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Members of the Greenville Police Department’s Rapid Response Team participate in a full-scale emergency planning drill on the campus of East Carolina University on Tuesday morning.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

Curtis Hayes, Professional Standards Lieutenant at ECU Police Department, watches for the gunman during Tuesday’s drill.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector
Emergency vehicles line Reade Circle just outside of the West End Dining Hall where a triage center was set up for the drill on the campus of ECU.

Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

**Shooter drill brings stark reality to ECU's campus**

By Michael Abramowitz

The Daily Reflector

Tuesday, May 18, 2010

East Carolina University was the backdrop for a full-scale emergency drill Tuesday involving dozens of campus police working in unison with local law enforcement, emergency services and campus support agencies.

It was all arranged in preparation for the possibility of an armed person firing on students and others on campus. Dormitories and dining halls on West Campus were the setting for the exercises, part of a University of North Carolina systemwide program taking place this month. Blank rounds rang out at White Hall shortly after 9 a.m., setting off a chain of actions by ECU police on the first day of summer classes.

As the exercise unfolded, more campus police drove up to adjacent buildings and headed toward the high-rise dormitory from several angles. They were followed by Pitt County sheriff’s deputies and Greenville police with rapid response gear. State Highway Patrol troopers also took part.

In all, more than 100 people participated in the drill, according to Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for environmental health and campus safety.

Intermittent volleys of shots were fired inside and outside of dormitories. Subsequent advances and retreats could be seen from a distance. The action was coordinated from several command centers set up in nearby parking lots and campus buildings. All the agencies communicated using the recently established 800 MHz interoperable radio system.

Greenville Fire-Rescue personnel simulated transportation of casualties to nearby West End Dining Hall, which served as a mobile medical triage center.

A loudspeaker blared notification of the drill across the campus area so summer school students who didn’t read e-mail alerts would not be alarmed. Ongoing instructions would be given on the public address system in a real situation.
“Since June 2009, we’ve consolidated responsibility for safety under one person, which is quickly becoming the model used at our and other universities,” Koch said. “Tuesday’s operation was the first significant full-scale drill performed under the new model.”

The first test in the drill was for the emergency communications system used by law enforcement officers, rescue personnel and other support personnel, Koch said.

While Tuesday’s drill was geared toward an active shooter on campus, most lessons in the use of the system’s components can be applied toward the wider scope of emergency scenarios the campus, city and county might face, including hurricanes and other natural and man-made disasters, Koch said.

Campus agencies and services like student affairs, housing, counseling and student health, administrative finance, facilities and other divisions play a part in dealing with planning, execution and follow-up services for these types of scenarios, the vice chancellor said.

Psychology professor Michael Brown worked as an observer and watched officers approach a "hostage taker" on the 10th floor of White Hall.

“As a faculty member, I know it’s important for everyone on campus to understand how these things work,” Brown said. “If you recall the Virginia Tech incident, which prompted a lot of these exercises at college campuses, it shows the importance of this drill for everyone on a campus. The university is increasingly helping faculty build an infrastructure of resources and help for students with the distress they experience.”

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
NC university conducts full-scale emergency drill

GREENVILLE, N.C. -- Officials at a North Carolina university have completed a full-scale emergency planning drill at a campus residence hall.

Tuesday's drill at East Carolina University centered on an active shooter who took hostages. The exercise was staged on the first day of summer classes, and was designed to prepare staff and law enforcement to respond to a shooter on campus.

Emergency response began when simulated shots were heard at a residence hall. From there, the campus community was notified through multiple measures that the drill had begun. Announcements were made over an outdoor speaker system and electronic alerts via e-mail, phone, computer and campus televisions.

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard deemed the drill a success, calling it part of an effort to make the school as safe as possible.
Editorial: Medical school approaching critical hour on funding
Wednesday, May 19, 2010

For more than 30 years, the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University has fulfilled its mission to provide excellent health care to a traditionally underserved region of the state. That has included a large indigent population that receives care despite its hardship or inability to provide payment for medical services.

The growth of that population now threatens the sustainability of the medical school's finances, and officials have requested a modest $3 million appropriation from the state for this purpose. Though it comes amid a tremendously difficult year, the pressing need for these funds should motivate local lawmakers to press for their inclusion in any budget deal.

Since first opening its doors in 1972, East Carolina's medical school has served an invaluable purpose, both in Pitt County and across the region. In addition to being an economic engine responsible for thousands of jobs and dozens of associated businesses, it has dramatically increased the level of health care across eastern North Carolina. Lawmakers who supported the school at its outset knew that it could help address a host of issues endemic in the population, including high rates of heart disease, stroke, diabetes and infant mortality.

A significant part of its mission was caring for the indigent population, patients who could not pay for their services, lacked insurance and were forced to rely on Medicaid. Today, one-seventh of the patient population have no insurance, one-third depend on Medicaid and the majority of indigent patients live below the federal poverty line.

While those associated with the Brody school are committed to providing the same level of service for these patients as with all others, it is an endeavor with financial repercussions. The funds consumed by this care are drawn from other areas and, coupled with budget cuts, threaten the solvency of the school's operation. The $3 million sought by officials will help offset the care provided for indigent patients and allow this important state resource to continue pursuit of its mission.

An estimated $800 million revenue shortfall makes this an undeniably difficult budget year and poor timing for such a request. But economic recession increases the number of indigent patients requesting care and leaves the Brody school in an untenable position. Investment now can save the state and the school additional costs in time.

The Brody School of Medicine serves a noble purpose, one in line with East Carolina's commitment of service to the region. The state should endorse that mission with a modest appropriation at this critical time.
Families sought to host students for one-month visit

By Brandon Snead
StarNews Correspondent

Published: Tuesday, May 18, 2010 at 5:33 a.m.

Terra Lingua/Terre des Langues is seeking host families for French and Spanish exchange students and teachers looking to spend a month in the Wilmington area.

Ten high school students will be visiting from Spain from June 30 to July 28. Another 10 students from France are visiting from June 19 to July 10 or from July 10 to Aug. 7. In addition to the students, two foreign language teachers will be making a trip at some point.

The students will not attend classes and will participate in their host families' daily lives and activities. Each student has a minimum proficiency level in English, is fully insured and brings spending money. Hosts need not have children to qualify. Following a home visit, each student or teacher is matched with a family according to gender, activities and interests.

The same opportunity is made available to American high school students in France or Spain.

"It presents a unique opportunity to learn about the French or Spanish culture firsthand outside the classroom," said Frederic Fladenmuller, an East Carolina University Professor of French and Spanish who heads up TLTL. For the past 25 years, Fladenmuller has brought 3,500 French and Spanish students to North Carolina and enabled 500 American teens to travel abroad as part of the program.

"Such homestay experience creates an instant immersion into American culture and lifestyle," said Fladenmuller via email. "There is much reciprocity when their American counterpart, in particular youth who are learning French or Spanish in school, become directly exposed to the target culture."

The goals of TLTL are to provide cordial and relaxed environments in which friendly and warm relationships can be nurtured for the exchange students. It's also encouraged that hosts provide tours of their interests and introduce the students to their friends, neighbors, relatives and other young people.

In addition, TLTL promotes the fostering of understanding American culture as found in North Carolina and implores hosts to remember the importance of observing even the seemingly insignificant intricacies of American life, such as visiting relatives' places of work, shopping, looking at family photos, attending church and going to county and state fairs.

TLTL also encourages keeping students active and involving them in summertime activities available in the community, such as swimming, tennis, cooking, shopping family picnics, dancing, and other recreation.

The students prefer active participation, as opposed to watching television, which is something of a foreign concept for most of them.
“We strive to prepare young people to live in a total immersion experience,” writes Fladenmuller on TLTL’s website, tlthost.com.

“There are many ways to reach this,” he says, “but we believe that the family experience is the most effective way ... A host family provides the ideal setting to discover, firsthand, a different culture. It becomes a ‘real-life classroom.’”

For more information, and to download a hosting application form, visit tlthost.com.

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Virginia Tech failed to comply with a federal law that requires timely warning of safety threats to the campus community after Seung Hui Cho's deadly shooting spree began in April 2007, according to a preliminary review by the U.S. Education Department released Tuesday.

Virginia Tech vigorously disputed that conclusion as it released the preliminary review and a long, point-by-point response.

The review appeared to add no new details to the chronology of events April 16, 2007, established by law enforcement investigators after Cho killed 32 people in a dormitory and classroom building and wounded others before taking his own life. But it reopened painful questions for the university, victims and their families about whether the tragedy could have been averted if the campus had become aware of the gunman soon after he started shooting.

The federal officials who reviewed the record wrote that under a statute known as the Clery Act, the university should have provided the campus with more rapid information after two students were found shot to death that morning in the West Ambler Johnston dormitory. They focused on the well-known delay of nearly two hours between the police discovery of those bodies about 7:30 a.m. and the issuance of an e-mail threat advisory at 9:26 a.m. Soon afterward, Cho started shooting in Norris Hall.

"Virginia Tech failed to issue adequate warnings in a timely manner in response to the tragic events of April 16, 2007," federal officials wrote. "There are two aspects to this violation. First, the warnings that were issued by the university were not prepared or disseminated in a manner to give clear and timely notice of the threat to the health and safety of campus community members. Secondly, Virginia Tech did not follow its own policy for the issuance of timely warnings as published in its annual campus security reports."

Nancy Paula Gifford, an area case director for the Education Department, based in Philadelphia, sent the 11-page report to the university in January.

The university sent a 73-page objection to the preliminary findings, saying the federal review contained errors of fact and legal interpretation.

"Virginia Tech professionals acted appropriately in their response to the tragic events . . . based on the best information then available to them," said Michael Mulhare, the university's director of emergency management. He said federal guidance and industry practice indicated that timely campus threat alerts could be issued after several hours or even days. "The university actions were well within these
guidelines and practices," he wrote.

But Mulhare stressed that the university has learned from the tragedy. "Our campus and countless others are safer because of what we've learned and the actions we've taken," he wrote.

Education Department spokesman Justin Hamilton said: "This is a preliminary finding. After we have reviewed Virginia Tech's feedback on our report, we'll issue a final determination in coming weeks."

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NCSU lands French campus

RALEIGH -- One of France's largest business schools is opening an outpost on Centennial Campus and will bring 300 students here in January to learn business American style.

The Skema business school said Tuesday that it picked N.C. State University over sites in Florida and California because of its proximity to Research Triangle Park.

Skema development plans call for housing as many as 600 foreign students in the area. It plans to offer dual degrees with NCSU and to conduct research projects with professors and students at area universities, said Steve Allen, associate dean at the N.C. State College of Management. The chance to place students in internships at companies in RTP was also an attraction, Allen said.

"This is actually a pretty big deal," Allen said. "It would be like if the University of Chicago located at a Raleigh-sized town in France."

Skema is one of the rare foreign business programs to establish a physical campus in this country, Allen said. Typically, top-seeded foreign students subject themselves to cutthroat competition for the chance to study at an American university. This country's business schools are so sought after that American universities such as Duke University set up foreign campuses in India, Russia and China to meet foreign demand.

"For many French students, America is a dream," Skema dean Alice Guilhon told The Financial Times recently.

Skema officials could not be reached for comment Tuesday. According to Skema's website, the school was created in June through the merger of the Ceram Business School in Paris and the ESC Lille School of Management in Lille and Paris. Skema has 138 professors and three campuses in France. It also has campuses in China and Morocco and is planning to open campuses in India and Brazil.

Vive la difference

The Triangle bears a faint resemblance to France when it comes to passion for regional cuisine and outdoor recreation along with a mild climate (when you don't include the humidity), said Lil Lacassagne, owner of Saint Jacques restaurant in Raleigh. He noted that young people everywhere tend to share the same international culture of music and movies.

"But let me tell you," Lacassagne said. "There is France. Then there is the United States. And in between there is the planet. There is nothing similar."

The French institution is working out the final details of a lease agreement at NCSU. Details under discussion include whether Skema will have its own library and student commons, or whether it will share NCSU's facilities, said Michael Harwood, interim associate vice chancellor for Centennial Campus development.
Skema already has an agreement with UNC-Chapel Hill for faculty and student exchanges, the school said, and is in advanced discussions to establish a relationship with Duke.

It also has an agreement with the RTP Foundation to foster research projects between Skema faculty and students with RTP's high-tech companies, including Cisco Systems, SAS Institute, Red Hat, IBM and Lenovo, according to its announcement. Officials at the RTP Foundation could not be reached for comment.

"It will be a nice addition to our international academic institutions," said Harvey Schmitt, president of the Greater Raleigh Chamber of Commerce. "We beat a number of other markets in the Southeast" to attract Skema here.

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Reports says Virginia Tech violated law in massacre

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — The U.S. Department of Education found that Virginia Tech broke federal campus security laws by waiting too long to notify students during the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history, a report released Tuesday said.

Tech disputed the department’s findings, saying university officials met standards in effect at the time of the shootings three years ago and that the report is colored by “hindsight bias.”

The report is the latest to criticize the school’s response to the killings of 33 people, including the student gunman, on April 16, 2007.

The school could be fined up to $55,000 for two violations alleged in the preliminary report, but no one will face criminal charges, according to the Virginia Tech official who drafted the response.

Federal officials will consider a response from the school before they finalize their conclusion.

The Department of Education’s report said Tech violated the Clery Act’s requirement that universities offer a timely warning when possible danger arises. About two hours elapsed between the shootings of two students at a dormitory and an e-mail alert to the campus, sent at 9:26 a.m.

The massacre in a classroom building began at 9:40 a.m. when a mentally ill gunman, Seung-Hui Cho, chained the doors and killed 30 more people before committing suicide.
Creating Internships Out of Thin Air

By JONNELLE MARTE

Ryan Scaife couldn’t find an internship that fused his major in business administration with his passion for graphic design. So he created his own.

Interested in sports management, the 22-year-old emailed marketing directors for a few minor-league baseball teams near his hometown, Philipsburg, Pa., in mid-April. He asked them if they would take him on as a graphic-design intern and expose him to the business and management side of running a team.

A week later, he got an offer from the State College Spikes, a Single A affiliate of the Pittsburgh Pirates. Last week, he began his 12-week stint, creating fliers promoting the team and its giveaways and game dates and working with the team’s email-marketing database. Mr. Scaife also sits in on game-day planning meetings, where he hopes to learn more about the business of running a sports team.

“I figured by going out there and getting that internship myself, I can give myself a better chance to do what I want to do,” says Mr. Scaife, a senior at Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pa.

More students like Mr. Scaife are fashioning their own internships in the past few years as more formal internship programs at larger businesses have downsized or ended altogether amid the economic downturn. Companies like Walgreen Co. and Target Corp. slashed their projections for internship hiring over the past few years, reducing the number of prospective slots by 4,000 and 700 respectively in 2009 from 2008, according to CollegeGrad.com, which surveys employers annually to compile a list of top intern employers.

While a few fields like government and electronics, have increased the number of internship positions this school year, other industries, such as finance and engineering, have seen the number of internships available drop, according to a February survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers. The study found that internship hiring overall increased 2.9% from 2009, but that doesn’t make up for the 20% drop seen in 2009 from 2008.

As a result, students aiming for the corporate ladder have had to find their own way to gain the skills they need to stand out. For a growing number of students, that means networking and approaching small and midsize companies with an eager, and sometimes free, set of hands to get the work experience they need, career coaches and college internship coordinators say.

"There’s no cookie-cutter approach to building your own internship," says Richard Bottner, president of Intern Bridge, an internship consulting and research firm in Acton, Mass. "It’s about getting out there and networking."

Nick Cranmer, a graduate student earning a master’s degree in urban planning at UCLA, not only found his own internship, he found funding so he could receive a stipend for working. After struggling to find internships
offering experience in affordable housing development and policy making, Mr. Cranmer emailed his resume to about 20 people who worked for the housing and planning departments or community redevelopment agencies in six cities around Southern California in May 2009.

A month later, he heard back from the City of Santa Monica. They didn't have an internship available but after Mr. Cranmer reiterated his interests, officials in the city's department of housing and redevelopment agreed to take him on for a project—to help them find a new property manager for a mobile home park and to research federal housing initiatives. And when Mr. Cranmer discovered early on that the city couldn't afford to hire him full time, he applied for a federal work-study program that pays 70% of a graduate student's internship wages. With the help of the grant, he says he made about $4,000 over eight weeks as a full-time intern.

That experience helped Mr. Cranmer land a seven-month internship with a community redevelopment agency that ended this spring and has helped with his current job search. "I'm getting a better response when I send my resume out to companies," because the internship appears on it, says the 28-year-old Mr. Cranmer, who graduates in June.

Mr. Bottner recommends joining a professional association tied to your industry as a way to meet people at the companies you'd like to work for who can connect you with hiring manager or help you set up informational interviews. If you don't know anyone in the business, it may help to meet with alumni from your university who work there. You can also connect with someone on LinkedIn.com or, as a last resort, contact the company's human-resources department, he says.

Before making your pitch, be sure to research the company and tailor your proposal to focus on how your skills will improve their business. Show them how what you're offering will help them stretch their dollars or increase revenue, says Colleen Sabatino, a career counselor and intern coach for Internships.com, which helps students land internships.

"Sure, the intern is going to get a lot out of this, but if they approach an employer with what they want to get out of it, [that attitude] shuts the door to the employer," she says.

Mr. Scaife managed to sell the idea of an internship to the State College Spikes, which had never had a graphic-design intern, by showing the team how it could benefit from the skills he picked up as a freelance graphic-design artist to improve their marketing materials. After reviewing Mr. Scaife's portfolio, the staff realized he could add a more professional touch to some of their marketing materials and handle responsibilities normally split between several employees who have other roles, says Jason Dambach, the team's general manager. "To have someone like Ryan able to come in and able to focus on that is a huge help," he says.

When creating your own internship, keep in mind that you might not always be able to get paid, but that shouldn't stop you from pursuing an opportunity—there might be other rewards. In 2007, Stephanie Gurtman was set on interning for Pyper Paul + Kenney, an advertising agency in her hometown of Tampa the summer after her freshman year at Boston University. There didn't seem to be any advertised internships at the firm, so Ms. Gurtman requested an informational interview with the public-relations director while she was home on spring break.

At the meeting, the now 22-year-old pitched her writing skills and self-starter attitude and made it clear that she wanted to be involved in brainstorming sessions, client pitches and off-site photo shoots. The firm created a position where she could do those things and also help to write and distribute press releases, conduct market research and assemble press kits. The internship was unpaid, but she walked away with three letters of recommendation that helped her land future internships.

"I wanted them to know that I could run with it and succeed instead of them having something very established," says Ms. Gurtman, who launched InternshipRatings.com, a site where people can rank internships, with a friend about six months after completing the internship. She just graduated with a degree in public relations and accepted a summer internship with a public relations firm in Chicago.
If you can't afford to work without pay, wait until you've worked out the details of the job to bring up the subject. Then start by restating how you're grateful for the experience, training and exposure you hope to get through the internship. But gently remind them you must still find a way to make ends meet and would like to know if the company can offer any paid opportunities, says Ms. Sabatino.

If a company can't afford to pay you for full-time hours, ask if they'll consider a part-time position at minimum wage or a small stipend. If the firm can't offer any compensation, consider negotiating reduced hours so you can take on paying work outside your field; most companies will understand, says Ms. Sabatino.

Contact your career-services department not only to see if you can earn college credit for your internship but to look for financial aid during your internship. Some schools also offer grants and programs to help cover a student's salary or to offset the costs of travel or food. Syracuse University, for example, offers internship awards, ranging from $2,500 to $5,000, for undergraduate and graduate students who design their own internships.

While Mr. Scaife isn't getting paid for his internship (he's getting school credit), he says the real-world experience of meeting deadlines and networking will make him more marketable when he starts looking for jobs after graduation.

"It's going to help me use a lot of the things I learned through school and actually apply them," he says.

Write to Jonnelle Marte at jonnelle.marte@wsj.com
Harvard Imposter? Adam Wheeler Pleads Not Guilty in Education Fraud Case

Delaware Student Faked Transcripts, Plagiarized to Score $45,000 in Financial Aid, Prosecutors Charge

By DAN HARRIS, SARAH NETTER and ANNE-MARIE DORNING

May 18, 2010—

The fresh-faced 23-year-old accused of faking his way into Harvard University and thousands of dollars in scholarships and financial aid entered a plea of not guilty in court today.

Adam Wheeler, a Delaware native who bragged about having perfect SAT scores, faces 20 charges, including identity fraud, larceny and forgery. Wheeler is being held at the Middlesex Jail in Massachusetts. A bail of $5,000 was set and his next court appearance is June 9.

Prosecutors said Wheeler faked his entire educational career, duping college and scholarship officials alike and snagging more than $45,000 in grants, scholarships, financial aid and other funds that he didn't deserve.

Wheeler's parents and a female friend looked stricken in court, especially Assistant District Attorney John Verner told the court that a call from Yale to Wheeler's parents may have prompted them to say something that inadvertently led to their son's arrest.

His lawyer, Steven Sussman, noted today that Wheeler had no prior "involvement with criminal law."

But prosecutors said Wheeler kept up his ruse for years, using realistic-looking fake transcripts and documents. His lies began to unravel in September when, as a senior at Harvard, he applied for the prestigious Rhodes and Fulbright scholarships.

He submitted an application packet that included a transcript showing he had perfect grades, which even included a list of books and articles he claimed to have written, prosecutors said.

But when a Harvard professor noticed some of Wheelers' writing appeared to have been plagiarized, officials took a closer look and found that his entire record was allegedly a fabrication.

"The crux of these offenses are identity theft, fraud, larceny and falsification of documents," Middlesex County District Attorney Gerry Leone said.

Leone called the alleged deception "an elaborate, entangled web of lies and deceit in a brazen and
offensive scheme."

Officials said they also discovered that Wheeler had allegedly lied his way into Harvard to begin with, forging documents that said he'd attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass. And that he'd gotten perfect SAT scores.

But his actual record shows he attended a public high school in Delaware and did not have perfect SAT scores. He'd been kicked out of Bowdoin College in Maine.

**Alleged Harvard Imposter Recently Applied to Yale, Brown Universities**

Students at Harvard said they were astonished Wheeler got so far, but that there is immense pressure in higher education.

"What are these accomplishments if they're not something that you kind of have done yourself?" one student asked.

Wheeler's parents, who own an interior design company in Delaware, refused to comment. Officials said Wheeler didn't give up his ruse, even after he was accused of plagiarism at Harvard -- he went on to apply for an internship at the prestigious McLean Hospital. But it turned him down after a background check allegedly showed he was misrepresenting himself.

And, according to the *Boston Globe*, Wheeler had also applied to Brown University in Rhode Island and Yale University in Connecticut as an Ivy League transfer student.

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