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East Carolina University News Services
Web site at http://www.ecu.edu/news
252-328-6481
Published: Friday, June 1, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

East Carolina University Chancellor Dr. Steve Ballard (left) and ECU School of Dental Medicine interim Dean Dr. Greg Chadwick (center) talk with Davidson County Community College President Dr. Mary Rittling in front of a display showcasing ECU's School of Dental Medicine prior to a news conference Friday announcing a partnership between the two colleges that will locate an ECU community service learning center on the DCCC campus. Donnie Roberts/The Dispatch

**ECU will build dental center at DCCC**

By Deneesha Edwards
The Dispatch

A community service learning center that will provide dental care to low-income and underserved residents was officially announced Friday at Davidson County Community College.

Through a partnership with East Carolina University, DCCC will become the sixth out of 10 locations to serve as extensions of ECU's School of Dental Medicine. More than 200 of DCCC's staff and faculty, community members and supporters attended the press conference in the Conference Center.

"At DCCC, we are truly a central gathering place for the county, and we look forward to offering yet one more service to the community," said Dr.
Mary Rittling, president of DCCC. "Community is the most important part of our name, and this dental clinic epitomizes our mission to serve the people of this region."

The School of Dental Medicine was established to address the shortage of dentists in rural underserved communities by providing oral health services. A bonus of the school will be the first-hand experience that four-year students will gain by being at the centers.

"The ECU approach—educating students and residents in our community service learning centers—could become a future model for dental education," said Dr. Greg Chadwick, interim dean of ECU School of Dental Medicine. "Community service learning centers are more than just dental clinics. They are an integral part of our dental school where our seniors will spend much of their fourth year."

The center will have 16 dental chairs and employ local staff members, including full-time dental faculty positions, a business manager, a handful of dental assistants, a couple of dental hygienists and general dentistry residents.

The building will be located beside the Felix O. Gee building. The $3 million center will be housed in a 8,000-square-foot facility. Construction dates for DCCC's center will be announced later.

"I'm so proud that this has happened," said Beth Parrott, chairwoman of DCCC's Board of Trustees. "I can't tell you how excited I am for the citizens of Davidson County. This will provide a lot of opportunities for Davidson County citizens, and also opportunities for DCCC to provide programs to enhance the school. We are one of the best colleges. That's what we strive to be, and in my opinion, we are one of the best community colleges."

Acknowledgments were made to the Davidson County Commissioners for their support toward the project. N.C. Sen. Stan Bingham, R-Davidson, was in attendance. Community directors who were also part of the initiative included Layton Long, outgoing director of the Davidson County Department of Health, and Sandy Motley, executive director of Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic.

Motley noted that the dental portion of DMMC will close with the opening of the center. The nonprofit organization provides medical, dental and pharmacy services free of charge to uninsured residents and those with little to no income. The center at DCCC will be able to provide a variety of
services — general, preventive, emergency dental care, crowns, root canals and bridges for example.

"I am so excited. For two years, I've been waiting on this project to become a reality," Motley said. "We will close the clinic because (residents) will have access to healthcare. They can offer so much more than our clinic."

ECU has plans for 10 community service learning centers in the state. The first center in Ahoskie is schedule to open later this month. Others include Elizabeth City, Lillington, Sylva and Spruce Pine in the mountains. The school's inaugural class of 52 students from 30 different counties in the state will complete the first year next month.

This will be the first center housed on a community college. Kennon Briggs, executive vice-president and chief of staff for the N.C. Community College System, said the community will benefit from the center for a long time. He said incredible work, especially from Rittling, was done to make this a reality.

Dr. Steve Ballard, chancellor of ECU, said the center happened from the hard work of many people. He thanked the commissioners and Rittling for doing what it took to get the project in Davidson County.

"This will bring the ECU School of Dental Medicine to this county and many others. We're very, very happy to be part of this county and community college. This one will be a huge success," Ballard said.

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Dr. Phyllis Horns, vice chancellor for health sciences at East Carolina University, addresses a crowd at a news conference on Friday at Davidson County Community College in Thomasville.

**New dental center will fill gap for Davidson County**

By Richard Craver

Few dentists and a high number of underserved residents are the catalyst for East Carolina University's creation of a dental learning center in Davidson County.

Plans for the 8,000-square-foot center at Davidson County Community College were unveiled Friday. The center is expected to cost $3 million and open in spring 2014.

The Davidson center is one of 10 community service learning centers being established by ECU's School of Dental Medicine, but the only one announced to date near an urban setting. The centers are an offspring of a recent funding focus on dental care by the General Assembly.

"This is one of the most exciting things to happen to this college in a long time," DCCC President Mary Rittling said. "It's going to make a real quality-of-life difference for so many residents who have difficulty gaining access or affording dental care."
The centers will provide training for fourth-year dental students and dental residents. The students and residents will offer general, preventive and emergency care to Medicare recipients and low-income residents.

However, the center will be open to patients with insurance because it will have to be self-sustaining, even with university support, said Dr. Michael Scholtz, director of community practices for the dental school. The center is expected to cover most of the 12-county Piedmont Triad Partnership area.

DCCC was chosen, in part, because it was willing to donate land on its campus and because of the county's lack of dentists, said Dr. Greg Chadwick, interim dean of the ECU dental school.

The average urban county has nearly five dentists for every 10,000 residents, while the average rural county has three dentists, according to the Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC Chapel Hill. Davidson, by comparison, has 2.6 dentists for every 10,000 residents, with nearly half of its dentists near or past retirement age.

"It's difficult for private dental practices to handle a high volume of Medicaid patients because of low reimbursement rates," Scholtz said. "We will be able to serve those patients because we will have lower overhead costs."

The DCCC center's staff will include 1.5 full-time dental faculty positions, a business manager, five to six dental assistants, two to three dental hygienists and two general dentistry residents. Four to five students will be at the center for nine-week rotations. Each student will be from North Carolina.

Bridgette Jones of Winston-Salem knew of ECU's plans for the learning centers when she enrolled in the dental school. Having a center at DCCC when she is ready for training is a bonus, she said.

"This initiative meets my goal of giving back to the community I live in and serving underserved patients," Jones said.
DCCC, ECU partner on dental center

by Staff Writer: Eliot Duke

Davidson County Community College and East Carolina University have entered into a partnership that will bring affordable dental care to underinsured residents.

At an announcement in the DCCC Conference Center Friday afternoon, representatives from both institutions praised the collaborative effort that began in 2005 to bring the community service learning center to Thomasville.

ECU will build a 8,000-square-foot facility on land donated by DCCC. The community service learning center will be one of 10 ECU plans to build across North Carolina.

"At DCCC, we are truly a central gathering place for the country, and we
look forward to offering one more service to the community," said Dr. Mary Rittling, DCCC president. “‘Community' is the most important part of our name, and this dental clinic epitomizes our mission to serve the people of this region.”

The new center will offer general, preventive and emergency dental care, including services such as crowns, root canals and bridges. The facility will feature 16 dental chairs, 1.5 full-time dental faculty positions, up to six dental assistants, three dental hygienists and two general dentistry residents. Four to five fourth year dental students will rotate at the center every nine weeks.

"We are very excited about our partnership with DCCC, the county health department and the local dental community," Dr. Gregory Chadwick, interim dean of the ECU School of Dental Medicine, said. "We look forward to providing quality dental care to residents of Davidson and the surrounding counties."

According to the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Davidson County has fewer than 2.6 dentists for every 10,000 people.

Staff Writer Eliot Duke can be reached at 888-3578, or duke@tvilletimes.com.
ECU plans dental center at Davidson County Community College

Staff Reports

THOMASVILLE — East Carolina University will build a dental center on
the campus of Davidson County Community College that will serve low-
income residents, the schools announced Friday.

The ECU School of Dental Medicine in Greenville will build the clinic on
land that Davidson County Community College donated. The Davidson
County Health Department is also a partner in the project.

The center is the sixth ECU has announced since it began its dental school in
2008. At the Davidson clinic, fourth-year dental students and dental
residents will hone their patient-care techniques and learn the ins-and-outs of
operating a community practice under the eyes of experienced faculty
members, according to a news release about the project.

The center will have 16 dental chairs and will employ local staff members,
including 1.5 full-time dental faculty positions, a business manager, five to
six dental assistants, two to three dental hygienists and two general dentistry
residents. Four to five students will be at the center for nine-week rotations.
It will offer a variety of services, including general, preventive and
emergency dental care.

The $3 million, 8,000-square-foot center is one of up to 10 ECU plans to
build across the state. The first center is scheduled to open in Ahoskie later
this month. Others are planned for Elizabeth City in eastern North Carolina,
Lillington in the central part of the state, and Sylva and Spruce Pine in the
mountains.

The Davidson clinic will be built on the main DCCC campus in
Thomasville. Construction will be paid for with funds appropriated by the
state to ECU. Davidson County added its support to the project last year
when commissioners appropriated funds to help with other expenses,
including the relocation of parking spots for students and other site
improvements. Construction dates will be announced later.
THOMASVILLE, N.C.—East Carolina University is reaching out to poor communities with the latest of an expected 10 dental training centers across North Carolina.

The latest has been announced for a site at Davidson County Community College in Thomasville. It's expected open in two years.

The centers established by ECU's School of Dental Medicine will train fourth-year dental students and dental residents. They'll provide dental care to people who can't afford visiting a dentist, as well as patients with insurance.

East Carolina's dental school was established to address the shortage of dentists in rural communities. Its inaugural class of 52 students will complete the first year next month.

ECU's first community dental center is scheduled to open this month in Ahoskie. Others include Elizabeth City, Lillington, Sylva and Spruce Pine.
June 1, 2012

Sea Level Bill Would Allow North Carolina to Stick Its Head in the Sand

A bill moving through the state legislature would allow developers to ignore sea level predictions based on global warming

By Seth Cline

Wading into the turbulent debate over global warming, North Carolina's state legislature is considering a bill that would require the government to ignore new reports of rising sea levels and predictions of ocean and climate scientists.

Business interests along the state's coastline pushed lawmakers to include language in a law that would require future sea level estimates to be based only on data from past years. New evidence, especially on sea level rise that could be tied to global warming, would not be factored into the state's development plans for the coast.

[Poll: Republicans Coming Around on Global Warming]

"We're skeptical of the rising sea level science," says Tom Thompson, chairman of NC-20, an economic development group representing the state's 20 coastal counties. "Our concern is that the economy could be tremendously impacted by a hypothetical number with nothing but computers and speculation."
That 'hypothetical number' came from the state’s Coastal Resources Commission, which recommended planning around a 39-inch rise in sea level by 2100. At the behest of NC-20 and coastal governments, the commission decided to remove the number from its policy entirely.

"Originally we did have the 39-inch recommendation, but the commission chose to remove that," says Michele Walker, spokeswoman for the North Carolina Coastal Resources Commission. "We got a lot of pushback from coastal governments and groups who were concerned that would hurt their ability to develop in their communities."

The bill is still in its early stages, but the section stirring up controversy states:

"These rates shall only be determined using historical data, and these data shall be limited to the time period following the year 1900. Rates of sea-level rise may be extrapolated linearly…"

The parts about using only historical data, which shows a slow, linear sea-level rise—not the faster increases associated with global warming—have drawn the most ire from scientists.

"Cleary they don't understand science at all – (sea level rise) hasn't been linear," says Stan Riggs, a professor at East Carolina University who is an expert on the state's coastline. "To put blinders on and just say we don't accept what's happening on our coast is absolutely criminal."

"But the people that live out there that aren't developers are all on board. It's the managers and developers who want to keep the status quo. They're making a lot of money off of it," Riggs added.

Seth Cline is a reporter for U.S. News and World Report. You can contact him at scline@usnews.com or follow him on Twitter.
Rescue workers bring a patient into the emergency room at Vidant Medical Center. Some county fire departments and sheriff's deputies are training to respond to cardiac calls to help get life-saving treatment to patients faster.

Pitt upgrades cardiac rescues
By Ginger Livingston
Sunday, June 3, 2012

Less than 1 percent of the 250 cardiac arrest patients aided by EMS squads in Pitt County in 2010 left the hospital capable of carrying on normal activities, according to the state’s EMS Performance Improvement Center.

These statistics are disheartening to the men and women who protect the county’s safety and health.

Pitt County is 656 square miles. Ten emergency medical service squads must respond to all calls outside of Greenville’s city limits. It can take up to 18 minutes or more to respond. That’s 18 minutes that a person whose heart has stopped can’t afford.

There are 21 fire departments serving the area outside Greenville. Most can arrive at a scene in half the time of an EMS squad.

Individuals within the county’s EMS, law enforcement and fire protection communities for years have sought ways to bring faster and better care to people suffering cardiac failure.

A solution may be near.

Vidant Medical Center Foundation announced Tuesday it is awarding a $50,000 grant to a coalition of Pitt County first responders to outfit sheriff’s office vehicles and fire trucks with automated external defibrillators. The
grant also will fund efforts to educate the public about hands-only CPR and to encourage people to act if they witness a cardiac arrest.

“By providing funding to purchase the AED units we are increasing the possibility of saving a life,” said Kelly Barnhill, the foundation’s executive director.

“I know if it was me out there I would certainly want that first responder to have one,” he said.

**Early intervention**

Early CPR and defibrillation are key links in what the American Heart Association calls “the chain of survival,” which is defined as calling 911, performing CPR, defibrillation, follow-up care by paramedics and long-term care at the hospital.

Growing research shows that cardiac arrest patients who receive immediate CPR and/or defibrillation have an increased chance of survival.

Studies on the use of CPR and AEDs in Las Vegas casinos show 70 percent of cardiac arrest victims remain neurologically intact if they receive CPR and AED care within three minutes, said Dr. Juan March, professor with the Department of Emergency Medicine, Brody School of Medicine and medical director for EMS in Pitt County.

“Our goal, with promoting bystander, hands-only CPR and with the AEDs is to have a 25 percent survival rate of individuals who are neurologically intact,” March said.

However, only one in 10 Pitt County residents who suffer cardiac arrest outside a hospital receive CPR from a bystander, said Jack Cote, EMS coordinator for Pitt County Emergency Management.

Individuals living in rural areas often have to wait 10 minutes or more before an EMS crew arrives with a defibrillator, which further reduces their chances of surviving the event without permanent damage.

“In EMS, (with defibrillators) we were getting pulses back 30, 40 percent of time,” said Rick Britt, Winterville EMS chief and a CPR instructor. “The problem is that for every minute the brain is without oxygen, the chance of survival drops 10 percent.”

If it takes an EMS crew eight minutes to arrive at the scene of a cardiac call, an individual’s chance of survival drops to 20 percent, at best, Britt said.
**Speed critical**

Data collected by Pitt County Emergency Management shows the average EMS response time to a medical call is 10 minutes, Cote said. However, the 90th percent fractile, a measure of the majority of time it takes to answer most calls, is between 14-18 minutes, Cote said.

“It’s critical we have someone there doing chest compressions or (someone) with an AED within four minutes of a call,” Britt said.

That knowledge inspired Britt to seek a grant from the hospital foundation to equip county fire trucks with AEDs.

“We have 10 EMS stations in the county and 21 fire stations in the county (22 if Greenville Fire-Rescue is included). If we could convince the 21 rural fire stations to get trained in CPR and with AEDs and they could get to the scene, our survival rates would go up tremendously,” Britt said.

Britt wasn’t the only one interested in deploying more AEDs in the community. Pitt County Sheriff Neil Elks and officials with the village of Simpson also pursued grants.

“This isn’t a stretch for us at all,” said Melissia Larson, grants administrator with the sheriff’s office. “We are already in the county, we’re out there driving, we are trained in CPR and AED certified so it seemed like a natural match.”

**Working together**

Whenever the foundation receives similar grant applications from multiple sources, it encourages the groups to work together, Barnhill said.

While the foundation has had varied success in forming coalitions among other groups, the sheriff and emergency workers presented a fully developed plan of cooperation by the time foundation representatives met with them to discuss a joint venture.

“We were just tickled to death with the way they got together, set priorities and worked this out,” Barnhill said.

The decision was to pursue a multi-year project that would outfit sheriff’s vehicles and fire-rescue trucks with AEDs plus give 10 AEDs to nonprofit EMS squads that will be kept at their buildings or on second-line trucks, Larson said.
The sheriff’s office can have up to 30 vehicles on the road at any given time, Larson said. The sheriff’s vehicles have global positioning systems that are monitored by emergency communications, she said. When a cardiac arrest call comes in, dispatchers can use GPS to pinpoint the nearest deputy, and if they aren’t involved in another call, dispatch them to the scene, Larson said.

Britt said he supported the idea of outfitting deputies, who already have CPR training. Some fire officials in the county have been reluctant to join the project because of worries about manpower shortages and not being able to afford the equipment, he said. He believes news of the grant will encourage more departments to participate.

**Getting certified**

Red Oak Volunteer Fire Department on Tuesday became the first county fire department to be certified in the usage of AEDs. Members of Simpson and Grimesland fire departments will be certified soon, and will receive equipment.

“Our ultimate goal is to have a trained person and AED in every emergency vehicle in Pitt County,” Britt said.

Red Oak started working on its AED certification more than a year ago when it identified two cardiac arrest calls its members could have reached before an EMS unit if they had been outfitted, Chad Singleton, assistant fire chief, said.

Soon, the need for a first responder became personal for the fire department. On Oct. 29, Red Oak member Lynwood Stocks suffered cardiac arrest after returning from a grass fire, Singleton said. His sister started administering CPR with guidance from 911.

Bell Arthur EMS was dispatched, but knowing it might take more than 10 minutes to arrive — and that Red Oak had an AED and members who were certified — paramedics asked the department to respond, Singleton said.

That combination of CPR and early defibrillation, followed by the more extensive care of the paramedics and in the hospital, limited the long-term injuries suffered by Stocks, who has since returned to light duty at the fire department.

“Deputies respond to emergency medical calls to assist EMS so why not dispatch them first and get them on scene, delivering care,” Singleton said.
“We are absolutely for (the first responder program) and we’re trying to get a momentum going.”

Another component of this plan is identifying where AEDs are located across the county.

That will allow dispatchers to direct someone reporting a cardiac arrest that’s occurring at Greenville Mall, the courthouse or another public building to aid the victim by directing them to an AED, Larson said.

There also will be a series of classes offered to the community to teach people CPR through classes and public service videos.

“I think this will be a better service for the residents of Pitt County,” Singleton said. “Any time you can educate citizens it’s not just a benefit on the job, but at the home and in the community.”

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 22-329-9570.
Since Fred Johnson, center, suffered cardiac arrest in February, he and his wife have become friends with bystanders Tammy Williams, left, and Lori Garrish. The two women stayed with Andre'a Johnson at the hospital and have visited the Johnsons several times since the incident. "I really do feel so close to them," Garrish said. "He's like another brother to me and she's like a sister."

**Bystanders save a life with CPR**

By Kim Grizzard  
Sunday, June 3, 2012

In 25 years as a New York state trooper, duty never called for Fred Johnson to use his CPR training.

In the crowded streets he patrolled, there always was a firefighter, a paramedic, a doctor or nurse to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation while Johnson stood by.

But when Johnson suffered cardiac arrest at age 51, he wasn’t in New York. He was driving along N.C. 11 just outside of Winterville. There was no paramedic, doctor or nurse available. But a FedEx employee, a physical therapy assistant and a postal carrier were more than bystanders that day. They were life savers.

Some might even call them heroes.

This week, Tammy Williams, Lori Garrish and Durwood Hudson will receive the American Heart Association’s HeartSaver Hero Award for performing CPR until rescue workers arrived.

“We wanted to recognize the fact that they did CPR on a total stranger as bystanders,” Winterville Emergency Medical Services Chief Rick Britt said.
“That is one of the links in the chain of survival that is often missing — people willing to step in there and do CPR.”

**Help arrives**

For much of his life, Johnson has been a rescuer. The Long Island native spent more than 20 years on patrol before leaving law enforcement to move to North Carolina in 2005. Here, he and his wife, Andre’a, went to work as house parents for Baptist Children’s Homes, a nonprofit, Christian organization that helps children and families in crisis.

The Johnsons’ crisis began Feb. 3. Their son, Prince, and the seven girls that share Blackwell Cottage were all at school. The Johnsons had run some errands in Greenville and were on their way home to Kinston before 10 a.m.

“He was driving,” Andre’a recalled. “We were talking back and forth together.”

But when her husband suddenly stopped responding, Andre’a looked over to see him take one labored breath and slump over the steering wheel. Andre’a unbuckled her seat belt, reached her hand for the brake and brought the 12-passenger van to a stop on N.C. 11 before reaching for her cellphone to call 911.

As traffic backed up and people started blowing their horns, an emergency dispatcher told Andre’a that help was on the way. When she opened her door to get out, it had arrived.

**Divine intervention**

Lori Garrish and her roommate, Tammy Williams, were on their way home from Greenville to Ayden when they noticed traffic backing up just outside of Winterville.

“I pulled around to see if I could help them,” Garrish said. “She (Andre’a) said, ‘I think my husband’s having a heart attack.’”

Garrish had CPR training through her job as a physical therapy assistant. This time of day, she already should have been at work. But she had awakened that morning feeling feverish and had called in sick. Minutes after Garrish had hung up the phone, Williams got a call from her boss at FedEx offering her the day off. The two decided to ride together to take Williams’s grandson to day care.

On the way back home, Garrish seemed to be feeling better and wanted to stop at Waffle House for breakfast. Afterward, Williams asked to stop at the Harley-Davidson store.
“I kind of turned in that direction,” Garrish said, “and then I pulled back out and said, ‘I’m just going to go home.’ It was probably a minute down the road we saw cars starting to back up.

“It was a divine appointment.”

**Bystander CPR**

In much of the country, surviving cardiac arrest is nothing short of miraculous. According to a five-year study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, of the 300,000 people who suffer cardiac arrest each year outside of a hospital, 92 percent die. In many areas, including eastern North Carolina, the survival rate is less than 5 percent.

Dr. Juan March, chief of the Division of EMS at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine, believes encouraging bystander CPR is one way to improve those numbers.

“If there’s somebody there with you, the chance of you surviving should be in the 25 to 30 percent range,” March said, “if we had somebody willing to do CPR right on the scene.”

Williams was willing, but she was not sure she was able. She had no training in CPR, but she jumped into the passenger side of the Johnsons’ van to help.

“I really wasn’t thinking,” she said. “I’ve just never come up on that kind of situation.”

Following Garrish’s instructions, Williams began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while Garrish started chest compressions. Unable to lift Johnson, who stands 6 foot 5 and weighs about 250 pounds, the women were attempting CPR with Johnson still in the driver’s seat. No one offered to help, though other people were starting to gather at the scene.

Durwood Hudson noticed them as he was on his mail route. A volunteer firefighter in Winterville and Grifton, Hudson thought there had been a traffic accident ahead. He pulled over to see if he could help.

Hudson helped get Johnson out of the van and took over chest compressions while Garrish continued rescue breathing. Williams stood by and prayed.

“It’s ironic,” Hudson said. “I had just left to go out to start delivery on my route. I had a piece of Express Mail that had to be delivered at 11 o’clock. I had to change my route around, so I actually started at the back of the route instead of the front.
“I just think that God put us there for a reason,” he said. “I believe that God does that. He puts you where he wants you to be sometimes.”

**Hesitation costs lives**

Although nearly half of all cardiac arrests are witnessed, more often than not, those witnesses do not initiate CPR. Only about one-third of patients receive CPR from bystanders.

While 911 operators routinely give CPR instructions over the phone, some witnesses believe they need training to be able to help. Others are reluctant because they worry about contracting diseases through mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, even though recent studies indicate that chest compressions alone can save lives. Still others fear they may be sued over failed attempts, although Good Samaritan laws in many states, including North Carolina, offer legal protection.

Whatever the reasons, those hesitations cost lives.

“Starting CPR as soon as possible is critical,” March said. “For every minute that goes by, it’s about 8 percent of folks that won’t survive.”

**God’s grace**

Without the help of strangers, Johnson realizes he could have been one of them.

“They’re not doctors or anything like that, but they just felt the need to turn around,” he said. “There’s no neon light that says, ‘heart attack victim, needs CPR.’ What made them get out of their car to go see? It was nothing but God.”

His wife agrees.

“These three people, they were angels. They were heaven-sent, I’m telling you,” Andre’a said. “It was just God’s grace. We’re very grateful.”

Since the incident, both Fred and Andre’a have renewed their CPR certifications. Though they hope they will never need to use their knowledge, they want to be prepared.

“Toward the end of the class, I kind of gave some encouraging words to everybody and explained (Fred’s story) to them,” Andre’a said.

“Now I look at it (CPR) totally differently,” she said. “It’s a whole different mind-set now.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or 252-329-9578.
More than $1.3 million was raised last weekend during the 27th annual telethon to benefit Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, a spokeswoman said.

The “Celebration Broadcast” aired on WITN from 8-11:30 p.m. Friday and 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Sunday and received $1,305,618 in donations.

“Once again, eastern North Carolina came through with tremendous support and generosity,” said Sarah Davenport, chairwoman of the Vidant Health and Vidant Medical Center Foundation boards, of which Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals is a part.

“Our heartfelt thanks go to everyone who made a financial gift or who gave their time as a volunteer throughout this past weekend,” she said. “Because of them, a tremendous difference will be made in countless children’s lives here in eastern North Carolina.”

The largest donor to this year’s campaign came from the Service League of Greenville, which contributed $300,000. Fifty local Food Lion stores raised $255,310.

Featured during the telethon was 6-year-old Ava Gee and other children who recovered from serious illness or injury through medical care at Vidant Children’s Hospital. Gee underwent a brain scan at Vidant Medical Center about 18 months ago after complaining of a headache and getting sick at her day care center.
The scan showed a cancerous brain tumor that required removal through surgery, followed by aggressive chemotherapy.

Gee is now home again in Greenville with her parents, George and Brianna Gee, her twin sister and younger brother.

Other than hair loss from the chemotherapy, “you would think she was a normal, healthy 6-year-old,” Brianna Gee said.

Other 2012 “miracle children” featured during the fundraiser were Evan Salerno, 3, of Jacksonville at Camp Lejeune; Kennedy Dean, 7, of Pikeville in Wayne County and Miranda Hale, 14, of Tarboro. The teen ambassador is Davie Swinson, 18, of Onslow County.

The children’s ability to carry on with successful lives stems from the hospital’s response to their medical needs, said Dr. Ronald Perkin, co-director of Vidant Children’s Hospital and professor and chairman of the Department of Pediatrics, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

“The community shows how much it cares about children by providing contributions to Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals,” he said. “In turn, their generosity grants us the resources we need to see beyond the obvious treatments and save more lives.”

Last year’s telethon raised $1,160,851. Donations this year will help with expansion of the children’s hospital, which will add 78,000 square feet for children’s care, including an immunosuppressed special unit with a controlled environment and special ventilation systems to reduce the possibility for infection.

It also will have a treatment and recovery area for children who do not need an overnight stay. A newborn convalescent area will give newborns and their families private rooms.

“Our donors make the difference for children throughout eastern North Carolina,” Laura Lee Potter, program director for Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, said.

“They save lives and bring miracles to thousands of children each year by sharing their financial resources, volunteer hours and other types of support. Their generosity makes sure we can provide advanced medical care, close to home, to the families and children who depend on us.”
Ava Gee underwent surgery in late 2010 and recovered for a month before starting more than 30 radiation treatments, including several to her head and spine. Chemotherapy also took place during that time.

Her mother said the hospital staff went above and beyond in their care and assistance.

“It’s amazing the support they provide to people who are going through something that’s devastating like this,” Brianna Gee said.

She said having the services and technology at Vidant Children’s Hospital at hand was crucial in allowing the family to stay in their Greenville home.

“If we hadn’t had these resources when Ava got sick, we would have had to move,” she said. “Our lives would have been drastically different. We would have had to uproot our family.”

Because they lived only minutes away, her daughter would spend a night or two in the hospital for chemotherapy but could go home to recover.

“You can never be too thankful for the resources we have,” Brianna Gee said. “People may not know it until they have the situation – it makes a huge difference to have it right here.”
Dr. Ron Mitchelson, a professor in the Department of Geography and a senior research fellow, has been named interim vice chancellor for research and graduate studies at East Carolina University.

Mitchelson has been at ECU since 1999. He has chaired the geography department and served as interim chairman of the English department.

In 2011 he was appointed to chair the Program Prioritization Committee, which evaluated programs campuswide and examined the university’s academic structure. That committee identified and recommended changes that could save as much as $4 million.

“Ron Mitchelson has proven himself to be a strong leader across many assignments at ECU,” Chancellor Steve Ballard said in a news release. “I’m very confident in his abilities to lead this division, and I’m especially impressed by his commitment to ECU and his capacity for teamwork.”

As interim vice chancellor for research, Mitchelson will have responsibility for sponsored research, graduate education, technology transfer and research compliance. His salary is $200,000 a year.
Mitchelson said he plans to evaluate the division’s efficiency and will seek ways to involve more students in research.

“We’ll be taking a very close look at how we conduct our business over the next few months,” Mitchelson said.

“One of my personal interests is to expand the engagement of undergraduate as well as graduate students within our university’s research enterprise,” he said. “All students, along with our region, benefit greatly from that type of experience.”

Mitchelson graduated from the State University of New York in Buffalo in 1975 with a bachelor’s degree in geography. He holds master’s and doctorate degrees in geography from The Ohio State University.
ECU Notes: Freshman must live on campus
Sunday, June 3, 2012

East Carolina University will require first year students to live on campus their first two semesters under a new retention policy that begins in August. The policy is aimed at keeping students on the right track to return the following year.

“A lot of the research…states that students who live on campus, particularly their freshman year, do better academically,” said Dr. Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs.

Hardy said Chancellor Steve Ballard’s Executive Council made the policy decision, with the Board of Trustees highly favoring the change.

Bill McCartney, associate vice chancellor for campus living and dining, said the requirement provides a universal first year experience for incoming freshmen. It will allow students to be closer to the services the university provides and to bond with the university in a different way than they would if living off-campus.

Hardy said the greatest benefit of this change is increased programming geared specifically towards freshmen to help with the transition from high school to college.

“Those (programs) will cover developmental topics from how do you make friends, how do you deal with roommate issues, to time management, study skills and test-taking skills,” she said.

“It helps with acclimation, from understanding how to study, how to perform, how to manage time a little bit, because there’s some structure within the residence hall,” Hardy said.

McCartney added that having this structure helps ease the transition and allows for students to focus more on studies. With that structure in place, he
said, “All you have to do is worry about getting yourself up and getting to class and taking care of business.”

Dovetailing with the new policy are the First Year Experience halls and Living Learning Communities offered by the residence halls. The First Year Experience is a social and academic integration program that eases the adjustment to college, said McCartney. Living Learning Communities join students with similar academic interests in a close residential environment, providing extended support, activities and networking with faculty and peers.

This year, business, biological sciences and pre-nursing have joined the list of available Living Learning Communities, bringing the total to eight options. Students may also choose engineering, honors, leadership, music and wellness.

Since on average about 85 percent of freshmen plan to live on campus, Campus Living does not expect a drastic increase in the number of residents. McCartney said there will be enough space to accommodate the extra percentage, as well as any returning students who choose to live in the residence halls.

A few exceptions to the policy will be honored. Freshmen who live with their parents and commute less than 35 miles to campus may choose to live at home. Veterans, married students and students who are 21 years old by the first day of classes may choose to live off-campus. McCartney said he expects the exceptions to affect only about 125 to 150 students.

ECU joins other universities that also require students to live on campus their first year, including UNC-Chapel Hill, Texas Tech and Duke University, which requires to students to live on campus the first three years.

“Students make friends for life during their freshmen year at college,” McCartney said..

“The people students live around and go through that rite of passage with as freshmen form a special bond…those students who live on campus have a much easier access to creating that bond and that common experience than off-campus students.

“Students who have that common experience will feel that much more connected to the institution,” McCartney said.

*Afro-Caribbean migrants studied*
ECU history professor Kennetta Perry was recently awarded the American Council of Learned Societies fellowship grant for her research in Afro-Caribbean migrants in Britain during the 1950s and 60s.

In 2012, the American Council of Learned Societies will award over $15 million to more than 320 scholars worldwide working in the humanities and related social sciences.

The ACLS fellowship grant awards associate professors like Perry up to $35,000, intended as salary replacement to compensate professors for the year taken off teaching to conduct research.

Perry’s year off will be spent conducting interviews with migrants who experienced this struggle, doing research and writing, revising and finishing the draft of her book.

Her book, tentatively titled “London is the place for me: Black Britons, Citizenship, and the Politics of Belonging,” explores how Caribbean migrants fought for their status as British citizens following World War II.

Perry said the book aims to show race in global terms, revealing, “how race and racism are not unique to the United States, which will window into how racial politics operate in other parts of the world.”

“It explores how these Afro-Caribbean migrants felt they had a right to citizenship,” she said. “It gets to this basic question, ‘Who has the right to belong, and can make a claim of belonging?’”

Perry said she is grateful for the award, but said she will miss the year off from teaching and interacting with students.

“I am fortunate that the university is supporting me in this effort and I am able to take advantage of the fellowship,” she said.

Perry aims to have her work submitted to the Academic Press by spring 2013.
North Carolina's Jordan Parks (8) slides under East Carolina's Jack Reinheimer (8) for a steal at second base during the fifth inning of an NCAA regional tournament college baseball game, Sunday, June 3, 2012, in Chapel Hill, N.C.
Sara D. Davis - AP

North Carolina beats East Carolina 5-3 in NCAAs
By Kip Coons - Correspondent

CHAPEL HILL In the end for East Carolina, it was a matter of too many walks, too many lost opportunities, and too many North Carolina relief pitchers.

UNC sent the Pirates home from the NCAA baseball regional Sunday with a 5-3 decision in a losers’ bracket game that extended a long run of futility for ECU against the Tar Heels.

It was the sixth straight time UNC (46-15) has beaten ECU (36-24-1), but the count is even worse when they meet at Boshamer Stadium, where the Tar Heels have won 15 in a row against the Pirates. UNC also owns a 7-1 record against them in NCAA play and hasn’t lost to its in-state rivals in postseason play since 1983.
UNC coach Mike Fox discounted UNC’s record against ECU and Pirates coach Billy Godwin, who was Fox’s assistant coach at N.C. Wesleyan when their Bishops won the NCAA Division III championship in 1989.

“They do have a great program,” said Fox, whose Tar Heels advanced to play St. John’s on Sunday night. “I think the fans need to leave Billy alone and let him run his program. We’re fortunate to have that winning streak. I’m sure it will come to an end one day.”

Sunday wasn’t that day. Pinch-hitter Mike Zolk capped a three-run rally in the seventh with a two-run single to give UNC a 5-1 lead. Freshman right-hander Benton Moss (7-2) held ECU to one run and six hits over six-plus innings, and four relievers protected his lead.

UNC closer Michael Morin set a school and ACC record with his 19th save of the season despite allowing a solo home run to John Wooten in the ninth. It was Morin who was victimized by the three-run, walk-off homer in the ninth by Danny Bethea on Saturday night when St. John’s rallied past UNC 5-4.

“Pitching and defense,” Fox said. “Today was typical of a lot of our wins. We don’t look the best in the batter’s box, but we somehow got it done.”

The Pirates will lose six seniors, including utilityman Tim Younger, who contributed three hits and an RBI against UNC.

“I’m disappointed. I felt like we had competed well today. It was a game of freebies, and we talked about that when you play big clubs,” said Godwin. “If you had told me we’re going to come in here and get 10 hits, they would have five, and we’re not going to commit any errors, then you have to like your chances. It just didn’t happen.”

The Tar Heels scored single runs off ECU junior right-hander Jharel Cotton (8-3) in the fourth and sixth, before the Pirates answered in the bottom of the sixth.

Moss faced the minimum 15 batters through five innings, despite giving up three hits. The Tar Heels played airtight defense behind him, with two double plays and catcher Jacob Stallings throwing out a runner on an attempted steal. One of the double plays came in the third when right fielder Shell McCain doubled Chase McDonald off second on a flyout.

Moss sailed along until the sixth, when Mike Ussery, Younger and Drew Reynolds reached him for consecutive two-out singles. Ussery scored on
Reynolds’ hit, but another baserunning mistake cost the Pirates when Stallings cut down Reynolds trying to advance to second on the throw home.

Given the break, the Tar Heels promptly capitalized in the seventh. Andy Smithmyer, who had relieved Cotton, loaded the bases on three walks, the last one intentionally to Colin Moran after a balk opened up first base.

Stallings then made it 3-1 with a sacrifice fly to left. After another walk to reload the bases, Zolk lined his two-run single to center, the only hit of the inning.

The Pirates rallied in the eighth to make it 5-2. McDonald and Jack Reinheimer singled off reliever R.C. Orlan, who then left the game with an arm injury and a 1-1 count on Younger.

Luis Paula relieved, and Younger deposited his first offering in right field for an RBI single.

That was Paula’s only pitch, as Tate Parrish came in and retired Reynolds on a popup to short.

Moments after it had ended, Godwin tried to put the season in perspective.

“Like most seasons, it was peaks and valley,” Godwin said. “We did enough to get into the NCAA tournament, there was no question about that.”

He added, “We have to play well enough to host a regional. There’s no doubt in my mind we can get this program to Omaha,” home of the College World Series.

“We’re disappointed,” Reynolds said. “More than anything, I’m disappointed for the seniors. Hopefully we can build off it and learn from it and use it in the future.”
DeCock: Accept another ECU shortfall?

By Luke DeCock - staff columnist - ldecock@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL–It’s beyond debate that college baseball in North Carolina is more fun when East Carolina has a good team. Having the Pirates marauding around, knocking off ACC teams and ruffling comfortable feathers, makes things more interesting for everyone, just as it does in football.

The question East Carolina has to answer is this: Is making the NCAA tournament good enough? Or do the Pirates have to aim higher?

“You gotta understand, everybody is frustrated,” East Carolina coach Billy Godwin said. “Nobody is more frustrated than me.”

This somewhat inadvertently became a subject of debate Sunday as the Pirates were eliminated from the NCAA tournament at the hands of North Carolina, with Tar Heels coach Mike Fox delivering an impassioned statement in support of his old friend Godwin, who in seven years in Greenville has a 10-11 record in NCAA tournament games.

Fox begged East Carolina’s fans to “leave Billy alone,” alluding to the pressure created by a fifth-place finish in Conference USA after East Carolina opened the season 15-4, including a home win over N.C. State, but went 21-20-1 the rest of the way, concluding with Sunday’s 5-3 loss to North Carolina, the Pirates’ 15th straight against the Tar Heels in Chapel Hill.

Fox’s impromptu defense of his former assistant coach at North Carolina Wesleyan prompted later questions to Godwin about the state of the program, to which Godwin replied with equal passion.

“We’ve just got to find a way to continue to play well, well enough to host, like we did in 2009 when we won our regional,” Godwin said.

Only three times in the program’s history has East Carolina made it to a super regional. Each time, the Pirates hosted a regional as the No. 1 seed, in Wilson in 2001, Kinston in 2004 and, under Godwin, Greenville in 2009. The Pirates faced North Carolina in Chapel Hill that year, losing 10-1 and 9-3.
But Godwin said Omaha, and the program’s first College World Series appearance, remains the goal, and that the program remains on the right track. As he spoke, East Carolina athletic director Terry Holland, who named Godwin interim coach in 2005 before promoting him to the permanent role, watched from the back of the room.

“These guys that come in here, that we recruit, they believe that,” Godwin said. “Sometimes it’s frustrating. Our program has been to 26 regionals and we haven’t gotten to the big dance yet. My position is I’m fully convinced this is going to happen. We just have to keep grinding, keep working.”

As Godwin talked, sophomore designated hitter Drew Reynolds nodded his head.

“I agree 100 percent with what he said,” Reynolds said. “We feel the same way in the locker room.”

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Regional run ends for ECU
By Nathan Summers
Monday, June 4, 2012

CHAPEL HILL — East Carolina’s baseball season ended in much the same way it ran its course, with the Pirate offense struggling to provide enough run support to its pitchers and the defense and pitching extending opponent innings with self-inflicted wounds.

Host North Carolina administered a 5-3 deathblow to the Pirates in Sunday’s NCAA Chapel Hill Regional elimination game after surviving some tight early innings and then opening the game up against the Pirates’ bullpen in the late innings.

A three-run seventh for the top-seeded Tar Heels was the defining inning in the game, stretching a slim 2-1 edge to a commanding 5-1 lead. UNC won with a bare minimum of offense, riding into Sunday night’s game against St. John’s with just five hits to the Pirates’ 10. But eight ECU walks largely spelled out the difference in the early game at Boshamer Stadium.

“If you told me when we came in here we were going to get 10 hits and they were going to have five and we’re not going to make any errors, you have to like your chances,” ECU head coach Billy Godwin said following his team’s second loss to the Tar Heels this season. “It just didn’t happen. If you look at it from the flipside, they walked no one. Walks are like hits in this game.”
The Heels lost to St. John’s in Sunday night’s game. The Red Storm’s 9-5 win vaulted them into the super regionals for the first time.

Down 5-1 in the bottom of the eighth, ECU’s Chase McDonald and Jack Reinheimer traded one-out singles and Tim Younger roped an RBI single to right to trim the UNC lead to 5-2. Refusing to go home without a fight, John Wooten ripped a solo homer to left to make it 5-3 in the bottom of the ninth.

“I felt like we swung the bat pretty well today, and they didn’t walk anybody,” said Younger, who led ECU with a 3-for-4 day and an RBI. “They got ahead of us, and the infield behind them didn’t make any mistakes.”

Also for the Pirates, Drew Reynolds drove in a run and McDonald added a pair of singles.

UNC right-hander Benton Moss (7-2) allowed one Pi rate run before being pulled in the bottom of the seventh. He allowed six hits, struck out one and walked none.

“We play a tough game and athletics is a tough deal,” Godwin said. “But these guys really wanted this, and after a tough loss on Friday (to SJU) they bounced back (beating Cornell on Saturday) and played their hearts out, and that’s all I ask them to do.”

ECU starter Jharel Cotton (8-3) pitched into the sixth inning, but his day came to a close with one out after he issued a walk to Cody Stubbs. Reliever Andy Smithmyer struck out Shell McCain for the second out but Brian Holberton flared an RBI single to left that brought Stubbs home and doubled UNC’s early lead to 2-0.

Cotton was on the hook for the loss at that point, allowing two runs on three hits, walking three and striking out two.

ECU rallied in the bottom of the sixth on Reynolds’ RBI single to shallow right with two outs, which brought Mike Ussery around to score and make it 2-1. But Reynolds committed one of a couple of costly Pirate baserunning errors when he was thrown out trying to reach second on the play, erasing himself and Younger from the basepaths and ending the inning.

Smithmyer couldn’t get out of the seventh, as he walked three straight to load the bases with one out and was pulled for co-closer Reynolds.

Clean-up hitter Jacob Stallings knocked a sacrifice fly to left that scored Chaz Frank and extended the Tar Heel lead to 3-1. Reynolds then walked
Stubbs to reload the bags, and pinch hitter Mike Zolk drilled a two-run single up the middle to run the UNC lead to 5-1.

“It’s a mix of emotions right now, not knowing what to think being my last game in a Pirate uniform,” senior catcher Zach Wright said.

The Tar Heels manufactured a 1-0 lead in the top of the fourth inning. Tommy Coyle singled to lead off, stole second base and took third when Stallings chopped a high single over third. Coyle scored on Stubbs’ sacrifice fly give UNC the lead.

Cotton loaded the bases with two outs in the fifth on a couple of walks and a hit batsman, but right fielder Wooten made one of a handful of sparkling plays when he leapt against the wall to catch Colin Moran’s long fly and end the inning with the score still 1-0.

The Pirates fell victim to three double plays in the loss.

“Today was very typical of a lot of our wins,” UNC coach Mike Fox said. “We don’t look the best in the batter’s box but somehow we got it done. Obviously our pitching did the job.”

Ending their careers as Pirates were Ussery, Corey Thompson, Wright, Younger and pitchers Kevin Brandt and Lance Honeycutt.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
Board of Governors keeps hands off UNC scandal

By Jane Stancill - jstancill@newsobserver.com

In January 1989, news broke about the looming publication of a book called “Personal Fouls” that promised to chronicle wrongdoing in Jim Valvano’s basketball program at N.C. State. The allegations on the book jacket hit like a bombshell.

Within days, the NCAA was looking into it. Within weeks, UNC system President C.D. Spangler Jr. launched what he termed “an impartial and complete investigation.”

A UNC system panel known as the Poole Commission brought in State Bureau of Investigation agents, interviewed 160 people and reviewed hundreds of documents during a six-month period. The probe set the stage for the resignation of NCSU’s chancellor, Bruce Poulton, and the departure of Valvano as athletics director. Valvano later stepped down as coach.

Fast forward to the recent trouble in UNC-Chapel Hill’s football program, and now, a burgeoning academic fraud investigation into the university’s African and Afro-American Studies Department. There has been no far-reaching investigation by UNC system leaders, who have supported UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp throughout the ordeal, including last year when he fired football coach Butch Davis in the wake of major NCAA sanctions and questions about academic integrity.

That hands-off approach stings the Wolfpack faithful, who see a double standard. Grover Gore Sr., an attorney from Banner Elk and a former NCSU trustee, said system leaders are “sticking their heads in the sand.”

“It’s absolutely incredible that the president or Board of Governors have made no attempt to even investigate,” said Gore, who also served on the board of the system when it consisted of fewer campuses. “It clearly, clearly shows and proves that the president of the system and the Board of Governors, they have two rules – one rule for UNC-Chapel Hill, and another rule for N.C. State and everybody else.”

UNC system leaders say they have taken the Chapel Hill case seriously. They have attended multiple briefings, sometimes behind closed doors, by campus officials. They point to two system-led reform efforts. A task force last year recommended changes in tutoring programs and more oversight of
athletics. Another group is coming up with best practices of handling coaches’ contracts.

“We haven’t been turning a deaf ear, and there have been hundreds of conversations about it, private and public,” said Brent Barringer, a Board of Governors member from Cary. “So, for anyone to say that we’ve been ignoring it or trying to ignore it, that ignores reality.”

Now, the State Bureau of Investigation is looking at the African and Afro-American Studies Department to determine whether criminal conduct occurred.

“Bringing in the SBI is about as independent a look as one can get,” UNC system President Tom Ross said. “So I think what we’re trying to do is look at this carefully, and we’ll see where the SBI comes out, and if we learn more than we already know, then there may be further steps necessary. But based on what we know I think this is a much more confined circumstance than I understand was the case previously at State.”

**Issues beyond athletics**

Who should police college athletics when a university’s reputation is at stake?

Typically, athletic misdeeds are handled by the NCAA, which has the power to yank scholarships, ban teams from postseason play or worse. The UNC system has long delegated decisions about athletics to campus chancellors, who report information annually to the campus boards of trustees. But the system board also does some monitoring of athletic programs, including reviews of data on graduation rates and other academic measures of student-athletes.

The latest findings transcend athletics.

Last month, an internal investigation on the Chapel Hill campus revealed academic fraud in the African and Afro-American Studies Department, including 54 classes in which there was little indication of instruction, as well as unauthorized grade changes and forged faculty signatures. Thirty-nine percent of students in the irregular courses were basketball and football players, but the university said there was no evidence the classes were designed to give athletes an easy pass.

The former department chairman, Julius Nyang’oro, is retiring effective July 1 and another employee linked to the problems left the university in 2009. At the time the internal review was released, Ross called it “an isolated situation” and said the campus had new safeguards to prevent a recurrence.
But then The N&O reported that Nyang’oro had received payment for a summer school lecture course that he instead taught as an independent study course that did not meet and did not have exams. Orange-Chatham District Attorney Jim Woodall asked the SBI to investigate for possible fraud. Ross and Thorp joined in, asking campus police to request the SBI’s involvement. Board of Governors Chairwoman Hannah Gage said the board will discuss developments at its meeting next week, but she hopes that the SBI probe will be the final chapter.

“We’ve had three investigations, and if I thought for one second that a fourth investigation would return some balance, then it would be the first thing I would push for with the Board of Governors,” she said. “I don’t that think it would necessarily uncover anything or resolve anything because the challenges are so much bigger than just what’s going on at UNC-Chapel Hill.”

Gage, whose tenure as chair ends this month, said she wants to consider requiring campuses to be more transparent about their spending on athletics, including disclosing per-student expenditures of student-athletes versus regular students.

One more investigation by the board won’t change the landscape, she said, but a focus on costs could.

“The culture and pressures that accompany college sports now are driving the cost to the point where it’s destabilizing lots of campuses, and they’re forcing a set of priorities that are certainly not what we say our top priorities are,” Gage said.

A deeper probe?

System leaders say it’s difficult to compare the NCSU and UNC-CH situations. In the late 1980s, Gage said, there was a sense that the trouble could be traced to the top administrative ranks.

“We had complete confidence in (Thorp’s) integrity and his separation from the scandal,” she said.

Some are uneasy about unanswered questions.

Gerry Hancock, a Raleigh lawyer recently chosen for UNC-CH’s General Alumni Association Board, said the university needs to get to the bottom of what happened in the African and Afro-American Studies Department. That includes making sure that athletic department staff neither had a hand in the lack of instruction and grade changes nor became aware of those problems and failed to report them.
“Whether or not this was orchestrated for the benefit of athletes, it’s something that must be determined because only when you have that information can you prevent this kind of thing in the future,” he said. “... That would be the best way for any of us to serve the university we love. Any institution will make mistakes. Great institutions become great by the way they respond to those mistakes.”

Some UNC system members want more assurance that the mess is cleaned up once and for all, said Burley Mitchell, a board member and former chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court.

“I do see a great deal of concern by individual members, and I think they’re pretty freely expressing it among each other,” he said, “that this needs a lot more looking at, and not by the university – in other words, not by the Chapel Hill campus.”

There have been various briefings by campus leaders for the last year or so, but the whole affair has been “like Chinese water torture,” Mitchell said. “Each time it comes back, it seems to be worse.”

**Old problems at State**

Mitchell holds degrees from both NCSU and UNC’s law school, and he is a well-known N.C. State supporter. Looking back to the Poole Commission probe, he said, the UNC board “got stampeded by the press.”

“It wasn’t done in the best manner possible in hindsight looking at it, and it wound up pretty much being a tempest in a teapot,” Mitchell said.

The probe of NCSU found no evidence to support the sensational charges in the “Personal Fouls” book, including players receiving cars. But the Poole Commission did identify misuse of academic processes to benefit players, including grade changes and abuse of the university’s withdrawal and readmissions policy. Players did not attend classes regularly and did not show up for voluntary drug tests.

At the time, Spangler said: “The spirit, not the letter of the law, has been broken.”

Spangler declined to talk about how the current situation is being handled by Ross or the board.

In 1989, the board adopted Spangler’s 14 recommendations for changes to athletics, “to the end that academic integrity be assured.”

“I had a strong Board of Governors, and I talked with them frequently,” Spangler recalled. “I felt that they were in tune with what the needs of the
university were at that time and I was comfortable with what they approved to be done.”

Staff writer Dan Kane contributed to this report. Stancill: 919-829-4559

**The Poole Commission report**

In 1989, UNC system President C.D. Spangler appointed a four-member panel headed by lawyer Samuel Poole, vice chairman of the Board of Governors, to look into allegations about the N.C. State basketball program.

Before the report was released, NCSU faculty reported that 10 of 12 players on the 1988-89 Wolfpack squad were not in good academic standing. The head of NCSU’s academic skills program said rules were routinely bent to keep players eligible.

Before the Poole Commission report was released in August, NCSU Chancellor Bruce Poulton resigned.

The Poole Commission identified misuse of academic policies to benefit players, including abuse of the university’s withdrawal and readmissions policy. Players did not attend classes regularly, the report said.

“The academic abuses that have occurred have not been in the form of violations of the written rules of the institution or of the NCAA,” Spangler said. “It appears to be the case, in fact, that not one single academic violation of an NCAA regulation has been found by the Commission. Rather, the system has been misused. The spirit, not the letter of the law, has been broken.”

In his memo, Poole was more critical: “The (NCSU) administration deserves no credibility with the press, the public, the faculty and this Commission. We can cite several instances where public statements were not based on fact. They were either an attempt to cover the realities or a lack of awareness of what was occurring. Neither should be acceptable from a public university.”

Poole wrote that the commission expected the NCSU administration to welcome the review. “We were naive. The expressed attitude has been: (a) who can we sue and for how much; (b) the Commission is interfering with our recruiting; (c) the commission is adversely affecting the fund raising for our new athletic arena; (d) selling shoes and complimentary tickets demonstrated the creativeness of these red-blooded American boys; and (e) worse, we had no right or authority to conduct an inquiry.”

Ultimately, the NCAA sanctioned NCSU’s program for the sale of complimentary tickets and shoes by players.

Valvano stepped down as athletics director. He eventually resigned as coach when allegations surfaced about possible point-shaving by Wolfpack players. Those accusations were never proved.
A special SAT date for the wealthy and gifted?

By Daniel de Vise

The College Board is under fire for offering a special SAT test date to students in an expensive summer program at Amherst College. (Patrick Reddy via AP)

The College Board is under fire for offering a special SAT test date to students in an expensive summer program at Amherst College. (Patrick Reddy via AP)

The College Board is under fire for arranging a special administration of the SAT for students in a pricey college-prep program at Amherst College.

Students in a three-week “intensive college preparatory program” at Amherst are scheduled to take the college entrance exam Aug. 3.

This marks “the first time that the country’s oldest and most widely used college entrance exam will be administered to students outside the standard academic year,” according to a statement from the National Society for the Gifted and Talented, sponsor of the program.

The summer session at Amherst, perhaps the nation’s premier liberal arts school, costs $4,500, or $300 a day and includes courses on test-taking strategies and skills. That likely means the students taking this specially administered SAT are both gifted and affluent — not a demographic sorely in need of extra help in college admissions — and will be able to utilize their newly honed test-taking skills immediately, rather than waiting to take the test in the fall. The $49 cost of taking the SAT is waived for students enrolled in the summer session.
Students who take the test in August cannot also take the test this month, College Board officials said, so that they cannot report an additional set of scores.

In a critical missive, the National Center for Fair and Open Testing asked, “Do not College Board annual reports already demonstrate that students from the highest socio-economic backgrounds significantly out-score other demographic groups on the SAT?”

Research consistently shows, in fact, that affluence bestows several advantages on SAT test-takers, both direct and indirect. Students from wealthy families can afford expensive tutoring, which yields a proven boost on SAT scores. That’s on top of the inherent advantage enjoyed by students from families with high income and educational attainment, a lift that cuts across every aspect of education.

The publication “Inside Higher Ed” published a statement from Matt Lisk, executive director of the SAT. Lisk describes the August date as a “pilot” to begin weighing the viability of a permanent summer administration of the SAT. Students have long clamored for a chance to take the SAT in summer, outside the busy academic year.

Lisk said a small-scale pilot was the “only sound way to work through any potential operational challenges before considering an expansion to millions of students and thousands of sites.”

The initiative was not, however, described as a pilot in the April news release that announced it. That release, which appears to be a joint statement from the College Board and several other organizations, did not appear on the College Board Web site, the place where the organization would ordinarily announce pilot programs.