Committees at East Carolina University are working on plans for reorganizing and consolidating the university's academic structure in the face of looming budget cuts. ECU could lose up to $60 million if a 20 percent base cut is applied to its state funding.

A preliminary proposal to split the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and close up to three other colleges was presented at the April 19 Faculty Senate meeting by the Educational Policies and Planning Committee. Chancellor Steve Ballard charged the committee with developing consolidation options during his state of the university address in February.

The university's biggest college would be split into the College of Arts and Humanities and the College of Physical, Biological and Social Sciences. Schools in the Colleges of Fine Arts and Communication, Health and Human Performance and Human Ecology would be moved to those or other existing colleges.

The plan drew concern from faculty at the senate meeting and at a special forum held April 26.
“This will gut the liberal arts and that's the soul of the university,” said Mark Taggart, former faculty chair and associate professor in the school of music.
“This is a starting point,” said committee chair Scott Gordon, associate professor of exercise and sports science.

The proposal does not include estimates of money saved or jobs cut. A second committee is charged with providing a cost analysis.

“It is important to note that this report represents only the beginning of the campus evaluation process,” Ballard wrote. “There will be many opportunities for campus input and feedback. There will also be rigorous scrutiny and review.”

“ECU is the only campus in the UNC system where the administration has asked faculty to originate proposals,” Gordon said.

The next step is a cost-benefit analysis from a newly formed Program Prioritization Committee, which will include faculty, vice chancellors, deans and staff representatives.

“I expect this committee to work for several weeks to several months unless we are forced to make budget decisions at an earlier time — I do not anticipate that scenario,” Ballard wrote.

Once the committee is finished, all options will be assessed by the chancellor's executive council, the Faculty Senate officers and the Board of Trustees.

The full preliminary proposal is available under “ECU News” at www.ecu.edu.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
ECU's 1961 champions relive NAIA baseball title

BY JAVIER SERNA - Staff Writer

GREENVILLE—It has been 50 years, but time has only made what East Carolina's baseball team did in 1961 even more impressive.

The '61 East Carolina team, which won the NAIA national championship that year, was honored before the 2011 Pirates lost 5-0 to Southern Miss at Clark-LeClair Stadium on Saturday.

Nine members of the '61 team, which were the first national champions in the school's history, threw out a ceremonial pitch simultaneously before the game.

The Pirates managed their title with only 13 players - eight position players, an extra catcher and four pitchers - and a coach.

The starting shortstop, Glenn Bass, who went on to play in the NFL, was injured after the first game in the NAIA World Series, and the Pirates played the rest of the series with 12 players.

"The school couldn't afford to fly any more players [to the series]," said pitcher Earl Boykin, who lives in Wilson.

The tournament was held in Sioux City, Iowa.

Most of the other teams had 18 to 24 players, Boykin said.

Boykin, watching Saturday's ECU game from the Pirate Club suite, had 15 strikeouts in an 11-3 win over Omaha in second round in 1961.

But he motioned over to teammate Larry Crayton, the championship MVP, who had 19 strikeouts the night before against Grambling, and then recorded the final out against Sacramento State to take the title.

"He was the hero," Boykin said of Crayton, who played left field when he wasn't pitching.
Saturday stood as the team's annual reunion.

For the past 10 years or so, the team has gotten together every spring, usually for an East Carolina baseball game, said Wally Cockrell, the team's center fielder, who has taken charge in getting everyone together every year.

"I just send out the email," he said.

Cockrell said he's reflected on the memory and the excitement of that moment plenty.

"More meaningful to me is what we were able to accomplish with 12 guys," he said.
Pirates’ Harris selected by Cowboys
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 1, 2011

The streak of East Carolina players being selected in the NFL draft continued on Saturday when Pirate receiver and return specialist Dwayne Harris was picked by the Dallas Cowboys in the sixth round.

The Pirates have had at least one player chosen in the last six consecutive years and in 17 of the past 22 drafts.

Harris, who was a first-team All-Conference USA selection as a wide receiver and punt returner in 2010, set Pirates' single-season records with 1,123 receiving yards and 101 receptions as a senior.

He became one of only three ECU pass catchers to record more than 1,000 receiving yards in a season and the only one with 90 or more grabs during a season.

In the East Carolina career record books, Harris established program-best marks for receptions (268) and receiving yards (3,001) and is the only Pirate to ever surpass the 2,000-yard milestone. He also ranks second on the program list in career touchdown catches with 20.

— ECU Media Relations
Revisiting Hope, sharing success
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 1, 2011

Derita Knox wanted to come to this reunion for some of the same reasons that most people go to these kinds of things: to see who had gained weight and who had hair.

But this was no class reunion with showboaters and enviers. It was more like a family reunion of those related by cancer — of those who are glad for others' success because it reminds them that they, too, have a chance. And it was a time to revisit a place called Hope.

More than 100 former patients and caregivers returned to Greenville's McConnell-Raab Hope Lodge on Saturday for its ninth annual reunion. Opened in May 2002 and named for Dr. William McConnell and his wife Dr. Mary Raab-McConnell, it is one of 31 such havens the American Cancer Society operates nationwide for adults being treated for cancer.

“If you're sick and you're getting cancer treatment, you're going to be happier at home,” Hope Lodge Manager David T. Roscoe said. “There's no place like home, but we try to make this as much like home as we can.”

More than 700 people, some from as far away as Texas, Oregon and Canada, have stayed in one of its 20 bedrooms. But most of the people who have called this 27,000-square-foot house a temporary home are from towns throughout northeastern North Carolina — towns from which they could easily commute to Greenville if they weren't having to endure treatment for cancer.

Over the last several years, Harrison Metcalf had grown accustomed to the daily drive from his home in Bath to his job as a purchasing specialist at East Carolina University.
But when he was diagnosed with cancer last summer, the hourlong trip seemed like a never-ending journey. He and his wife checked into the Hope Lodge to stay while Metcalf went through 26 sessions of radiation and chemotherapy.

“That's been a real godsend for us,” Metcalf said. “If you can just imagine, you're so weak after those treatments, a lot of times you have nausea. You can go a five-minute drive (to Hope Lodge).

“There's no place that I've been that's more caring, more friendly or more willing to just take you by the hand or hug your neck or pray for you,” he said. “The people are almost like angels. ... They treat you like family.”

There is no charge for patients and caregivers to stay at the lodge. All residents have to do is provide their own food, though community volunteers often come in to prepare meals. The Hope Lodge makes available everything from morning coffee and the daily newspaper to transportation to treatments.

“We don't collect insurance,” Roscoe said. “We don't do Medicare, Medicaid. We don't even ask for a donation.”

Free sounded like a four-letter word to Derita Knox of Jacksonville, who stayed at Hope Lodge from September through November 2009. Before she saw the lodge, she worried that the place would be a dump.

“The only reason I hesitated was when they said it was free,” she said. “You know how free things normally are.”

The Hope Lodge exceeded her expectations, with a private bath for each of its 20 guest suites, a living room with piano and fireplace, a game room, television room (in addition to televisions in each suite), computer work stations, washers and dryers, a common kitchen (with four ovens), a library and a courtyard garden.

“It was like being at a high-priced resort to us,” said Faye Kelly of Newton Grove, who stayed at the lodge with her husband, Roscoe, while he was undergoing treatment for cancer. “It was beautiful. You had all the conveniences you could think of.

“To tell you the truth, I dreaded leaving from up there,” she said. “We had a good time, as good a time as you can when somebody's sick like that.”

It seems unthinkable that someone could remember any part of cancer treatment as a good time, but David Roscoe hears similar sentiments from others who have stayed at Hope Lodge.

“This place is so special to these people,” he said. “There's kind of a magic here. In spite of the difficulties ... the thing is when they come in here, they have hope and it's a happy place. Even though they're not feeling good, they're able to generate a smile.”

Barbara Matthews of Ahoskie felt she had little choice but to grin and bear it when she came to the Hope Lodge for seven and a half weeks last year. Her home was 65 miles
from Greenville and her husband could not be away from the farm every day to drive her to treatments.

“I didn't want to stay, not because of the lodge,” she said. “I was 74 years old at the time and I'd never been away from home.

“My girls said, ‘Well just pretend you're at a college dorm,’” Matthews recalled. “I said, ‘I'm a little bit too old for that.’”

She got off to a bad start, arriving at the lodge in the pouring rain, having forgotten her hand lotion as well as her toothbrush and toothpaste. Unfazed, the staff offered her replacements and asked if there was anything else she needed.

“From the volunteers to the staff, they just do everything,” Matthews said. “If cancer wasn't so serious, the Hope Lodge almost makes it fun.

“By the time my time was up and I had to come home, I decided I'd rather stay,” she said, laughing. “I told them I was going to hide in the closet somewhere.

“I owe my life to the American Cancer Society and to the Hope Lodge.”

Such responses of gratitude are not uncommon. Roscoe said nearly a quarter of people who stay there could not have received their cancer treatment had it not been for Hope Lodge. Many patients tell him they simply could not have afforded a hotel or been able to endure the daily travel.

Families like the Kellys still drive by whenever they're in town, often stopping in just to say “hello.”

“There's not a week goes by, I don't think, that we don't have some prior guest who has come to the hospital for a checkup and they stop in,” Roscoe said.

It is certainly not only the place they want to see but the people. After weeks and even months of being together, staff, volunteers and patients have become like family, which is why an annual reunion seemed a fitting thing to do.

Knox attended last year and was happy to see one of her Hope Lodge friends had gained weight after his treatments and looked much healthier. Others had seen their hair grow back.

“It's like any other reunion ... you're glad to see people,” she said. “To me, it's just like that.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or 252-329-9578.
A neck plate is seen etched with the name of Stevie Ray Vaughan on one of his signature Fender model guitars during an auction of over 300 acoustic and electric guitars, basses and amplifiers in the Country Boys Auction & Realty warehouse on N.C. Highway 264 in Washington, NC, Saturday, April 30, 2011. The guitars and equipment belonged to two collectors and are being sold for the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Court. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

Guitar collection strikes a chord
By Mark Rutledge
The Daily Reflector
Monday, May 2, 2011

WASHINGTON, N.C. — Harley Dartt was like a kid in a candy store at Saturday's mega guitar auction.

“They could have charged me $25 to come in here and play these guitars,” the assistant director of East Carolina University's School of Music said, “and I would have paid it. It's amazing to me to just be able to pick up a $30,000 guitar and sit in the floor and play it.”

Dartt was among roughly 300 guitar players, dealers and enthusiasts who turned out for the largest guitar auction any of them had ever seen at Country Boys Auction & Realty — and that doesn't include online bidders from all over the world. The event liquidated 376 guitars from two private collectors for the U.S. Federal Bankruptcy Court.

From court documents online, it appears that most of the instruments had been owned by Greg Sipe of Chesapeake, Va. In a 2008 article in The Virginian-Pilot newspaper, the collector talked about his passion for guitars that gave sound to the iconic rock music he grew up with.

Sipe is pictured in the article with a Gibson acoustic guitar he had custom made with cover art from the Led Zeppelin III album. According to the article, the band's guitarist, Jimmy Page, once met with Sipe to have a look at the guitar, which Sipe paid about $11,000 to have made.

The guitar sold in Saturday's auction for $6,000.
That one and most of the instruments at the auction were in pristine condition. Most were signature series, some autographed by the artists who inspired them. More than 100 Gibson Les Paul electric guitars were in the mix, including specialty models styled for anything from Spiderman to Dale Earnhardt and even a map of the United States.

Beginning Friday, potential buyers began milling about in the auction house, pulling shiny instruments from open cases to pluck a few notes or strum complete compositions.

“I've made some new friends in here,” said Dartt, who spent several hours playing guitars during Friday's preview session. “You can't hear a guitar well when you're playing it, so there was a lot of 'I'll play that guitar for you, and you can play this one for me.'”

The sheer volume of guitars being sold would have made the sale interesting enough, but it was the quality and collectable nature of the instruments that drew one of the nation's biggest dealers to the auction.

“This is a big deal,” said Sam Ash, chief operating officer of Sam Ash Music Stores. “These are custom, one-of-a-kind specialty guitars. I flew in from New York to be here. We have four representatives here.”

Among models that drew Ash to the sale was Gibson's replica of Jimmy Page's signature EDS-1275 Double Neck Guitar.

“You just can't get those anymore,” Ash said, “and there are three of them here.” Ash was hoping to score 150 guitars at the auction. “There are about 100 that I want individually,” he said.

Although he didn't expect to actually leave the building with that many guitars, Ash said the ones he did get will be temporarily on display at his music store in Raleigh. North Carolina artists and guitar makers were represented as well. Greenville jazz guitarist Steve Creech saw a Gibson Tal Farlow guitar in the sale. Farlow was a jazz guitarist from Greensboro known as the “Octopus” because of his long fingers.

“He was one of the top-10 jazz guitarists of all time,” Creech said.

Dartt had his eye on a few McInturff guitars in the collection. The prized electric models are made by North Carolina luthier Terry McInturff and used by the likes of Eric Clapton and Jeff Beck.

“They retail for $8,000 to $9,000,” he said. “You won't find a better quality instrument anywhere.”

Dartt wasn't expecting to outbid any of the heavy hitters Saturday. He seemed happy to have just been invited to the party.

“I bet I played 200 guitars yesterday,” he said. “This has been one of the largest get-togethers of guitarists I've ever seen.”

Contact Mark Rutledge at mrutledge@reflector.com or 252-329-9575
Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, and Dr. Michael Rotondo, chairman of surgery at ECU, recently were inducted into the prestigious American Surgical Association.

Their induction took place at the association's annual meeting in Boca Raton, Fla. Founded in 1880, the ASA is the nation's oldest and most prestigious surgical organization. Its members include the nation's most prominent surgeons from the country's leading academic medical institutions; many are chairs of the surgery departments at these institutions.
Membership also includes leading surgeons from around the world. Cunningham was named dean at ECU in 2008. Before that, he was chairman of the surgery department at State University of New York-Upstate Medical University. He was a faculty member at ECU from 1981 until leaving in 2002 for SUNY.

Rotondo came to ECU in 1999 from the University of Pennsylvania to serve as chief of the section of trauma and surgical critical care in the Department of Surgery. He was named chairman of surgery in 2005 and is also director of the Center of Excellence for Trauma and Surgical Critical Care of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina and its flagship, Pitt County Memorial Hospital in Greenville.
Too often medical liability reform is perceived as just a contest of wills between physicians and trial lawyers, when really it is a matter of shaping public policy concerning health care delivery. Changes must be made now to ensure that the uninsured and insured receive the best possible care at the most reasonable cost. To avoid or deny change is putting health care at risk, along with every patient in North Carolina.

By adopting the provisions of S.B. 33 — Medical Liability Reforms — the General Assembly will help to control health care costs and provide access to health care for all North Carolinians, especially in medically underserved areas of the state where many of our most vulnerable citizens live. These reforms will parallel on-going efforts to increase patient safety and improve quality of care in hospitals, clinics and private practices.

A study by the Congressional Budget Office shows that medical liability reform will save taxpayers $54 billion over the next decade, with tort reform trimming an additional $3.5 billion in liability insurance premiums. The bipartisan budget-deficit commission chaired by North Carolina's Erskine Bowles found that reforms would save at least $17 billion. It recommended that Congress consider enacting a nationwide cap on noneconomic damages in medical malpractice cases, which are awarded for subjective, unquantifiable harms such as pain and suffering.

The N.C. House is considering the bill, with a $500,000 cap on non-economic damages and would be adjusted periodically for inflation. Caps are not new or unusual — more than half of the states have set a limit, many at the lower threshold of $250,000.
In more than 31 years of practicing medicine and mentoring medical students, I am keenly aware that mistakes are made and that patients can be hurt. However, studies have shown that a large majority of mistakes are not due to bad doctors, but often involve poor outcomes attributable to bad communication and poor physician-patient relationships. We are all human and honest mistakes do happen. When they do, patients should be compensated fairly.

As a member of the North Carolina Medical Society, I am well aware of the need to improve patient safety. But defensive medicine, the use of unnecessary medical tests and procedures to ward off potential lawsuits, serves only to drive up health care costs. Nationally, three of four doctors indicate they perform extra medical tests and procedures to avoid lawsuits. Physicians too often feel compelled to practice defensive medicine because of the constant threat of malpractice lawsuits and runaway jury verdicts. It would be far more beneficial to redirect those dollars toward patient care and disease prevention.

In recent years, the North Carolina Medical Society has successfully supported raising physicians' licensing fees to pay for more investigators and prosecutors for the separate state Medical Board, which licenses and disciplines physicians who practice in North Carolina. We also endorsed a state law that encourages doctors who make mistakes to take responsibility and apologize to their patients.

Additionally the Society's Foundation and Leadership College have undertaken initiatives to improve the quality of health care. We have many physicians involved with the development of electronic health records to help practices implement and measure quality improvements. We all want the best for our patients.

S.B. 33 also contains provisions to simplify medical malpractice trials to allow periodic payment of future economic losses, allow judges to set reasonable appeal bonds, strengthen expert witness procedures and establish a more realistic standard of fault for emergency room physicians, who are required by federal law to treat everyone who shows up, regardless of their ability to pay, condition or medical history.

I want to recognize and thank state Sen. Louis Pate, R-Greene, Pitt and Wayne, for co-sponsoring S.B. 33, so that we can lower health care costs and improve patient access to health care in our great state. I urge you to let Pate and other legislators know that it is time we took these steps to help ensure that we have a strong health care system.

Dr. Gloria D. Frelix is a radiation oncologist at the Brody School of Medicine and a member of the North Carolina Medical Society.
East Carolina University marked its 104th year by celebrating teaching, research and service during its annual Founders Day and University Awards Celebration held Tuesday in Hendrix Theatre. Faculty, staff, students and a former chancellor were among those recognized for their achievements.

Dr. Richard Eakin, chancellor of ECU from 1987-2001, was awarded the inaugural James R. Talton Jr. Leadership Award. During his years leading the university, East Carolina grew by 5,000 students, achieved doctoral status and saw the passage of a bond referendum responsible for the construction of the new Health Sciences Building.

After listing the 15 nominees for the new award recognizing a servant leader on campus, Chancellor Steve Ballard said as he called Eakin to the stage, “This person is no stranger to leadership at East Carolina University; he served 14 amazing years as its chancellor.”

After the event, Eakin said of the award, “It was very humbling. The first time this award has been given and Mr. Talton was a member of the Board of Trustees when I was chancellor. It's very touching to have received this first award.”

Eakin is still active on campus; he is the interim dean for the Honors College. “It's a really wonderful opportunity. The college is new; we have terrific students; and I believe the future is very bright for the Honors College,” he said.

Another new award presented at this year's ceremony was for scholarship of engagement. Dr. Deirdre Mageean, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies, explained the award will annually recognize a faculty member for achievement in a sustained commitment to partnered scholarly endeavors with communities. “Scholars such as these help ECU accomplish its mission to be a national model for public service,” she said.

The first recipient of the award was Dr. Carmen Russoniello of the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies in the College of Health and Human Performance.
Other awards presented during the ceremony included:

The UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest teaching award given at the university: Dr. John W. Howard III, associate professor of communication in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, is the ECU recipient.

Philip Dixon, a member of the UNC Board of Governors, presented Howard his award, which recognizes the sustained record of distinguished teaching by a tenured faculty member. He also received a citation and a one-time award of $7,500.

Howard said, “The recognition I'm receiving today is not mine alone. I'm not self-made, but a product of a community that has encouraged and fostered my efforts.

“The most inspiring and enriching people that I work with are my students. With them I have grown. With them I have grown the most. With them I have grown the best. They challenge me and lead me to reflect and inspire me to do more. I'm forever indebted to my students,” he said.

The Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Awards recognizes and supports excellent teaching at each of the 16 constituent universities in the UNC system. Six recipients were selected: Dr. Robert James Campbell, Dept. of Health Sciences and Information Management, College of Allied Health Sciences; Dr. Subodh K. Dutta, Dept. of Chemistry, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Donald J. Fletcher, Dept. of Anatomy and Cell Biology, Brody School of Medicine; Dr. John Kerbs, Dept. of Criminal Justice, College of Human Ecology; Dr. Ravi Paul, Dept. of Management Information Systems, College of Business; and Dr. Peggy H. Yates, Dept. of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education.

ECU Scholar-Teacher Awards recognizing outstanding faculty members who integrate scholarship and teaching. On April 7, the award recipients were recognized at a symposium and luncheon during which each scholar-teacher presented about their integrated approach to research and creative activity in teaching.

Recipients were Dr. Jami L. Jones, Dept. of Library Science, College of Education; Dr. John W. Howard III, School of Communication, College of Fine Arts and Communication; Dr. Carmel Parker White, Dept. of Child Development and Family Relations, College of Human Ecology; Dr. Sloane C. Burke, Dept. of Health Education and Promotion, College of Health and Human Performance; Dr. Elaine S. Scott, Dept. of Graduate Nursing Science, College of Nursing; Dr. Jianchu (Jason) Yao, Dept. of Engineering, College of Technology and Computer Science; Dr. Ravi Paul, Dept. of Management Information Systems, College of Business; Dr. Roger A. Rulifson, Dept. of Biology, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, and senior scientist for the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy; and Dr. Thomas W. Crawford, Dept. of Geography, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.
The East Carolina Alumni Association Awards are supported annually by donations to the Alumni Association. Sixteen faculty members were nominated for the awards with one designated as the Robert L. Jones award recipient. Dr. Ravi Paul in the Dept. of Management Information Systems in the College of Business was selected as the Robert L. Jones recipient. The East Carolina Alumni Association Award recipients were Ann F. Borisoff, Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and Dr. Deborah Thomson, School of Communication, College of Fine Arts and Communication.

The Max Ray Joyner Award for Faculty Service through Continuing Education honors a faculty member who has shown commitment and enthusiasm in teaching and mentoring off-campus students and who has demonstrated excellence in the delivery of courses through Continuing Studies. This year there were 15 nominees with five finalists. Clayton Sessoms, director of the Division of Continuing Studies, presented this year's award to Dr. Kenneth MacLeod, Dept. of Management and Supply Chain Management, College of Business.

Lifetime and Five-Year Achievement Awards for Research or Creative Activity were presented by Vice Chancellor Mageean to three faculty members. The recipients were recognized in early April during Research and Creative Achievement week.

Dr. William Joel Meggs of the Dept. of Emergency Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine was named recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award. Recipients of the Five-Year Achievement Awards were Dr. Jason Bond of the Dept. of Biology and Dr. Chris Riley-Tullman of the Dept. of Psychology, both in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

Mageean also recognized five faculty members who have received U.S. patents in the last year: Dr. George Sigounas, Dept. of Internal Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine; Drs. Mike Rastatter, Joe Kalinowski and Andrew Stuart, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Allied Health Sciences; and Dr. Gregg Givens, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, College of Allied Health Sciences.

**ECU Honors College moves into new home**

University officials on Tuesday celebrated the re-opening of the Mamie Jenkins Building as the home of the ECU Honors College with a ribbon cutting and a history lesson. The building, which opened in 1909, was one of the original buildings on the campus of East Carolina Teachers College, and a renovation project recently was completed at a cost of about $340,000. The general contractor for the project was WIMCO Corp. of Washington, N.C.

Mamie Jenkins taught English at ECTC from 1909 until 1946. While on the faculty, she edited the Training School Quarterly, advised the staff of the Tecoan (yearbook), and originated the school motto “To Serve.”
Speakers at the ceremony were Chancellor Steve Ballard; Chancellor emeritus Richard Eakin, who is serving as interim dean of the college; and Robert Brinkley, a member of the ECU Board of Trustees, who has been a strong advocate for the college. About 440 students are enrolled in the college.

**Jazz concert to benefit scholarship**

A jazz concert on May 7 will feature two local bands raising money for a new Emerald City Big Band/ECU Friends of Jazz Rose High Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to a deserving Rose High graduate who plans to pursue a music degree at the ECU School of Music, according to Ed Wheatley, past president of the Friends of Jazz at ECU and a member of its board of directors.

The Friends of Jazz was co-founded by Public Radio East personality Tom “The Jazzman” Mallison and Wheatley, who is ECU professor emeritus and jazz trumpeter. Mallison is the president of the Friends of Jazz, which has created several ECU jazz scholarships.

Dr. Chris Buddo, director of the School of Music, said, “We are extremely grateful to the Emerald City Big Band, the Rose High Jazz Band, and to our Friends of Jazz members for coming together to support a scholarship for a deserving Rose High student. We are thrilled about their plans to make this joint concert an annual spring jazz event to follow April's Billy Taylor Jazz Festival.”

The concert will begin with the J.H. Rose Jazz Band, which has long been known for the quality of its music ensembles, Wheatley said. Under the direction of Russell Knight, the Rose Jazz Band has matured into one of the most outstanding high school jazz ensembles in the state, he added.

Greenville's swinging Emerald City Big Band is made up of talented and experienced performers and is under the direction of saxophonist Danny Wunker, who is an ECU School of Music graduate and is also music director at Chicod School.

The music begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 7 at the Rose High Performing Arts Center, 600 W. Arlington Blvd. Greenville. Tickets are $10 per person and are available at the door.

**Upcoming Event:**

**Friday:** United States Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus will deliver the spring 2011 ECU commencement address Friday in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The ceremony begins with the processional at 9 a.m.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on other ECU upcoming activities.
The University of North Carolina is unique in that its establishment paralleled our nation's founding: On July 4, 1776, our nation declared its independence, while later that year our state's first constitution called for the promotion of “all useful learning” in “one or more Universities.”

In 1789, the state joined in ratifying the federal Constitution, George Washington was elected the first president and UNC was chartered.

In 1793, Washington was inaugurated for his second term and in Chapel Hill the cornerstone was laid for Old East, the first building on a state university campus.

In 1900, UNC President Francis Venable said “The University of a State, when it truly fulfills its duty, should be its chief strength and glory, a light for the people.”

If Venable could visit today he would be astonished with the transformation in his state since 1900. An inward-looking, segregated society dependent on agriculture and low-tech industries has been replaced by a vibrant diversified society with an innovative global economy. He could take pride in seeing how graduates and faculty from the state's universities had joined other public-spirited citizens in great movements to provide good schools, good roads, good health, renowned research universities, outstanding public university medical centers at Chapel Hill and Greenville, the incomparable Research Triangle Park and global industries including pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.
But Venable would not be surprised to find today some who are willing to sacrifice the university system for short-term gains.

As he warned in 1900: “The founders of this State in their sturdy independence and far-seeing wisdom ... while the struggle for freedom was still upon them, provided for the establishment of this University — the chief safeguard of their children against the loss of those liberties for which they fought ... The citizens of this State cannot afford to have this University narrowed down to the political platform of any one party, to the creed of a single sect, to the economic belief of any individual philanthropist.”

In the bleak 1930s, UNC President Frank Porter Graham reminded us that decisions made during a depression are a real test of our values and that depressions are temporary while education permanently determines our future.

In recent years the university system has diligently responded to major appropriation cuts by improving efficiency and eliminating redundancies. Today, however, the system is comparable to a patient who is dealing with a life-threatening illness. We would not think of referring such a patient to a physician whose only therapeutic tool is the long-discredited technique of bloodletting. Therapies we must be willing to use to halt the continuing hemorrhage of the lifeblood of the university system include small temporary tax increases.

For the state's citizens and our political leaders this is not a question of which university athletic team or political party we support. Rather it is a question of whether all North Carolinians are willing to share in short-term sacrifices to preserve a university system of inestimable value to our state and its future. If we refuse to use the best combination of therapies available today, our children and their children for years to come will justly condemn us for our lack of vision at a critical time in our history.

William W. McLendon, M.D., is a professor emeritus the UNC School of Medicine.
Fantasia Wakeland of Charlotte, left, acknowledges her friend in a crowd as she and 248 seniors head toward the stage during Sunday's commencement ceremony.

St. Aug's cheers for its seniors and its resilience after storm
BY J. ANDREW CURLISS - staff writer
RALEIGH Misery gave way to exuberance Sunday at St. Augustine's College.

Under clipped and shorn oak trees, their limbs ripped by a tornado that struck the campus two weeks ago, families and faculty cheered as 249 students graduated.

The ceremony, which kicked off the Triangle's busy spring graduation season, showed how far the campus had come and served as a subtle symbol of perseverance.

A tornado hit the campus on April 16, knocking down trees and damaging buildings. But classes went on, and so did graduation.

On Sunday, there was little sign of the difficulty across the historic campus just east of downtown Raleigh. A fence still lay crumpled on the ground in one spot after being torn out by a fallen tree. In another, a set of bleachers rested upside down, tossed there by the wind.
On the quadrangle at the heart of the campus, where hundreds watched the graduation under a glorious sky, almost every tree had broken limbs from the storm.

A major effort has been under way to clean and restore the campus. Last week, Wells Fargo Bank gave $10,000 to the recovery.

"Just two weeks ago, this quad was completely covered with the result and the aftermath," St. Augustine's president, Dianne Boardley Suber, told the audience. "This campus was in upheaval and was significantly impaired. Look around."

Cheers went up at the progress. "We rallied," she said.

Some students had expressed concern immediately after the tornado hit about whether classes should continue. Suber decided to keep the campus going. Across town, at harder-hit Shaw University, classes were cancelled.

On Sunday, there was the usual pomp of a graduation, with degrees going out to dancing, smiling, fist-pumping, arm-raising grads.

The student body president at St. Aug's, Craig Taylor, gave a brief address that mentioned fellow student Roman Caple, who was excluded from the ceremonies by administrators.

There are conflicting accounts as to why. A university spokesman said Caple was trying to "incite" students at a difficult time in regard to the tornado response. Caple said he was encouraging students to bring factual information to the administration's attention.

The students cheered as Taylor mentioned Caple's name. "Although you are not here with us, keep your head to the sky and fly high," Taylor said in a reference to the school's mascot, the Falcons.

In an interview, Taylor said that Caple, a computer science major from Hampton, Va., is the first from his family to graduate and should have been able to walk across the stage.
Still, talk about the tornado did not dominate the day. The feeling among students was of happiness about the accomplishments despite mixed views about whether the school should have continued classes.

"For me, I was glad that we went on and were still operating," Taylor said. The graduates also heard from U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Bailey, whose father was a St. Aug's graduate.

Bailey encouraged the graduates to have a positive attitude about life because, he said, it is a key trait of leaders.

"We cannot change the past," he said. "We cannot change that people will act in a certain way. The only thing we can do is play on the one strength we have - and that is our attitude. Say that, 'I am convinced that 10 percent is what happens to me and 90 percent is how I react to it.'

"So lead the charge, Falcons, and always keep a positive attitude. It will make a difference."

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How to help
St. Augustine's College still needs help to fix up its damaged campus. Gifts are being accepted at: St. Augustine's College Recovery and Restoration Fund c/o North State Bank, 4270 The Circle at North Hills, Raleigh, NC 27609.

A fund also has been established for Shaw University. Donations marked "tornado relief" can be sent to Mechanics and Farmers Bank, 13 E. Hargett St., Raleigh, NC 27601.
Column

**Saunders: St. Aug's says barred grad crossed the line**

BY BARRY SAUNDERS - Staff Writer

Roman Caple won't be participating in St. Augustine's College's commencement exercises Sunday.

He says it's because he exercised his right to free speech. St. Aug's officials say it's because the young man exercised "poor judgment."

"I'm not exactly sure what's going on," Caple told me Friday.

Au contraire, says Marc Newman, a St. Aug's spokesman. Caple knows full well why he won't be allowed to strut across the stage and beam proudly at his family while holding aloft his degree. "He was trying to incite students," Newman said.

Was the dude telling students to take over the administration building? To hold administrators hostage or to, as the late Dr. Timothy Leary instructed an earlier generation, "turn on, tune in, drop out"?

Nah. On Facebook, Caple told fellow Falcons: "Here we go!!!! Students come correct, be prepared, and have supporting documents to back up your statements bcuz SAC will come hard!!! That is all."

Not exactly "Give me liberty or give me death," is it?

Remember a couple of weeks ago when some St. Aug's students demanded that classes be canceled for the rest of the semester because of tornado damage, and the administration countered that storm-related hardships didn't warrant that?

Well, Newman said, President Diane Boardley Suber set up a meeting between Progress Energy representatives and students "to ease their fears and apprehensions."

It was to that meeting that Caple exhorted students to "come correct."
St. Aug's said, "The posts to Facebook during this time left the administration with no other choice than to exclude him from the actual commencement exercise." It also said "there were more incidents involving Mr. Caple that factored into the college's decision."

Yikes. Citing confidentiality laws, no one at St. Aug's would tell me what those incidents were. Caple said he has never received any disciplinary actions from the school.

Whatever else he is "guilty" of, though, one can only hope that it is worse than this. Me? I find young Mr. Caple guilty in this instance only of sloppy grammar and an over-reliance on exclamation marks.

Last week, I lauded St. Aug's for persevering, nay thriving, under trying circumstances.

This time, though, the school overreacted. Officials there surely realize that every school has a student whose main purpose is to rabble rouse or be disruptive.

Perhaps Caple, who will still get his degree, was one of those - a rebel with or without a cause whose "sole purpose," the school said, "was to fuel an already tense situation."

Decades later, I'm convinced that the only reason I marched at Richmond Senior High School in Rockingham was because teachers couldn't bear the prospect of another year of me.

If Caple is so insufferable, St. Aug's should give him his sheepskin along with the other 240 grads, pat him on the back and bid him a fond adieu.

Instead, the school's heavy-handed response turned him into an attention-diverting cause célèbre.

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Above, Richard Norris, 22 of Wilson, holds two of the hockey pucks that are currently in use in Canada that make noise so that visually impaired people can play hockey. At right, those pucks are shown beside two designs that students with textile engineering majors at NCSU came up with and which may replace them.

**The sound of hockey pucks**

BY DAVID BRACKEN - Staff Writer

For most Triangle university students, the end of the academic year means simply having their work evaluated and assigned a letter grade by their professors.

But for eight seniors in N.C. State University's Textile Engineering Program, the true test took place over the weekend on an ice rink in Montreal, Canada.

It was there, at a tournament for visually-impaired hockey players, that two hockey pucks designed by the students were used in game situations.
"They wanted durability but also a slower game speed," said Richard Norris, 22, describing the design parameters of their unusual assignment.

The students, all senior undergrads, are enrolled in a two-semester design class taught by Russell Gorga, an associate professor and the textile engineering program director.

Gorga breaks the students up into smaller teams and assigns them design projects to work on throughout the school year.

In recent years, Gorga has had his students work on projects that are intended to somehow improve the lives of the needy, disabled or handicapped. Several have been sports-related.

Gorga's students will display their completed projects today from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the College of Textiles atrium on Main Campus Drive in Centennial Campus.

The hockey puck project came about after a meeting between Gorga and Mark DeMontis, a blind Canadian hockey player who runs a nonprofit group whose goal is to get more visually-impaired people involved in the sport.

"He had this vision - no pun intended - for kind of integrating the game," Gorga said.

There are three leagues in Canada for visually-impaired players, and each plays with a different puck. All the pucks in current use have problems.

One is a 48-ounce apple juice box that makes a lot of noise but doesn't come anywhere near resembling the feel of a traditional hockey puck. Another is a punctured plastic wagon wheel from a children's toy with piano tuning keys inside.

The challenge to Gorga's students was to come up with a puck design that was simple, cheap and easy to make and that met the requirements of blind players.

That meant the puck had to make a fair amount of noise while it skittered across the ice, and be sturdy enough to withstand the typical pounding it would take during a game.
To get a feel for all the issues, the teams got input from 40 visually-impaired players in Canada.

They met with DeMontis when he was in Raleigh for the NHL All-Star game in late January. And they attended a skate day for students of the Governor Morehead School for the Blind that was held at the temporary ice rink on Fayetteville Street in downtown Raleigh.

**Jangling new designs**

The prototypes developed by the two teams of students share many of the same design principals, even if they look quite different from the outside.

Both are hollowed out aluminum cylinders with four quadrants. Both prototypes sent to Montreal were encased in rubber.

The main difference is in how they make noise. One uses two ball bearings placed inside the cylinder.

"As it moves around it makes a lot of noise," said Cory Bowman, 22, who after graduation is going to work for synthetic yarn maker Unifi in the Rockingham County town of Madison. "It's fairly low-tech, but it's fairly efficient."

The other, slightly larger, prototype uses steel spheres to make a jangling noise while it skitters across the ice.

"It gives it a little bit extra sound," Norris said of his team's design. The two teams still don't know which of their prototypes performed the best in Montreal, and Norris was quick to note that winning isn't really the point.

"We're not treating it as a competition," said Norris, who will soon go to work for Brunson, a recycling company in Marion.

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Elon Poll is a labor of love
BY KEUREN HOLLOMAN - Correspondent
Caller I.D. makes it easy to screen calls, but Hunter Bacot hopes you'll answer the phone.

An associate professor of political science at Elon University, Bacot is director of the Elon University Poll, which conducts an average of five telephone public opinion surveys per year about anything from hurricane preparedness in North Carolina to the president's job performance.

Bacot takes pride in the uniqueness of the poll, which is run primarily by student volunteers. While most polls are funded by a specific client, which often means that only registered voters are surveyed, the Elon Poll is funded by the university, allowing for more neutral questions and for a pool of respondents that includes more than just registered voters.

"Everybody deserves a voice in the process," Bacot said. "We're out there with no allegiance. ... (The information) is not clouded with ideological information and cues."

Bacot, 49, attributes his interest in politics to a heavily political family. His grandfather was sheriff of Mecklenburg County from the 1940s to the 1960s, and his father and brother ran for Charlotte City Council.
"I remember sitting on the tailgate of our station wagon when I was 6 years old pulling out campaign posters and handing them to people and putting them on telephone poles," he said.

It came as no surprise that Bacot studied political science at the UNC-Chapel Hill and to went on to earn a master's degree in public administration from UNC Charlotte and a doctorate in political science from the University of Tennessee.

It was in graduate school that Bacot became interested in polling. As a fellow at an environmental center in the 1980s, he helped put together public opinion surveys about environmental issues.

**Elon was a good fit**

When he was given the opportunity in 2005 to become director of the Elon Poll, Bacot jumped at the chance.

"My wife was working at Elon and she always talked about how nice it was and how good the students were ... and I thought it would be a tremendous opportunity," he said.

Bacot has become the voice of the poll; his commentary is sought after by the likes of The New York Times, National Journal and The Associated Press. He is also well-known on the North Carolina political circuit, giving lectures and presentations about the poll's findings and his own observations about political issues.

Jonathan Kappler, research director of the pro-business research and advocacy group North Carolina FreeEnterprise Foundation, said it often invites Bacot to speak on discussion panels because of his ability to use information from polls and give his unique perspective.

Bacot also teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, usually two classes per semester on topics ranging from an introduction to U.S. government to environmental policy. His favorite, of course, is his public opinion polling class.

"It's a wonderful course from a professional perspective because I know that they're coming in there with cynicism, because everyone thinks people lie to
pollsters. I can see them come in jaded and leave with a different perspective," Bacot said.

Bacot said he also enjoys students' surprise at the difficulty of crafting questions that will get good responses.

"People don't understand how much debate goes into writing a question - a single word can change the meaning" and the kind of responses you get, he said.

**A changing state**

In recent years, North Carolina has become a swing state in national elections, something Bacot attributes largely to the state's changing demographics. For example, he said, Republicans from New England may become independents in the South because they "don't share all the perspectives of a Southern conservative, who is generally more socially conservative."

"There are people moving in from all over the country that bring new perspectives to the area. ... It's fun to watch," he said.

This means that more people are interested in North Carolina polling data, particularly from nonpartisan groups such as Elon.

"The next two to six years in North Carolina are going to be pretty telling about the future of the state politically," Bacot said. "There's a lot of change in what issues are important."
Under the Dome:
Report hints college loan program is needed
From staff reports

A new report says North Carolina's community college students are the nation's least likely to have access to federal loan programs.

The report from the Washington-based Project on Student Debt says North Carolina ranks last in the percentage of community college students with access to federal loans. Such loans are widely considered to be the safest and most affordable, because they have fixed interest rates, flexible repayment plans and consumer protections.

In North Carolina, 57 percent of students do not have access to loans because their colleges do not offer them. Some college leaders have argued that they fear students will default on the loans, jeopardizing colleges' other federal funds.

The issue has been back and forth in the General Assembly. Last year, the legislature required all 58 community colleges to participate in the federal loan program starting in July.

But earlier this year, another bill would have undone that requirement, allowing colleges to continue to opt out of the loan program.

In mid-April, Gov. Bev Perdue vetoed the opt-out bill. So, as it stands now, the colleges will have to offer the loan programs as last year's legislation required.