill, a three-year starter at safety for ECU from 1977-1980, ballooned from his playing weight of nearly 216 pounds. As a coach at Texas Tech, he tried to lose weight through a six-day-a-week exercise routine. But he still carried a lot of weight on his 6-foot frame.

After leaving Texas Tech for ECU, the pain in his hip continued to worsen. To make hip replacement surgery more effective, doctors suggested McNeill, 52, consider bariatric surgery, a procedure to help him lose weight by reducing the size of the stomach.

McNeill said his choice to have surgery had little to do with his immediate health.

"I was being proactive," McNeill said. "Really, surprisingly, with all the tests I had gone through - from blood pressure to whatever - it was normal. Everything was fine."

His family considered the surgery a part of a positive life change.

"We felt like this is a time in your life where you really ought to think about your health," his wife, Erlene, said. "Even more so because as you get older life is not as forgiving."

"One of the things our daughters have said is, 'Dad, we want you to get healthy because we want you to walk us down the aisle.' When you've got your family encouraging you, what else can you do?"
With a team of doctors in place, McNeill responded with an all-in attitude. For two weeks before and after surgery, doctors placed him on a liquid diet. He only recently started eating select solid foods combined with a variety of vitamin supplements.

Each morning around 5 a.m., McNeill enters a pool for his morning workout. His hip surgery is scheduled for April 29, which will be followed by physical therapy before the Pirates open summer camp and prepare for their season-opener against South Carolina on Sept. 3.

ECU offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley said he's noticed a distinct change in McNeill's energy level. He said McNeill gave a full effort last season, but "his tank wasn't full."

"A lot of people don't want to identify what their weakness is," Riley said. "A lot of people have too much pride ... especially to go out there and say, 'I'm going to sacrifice this to make it better.'"

'Clear mind'
One of McNeill's favorite football lines is: "Cloudy mind, slow legs. Clear mind, fast legs."

He considers his surgery akin to creating a clear mind for himself. He has vowed to maintain a strict diet and workout regimen, accepting the doctor's mandates to the letter.

"As stubborn as I am ... I know I'll stick with it," he said.

But don't ask McNeill about target weight-loss goals.

"I'd rather just work hard," he said. "Do the exercises, watch my diet, and I'll look up in a few months and see where I am." He said the commitment is non-negotiable.

"Once he sticks his mind to something, he's going to keep it up," Erlene McNeill said. "I'm just so proud of him."

Others have showered the coach with encouragement, walking up to McNeill or his wife at events to share their weight-loss surgery stories.
The players have noticed, too.

"He really does lead by example," Polochak said. "He always does say he would never ask anybody to do something he wouldn't do for himself. That's really true."

McNeill has joked that he's going to soon look like the old football picture of himself that hangs on his office wall.

"I feel very much in control," McNeill said. "In the back of my mind, I kept repeating, 'A lot of people are depending on me.' My mind is so much clearer now."

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**East Carolina football**

**What:** Spring game

**Where:** Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Greenville

**When:** 2:30 p.m. today

**Tickets:** $5 for admission; $10 with the addition of food from the Pigskin Pig-out Party. For more information, go to or call 252-328-2300.
State workers rally to save jobs
By Jennifer Swart
The Daily Reflector
Monday, April 18, 2011

An estimated 50 state workers braved the early stages of severe weather Saturday to send a message to state lawmakers to preserve jobs amid a multi-billion-dollar deficit.

The State Employees Association of North Carolina rallying at H. Boyd Lee Park on Corey Road in Greenville called on the Legislature to pass a budget that put jobs first and avoided “sweetheart privatization deals for political donors.”

The “Take Pride in Carolina” event was one of three set in April to send a message to Raleigh, organizers said. Employees rallied April 9 in Morgantown and Saturday in Greenville and Raleigh.

“This event is to rally state employees for a smarter budget,” said spokeswoman Cary Edgar, who said the organization has released a report detailing more than $10 billion in potential cuts suggested by state workers.
“Figures now say the deficit is over $2 billion,” she said. “Obviously cuts have to be made, and cuts are going to be made but there's a unique opportunity for lawmakers to make smart cuts.”
“State employees are very close to my heart,” said Beth Ward, Pitt County Commission vice chairwoman and an East Carolina University lecturer who is married to a state employee who worked for years in the Department of Correction.

“You are part of the economic engine that makes eastern North Carolina run,” she said. “We need you. You are a critical part of the tax base that supports the counties in eastern North Carolina. It is imperative for the quality of life in the East and the soundness of all of our counties that you remain as contributors with jobs in our counties. If not, it will affect all of us in so many negative ways.”

“Money is being spent wrongly; that's the bottom line,” said Charles Johnson, association president and a corrections officer. “We're giving money to big business and we're basically telling people we don't care about you.

“We as middle-class people have to stand up and say enough,” he said, explaining the message to lawmakers should be: “if you don't stop, we're going to vote you out of office.”

June Long of Ayden, a 27-year state employee who works for the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, said she worried about her security in the coming years. “It's kind of scary,” she said. “I'm nearing retirement. I don't want to lose my (benefits).”

Contact Jennifer Swartz at jswartz@reflector.com or 252-329-9565.
Students in an ECU honor seminar use puppets to teach children about making healthy eating choices at the Boys and Girls Club in Ayden on Friday afternoon.

**Puppet show offers nutritional lesson.**

*By K.j. Williams*

The Daily Reflector

Monday, April 18, 2011

AYDEN — Muppet-style puppets in the hands of East Carolina University student puppeteers gave some youngsters a fun lesson on nutrition and diabetes at the Boys & Girls Club of Pitt County's Dr. Ledyard E. Ross Unit on Friday.

More than 40 students gathered to watch two short shows in which puppets taught them about the importance of eating right and trying new foods, and also about the importance of managing diabetes.

The students proved to be attentive learners. At the end of the first show, puppeteer Matt Edwards, 19, in character as Jason, had the children repeat what they'd learned about trying new foods.

“You can't say you don't like it if you've never tried it,” the children said with gusto.

The storyline had the “Jason” puppet telling the “Mike” puppet about the importance of a healthy diet and helping him plan a party menu that included avocado, kiwi and soy-nut snacks.

Scott Barber, 20, gave his “Mike” plenty of expression. “Mike” was energized when he depicted “a kid with a healthy snack,” and drooping when he depicted “a kid with an unhealthy snack.”
In the second show, puppeteer Mary Anderson, 19, used her little girl puppet to portray a girl who had to give herself a daily shot of insulin because of her diabetes. Puppeteer Ryan McFeeters, 20, had his boy puppet ask questions about the disease.

“See, diabetes can be real serious if you don't take care of yourself,” the girl puppet said. Angel Green, 6, said she was confused when the girl puppet demonstrated how she gave herself insulin shots.

“She took her shot without crying,” she said afterward, recalling how the shot the doctor had given her hurt.

Lindsey Brown, 7, asked the puppeteers about how people got diabetes. He was answered with a brief description. Asked after the show about what he’d learned, Lindsey said he knew more about eating right.

“That junk food will not make you healthy, and if you eat healthy food, that you'll get stronger and bigger and tougher,” he said.

The ECU students spent this semester learning the script and how to work the heavy puppets that stood nearly 3 feet tall. The undergraduate communications seminar was offered through the new Honors College.

Three graduate students in the School of Communication volunteered to teach puppetry to the undergraduates to prepare them for the series of community performances that started March 29 and ended Friday. More than 200 children in their target audience of students in first through third grades saw the free shows.

The School of Communication seminar titled “Puppet Shows that Make a Difference” was developed by Rebecca Dumlao, an associate professor, and Deborah Thomson, an assistant professor.

The professors used grants to buy the puppets and the material from the puppetry education program, Kids on the Block Inc. The high rate of obesity and diabetes in eastern North Carolina prompted their choice of topics.

Thomson said interactive theater engages the audience. “And that interactive element of the performance is what makes it so exciting because we don't know what will happen,” she said.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com nor at 252-329-9588.
Agathering this month at Rock Springs Center in Greenville marked the 50th anniversary of East Carolina University's School of Nursing with appropriate pomp and celebration. The contrast between that gala and the scrappy, humble beginnings of that program, which welcomed its first class in 1960, could hardly be more stark.

As with each addition to the institution of higher learning in eastern North Carolina, the nursing school emerged only after an intense and bitter battle to provide this region with resources for its residents. That fighting spirit remains a hallmark of East Carolina, one that has been invaluable for more than a century and will continue to serve the university for years to come.

Three years of lobbying, advocacy and tireless effort preceded the General Assembly's 1959 vote to establish a nursing school in Greenville. As with the founding of the university itself, the powers that be were skeptical of any encroachment by upstarts and failed to see the depth of need for communities across the East. Thankfully, logic and vision carried the day, recognizing that health care professionals were in short supply and that East Carolina could address demand.

Four faculty members, including the dean, served the 47 students in the inaugural class, providing coursework and study for future nurses. In time, the school would add a master's program, develop specialties and grow to be a department of national reputation. The school now instructs more than a thousand students and graduated more than 200 last spring.

The perseverance of leaders like East Carolina College President John Messick, Pitt County Hospital Administrator C.D. Ward and N.C. Rep. Walter Jones, father of the current 3rd Congressional District representative, was instrumental in winning the four-year school. Their work served as a framework for later battles over the School of Medicine and even the School of Dental Medicine set to open in the fall.

Yet, success should not be measured by the number of students or faculty, the growing influence of the university or simply in a legislative battle won. Rather, it is seen in the lives of eastern residents who have better health care, in towns that benefit from medical professionals who serve those communities and in lives that are richer and fuller as a result. The nursing school exemplifies East Carolina's mission of service, to the region and to the state. That it has done so for 50 years is a testament to all who have passed through its doors and all who will in future generations.
A new vice chancellor was appointed and outgoing board members were recognized at the Board of Trustees meeting at East Carolina University on Friday.

Rick Niswander, former dean of the College of Business, will serve as Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance after holding the position on an interim basis since December.

Niswander has worked at ECU since 1993. He graduated from Idaho State University in May 1978 with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He holds a doctorate in accounting from Texas A&M University.

Niswander will oversee business services, campus operations, financial services, human resources, information technology and university facilities, including construction and renovation of campus buildings. His salary is $270,000 a year. The trustees unanimously upheld Chancellor Steve Ballard's appointment of Niswander at the meeting.
“While this appointment reflects his financial skills and competencies as well has his business experience, it is even more reflective of the great leadership skills that he exhibits every day,” Ballard said. “He will be a great addition to an already strong senior leadership team at ECU.”

Friday's meeting was the final one for four outgoing trustees whose terms expire this year. Chairman David Brody, David Redwine, Robert Greczyn and William Bodenhamer completed their second four-year terms and are ineligible for reappointment.

“It's been a wonderful experience,” Brody said. “All the trustees and administration have made it that way. We dealt with problems as a unified group.”

Brody said he appreciated the trust shown in him when he was elected chairman and is proud of the nearly completed Family Medicine Center.

“It's been a great honor and joy,” Redwine said. “I really do love this university. It has been and is going to be a great university.”

Trustees Robert Lucas and Carol Mabe have been nominated to serve next year as chairman and vice-chairwoman, respectively. Elections will be held in July.

The Board of Trustees is a 13-member body consisting of four members appointed by the governor and eight elected by the University of North Carolina system Board of Governors. The student body president is an ex-officio voting member.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Actor discusses struggle with speech
By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, April 16, 2011

An actor's portrayal of himself in the story of his struggles with speech after a stroke rang true for Farmville resident Irv Carsten.

Carsten was among about 100 people at the free screening of the short film “Aphasia” at East Carolina Heart Institute on Wednesday. The audience included East Carolina University students, along with people with the condition and their families.

Carsten saw the film as “enlightening” for an audience that might not understand the condition.
“I've been at it for 17 years,” he said of his efforts to improve his speech since he had a stroke.

He said he could relate to the 40-minute film starring Carl McIntyre. Carsten was unconscious for two weeks and when he awoke, “I couldn't speak,” he said. He could see evidence of his own journey in McIntyre's, which he said sometimes made him feel emotional and sometimes made him laugh.

McIntyre of Laurinburg, a former Charlotte resident, had a stroke in 2005. He was 44.
McIntyre now sees it as his purpose to impart hope to others with aphasia, a communication disorder that impairs a person's ability to process language.

In voiceover, the film tells of McIntyre's journey while giving the audience a look at his sense of humor about life. McIntyre wakes up in the hospital to see several smiling faces above him. “You know it ain't good if they're all smiling,” he thinks. Realizing he's “communication-free,” McIntyre also feels lucky because at least he's alive.

Speech therapy gave him back his ability to communicate to an extent, but not to the point where he could return to his former employment as an actor and salesman. “I'm starting from scratch,” he said. “You can get damned lonely when you're trapped in your head.”

He has bouts of anger and frustration, but McIntyre said he doesn't stop moving forward. He doesn't lose hope. He has setbacks — from a cruel comment at a party to frustration with language that keeps him up alone in the dark struggling to speak as his wife looks on in tears.

His focus on language is illustrated by the true story of his four repeat trips to a fast-food restaurant until he can successfully pronounce the name of the custard-like dessert he craves and the flavor he wants.

Those fast-food scenes show his progression. On his first trip, he can't get any words out. Eventually, he makes it to the drive-through window, and in his struggle to produce the name of the dessert, he instead pronounces a curse word.

On his next trip, an embarrassed McIntyre offers an explanation to the girl at the drive-through window: “I stroke. Not well talk.” It takes one more visit before he can pronounce the flavor he wants: chocolate.

McIntyre's determination to order that dessert reminded Don Ensley, who recently retired from ECU, of Ensley's wife, Ramona. 66. She had a stroke when she was 44. “She has that,” Ensley said. “She has the same character about her. After 14 years, she's still determined to try and gain as much as she can.”

Ensley said he admired McIntyre's message of hope and “the spirit and passion that he has in encouraging his audience not to give up.” McIntyre said in an interview that the script helped him improve his speech through “rehearsal, rehearsal, rehearsal.” And while he has his presentation down pat, one-on-one conversation remains challenging. “No script,” he joked.

McIntyre, now 50, said he still gets angry about his aphasia, but he also has learned to accept it. “I'm still here,” he said, adding he wants to give others hope.
Asked about the sense of humor that's evident in the film, McIntyre said that humor has helped him cope “more than you know.” Another factor that has helped him cope — besides his wife and three children — is the script written and directed by his longtime friend, fellow actor Jim Gloster of Charlotte. “Aphasia” was filmed in eight days last year, an all-volunteer endeavor of people in the film industry.

Gloster said the film was made to give McIntyre a new livelihood. McIntyre's new career revolves around the film. He's a motivational speaker who travels with the film, answering questions afterward and giving talks to groups about aphasia.

“He still has the ham in him,” Gloster said. “He was a stage performer.” “Aphasia” has been honored at film festivals in the United States and in Germany and Ireland.

For his ECU visit, McIntyre spoke to graduate students and to a group of people with aphasia who meet to hone their communication skills. Sherri Winslow, clinical supervisor of ECU’s speech language and hearing clinic, facilitates the group where members practice with each other, learning how to supplement their speech with other ways to get their message across through gestures and animated expression.

For information, call Winslow at 744-6142. Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
Study: Lenoir, Jones and Greene among state’s unhealthiest counties

Jane Moon, The Kinston Free Press
2011-04-16 19:03:07

Lenoir County is known for barbecue and fried food — and obesity, diabetes and heart disease. A rich, artery-clogging diet, along with a rash of negative social and economic factors, makes this county one of the unhealthiest in North Carolina, according to the 2011 version of an annual health study. Lenoir ranks 83rd in the state, meaning that the populations of just 16 counties are less healthy than the people here, based on parameters used in the study by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The University of Wisconsin.

Jones County was worse — 85th. Greene County fared slightly better at 70th. Greene and Jones dropped in the rankings from last year, from 69th and 82nd respectively. Lenoir improved from 88th in 2010.

It wasn’t enough to cheer up Lenoir County Health Director Joey Huff. “I was certainly disappointed,” Huff said of the ranking. “Given the health disparities that people in Eastern North Carolina experience regionally, we have a very unhealthy lifestyle, due to choice, due to habit and the way we were brought up an our environment.”

Huff said heart disease and cancer are the leading cause of death in Lenoir County, where the health landscape is also colored by diabetes, physical inactivity and obesity. The study found that one in three adults in the county is obese.

The study combines traditional indicators of health — for example, low birth weight, percentage of obese adults, percentage of smokers and rate of sexually-transmitted disease — with a range of socioeconomic factors, among them teen birth rate, percentage of children in poverty, access to health care and the unemployment rate.
The same data that make this one of the poorest areas in the state worked against it in the health study. Because the components of the two major categories, health outcomes and health factors are weighted — hence, individual components rankings won’t average out in the usual way — social and economic factors played heavily in the overall calculation, even more than health behaviors.

At the same time, though, health professionals looking for the root causes of poor health here point to a number of bad choices by residents — poor diet, smoking and lack of exercise particularly — and a culture that sanctions, if not encourages, such risky behavior.

“There are some usual suspects,” said Dr. Chris Mansfield, a professor in the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine’s Department of Public Health who has been working in Eastern North Carolina for almost 40 years. “We’re looking at issues in chronic disease and a multitude of factors beginning with behaviors: physical activity — lack of it; nutrition — too much of it and not the right things; and inability to access health services at appropriate times for conditions that can be treated and thought to be managed.”

Dr. Robert Gallaher, a pulmonologist in Kinston and a member of the Lenoir County Board of Health, sees the tri-county area’s ailing health as the result of several different factors.

“There’s a genetic factor, there’s a socioeconomic factor and where the food is prepared,” Gallaher said. “Traditionally, fried foods, barbecue and fatty foods are the staple of Eastern North Carolina. People just can’t follow a balanced diet, and they have a tendency to overeat.

“It’s a multitude of many factors, including genetics, socioeconomic lifestyle and ways family members are, the way family members pass on food preferences.”

Michael Rhodes, Greene County health director, said individuals’ behavior has the biggest impact on overall health.

“A lot of it has to do with eating habits and just lifestyle,” Rhodes said. “I don’t think there’s enough physical activity and types of food. There’s not
enough fruits and vegetables eaten, a lot of people get the snack foods and fast foods instead of going home and cooking meals.

“Then, of course, there’s a lot of inactivity. I would say that’s better than 50 percent of chronic disease is lifestyle.”

As a pulmonologist, Gallaher knows the risk of smoking all too well. He also knows quitting is one of the easiest ways to extend life spans.

“Smoking is the No. 1 risk factor for lung cancer and development of lung disease, specifically emphysema and bronchitis,” he said. “It’s the No. 1 controllable and preventable risk factor for those illnesses. … Probably more than two-thirds of the people that I see in my practice are there as a result of the effects of cigarette smoking.”

For generations, the southeastern United States has been labeled the Stroke Belt, due to the high incidence of stroke and the prevalence of factors that contribute to it. In a way, says Natalie Newsom, health educator for Jones County Health Department, it’s in our blood.

“People living in the South — and definitely the Stroke Belt — have heredity to deal with, and that does play a huge factor in heart disease and stroke as well as behavior, food choice and activity and things like that,” she said. “It’s a mixture of both going against us.”

Dr. Khashana Blake, a doctor with Kinston Community Health Center, agreed.

“We have now identified in the medical community that chronic medical disease, like diabetes and hypertension, they do have some genetic predisposition,” Blake said. “More and more, we’re seeing there is a genetic predisposition, and that really helps explain a lot, both environmental conditions and that sort of familial genetic component, and that’s why we’re seeing it so much.

“It’s absolutely environmental, but I don’t think we can ignore that genetic component, as well.”
But pockets of good health rankings dotted Eastern North Carolina, with Craven, Carteret and Onslow counties scoring in the top 25. Mansfield attributes this to a steady incomes and more education in those areas.

“The population is wealthier, better educated, more often employed, has greater access to health care resources,” Mansfield said. “Onslow would, of course, be healthy if you didn’t account for age because it’s a young population with military.”

Mansfield said he has seen a strong correlation between health, wealth and education.

Blake said many health issues in Lenoir County are due to “low-income, low-resources, increased access to medical care, a lot of transportation issues, low-education levels, low-literacy levels, those are major barriers.

He continued: “(Socioeconomic class has) an indirect impact because patients don’t prioritize their medical health in a way that would allow them to allot their resources appropriately. And if they determine they have low income, they just assume they can’t afford to see their doctor. … This is despite whether or not they’re paying $5 a pack for cigarettes. They just have skewed insight on where their priorities are and how much value their health care has to them.”

All three counties are considered medically underserved, with a lack of primary care, an issue that individuals cannot necessarily help.

“It boils down to availability of health care and where we have a lack of primary providers, when people … if they can’t see a family doctor, they end up getting their treatment from local urgent cares or the emergency department, and unfortunately there’s not continuity of care there,” Gallaher said. “Usually, it’s treating an acute problem, and when they treat an acute problem, they don’t care about cholesterol and hypertension and blood sugar control.

“It’s a quick fix and street ’em.”

Jane Moon can be reached at 252-559-1082 or jmoon@freedomenc.com.
BREAKOUT:

**Advice from the experts:**
- Dr. Khashan Blake, physician at Kinston Community Health Center
  “No. 1: Smoking cessation. Tobacco use is just so prevalent... I would estimate that over 90 percent of our population smokes. ... No 2: Lifestyle modification. That would include a low-fat diet, low-cholesterol diet and what we would call a diabetic diet — so less starches. Increase healthy fruit and vegetables.”

- Michael Rhodes, Greene County health director
  “I can’t stress the fruits and vegetables issue and physical activity enough. You need to do something every day, even if it’s just walking. I realize some people can’t go to the gym, but if you can just get out and walk around the block and walk for 30 minutes, that’s important. ... Walk from the house to the mailbox 20 times or around the house.”

- Dr. Robert Gallaher, physician at Kinston Pulmonary Associates
  “If you smoke, stop smoking. Get regular checkups with your primary care provider. Try to get a little exercise, and try to eat as healthy as one can.”

- Joey Huff, Lenoir County health director
  “Encourage and engage in some sort of physical activity on a weekly basis. Look at diet, ways to eat healthier food, incorporate fruits and vegetables—good balance in diet.

- Dr. Chris Mansfield, professor at ECU Brody School of Medicine Department of Public Health
  “Probably what their grandmas told them: eat food — food, not things that are made in factories that are food-like substances — and not much of it, mostly vegetables and fruits. Junk food can also be defined as having ingredients a second-grader wouldn’t be able to pronounce. Eat well, get exercise, don’t smoke, practice safe driving habits and safe sex.”

- Doug Smith, CEO of Greene County Health Care
  “To really improve the health, things have to change. Certainly stopping smoking is a biggie. Diets have to change, and people’s behaviors have to change. They have to go out, walk, exercise.”

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Dr. Edgar W. Hooks Jr., 79, passed away peacefully in his home on Saturday, April 16, 2011. A graveside funeral service will be held at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday in Pinewood Memorial Park.

Born June 7, 1931, he was a native of Fremont, North Carolina. He graduated from Nahunta High School and was awarded a baseball scholarship from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, (A.B. 1953, M. Ed. 1954). During the summers while attending UNC, he played minor league baseball in Canada. Upon graduation from UNC in 1954, he married Bettie Wilkes Wright of Chester, S.C. He then served in the U.S. Army at the 7th Army Headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, as a member of the Army Medical Services for two years. Upon his honorable discharge, he turned down an offer to play professional baseball with the Washington Senators and instead began his teaching career at Boyden High School (1956-59), Atlantic Christian College (1959-60) and Campbell College (1961-65). During his time at Campbell University, he found time to attend George Peabody College (Ed. D. 1964) to receive his doctorate. While serving as professor and director of health and physical education at Campbell College, he organized and developed the Program of Professional Preparation in Health and Physical Education. He also implemented the summer camp program for children.

In 1965, he accepted a position at East Carolina University as professor of health and physical education and served as chairman of the department from 1971-80. Dr. Hooks provided 25 years of dedicated service to East Carolina University as a most effective teacher, a respected scholar and a valued steward.

In addition to research, work in various professional organizations and a full teaching load, he found time to be a frequent contributor of articles to the NCAPHER Journal, NCAPHER Newsletter, N.C. Education, Coach and Athlete, Research Quarterly, and the YMCA Journal of Physical Education. He is the author of Knowledge Examinations and Instructor's Manual in badminton, softball, tennis and volleyball.

He was awarded numerous honor awards and served as a member of AAHPER, American Driver and Safety Education Association, NEA, NCAE, N.C. Association for Driver Education and Traffic Safety, Phi Delta Kappa, Association for Institutional Research, National Foundation for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, and the American College of Sports Medicine.

Noteworthy accomplishments during his ECU tenure include: first director of institutional research; architect of the Department of Health, Physical Education
Recreation and Safety; and chairman of the Department of Health, Physical Education Recreation and Safety. He helped establish the Regional Drug Program, which is now the ECU Regional Training Center; initiated summer camp programs; secured federal monies to support daily physical education and after-school programs for local schools; first chairman of gerontology studies in the College of Arts and Sciences; president of the North Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education Recreation and Safety; first executive secretary of the North Carolina Health, Physical Education Recreation and Safety, later to become the North Carolina Alliance of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. He also was the recipient of the N.C. Advancement School by means of an Outstanding Service Award in 1964 in recognition of his ability, thoroughness and productivity, and he was voted Outstanding Faculty Member of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Safety in the school year 1968-69 by the students.

Service to his profession extended from local to national levels. Upon his retirement from ECU in 1991, Dr. Hooks and his wife, Bettie, devoted their time together in personal business development and traveling. In addition to his professional career, Dr. Hooks spent most of his time with his family, engaging in family trips, gardening and house remodeling. He was an active member in the community, serving as elder and deacon of the Presbyterian Church, and coached baseball in Little League, Babe Ruth League and American Legion teams, and was post commander of the American Legion from 1977-78.

Dr. Hooks is preceded in death by his parents, Edna O. Hooks and Edgar W. Hooks Sr.; brother-in-law, Vincent S. "Buddy" Wright; and grandson, William Wayne Cox. Dr. Hooks leaves behind his loving wife of 56 years, Bettie Wright Hooks; three children and their families, daughter, Edna Nicole Hooks Page of Ayden, daughter, Eden Ann Hooks Gay and husband, Jan, of Candler and son, Edgar Wright Hooks III and wife, Jeanne, of Sterling, Va.; five grandchildren, Richard Berry, Lauren Gay, Robert Gay, Bailey Hooks and Wright Hooks; a loving brother, John Borden Hooks and wife, Joyce Hooks, of Fremont; sister-in-law, Kathleen W. Grenell and husband, David, of San Francisco; two nieces, Lynn and Joy, and their families; and nephew, David.

The family would like to give special thanks to two important people in Dr. Hooks' life, "adopted family member/son" Jimmy Staten and "great friend" Ann Eatmon. Through their friendship, comfort, thoughtfulness and continuous visits, these two special people gave him much joy and laughter.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the East Carolina University Foundation, 901 E. Fifth St., Greenville, NC 27858 or a charity of one's choice. Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com.

Published in The Daily Reflector on April 18, 2011
An East Carolina University doctor described as a remarkable mentor and role model has received a top leadership award for women from the university.

Dr. Diane Campbell, clinical assistant professor of medicine, Brody School of Medicine, and director, Community REACH Program, accepted the 2011 Linda Allred Profiles in Leadership Award Wednesday.

“\textquote{I know I am a leader and it was a long time coming,}” Campbell told those attending the annual Women of Distinction event focusing on women's leadership. “\textquote{The women I work with — women in poverty, women of color, women who experience health disparities and many of the inequities we have talked about today — need me to be a leader.}” “\textquote{I was one of them, and I have come a long way and have a long, long way to go,}” Campbell said.

Campbell's work in HIV/AIDS outreach has improved individual lives and strengthened the community and region, said Mary Beth Corbin, director, Office of Student Transitions and First Year Programs at ECU. Corbin coordinated nominations for the leadership awards, sponsored by the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations.

Campbell's nomination described her as someone who has the \textquote{innate ability to empower, guide and excite those under her leadership.} She is, it says, \textquote{one of the distinctive women who is able to balance a demanding career with a busy home life} and \textquote{respects, employs, mentors and provides the flexibility and leadership it takes for other women to achieve this … and simultaneously strive toward their own professional and personal goals.}”

Campbell was one of 10 women recognized for their contributions to the institution, community and region at the event. Nine ECU Women of Distinction awards for 2011, based on demonstrated contributions in areas such as academics/education, outreach, research, politics, athletics and volunteering.

Margie Gallagher, associate dean, research and graduate studies, College of Human Ecology.
Jamie Kruse, director, Center for Natural Hazards Research.
Elizabeth Layman, services and information management, College of Allied Health Sciences.
Deirdre Mageean, vice chancellor, division of research and graduate studies.
Linda Mooney, associate professor, sociology.
Diane Rodriguez-Luterbach, editor, Journal of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education.
Kathleen Row, chair, department of psychology.
Marianna Walker, associate professor, department of communication sciences and disorders.
Beth Velde, professor, occupational therapy, assistant dean, College of Allied Health Sciences.

Nominees were judged on six criteria, Corbin said: leadership, commitment, determination, generosity of spirit/time, community building and the ability to empower and mentor others.

Women have made strides in leadership since they gained the right to vote in 1918, but the numbers show work remains, said keynote speaker Valeria Lee, vice chairwomen and founding member of the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center, a state-funded non-profit that works toward economic vigor.

“Women's issues still have to do with equity, access and equality,” Lee told the group. “Women still too often wind up doing the most work for the least pay.”

The Allred Award received by Campbell honors a former associate professor of psychology who died in 2005. She directed the Women's Studies Program and advocated for women's rights and the rights of those with disabilities.

**Brody, Greczyn reflect on service**

Four departing ECU trustees who have served eight-year terms were recognized Thursday for their contributions and long service at a chancellor's reception.

David Brody, Bob Greczyn, David Redwine and Bill Bodenhamer came on the ECU Board of Trustees in 2003. They leave the board in June, attending their final meeting April 14 and 15.

Brody and Greczyn, both of whom chaired the board, talked recently with ECU News Services about what leading the trustees has been like.

Greczyn chaired the board from 2007-09. Brody has chaired it since 2009. Both said working through the turbulent period in 2003 and 2004, when the unexpected resignation of former Chancellor William Muse prompted the second leadership search in two years, as the pivotal challenge for the university during their tenure.

“We lost momentum and confidence,” said Brody, of Kinston, managing partner of Brody Associates. “Some of that was lost confidence in the leadership and institution and so it was a challenging time for those reasons.”
Both list the selection of Chancellor Steve Ballard at the end of that period as the most critical decision they made as trustees. New leadership brought fundamental changes in the university's culture, said Greczyn, retired president and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. “We have momentum, a lot of integrity and a much more professional demeanor,” he said. Both Brody and Greczyn said should define its success in the future by how its students perform, and what they accomplish.

“There are so many different ways for a university to define success, but for me the touchstone is whether we are continually upgrading the students that we accept and whether we are graduating them ready to interact in a world that's changing pretty quickly,” Greczyn said.

“I think the definition of success is the student,” Brody said.

Robert Lucas, an attorney from Johnston County, takes the reins as chair of the trustees in June. Brody's advice is to balance the many, specific interests the board represents. “You have a lot of constituencies at a university and they all want what's best for the university but they have differing points of view and perspectives,” he said.

**Faculty honored for excellence**
Three East Carolina University faculty members received Achievement for Excellence in Research and Creative Activity awards in February.

Dr. William Meggs, professor of emergency medicine and chief of the toxicology division at the Brody School of Medicine, received a lifetime achievement award. Drs. Jason E. Bond, professor of biology, and T. Chris Riley-Tillman, associate professor of psychology, received five-year achievement awards.

Over the past three decades, Meggs has shown innovation and creativity in medical toxicology and related areas of study. These range from the use of the drug heparin to treat anaphylactoid shock to ways to delay onset of toxicity from snakebites. Perhaps his greatest impact has been his research into the problem of irritant sensitivity, which can cause inflammation similar to asthma and other conditions.

Meggs also was the first researcher to report that chronic exposure to low levels of an organophosphate insecticide could induce obesity. He is also author of “The Inflammation Cure,” a book that combines scientific writings regarding fundamental processes that produce inflammation in diseases with lifestyle modifications to reduce harmful inflammatory processes in the body.

Since joining the ECU faculty in 1988, Meggs has received more than $1.5 million in research funding and written or co-written more than 125 articles, abstracts, book chapters and other publications.
Bond's research focuses on the questions related to the evolutionary diversification of spiders and millipedes. He has written more than 53 peer-reviewed publications and received more than $1.8 million in research funding since arriving at ECU in 2002.

Riley-Tillman has co-written two books and more than 65 other publications. His research focuses on applied behavior analysis, assessment and intervention. Since arriving at ECU in 2005, he has received more than $4.1 million in research funding. All three received a cash award and conducted seminars on their work during Research and Creative Achievement Week in April.

**Author hiker presents first “Last Lecture”**

Author, business owner and record-setting long-distance hiker Jennifer Pharr Davis will share lessons learned on the Appalachian Trail at ECU on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Davis has hiked more than 9,000 miles of long distance trails on six continents. She is the owner of the Blue Ridge Hiking Company in Asheville, and author of “Becoming Odyssa: Epic Adventures on the Appalachian Trail,” which chronicles her experiences on a grueling four-month hike from Georgia to Maine.

Davis will share critical life lessons learned on the trail with her ECU audience. Her visit to campus includes two lectures open to the public — Tuesday at 7 p.m., in Hendrix Theatre, “Goals, Attitudes and Balance — How to Pack Your Backpack for Success,” followed by a book signing; and Wednesday, 4 p.m., in Hendrix Theatre, “Six Months Without a Mirror: Redefining beauty, success and happiness without the help of mainstream media.”

For additional information, contact Mary Beth Corbin at 328-4173 or corbinm@ecu.edu.

**Laux, Doaks to read poetry Wednesday**

Two poets will present a reading of their original work on Wednesday in Bate Buidling, Room 1031.

Dorianne Laux, an award-winning poet whose fifth collection, “The Book of Men,” has recently been published by W.W. Norton, will be joined in the reading by Celeste Doaks, one of her former students who teaches poetry at ECU.

Laux's fourth collection, “Facts about the Moon,” won the Oregon Book Award and was short-listed for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize. “Awake, What We Carry” was a finalist for the National Book Critic's Circle Award. She has also won two Best American Poetry Prizes, a Pushcart Prize, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, and a Guggenheim.

Doaks worked as a free-lance journalist in New York before moving to Raleigh to attend N.C. State University, where she earned an master of fine arts degree in creative writing in 2010 while studying with Laux. Doaks was a recipient of the 2009 Academy of
American Poets Graduate Prize and an Association of Writers & Writing Programs scholarship. She joined the ECU Department of English faculty in January. Wednesday's reading will begin at 7 p.m. Admission is free, and parking restrictions around Bate will be lifted for this event. For more information, contact Alex Albright, director of creative writing at ECU, at 328-4876 or albrightd@ecu.edu.
Editorial: Steele Center worth funding
Monday, April 18, 2011

It was hoped that renovation of the Elm Street Gym into a recreation center for the city's special needs population could be accomplished without the consumption of city funds. A campaign to raise half of the estimated $1 million was matched by a state grant, but revised projections indicated a funding shortfall of more than $300,000 to complete the work.

There were plenty of reasons for the City Council to decline the request, notably that it was an unexpected inquiry made in a tight budget year without assurance that future needs would be addressed from other sources. However, the council's approval shows a compassionate commitment to the special needs population locally and speaks well of this community.

When Sports Illustrated tabbed Greenville as its SportsTown USA for North Carolina, it was a well earned designation. Beyond the impressive fan support shown for East Carolina University athletics and Pitt County high school teams are the public programs and resources available to local sports enthusiasts. This community is fortunate to have the many parks and trails available to citizens of all ages and interests.

The development of facilities for the special needs population has become a particular focus in recent years, and with good reason. Greenville and Pitt County have long supported causes like the Special Olympics, and that commitment has been bolstered by initiatives like the Challenger League, which allows children with special needs to participate in the city's favorite summer pastime, and the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams, a fully accessible baseball field, built at the Elm Street Park in 2008.

The Drew Steele Center is viewed as the next facility to serve these special children. The family of Drew Steele, a young man with Down Syndrome, worked with former East Carolina football coach Skip Holtz to raise $500,000 through private donations. Those efforts were matched by a grant from the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund last year.
However, a remaining balance of $333,449 led supporters to the City Council last week.

The council's decision to approve the money was not likely an easy one, especially in this economy. And members were given further pause when Recreation and Parks Department Director Gary Fenton said another $228,500 may be needed for fixtures and equipment.

However, these children should have opportunities as their peers do and this center will help provide them. That was a compassionate and inspirational decision by the council, and one worthy of public support.
Zealous application of a federal law regulating privacy of health care records captured a bit of attention on reflector.com recently when a letter writer voiced concern about HIPAA.

The letter expressed frustration about health care providers refusing to give information to family members about a young Greenville man who had gone missing.

Turns out the man, who has Asperger's Syndrome, had been hospitalized in another county, but medical officials would not give that information to his family, the letter said. They learned of his whereabouts after several days and a police search.

The type of information the health care bureaucracy can provide about patients is restricted by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act unless a patient allows information to be shared. The law was established mainly to protect us consumers from misuse of our health records by insurers, employers and businesses who might try to sell us goods and services.

Privacy violations can bring stiff penalties and fines from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Health and Human Services says the law is not designed to keep important information from the public, including what might help locate missing family members. Problem is, the law is complicated, ambiguous in places and certainly open to interpretation; therefore, it's difficult to discern how much information providers can give and to whom they may give it.

The default position in such a vacuum too often is that it's easier for organizations to shut down flow altogether rather than risk legal complications or a fine.

The Daily Reflector comes up against this blockage almost daily while trying to retrieve news about people hurt in car wrecks, crimes, accidents and other emergency situations. Since HIPAA privacy rules took effect in 2003, lines in our stories such as “information about the victim's condition was not available from the hospital” have become increasingly common.

More police and fire departments now are withholding condition information as well. Individual privacy is important, but we think it's crucial to provide word on fatalities and injuries so citizens are armed with information they need to guide public response to crime and safety concerns.
News organizations argue HIPAA does not prohibit providing such basic information any more than it prohibits a mother finding her son. Unfortunately for the public, the law does a poor job spelling that out, and organizations that possess the information are hard-pressed to agree with us.

Bobby Burns is associate editor of Internet News and Information. Contact him at baburns@reflector.com and 252-329-9572.
RALEIGH—Hours after scrambling off campus to escape a devastating storm, students at Shaw University returned Sunday, only to gather their belongings and head home. They won't return for months.

Classes at Shaw are canceled, and the university is closed for the remainder of spring semester as a result of Saturday's storm, which dismantled buildings on the school's downtown campus and displaced almost 150 students.

"The campus is difficult to navigate, trees are down and glass is everywhere," Shaw President Dr. Irma McClaurin said Sunday. "... Many students are in shock."

Shaw officials said a tornado touched down directly over the quad between 4 and 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Two students were taken to the hospital with injuries. Others were forced to take refuge for the night in the gymnasium at Southeast Raleigh High School.
Tia Morgan, a senior, was one of many students who returned Sunday morning to find the historic campus shredded by strong winds. Trees were toppled, dorms were damaged, and the student center was roofless.

She was finishing homework in the lobby of the Dimple M. Newsome dormitory on Saturday when the building lost power. Morgan then saw several students running across the quad to enter the building's front doors.

"People were screaming because it took us a while to get the door open because the wind was holding it shut," Morgan said.

'Glass was flying'
Shaw junior Alfonza Deans was in the buffet line for his second cheeseburger at the Willie E. Gary Student Center cafeteria when the building's top blew off Saturday.

"Everybody was eating dinner, probably around 4 or 4:15 (p.m.) when the lights cut off," Deans said. "People were running back into the kitchen to get in the freezer and ladder well. Then, all of a sudden, the (front) windows busted and glass was flying everywhere inside the cafeteria.

"I don't think we were prepared for it," Deans said. "How many people know of a tornado hitting in the middle of a city?"

By noon Sunday, crews were salvaging what was left of the student center. Shaw has not determined whether it will be renovated or razed.

Nearly every building on campus suffered roof damage, university officials said. Even the galvanized copper roof was peeled off of Shaw's Estey Hall office building.

The cost of repairing Shaw's campus remains unclear. Shaw, the oldest historically black college in the South, has struggled financially in recent years.

The 145-year-old university announced in 2009 that it was burdened with $20 million in debt. That year, Interim President Dorothy C. Yancy helped secure a $31 million federal loan to keep the doors open for the school's 2,700 students.
While McClaurin was pleased to announce Sunday that the spring graduation ceremony will go on as planned May 7 at Dorton Arena, others worried that the storm may prevent them from walking across the stage.

**No exams**
The semester was set to end after eight days of classes and a one-week exam period.

Instead, students will be graded on the work they've completed to date. That could be bad news for Tamara Newman, a biology major who was depending on a final exam to raise her grade in a class. Without the exam, she may not graduate this year, as she had hoped.

"I don't feel that they're handling this correctly," said Newman's mother, Elisa Newman of Delaware. "... You've got seniors who aren't going to graduate.

"They're not going to reimburse them for the semester."

Staff writer Jack Hagel contributed to this report.
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Demoted researcher reinstated at UNC, will retire Dec. 31
BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL A prominent UNC-Chapel Hill researcher has settled a dispute with the university, regaining her credentials and full salary while agreeing to retire at the end of the year.

Bonnie Yankaskas, a noted epidemiologist, had been demoted, her pay cut essentially in half, after a hacker infiltrated a computer server that she, as the principal investigator for a major breast cancer study, oversaw.

The university held her responsible for the breach and first tried to fire her before recommending the demotion from full to associate professor and the pay cut.

Under the terms of a settlement announced Friday, Yankaskas has regained her status as a full professor, and her full salary of $175,000 has been restored.

She agreed to retire Dec. 31, according to a news release issued late Friday. Under the terms of the agreement, the university will not comment on the settlement's terms. Nor will Yankaskas, according to her attorney, Raymond Cotton.

For 15 years, Yankaskas has overseen the Carolina Mammography Registry, a federally funded project that compiles and analyzes mammogram data submitted by dozens of radiology offices across North Carolina.
In 2009, UNC School of Medicine officials discovered that the server had been infiltrated two years earlier. Though the university doesn't think any personal information was removed, it nonetheless notified all 180,000 women with data on the server and set up a call center to answer questions. That cost roughly $250,000.

As the leader of the registry project, Yankaskas was responsible for making sure the data were secure. Because she's not an information technology expert herself, she hired a staff member to do so.

Yankaskas, who holds a doctorate in epidemiology, argued that she could not be held responsible for high-level computer security, a field in which she is not an expert.

"The University acknowledges that Dr. Yankaskas is an eminent researcher and a long-standing faculty member, and that she has made many contributions to the advancement of science and the improvement of health care for women concerned about or experiencing breast cancer," the university's news statement read in part. "The university also acknowledges that there was a communication breakdown, which hindered Dr. Yankaskas from learning that CMR had a vulnerable server. Dr. Yankaskas acknowledges that, as principal investigator of CMR, she had the responsibility for the scientific, fiscal and ethical conduct of the project, and responsibility to hire and supervise the CMR information technology staff who, with assistance as requested from School of Medicine and University information technology professionals, operate and maintain the CMR computer systems on which secure data are maintained."

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RALEIGH—Differing interpretations of a federal student-privacy statute were debated Friday before Wake County Superior Court Judge Howard Manning as he heard arguments in an open-records lawsuit against UNC-Chapel Hill.

The lawsuit, brought in October by a consortium of news organizations led by The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer, seeks the release of records related to the NCAA investigation into the UNC-CH football program. The university has withheld information requested under open-records laws, citing the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

The N&O, Charlotte Observer and other plaintiffs say the records are public under state law, which says records, documents and other information generated by state agencies and institutions such as UNC-CH should be, with limited exceptions, made public.

The media group seeks the release of unredacted telephone records from phones provided to UNC-CH Athletic Director Dick Baddour, Head Football Coach Butch Davis, and former Associate Head Football Coach John Blake; parking tickets issued to 11 UNC-CH football players; and the names and dates of employment of student tutors who worked with the football team, among other records.

The university has said it believes FERPA applies to all educational records related to students, including the requested records.

“The bottom line is the information the plaintiffs are seeking is protected by FERPA,” Special Deputy Attorney General Alexander McC. Peters said. “The university has an obligation to abide by personnel-records law and FERPA as federal law.”

But attorney Amanda Martin, representing the media group, argued that FERPA protects student information such as grades, class schedules and Social Security numbers, not the phone records of football coaches or campus parking tickets. “This is not a case concerning … the guts of
FERPA,” Martin said. “These are records elsewhere on campus that contain small pieces of info related to students.”

**NCAA investigation**
The NCAA began investigating UNC-CH’s football program last summer. The probe initially focused on improper benefits that agents delivered to Tar Heel football players. Eventually, it was expanded to include possible academic violations involving a tutor. Fourteen UNC-CH players were sidelined for at least one game, and seven for the entire 2010 season.

Manning did not indicate when he might rule, but he did express his apparent dissatisfaction with the university’s FERPA justification for withholding the phone records and parking tickets.

“At this point, I’ll tell all of you, to be fair, that no one’s going to win 100 percent,” Manning said at the conclusion of the hearing. “We’re still going to end up with a case. I’m not happy about the phones. I’m not happy about the parking tickets. The student tutors, that might be a little different.”

In addition to The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer, both McClatchy newspapers, the media group includes DTH Media Corp., which publishes the UNC-CH student newspaper The Daily Tar Heel; News 14 Carolina, a cable TV station operated by Time Warner Entertainment-Advance/Newhouse Partnership; WTVD Television; Capitol Broadcasting; The Associated Press; and Media General Operations.

The suit names UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp, Baddour, Davis, and Jeff McCracken, head of the UNC-CH Public Safety Department.

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Big Blog on Campus

By PAMELA PAUL

College campuses have always had their boldface names: professors who’ve logged time in a White House cabinet, opined on “PBS NewsHour” or written Pulitzer Prize-winning best sellers. To this venerated lot we can add the academic blogger. A remarkable variety of scholars have achieved blogosphere fame, particularly those devoted to subjects related to the public sphere — politics, economics, legal affairs. Law school bloggers are practically their own category.

“I think a lot of us have a desire to catch the issue of the day and put a personal stamp on it, and we’re in a good position to do so,” says Ann Alt-
house, who teaches at the University of Wisconsin Law School and whose eponymous blog (tagline: Don’t you love Althouse?) is often one of Technorati’s Top 25. Being able to connect with “the real world” is another potent lure. “In academia, you talk to a fairly small group of people and become insulated from real criticism,” says Professor Althouse, who regularly ruffles feathers on her blog. “Of course, not everyone wants to do that because their ideas will be ripped and pulled apart.”

Online, professors are often highly political, deeply personal and, per the format’s wont, downright snarky in ways they are not in the classroom. Some academic blogs are pure polemic; some are substantive and scholarly, bringing to the national conversation a bit of policy perspective grounded in actual research and expertise. Some speak to their students; most aim for the widest of audiences. What the below blogs share, for better or worse, is influence.

ALTHOUSE
Professor: Ann Althouse, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Law School
Bent: “I consider myself fairly moderate — I even voted for Obama, though I’m perceived by people on the left as very right wing.”

Sample: "By the way, what is 'hands-on interdisciplinary study'? Do we get to fondle a sociologist?"

Ann Althouse enjoys courting controversy. Part of her appeal may be her willingness to tweak the left. She defended Glenn Beck’s right to attack Frances Fox Piven, the left-wing City University of New York sociologist, and poked fun at the American Sociological Association.

When she first started blogging, other bloggers were taken aback: “You’re a law professor,” they told her. “You can’t say that!”

Her Internet life and her academic life, however, occupy largely separate silos. “I’m more vigorous, mocking and deliberately humorous online,” she says. “But I would never make fun of a student or tear one down.”

She adds: “I don’t have people coming up to me at the law school saying, ‘Oh, that was an interesting post.’ It seems silly but it’s almost like they think they’re reading a secret diary of mine and they’re not supposed to talk about it.” But, she says, “I would like it if they did.”
Her offline and online worlds did intertwine, intimately and famously. After a flirtation with one of her commenters, a garden designer in Cincinnati, the two finally met face to face. They married in 2009.

**INSTAPUNDIT**
Professor: Glenn Reynolds, University of Tennessee College of Law
Bent: “I used to be a card-carrying libertarian. Now I’m a libertarian transhumanist.”

Sample: "I think preparing for climate-change apocalypse is just one step shy of getting ready for the zombie hordes, but whatever."

Founded in 2001, Instapundit is the apotheosis of academic blogs, the inspiration for many that have followed. Professor Reynolds is still surprised: “I get e-mails from people who I think of as much bigger deals than me, and they’re trying to get attention by having me link to something on my blog.” He describes his readers as “people on Capitol Hill,” “technogeeks” and “a truck driver who e-mails me regularly from the road.”

While the blog gets up to 14 million page visits a month, it is also a “thought leader” in social networking circles, as measured by klout.com. Instapundit actually reads more like Twitter feed than academic discourse, with a relentlessly updated selection of links to sites and news bytes that Professor Reynolds agrees with, disagrees with or despises. Expect pithy annotation to links, including jabs at the culture and President Obama and defense of the Tea Party. One regular item, “Higher Education Bubble Update,” critiques academia.

“Prior to blogging, I was an inveterate letter-to-the-editor writer,” says Professor Reynolds, who teaches Internet law. One dean told him he considered the blog to be scholarship. “His theory was that experimenting with a new form of communication was a kind of research,” he recalls, “which I thought was uncommonly generous.”

**THE VOLOKH CONSPIRACY**
Professors: Eugene Volokh, University of California, Los Angeles, School of Law, and various others
Bent: “Libertarianish conservative or conservativish libertarian.”
Sample: “This time they are pro-Israel thugs as opposed to extremist Muslim thugs (and various other thugs), but thugs are thugs.”

“I was a loyal reader of Instapundit,” Professor Volokh says. “I had co-written an article with Reynolds and would e-mail him various story suggestions and eventually he said, ‘Get your own blog!’ ” Professor Volokh not only started his own blog, he also recruited his brother Sasha, a professor at Emory Law School, and 17 others through “a closely guarded selection process.”

Focused on free speech, gun rights and constitutional law — with the occasional personal digression, favorite recipe or discourse on a popular song thrown in — the Volokh Conspiracy is fairly consistent in its libertarian point of view. (One recent posting — a court decision that air pistols are not arms under the Second Amendment — happened to land next to an advertisement for a video game that featured a buxom mercenary holding a semiautomatic.)

The blog routinely figures in Technorati’s Top 100, and is among the most cited of the many legal blogs out there. The best part, Professor Volokh says, is exposing the public to legal experts not otherwise accessible. And “it’s just fun. I blog a joke and feel the reward of reading, ‘That’s a funny thing Volokh said.’ ”

CROOKED TIMBER
Professors: Various
Bent: “Social Democratic leaning” (says Kieran Healy).

Sample: “I guess if you use fake facts it’s easier to write editorials in favor of unlimited and unaccountable state power to detain U.S. citizens” (writes Henry Farrell).

Crooked Timber is sometimes considered the liberal equivalent of the Volokh Conspiracy (during Crooked Timber’s first few years, back-and-forths between the two sites would often brew). But it’s heavy on philosophers and social scientists — with not a law professor among the 17 regular contributors. And, emphasizes Dr. Healy, a professor of sociology at Duke, “There’s not a party line here. We’re really a loose affiliation of people who like to read each other’s stuff.” Many of the bloggers have never even met.
The blog’s title stems from the Kant quotation “Out of the crooked timber of humanity no straight thing was ever made,” and it has built a reputation as an intellectual global powerhouse, with members from the University of Bristol, University of Rotterdam and National University of Singapore. Others: Michael Bérubé, professor of literature at Penn State; Henry Farrell, professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University; and Eszter Hargittai, professor of communications at Northwestern.

“On lots of other blogs, you have people going off on rants,” Dr. Hargittai says. “But we have experts in different fields, so you get an expert perspective on a wide range of topics, which is pretty exciting. The people here think about these topics for a living.”

**GREG MANKIW’S BLOG**  
Professor: N. Gregory Mankiw, economics, Harvard  
Bent: “Slightly right-of-center mainstream.”

Sample: “Chapter 7 of my favorite textbook has a case study about whether there should be a market for kidneys. A similar issue is now making its way through the U.S. court system.”

Dr. Mankiw’s blog has a professorial feel, alternating chatty bits on macroeconomics with advice for first-year students, suggestions for class discussions and links to textbooks he likes.

The site evolved from the mass e-mails he was sending to point his students to interesting articles. “By and large, they enjoyed it, though some thought it was information overload,” Dr. Mankiw says. But most were eager to read anything they could get their hands on by Professor Mankiw.

Even before he turned to blogging, Dr. Mankiw was a star at Harvard. He has bobbed in and out of politics, and was chairman of George W. Bush’s Council of Economic Advisers. He writes economics columns for the New York Times business pages and is author of a widely used textbook.

Expanding to a blog platform, which he did four years ago, seemed logical. “It helps my students, it helps textbook sales, my publisher loves it,” he
Professor Cole began blogging in response to Sept. 11. “As a Middle East expert who had lived for a long time in the Middle East, South Asia and Pakistan and who worked for years at a newspaper in Beirut, I had a lot of things to say and a lot of people had questions,” he says. “If somebody wanted to know about the context of Al Qaeda, I could answer.”

But the architecture of e-mail was unreasonably onerous, and thus, the blog evolved. At first, it was merely an archive of his old e-mails, which students would regularly request. Then he’d see an interesting Arabic-language newspaper article and paraphrase it on the site. With the war on Iraq, his writing, readership and public profile exploded. “A lot of students take my class because they’ve seen me on ‘Colbert,’” he says.

Academics are uniquely positioned as bloggers, Dr. Cole believes. “People value the information and analysis more than my stray opinions,” he says. “I present information that I can dig out because of my academic expertise, language knowledge and cultural knowledge that’s not present in other news reporting.”

While he strives for a neutral tone in the classroom, online “you do let your flag fly,” he says. “Good blogging involves attitude and snark.”

**THE BECKER-POSNER BLOG**

Professors: Gary S. Becker, economics and sociology, University of Chicago Graduate School of Business; Richard A. Posner, University of Chicago Law School

Bent: “Relatively small government — private sector is preferable over public sector solutions” (says Dr. Becker).
Sample: “The right to bargain collectively should be available to
government workers. Yet since these workers face only limited competition
from the private sector … they should not have the monopoly power that
comes with the right to strike. Regrettably, many government unions do
have this option” (writes Dr. Becker).

In 2004, after 19 years as a BusinessWeek columnist, Professor Becker hung
up his print hat and asked his longtime friend Richard Posner — a federal
judge and author of more than 40 books — to join him on a blog. “We
would be free of copy editors,” Dr. Becker says. “We wouldn’t have a strict
length restriction, we could write about what we want.”

Defying the somewhat loose definition of a blog — an online journal
obsessively updated — Becker-Posner offers one post from each professor a
week. “I hope to analyze a problem using good economic sense and relevant
data, but a lot less formally and with a lot less math” than in a lecture, Dr.
Becker says.

Much of their current discussions concern the faltering economy, but they
will digress to ask whether women’s earning power will surpass men’s or to
analyze the relationship between Catholicism and contraception.

“I’ve heard from parents who read it that the blog is one of the reasons they
want their children to come to the University of Chicago,” Dr. Becker says,
echoing other professors who blog.

Dr. Becker returns the compliment to his readers. “I always look at the
comments,” he says. “Sometimes, they make points I wish I had made
myself.”

Pamela Paul is an editor in The Times Book Review.