Acute illness

Eastern North Carolina is facing health crises of epic proportions even as demands for care will explode.

Dr. Paul Cunningham is a soft-spoken man of great passion about his mission and that of the East Carolina University Brody School of Medicine. He is a powerful advocate for the citizens of Eastern North Carolina, and to have such a person in his position has never been more important than it is now.

It's also never been more crucial to have a strong medical school at ECU, an idea that faced many high-powered critics when it was first proposed more than 40 years ago. But the university in Greenville sold the notion to lawmakers by promising to focus on family medicine, and to set as its first priority educating North Carolina doctors who would stay in North Carolina. And guess what? The promise has been kept.

Today, 100 percent of the 78 students in the school are North Carolinians, and 60 percent of the school's graduates remain in the state to practice, a percentage far higher than that of the medical schools at Chapel Hill, Duke and Wake Forest. ECU serves (its teaching doctors also practice) about 29 counties in the east.

A close observer

Cunningham, who has been a general doctor and surgeon, has practiced in Eastern N.C., and has seen up close the poverty that grips the region and the health problems of its people. His visit last week to The News & Observer was to sound alarms about present crises and upcoming ones.

Those alarms cannot be loud enough. Consider the possibility that the epidemic of Type II diabetes, now found far more often than it used to be in children, will only become worse if obesity rates continue to be high, meaning, Cunningham said, that "perhaps 60 to 80 percent of children in Eastern North Carolina will be diabetic in the next 20 years." That, of course, leads to more instances of a multitude of related health problems, including heart disease, kidney failure and other catastrophic illnesses.

"I wonder," Cunningham said in a deeply felt overview of the health care situation in his region, "why some of our doctors want to serve in Nicaragua, where there is a dire need, but they can drive through [Eastern North Carolina] today" and see many of the same problems.

Indeed, primary care doctors, who can diagnose and treat the early stages of chronic illness and help patients modify their lifestyles if they see them early enough, are in short supply everywhere, but particularly in rural areas.

Federal health care reform is supposed to encourage medical students to consider the more general field of practice, modifying a trend that has seen tremendous growth in specialties which typically mean higher compensation for doctors) while family doctors have remained a disproportionate minority.

Partner in reform

So it is clear that with ECU having nearly 20 percent of its graduates going into family medicine, a high figure relatively speaking, the Brody school is well-positioned for a role in carrying out the pending health care reform. (The new law is supposed to give some 38 million additional people access to insurance and thus better to treatment.)

Greater investment, therefore, by the state in the ECU model, and in efforts at the UNC-Chapel Hill medical school to train more primary care doctors, would be a very smart idea.

Cunningham, whose visit in Raleigh was part of a route that was to take him to Wilmington, reeled off the names of the small towns through which he'd be passing, as examples of places that are thinly populated and thus short of convenient medical care.

In addition to Type II diabetes, which often is the result of bad eating habits developed early on, the East also sees the highest rate of cardiovascular disease in the state, and a high rate of HIV/AIDS cases, 20 for every 100,000 people.

The alarms are louder than ever.
Steve Ballard: Proposed budget cuts threaten ECU/UNC mission
Sunday, May 2, 2010
The transformation of eastern North Carolina depends in large part on excellence in health services, more small businesses and a better-trained workforce that is prepared for tomorrow’s jobs. Workforce needs certainly include better teachers, more nurses, qualified engineers, health professionals and a broad range of individuals equipped with business and technical skills. East Carolina University has built our entire mission around these service-oriented functions for the East — it is both our mission and our soul. Unfortunately, the budget cuts that were recently recommended for the next fiscal year will do immediate damage to our academic core and lead us toward mediocrity and the inability to compete.
There is no doubt that East Carolina University, along with the entire UNC system, has done its part to address the state budget crisis. While the system accounts for 13 percent of the General Fund appropriations, it has contributed 29 percent of the budget reversions imposed across state government this fiscal year. As a result, the total cuts across all campuses totaled $300 million. At ECU, we will lose more than $90 million over three years if these cuts remain. These cuts come after dramatic and unprecedented reductions in administrative positions and, at East Carolina, millions of dollars of efficiency improvements. East Carolina cannot continue to bear a disproportionate share of the budget shortfall and at the same time maintain the academic quality of our institution. If this happens, a major economic engine for the East will be permanently damaged.
For the past two years, ECU has taken more than 90 percent of our budget cuts from “non-academic” areas to preserve the quality of our classrooms and the opportunities for our students. We have made all the service and administrative cuts we can; further losses will come directly from the academic core. Effects will include:
The loss of 100 positions, half of them faculty;
Larger classrooms, fewer classes, and, therefore, reduced graduation and retention rates for our students;
We will be less competitive in key science, professional and business programs. Excellent faculty will leave.
We will be forced to slow or stop the growth of programs in economic development and workforce training that are vital to the East.
Further reductions in the Health Sciences can only come by reducing our faculty lines and, therefore, admitting fewer students. This will include programs where virtually all graduates go immediately to well paying jobs in hospitals, as physical therapists, in speech communication and nursing. This occurs at a time when health-care reform requires more family doctors and better primary medical care for 32 million newly insured Americans.
We live in a knowledge-based, technology-driven economy. A strong system of higher education is essential to compete in this global economy. Fortunately, North Carolina has steadily and
systematically built a university system envied across the nation. Let’s work together to maintain our national leadership in this vital element of our state.

Steve Ballard is chancellor of East Carolina University.
Senate primary a puzzler

The Democratic Senate primary is so close and so fluid that it's difficult to figure out what will happen Tuesday.

Several polls suggest Secretary of State Elaine Marshall and former state Sen. Cal Cunningham are in a dead heat, with Chapel Hill attorney Ken Lewis a distant third. But with voter turnout expected to be low, who knows? Will any candidate be able to meet the 40 percent threshold needed to avoid a runoff between the two top finishers?

Last week, Raleigh pollster Tom Jensen thought there was a 60 percent to 70 percent chance that either Marshall or Cunningham would win the nomination outright Tuesday.

Veteran Democratic strategist Gary Pearce also thought a runoff was unlikely. But when we asked the political scientists, they tended to think that a runoff was the most likely scenario. Like everyone else, they were also scratching their heads.

Who was going to turn out at the polls, they wanted to know.

Here is what several of them had to say:

- Kerry Haynie, Duke University political science professor, sees the Senate race as a microcosm of the 2008 Democratic presidential primary.

"You have Lewis, who is an upstart like Obama, Cunningham is like John Edwards. Marshall is an experienced politician like Hillary Clinton with the same vulnerabilities as Hillary Clinton. I can see the race being not unlike what happened in the presidential primary. The black base in this state is behind Ken Lewis, and it could propel him into a runoff."

- When asked his prediction, Tom Eamon, East Carolina University professor, said: "I have no earthly idea." But he expects a runoff. What he finds interesting is the lack of interest in the primary. "It says something about Democratic primaries not being what they used to be," said Eamon, who is finishing a book on Tar Heel politics.

- Steven Greene, N.C. State University professor, thinks there is "a high likelihood of a Marshall-Cunningham runoff." But if one candidate wins 40 percent outright, Greene said Cunningham is the most likely victor. "National parties are not always correct," he said noting that Cunningham had the backing of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. "But when in doubt, follow the money, and Cunningham has the money."

- Charles Prybysy, UNC-Greensboro political science professor, said there could easily be a runoff between Marshall and Cunningham. "But it's not a sure thing," he added.

- David McLennan, Peace College political science and communications professor, sees a runoff with Marshall and Cunningham. He doesn't think the dynamic will change enough for any candidate to get 40 percent. "This is one of those under-the-radar elections that is so polite and so nice it's not causing change that would enable someone to reach 40 percent. There is not enough money to tip the scales."

As for me, I make my predictions once every January and keep my reporter's hat on the rest of the year.

Rob Christensen

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Public art trend thrives

Community effort is aimed at installing works across the county

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

The installation of Grimesland artist Hanna Jubran’s sculpture Friday morning at a central downtown intersection represents what the Pitt County Arts Council hopes will be the first step of a continuing trend.

An initiative is in the works for city and county officials, private donors and the community to get behind an effort aimed at installing works of art across the county. Not all red, flaring steel sculptures the height of a light pole, of course. But supporters believe works of public art enhance the quality of life and branding of a city.

“It builds a pride in your community, it will build a memory for those tourists and it will make our community special,” said Holly Garrett, executive director of the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge. “Anybody can interact with it, give their two cents.”

Carl Rees agrees. As Greenville’s urban planner he’s walking the redevelopment commission and city council through a number of projects containing art components.

A Reidsville artist is currently crafting a memorial gateway and art wall for the former site of the C.M. Eppes High School, the city’s school for Afri-
ART

Continued from A1

Can-American students that became a junior high following integration in 1969 and later burned. Installation by local bricklayers is expected to begin in late June.

"Streetscape improvements in west Greenville and other gateways to the city will likely incorporate art, too. That includes a "monumental sculpture" at the entrance to Evans Street from 10th Street, Rees said.

Installation of public art in the Five Points Plaza to be developed at Fifth and Evans streets — in the form of bicycle racks and benches — is planned. A sculpture also may be installed on the Town Common commemorating a church that stood there until it was torn down in the 1960s.

Funding sources are varied. Jubb is loaning his sculpture to the city for a year under a $1,500 honorarium, which Garriott said barely covers the cost of transport, installation and removal.

Artists are generous, Garriott said, and the exposure is invaluable. Another call for artists will be issued to find a piece for next year. The arts council has led the selection process thus far.

There will also be three benches and three trash cans around that intersection, designed by East Carolina University art students. Rees said the students were offered the same amount it would cost to order the items from a catalog, but each is one-of-a-kind.

Eppes memorial artist Brad Spencer was selected from multiple bids for a $75,000 contract, but $18,500 of that has been covered by donations from the C.M. Eppes Alumni Association and the Pitt County Arts Council. The rest came from revitalization bond funds.

"My goal is to show it's not going to cost millions of dollars," Garriott said. "It could, but it doesn't have to. It takes partnerships, and it takes truly a community to recognize that this is important."

Arts council members have begun soliciting corporations or individuals that would donate toward building sculpture pads throughout Pitt County. They would cost around $2,500 each, including the honorarium, and establish a series of rotating works that would change each March, Garriott said.

They also have applied for a grant to pay renowned public art advocate Janet Kagan for assistance in developing a public arts master plan for the county. That would establish how projects will be funded and how artists are selected, Rees said.

Other North Carolina cities and towns have embarked on similar initiatives. Chapel Hill has a program for the arts that dictates that 1 percent of spending on all capital improvements go toward indoor or outdoor artworks.

It's one of 450 public art programs nationwide, with half of them using the percentage model for arts funding varying from a half percent to 2.5 percent, public arts administrator Jeff York said. His city has concluded nine projects ranging from $10,000 to $440,000 since the program began in 2003.

Public art can be more than sculptures and paintings, he said. It can be as simple as handcrafted flooring tiles or an artistic stairwell banister.

Rocky Mount leaders were struck by public reactions to sculptures placed outside their city hall and Amtrak train station after Hurricane Floyd destroyed the city's arts center. The publicly placed works drew attention from a group of citizens who normally might have little-to-no interest in art but took an interest in a piece, Assistant City Manager Peter Varney said.

"It gives us some focal points," Rees said. "It's fun and interesting. It can sometimes be controversial or thought-provoking."

He described a recent exercise city staff undertook when designing a wayfinding system for Greenville. They were asked to provide a symbol — something quintessentially Greenville. It was a hard question, Rees said, and one that he thinks public art might help cultivate.

"It's going to give us a little sense of place that we may be lacking."

Contact Kathryn Kenney at kkenney@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
Raedeke wins UNC Board of Governors teaching honor
Saturday, May 1, 2010

ECU News Services

A dedicated faculty member, described by students and colleagues as engaging and inspiring, has been honored with East Carolina University’s highest teaching honor.

Dr. Thomas D. Raedeke, associate professor in the Department of Exercise and Sports Science, has been named the ECU recipient of this year’s UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award was announced Tuesday during the Founders Day-University Awards ceremony in Hendrix Theatre.

Phillip Dixon, a member of the UNC Board of Governors, presented Raedeke his award, which recognizes distinguished teaching by a tenured faculty member. He also received a medallion and a one-time award of $7,500.

Raedeke made a few remarks about his teaching career, which began when he was a wilderness guide in Minnesota, where he first learned that young people often take instruction literally.

Raedeke had suffered through children bringing hair dryers and extension cords on previous camping excursions, so he thought he was thinking ahead with his “pack lightly” instructions. This group brought their sleeping bags and the clothes on their backs, which was fine until the temperature quickly dropped as a storm approached.

“The students might not interpret and internalize what we think we are teaching,” he said. “I want to change their world views about sports and exercise science. To change their world views, I need to understand their frame of reference.”

He added, “Every semester my goal is the same — to make that semester better than the one before it.”

Dr. Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, said of Raedeke, “As a sport psychologist, most of his research is on motivation. He enjoys modeling concepts from sport psychology on motivation and leadership into the classroom setting. This keeps him working to find new approaches to his teaching and to develop new motivation techniques. He brings out the best in his students.”

After joining ECU in 1998, Raedeke quickly established a reputation as an excellent teacher and enrollment in his courses increased, Gilbert said.

Central to Raedeke’s teaching philosophy is creating a student-centered atmosphere by developing meaningful relationships with students.

“This award recognizes that he is able to bring his outstanding scholarship and that of others into the classroom and make the material accessible and engaging for students,” Dr. Stacey Altman, chairwoman of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, said of her colleague.

Raedeke has been recognized with other awards for his teaching. In 2006, he received the UNC Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award and the ECU Award for Outstanding Teaching in 2005. He also received the East Carolina Scholars-Teacher Award in 2004.
Other ECU awards for teaching, research and service will be in a future ECU Notes column.

**ECU honored for family medicine grads**
The Brody School of Medicine is one of the top medical schools in the country for sending graduates into family medicine, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians. Based on a three-year average for the period that ended in October, 19.4 percent of the school’s graduates have entered an accredited family medicine residency program. That ranked ECU second in the country and marked the fourth consecutive year ECU has ranked in the top 10. “This award is recognition of the Brody School of Medicine’s support and commitment for the training of family physicians,” said Dr. Kenneth Steinweg, chairman of the Department of Family Medicine at Brody. “It reflects a schoolwide effort beginning with the admissions process and extending through the clinical years. Family physicians are in huge demand throughout our region and state, and we are working hard to meet that need.”

Representatives of the Brody School of Medicine and the other schools were recognized April 26 at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia.

On March 18, 20 percent of Brody’s graduating students matched with family medicine residency programs during the school’s annual Match Day. Eight of those 13 graduates will remain in North Carolina for their residency training.

ECU also was ranked 28th in primary care among medical schools in the May issue of U.S. News & World Report magazine.

The AAFP is a national medical association representing more than 94,000 family physicians, family practice residents and medical students interested in family medicine. Family physicians are medical specialists trained in the diagnosis and treatment of the majority of medical problems. They care for people of all ages and both sexes.

The STFM is an academic organization committed to improving the quality of education in family medicine.

**Professor records CD of 16th-century music**
An ECU music professor and a New York-based soprano have released a compact disc of 16th-century guitar-centered works.

Jocelyn Nelson, School of Music professor and early-music musician, and soprano Amy Bartram have released “Ma Guiterre je te chante — 16th-century guitar solos and chansons.” The CD includes selections from the French renaissance guitar repertoire performed on the four-course Renaissance guitar and features intricate guitar solos and rarely heard 16th-century arrangements of French love songs for soprano and guitar based on dances from the period.

Many of the voice and guitar arrangements are by the French composer and music printer Adrian Le Roy and were considered the pop songs of their day. This is the first recording dedicated to the French renaissance solo guitar repertoire to include songs for solo voice and guitar performed in the original arrangements.

Nelson teaches music history, lute and guitar literature, Baroque guitar and music appreciation at ECU.

“Ma Guiterre je te chante” is available for purchase at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com). The site also features CD excerpts.

**Women faculty recognize Perkin**
Dr. Ronald Perkin has received the second annual Brody Women Faculty Advocacy Award for his work to promote, encourage and implement policies aimed at the professional development of women faculty and/or students.

Perkin is professor and chairman of pediatrics at the Brody School of Medicine. During his 10 years at the medical school, he has hired 40 women faculty members, promoted many women faculty members, supported research by women faculty and encouraged women faculty members to pursue leadership positions in the school. Several women from his department now serve in leadership roles.
The award was presented at the April 22 medical school faculty meeting.

ECU’s MBA program earns top marks
The College of Business has again earned national recognition for its online MBA program. GetEducated.com, a consumer group that rates national online colleges for cost, quality and credibility, ranks ECU as the third most affordable online AACSB-accredited MBA program in a national survey released April 21.

According to GetEducated.com, earning an MBA at ECU costs approximately $9,000 for an in-state student; the average cost of a program accredited by The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business is $32,926. The most expensive AACSB-accredited distance MBA costs about $119,000.

Vicky Phillips, founder and chief education analyst at GetEducated.com, said, “East Carolina University offers North Carolina residents a chance at a high-quality graduate degree through distance learning for about one-quarter the cost of the national average. That’s an amazing value.”

Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said, “Our high-quality, flexible online MBA program has offered tremendous value since we first began offering distance-education courses more than 10 years ago.

“It is identical to our campus-based program in terms of admission standards, course work, and faculty. As an AACSB-accredited business school for more than 40 continuous years, we are increasingly recognized as a national leader in online education. Every day we continue to build on our strong value-proposition here at ECU.”

The online university rankings are based on a national survey of 69 AACSB-accredited business schools that offer 133 MBAs using distance-learning technology. Surveys are undertaken every two years. ECU’s online MBA program has been named a Top Ranked Best Buy for the last three ranking periods.

Upcoming Events:
Friday: Spring commencement, 10 a.m., Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Featured speaker will be Erskine Bowles, president of the University of North Carolina system.
See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Participants take a break from the heat on the East Carolina campus before marching through downtown Greenville to bring attention to legislation to legalize medical marijuana use in the state.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector

Participants make their way through downtown Greenville on Sunday.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector

**Medical marijuana use focus of march in Greenville**

By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 2, 2010

About 300 East Carolina University students braved the heat Sunday afternoon to visit the ECU College Libertarians Freedom Festival, which incorporated a student movement’s rally and march to legalize marijuana.

“We want to make people aware of N.C. House Bill 1380 or the Medical Marijuana Act,” said Chelsea Burdette, a junior communication major at ECU — one of the students who started organizing the Greenville Marijuana March event on Facebook as part of the Global Marijuana March.

After encountering high costs and other obstacles in gaining permission to hold a rally in the city of Greenville, Burdette contacted the ECU College Libertarians, who helped clear the event to take place on campus.

“The ECU College Libertarians group supports all liberties; while we do not advocate the use of marijuana, we do think it should be a choice left up to the individual and not the government,” said co-founder Jesse Mignona, a senior business major. He and senior Chris Munier started the group last summer.

This was the first Freedom Festival, and organizers hope it becomes an annual event.
The group did pay the $50 permit fee to the city of Greenville so participants could march from Mendenhall Student Center through the downtown area. According to Mignona, about 150-200
people marched. Mignona said there was no trouble and both ECU and Greenville police were "great to work with" in regulating the event.

Burdette said a lot of people use marijuana in a medicinal capacity.

"It’s a lot safer than pills," she said. "My grandma has a really bad back and the pills make her sick. She could really use medical marijuana, but the doctor can’t prescribe it to her."

Mignona said he personally does not use marijuana but supports the choice of the individual in how to lead their life.

"It didn’t matter if Chelsea and the group had come to us as part of a gay rights group, a gun rights group, or a small business rights group, they would have had the support of the Libertarians," Mignona said. "We support liberty as a whole, not broken into pieces. If the government tells us how to live our lives we are not free people."

The amended version of H.B. 1380 was referred back to committees in April 2009, and a petition was distributed at Sunday’s rally to support reintroducing the original version. If the legislation had passed, North Carolina would have been the 15th state to allow medicinal marijuana, Burdette said.

For more information, visit www.eculibery.org.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567
Names surface as possible Bowles successor

A few names are percolating in the lengthy process of finding a new president of the UNC system.

Jim Phillips, a Greensboro lawyer and former chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, is considering seeking the post, which Erskine Bowles will vacate by the end of the year.

"I've always made fun of people who announced they're running for office by saying my friends urged me to run," Phillips said, "but I have had people talk to me about it."

He said the coming years will be critical for the universities. Phillips, who served as legal counsel to Gov. Jim Hunt, said he would like to see the proposals of the UNC Tomorrow commission, which he chaired, put into place.

Tom Ross, president of Davidson College, is often mentioned in state government circles, but Ross said he doesn't know whether he would be interested. He said he has neither spoken to, nor heard from, anyone about the job.

"It's an intriguing opportunity," said the former judge and president of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. "I'm very happy doing what I'm doing. I really don't know if I'd be interested until I learn more about it."

Attorney General Roy Cooper earlier avoided saying directly whether he wanted the job.
Macy to lead Pirates

Women get new hoops coach

Heather Macy, who guided Francis Marion University to a 75-19 record as well as three NCAA Division II Tournament berths and national rankings, was named coach of the East Carolina women's basketball program, athletic director Terry Holland announced Friday.

Macy succeeds Sharon Baldwin-Tener, who accepted the head coaching job at Georgia State University last month.

"I am excited about this new opportunity at East Carolina," Macy said. "I am looking forward to getting started right away. I would like to thank Chancellor Ballard, Terry Holland and the search committee for their help through this process. I am anxious to meet the team and to get to know the players."

Macy, who owns a career record of 113-41, led Francis Marion to a 27-5 ledger last season as the squad finished second in the East Division of the Peach Belt Conference.

Wes Moore was originally selected to head the women's program, but decided to stay at Chattanooga on Thursday.

FROM EAST CAROLINA NEWS RELEASE
Mission accomplished

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Friday, April 30, 2010

East Carolina named its second head women’s basketball coach in the last three days on Friday afternoon, capping a strange turn of events over the last week.

Francis Marion head coach Heather Macy was named to lead the ECU women’s team, which two weeks ago learned it was losing Sharon Baldwin-Tener after eight successful seasons and then named Chattanooga coach Wes Moore to the job earlier this week before Moore vamoosed back to Tennessee after having second thoughts.

At the end of the long equation, according to ECU director of athletics Terry Holland, the Lady Pirates get a North Carolina native and a proven winner at the Division II level who said she feels the game won’t be tremendously different in Division I.

“When you toss that ball up, basketball is basketball,” said Macy, who guided Francis Marion to a 27-5 record last season and an appearance in the Peach Belt Conference championship game.

“The staff we are putting together right now will make that transition smoother.”

In all, the Patriots accrued a 75-19 mark in three seasons under the guidance of Macy, which included three NCAA Division II tournament appearances.

Before that, she headed the Pfeiffer College women’s team for two seasons.

While her experience is limited, Macy said she feels there was no better time for her first Division I job.

“There was a ball in the locker room and I said, ‘Let’s get it out and get started,’” said Macy, a Hamptonville native and Greensboro College alum. “This is an amazing opportunity.”

Macy’s Francis Marion team led the nation in steals per game last season and was second in assists and scoring offense.
While she said she’s excited to introduce her up-tempo style at ECU, Macy is mindful there will be some pressure in replacing Baldwin-Tener, who became ECU’s winningest women’s coach. “It’s a little different than what I’ve inherited typically, but I’m looking forward to working with these kids and incorporating our system,” Macy said.

After accepting the ECU position and holding his introductory press conference on Tuesday, Moore changed his mind, opting to return to UTC for a 13th season.

Holland said Macy was a leading candidate following her interview. “It’s someone we interviewed very early in the process. We were extremely impressed with her and she has a fantastic resume,” Holland said of Macy. “She’s only been a head coach for five years, but after her first year, every single one of her teams has been in the NCAA tournament.”

Baldwin-Tener, who guided the Lady Pirates to the NCAA tourney in 2007, returned to her home state to become the head coach at Georgia State.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-959
Macy has big goals for hoops team
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, May 1, 2010
Despite a chaotic week for East Carolina women’s basketball, the team managed to land a new coach with ideas very much in line with the current direction of ECU athletics.
Just like football and men’s basketball, ECU women’s hoops will enter an era of upgrades at the university with a new person in charge, and Heather Macy thinks the best way to carry on a tradition of winning is to make the NCAA tournament the perennial finish line for the Lady Pirates.
“There is such a solid foundation here at ECU that we’re just looking to add to that and build on what’s already occurred,” said Macy, the former head coach at Francis Marion and Pfeiffer who was chosen on Friday to succeed Sharon Baldwin-Tener at ECU. “We want to make NCAA tournaments, and that’s why we’re here.”
Macy takes over at a time of great transition in the ECU athletic framework. In addition to new football and men’s basketball coaches, a major facelift on the school’s fields and stadiums is ongoing.
Four bowl games in four seasons under former football coach Skip Holtz and regular NCAA postseason appearances by the ECU baseball team under coach Billy Godwin have helped to make national waves and generate the kind of revenue needed for such projects at ECU.
In order for the men’s and women’s basketball programs to add to that success, Macy knows it helps to have a number in front of your team’s name.
“We want to compete at that national level and be consistently ranked in the top 25,” she said.
Macy has had little time to digest the current ECU roster. She held her first press conference less than 24 hours after ECU announced that Wes Moore — the coach at Tennessee-Chattanooga who had been named the new ECU coach on Tuesday — had changed his mind.
Now that the job is hers, Macy will bring a high-tempo game to the Lady Pirates that’s bent on creating turnovers and scoring fast.
“It’s so fan friendly, and the players love it,” she said. “Tempo is the most important factor in a basketball game, and we’re going to control the tempo every single night.”
Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
Med schools try new path

CHAPEL HILL -- Changes in health care and a growing need for family doctors have prompted UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke to consider a dramatic shift in the way their medical students get clinical experience.

At UNC, the medical school may scrap the widely used "rotations" model, in which students spend a month or two in each of several specialties such as surgery and psychiatry.

In its place, they're eyeing a "longitudinal" model where students follow patients from the start of their treatment to the end. A few dozen universities, including some in other countries, have long employed this model, but it has gathered steam of late as medical schools place greater emphasis on teaching the total patient experience.

Officials at UNC, Duke and elsewhere are now questioning the rotation model, which allows students to hone skills through repetition but offers just a limited snapshot of the larger health care picture.

"If you're on a cardiology rotation, you see patient after patient after patient with chest pain," said Warren Newton, executive associate dean for education with UNC's medical school. "What you don't see is what happens to that patient later."

Duke's medical school will begin a small version of the longitudinal model this fall but has no immediate plans to replace traditional rotations.

Shift would be slow

At UNC, Newton is analyzing the two models and doesn't expect change to come quickly. But he likes what he sees from universities using the longitudinal model. And he is encouraged by the early results of a pilot program his med school is running now with just a handful of students studying that way at Mission Hospital in Asheville. Students there are performing as well as or better than their counterparts in the traditional program, he said.

There are logistical, financial and less definable obstacles to such a shift. Medical schools might have to wrangle additional practicing physicians willing to take on medical students, the new model might prove to be more expensive, and faculty members must be swayed to embrace the change. At UNC, the change would have to start slowly.

"You can't impose this," Newton said. "You have to pilot and spread it. This is a change of virtually everything we're doing."

Though dramatic, the shift -- which at UNC would affect third-year med students - may be a necessary reaction to the nation's changing health care system. Some patient care has shifted away from hospitals to ambulatory care centers and other outpatient clinics, said M. Brownell Anderson, senior director for educational affairs with the Association of American Medical Colleges. Now, most hospital patients either have shorter stays - shortening a student's learning window - or have very specific illnesses that
limit the learning process.

Students matched up with patients who routinely use outpatient clinics will get to know their cases far better, argues Anderson. Students at med schools employing the new model follow patients with an array of medical conditions, meeting them at the start of their treatment and following them to the end.

"It's more true to the kind of experience that a physician has," she said. "I've been going to the same doctor for many years, and she knows a lot about me."

Duke's medical school has long focused on producing critical care specialists and researchers. But with the need for primary care doctors on the rise, Duke is creating a new program - using the longitudinal model - for med students who want to go into that field, said Ed Buckley, vice dean for medical education with Duke's medical school.

Duke expects to start with four to eight students in the program this fall, a fraction of the 100 students in each med school class. The med school hopes to produce family doctors who better understand the entire health care process and can thus be forceful advocates for patients; they will even observe entanglements patients have with insurance companies, Buckley said.

Wherever they go

Under the new model batting around in Newton's head, third-year med students at UNC, who currently spend four to eight weeks on each of about eight specialty rotations, would instead follow patients with specific health problems as they navigate the treatment process. If the patient winds up in surgery, the student follows. If the patient is discharged and sent to physical therapy, the student follows.

That sounds pretty good to Harneet Gujral, a third-year UNC med student who likes the rotations model but knows its limitations. She had an interesting case recently, a patient with seizures and a congenital heart problem. But she only met him in the middle of his care, and was on to another patient before the end.

"I never got a full feel for the complexities of it because I got into it halfway through," she said. "I have patients with interesting cases who I have to say goodbye to. That's a big downside."

But the intensive instruction gleaned from rotations has benefits, as well. She honed her child-delivery skills quickly during her six-week obstetrics and gynecology rotation.

"The first time you see a delivery, you don't know what's going on," said Gujral, who is from Cary. "But it's easy to get good when you do several back to back. The repetition helps."

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More grads wear recycled gowns

Plastic bottles are one option

By Holly Ramer
The Associated Press

Durham, N.H. — College seniors across the country are getting ready to toss their caps in the air and their gowns into recycling bins.

For years, eco-conscious campuses have been trying to reduce the environmental impact of commencement ceremonies by using less electricity or printing programs on recycled paper. Now, academic apparel manufacturers are jumping in with "green" options, ranging from disposable gowns that decompose quickly in soil to gowns made of recycled plastic bottles that can be reused or recycled.

The new products are an alternative to the petroleum-based polyester gowns millions of graduates buy each year then promptly throw away or stuff in their closets. Manufacturers say the new gowns are a bit softer and more breathable than the traditional gowns but are otherwise indistinguishable.

"It feels a bit thinner, which actually would be good for spring commencements because it’s going to be hot outside," said Abbie Tumbleson, a senior at Franklin Pierce University in New Hampshire. "It doesn’t look cheaply made."

At Oak Hall Cap and Gown in Virginia, officials settled on fabric made from recycled plastic after samples made from sustainable bamboo failed to impress customer service reps who wore them for a day.

"By the end of the day, they looked like they had slept in the gowns for about two weeks," said vice president Donna Hodges. "A lot of students will get the gown out of the bag 10 minutes before lineup, so we knew that wasn’t going to work."

About 100 schools ordered the new gowns this spring, compared to about 1,500 who stayed with polyester, Hodges said.

University Cap and Gown in Lawrence, Mass., is also offering recycled bottle gowns this year. Company president Duane Fox said his company was ahead of the curve when it began using biodegradable detergents to clean its rental gowns years ago. In designing the new gowns, the company focused on finding a fabric that could withstand multiple wearings, said Fox, who estimates that about 7 percent of his customers ordered the new gowns.

Ensuring that students return their gowns is key, because otherwise companies are just replacing bottles in landfills with fabric in landfills, said the Sierra Club’s Jennifer Schwab.

"It’s always better to reuse. We don’t really want to put new items into the waste stream, period, if we can help it," she said.