THE DAILY CLIPS

July 6, 2012

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by East Carolina University News Services:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Services
Web site at http://www.ecu.edu/news
252-328-6481
Expanding reading skills generally doesn’t require wood and power tools. But that’s exactly what children like 10-year-old Jairo Cota used at Book Buddies, a literacy project that constructs bookcases as part of an effort to build better readers. The project, being conducted this summer at Oakmont Baptist Church and Building Hope Community Life Center, gives children books and somewhere to keep them in order to give literacy a prominent place in their lives.

“There’s been research that shows that children will read books that belong to them, that they pick out ... and that they can keep at home,” said Carol A. Brown, an associate professor of instructional technology at East Carolina University. “If you take them to the library, they might or they might not (read).”

Brown, a former media specialist, was introduced to the Book Buddies concept not at an educational seminar but at a meeting she attended with her church. While at a Cooperative Baptist Fellowship conference in 2008, she
learned that missionaries were using the Book Buddies program in southeast Arkansas, an area which had one of the highest illiteracy rates in the nation.

In the summer of 2011, Brown took a team from Oakmont to Helena, Ark., to help with a Book Buddies project. Retired teacher Barbara Wooten and her husband, Bud, helped transport hundreds of titles that members of the congregation had donated to children who did not have books.

“I could identify with those kids,” Barbara Wooten said. “I was not born in a family that had books. I was in the third grade when I got my first book that was mine. I still have it.”

For Brown, the calling to go to Arkansas was both spiritual and educational. As a Christian, she believed a literacy project could help open the Bible to children who might not otherwise learn from it. As an educator, she understood the importance of exposing children to informational books.

“I know that as an educator and a teacher of teachers that children are not reading enough nonfiction books,” Brown said. “Reading comprehension is improved more in that area than fiction, which is emphasized now in schools. If we’re going to be competitive in the world market, children need to be better readers of informational texts.”

Brown asked for donations of not just fairy tales but physics books, books about nature and biographies.

“Children don’t have these kinds of books in their homes,” she said. “Even if they have the money, most children are never going to go out of their way to buy ‘The life story of Abraham Lincoln,’ but if you put it in their hands and point it out to them, they will read it.”

In Arkansas, where Brown lived for several years before coming to Greenville, she saw older students, including some who seemed to have put reading on a shelf, get excited about Book Buddies. She began to wonder if she might be able to build the same kind of enthusiasm with a local project.

“I was sitting in their center in Arkansas and working with their people there, and I thought, ‘We’ve got a center right back there at Oakmont Square apartments. This very same kind of project could be done in our center,’” Brown said. “Seeing the response we had, how excited those children were to get those books, I thought we could do that for our own children here in Pitt County.”
Last week, dozens of children, most of them residents of Oakmont Square and Carriage House apartments, turned out for Book Buddies at Oakmont church.

The weeklong camp had Kanyiah Moore’s name written all over it. Reading is a favorite pastime for Kanyiah, 8, a student at Eastern Elementary School.

“I love reading,” she said. “I like to read anywhere. I could read like two chapter books in a day.”

Kanyiah could hardly wait to finish her bookshelf and get her hands on books about her other favorite pastime, animals.

Alex Gonzalez wasn’t exactly on the same page. The 12-year-old didn’t especially want books.

“I just want one Bible book,” he said.

Still, Gonzalez wanted to choose some books for his baby brother, and he made a bookshelf with help from volunteers from Boy Scout Troop 340 at St. James United Methodist Church.

Boy Scout Nathan Hand recruited fellow Scouts to help him assemble bookshelves for Book Buddies, which is Hand’s Eagle Scout project. He also collected books from St. James and donations from Trinity Christian School, where he is a rising freshman.

“We’re able to spend this time with these kids,” Hand said. “We’ve been showing them God, and I think it’s a great experience for us and for them.”

Following a Book Buddies camp in August at Building Hope, Brown plans to continue the literacy project with meetings once a week after school at Oakmont Square. Brown has been selected for ECU’s Engagement and Outreach Scholars Academy, which encourages faculty members to work within communities to improve quality of life and foster economic prosperity.

“I wanted a way of connecting my profession with community service,” Brown said. “There is a way to bring faith-based programs and the secular world together to make a difference.”

Though the weekly Book Buddies sessions won’t include construction, the goal is the same: to help build literacy.

“It’s not just about putting together some little shelf,” Hand said. “We’re giving them a good base for reading and having a good education.”
For information about contributing to Book Buddies, email Carol Brown at browncar@ecu.edu.

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or at 252-329-9578.
WINTERVILLE - Mr. William Stewart "Bill" Carson, 75, passed away at his home in Winterville on Monday, July 2, 2012. A memorial service will be conducted Sunday at 4 p.m. at the Murphy Center on the campus of East Carolina University. A funeral service will be held Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at 4 p.m. at Victory Baptist Church in Sylva.

Coach Carson, a native of Weirton, W.Va., was a graduate of Weir High School where he was a state champion sprinter on the track team. He received an undergraduate Degree in Forestry from West Virginia University, running track all four years. For two years he worked with the US Forestry Service in Oregon. In 1965 he served as head track and field coach at Furman University for one season. He then went to the University of Florida where he received a Masters Degree in Physical Education and served as assistant track coach.

Coach Carson spent one season as head track coach and assistant football coach at Florida's Ocala High School. In 1967 he came to East Carolina University, where he served as head track coach until he retired in 2007. In 2004 he was the Sprint Coach for the US AAU Junior Olympic Team where his 4x400 relay team broke the world record which still stands.

Coach Carson was a former member of Black Jack Free Will Baptist Church and a current member of Victory Baptist Church, Sylva. He was a devoted Christian who loved his churches and lived his faith day by day. Since his retirement he spent most of his time in his beloved cabin on Cullowhee Mountain, where he enjoyed fly fishing, playing racquet ball, and listening to mountain bluegrass music.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Stewart and Leah McLain Carson; and sister, Jeanne Kolanko.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Ruth Ann Wolfe Carson; sons, Shawn Allen Carson and wife, Alice, of Knoxville, Tenn. and Shannon Stewart Carson and wife, Kit, of Chapel Hill; grandchildren, Allen Tyler Carson, Lindsay Grey Carson, Matthew Shannon Carson, and Audrey Sophia Carson; sister, Judy Ball and husband, Bill, of Hagerstown, Md.; sister-in-law, Carol Gill and husband, Bob, of White Plains, Md.; brother-in-
law, Ted Kolanko of Weirton, W.Va.; and his faithful companion Floyd. The family will receive friends Sunday from 2 – 4 p.m. at the Murphy Center.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the Bill Carson Men's Track Scholarship Endowment, c/o ECU Foundation, Ward SMB, Suite 304, Greenville, NC 27858 or to Victory Baptist Church, 278 Victory Church Road, Sylva, NC 28774.


Published in The Daily Reflector on July 6, 2012
RALEIGH - Dr. Helen Gay Stephenson, Ph.D., 86, passed away July 3, 2012 at Hospice of Wake County. Born in Raleigh, she was the only child of the late P.C. and Nan Jones Kemp. She grew up in Greenville, where she graduated from Greenville High School in 1943, then later received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees from ECU, where she met and married her 1st husband Bruce, who predeceased her. She was a pioneer in speech therapy in the Raleigh area schools and helped to start the North Carolina Speech, Hearing and Language Association, and was a past-president of the organization. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society. She received her Ph.D. degree from UNC and taught as a Special Education Assistant Professor at ECU until her retirement.
Survivors include a daughter Carolyn Shackelford (Jerry); son, Bruce Sloan and his wife, Marie; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren plus one soon-to-be born.
She was also preceded in death by her 2nd husband Leo. Helen was a born again believer in Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior. She will be greatly missed by her family. She was a member of First Baptist Church, Garner. Visitation will be from noon until 2 p.m. on Saturday in the sanctuary at First Baptist, followed by the funeral service at 2:30 p.m. Burial will be on Sunday at 3 p.m. at Pinewood Memorial Park, 4150 East 10th St., Greenville.
Condolences may be made to www.bryan-leefuneralhome.com.

Published in The Daily Reflector on July 6, 2012
Duke receiver Holliday critically hurt in accident on Lake Tillery

By Jack Daly and Lauren Carroll - lcarroll@newsobserver.com

Duke sophomore wide receiver Blair Holliday is in critical condition after a Jet Ski accident Wednesday on Lake Tillery, located in Stanly and Montgomery counties, North Carolina Wildlife Resource Commission officials said Thursday.

Holliday and teammate Jamison Crowder collided on the water, said Art Chase, an assistant director for sports information at Duke.

The collision was unintentional but remains under investigation, Lt. John Howell said.

Emergency crews arrived around 5 p.m. Wednesday. Holliday was airlifted to the UNC Trauma Center, where he remains in a coma. Chase said he wasn’t aware of any plans for surgery.

Crowder, also a sophomore receiver, refused treatment at the scene.

Holliday is from Sherman Oaks, Calif., which is just outside of Los Angeles. His parents flew cross-country, landing early Thursday, to be with their son.
“First and foremost, our thoughts are with Blair, his parents, Leslie and Rick, and the entire Holliday family,” Duke coach David Cutcliffe said in a release. “The Holliday family is one of tremendous character and strength.”

Holliday caught three passes in his freshman year, but he was projected to have an increased roll in the offense after a productive spring.

He was a standout at Oaks Christian in high school, and news of his injury spread quickly through that community.

Jim Lee, an assistant coach at Oaks Christian and the team chaplain, said he has been inundated with calls, texts and emails asking about Holliday’s condition. A number of Holliday’s former teammates tweeted their concerns, asking for prayers.

Richie Harrington was Oaks Christian’s quarterback when Holliday played. The two were so close in high school that Holliday spent a couple of months living with him.

Harrington, a redshirt freshman at Oregon State, said he talked to Holliday’s younger brother Thursday, who said that the family still doesn’t know much about Holliday’s prognosis.

“He’s always the life of party, that’s for sure,” Harrington said. “He can relate with everyone. His character and his personality were something that people wanted to be around.”

Added Lee: “He’s kind of a funny kid, because sometimes (I could see) as a coach, he would kind of push the envelope, but he always knew where to stop. Some kids don’t know where to stop and they’re just really frustrating, but I think he had very good parenting and he just knew where to draw the line. He was one of those kids.”
With poker, Duke research finds brain treats human, cyber foes differently

By Thomas Goldsmith - tgoldsmith@newsobserver.com

Poker players rely on a special region of the brain, as well as a poker face, when deciding whether to bluff or call, according to Duke University research made public Thursday.

As proof, the region reacted differently when someone was playing a human or a computer.

The research could be used in learning more about human emotions such as empathy. Researchers observed the neural reactions of people competing at a poker game, both against a computer and against an opponent the participants knew to be human.

Neural imaging showed that a region of the brain called the temporal-parietal junction carried information that was unique to making decisions about who might be a worthy opponent and whether to bluff the opponent, the research shows. Carried out by researchers for the Duke Center for Interdisciplinary Decision Science, the results appeared in Thursday’s edition of the journal Science.

“Often the brain is considered to have an entire ‘social network’ comprising a number of regions that help us interact with others in social contexts,” center director Scott Huettel, senior author of the study, said via email.

“Our analyses looked at all of those regions and found that all but one responded in essentially the same way against the human and computer opponents,” said Huettel, a professor of psychology and neuroscience at Duke.

Triangle poker notables Greg Raymer and Michael Gracz, both national and “world” winners, could not be reached for comment Thursday. Other poker practitioners either couldn’t be reached or attributed their reluctance to comment to regular arrests at Triangle card games.

However, they said, some players are definitely better playing online than playing “live,” a split that would tend to back up the research indicating different parts of the brain are used for each form of the game.
In fact, what researchers found “very surprising” was that only the temporal-parietal junction was used in making decisions in interactions with another person.

Lead researcher McKell Carter, a postdoctoral fellow at Duke, said the region on the edge of the brain combines information gleaned by attention and by biology, such as, “Is that another person?”

People like to be social, and so paid greater attention to their human opponents than to their cyber foes.

“Social information may cause our brain to play by different rules than nonsocial information, and it will be important for both scientists and policymakers to understand what causes us to approach a decision in a social or a nonsocial manner,” Huettel said.

Receiving social information makes the brain play by different rules from those used in other settings.

“So, as we come to better understand what causes us to treat a situation in a social manner, there may be important applications to policies for shaping people toward more pro-social actions,” Huettel said.

The research was supported by the National Institutes of Health.

Goldsmith: 919-829-8929

**The University of Poker?**

The Duke study is far from the first time poker has been used as the basis of scholarly research.

A paper this year in the Journal of Addiction and Mental Health studies examined the difference between recreational and professional poker players, particularly in the online world.

The conclusion? Pros are more disciplined, treating the game as work.
The doctor’s visit is not what it used to be, thanks to the incorporation of increasingly sophisticated technology. But are these developments a good thing.

The doctor’s smartphone will see you now

By Abhishek Pandey

Abhishek Pandey is a medical student at the Georgetown University School of Medicine.

A visit to the modern doctor’s office may look like this: You arrive at the clinic after making an appointment online. In the exam room, you sit across from your doctor, who is facing a computer screen. She clicks away at the keyboard, occasionally pulling out a smartphone and touching the screen a few times as you respond to her questions. Then, before you know it, the visit is over. Your doctor hands you a printout summarizing your visit and says that she sent you an “e-copy” as well. Your lab results will be ready to view online by the end of the day. She renewed your anti-hypertension prescription and sent it electronically to your pharmacy. Finally, she requests that you continue sending your daily home blood-pressure readings. The entire visit lasts no longer than 15 minutes. The physician leaves your room to see the next patient.

Rinse. Wash. Repeat.

Some look at this experience and marvel at how computers, powered by the Web, have added new dimensions for creativity and efficiency in health care. Others, however, look past the potential benefits and point to what we might be giving up.
In a March essay for The Journal of the American Medical Association, Caroline Wellbery voiced concerns that “we are in the process of working out an open marriage that will allow seamless incorporation of technology into our daily professional lives.” Physicians have given their tacit consent to computers, smartphones and any other technology that is widely seen as improving access to patient data and medical knowledge. But, writes Wellbery, in the pursuit of timely information-gathering “these devices deprive us of the very essence of presence, which is steeped in context…We may be surrendering our capacity to be in the moment.”

Can you be sure your doctor is paying attention to the details of your story if she is typing? What might your doctor miss while she is fact-checking on her smartphone? The doctor-patient relationship may be a misnomer if it accommodates a computer, and this distortion may have consequences if unchecked.

Many doctors share Dr. Wellbery’s concerns. Their experiences with computers have not been entirely positive. While policy-makers have high hopes for electronic health records (EHR) and other digital tools as part of our national health-care reform strategy, clinicians have more skepticism than enthusiasm for them thus far. Buying and installing an EHR is not cheap. And worse yet, those who overcome the financial obstacles quickly find other problems. They often report spending more time trying to navigate a poorly designed EHR system than talking with their patients.

In teaching hospitals, nearly all of the medical students tuck smartphones into their white-coat pockets. While students can use apps, such as DynaMed or ePocrates, to look up disease and drug information, anyone with a smartphone knows that apps can be as much of a tool as a toy. Are future doctors fully attentive during the “teachable moments” in the wards? Are they more concerned with looking up disease information than the patient? As the next generation of physicians graduate, many worry this new wave of electronics may be more of a distraction than a supplement.

The “human factor” has long been a concern for health-care technology. Doctors do not want to compromise their relationships with patients; they want to spend time understanding their concerns rather than software design.

So, what should doctors do?

First, they should demand cheaper, more user-friendly tools. Doctors should also question the overall utility of these innovations in improving patient care. But they shouldn’t discount the promise in these tools either.
As patients accrue data with each visit, EHRs could become more than just “charts.” A thoughtful, well-designed system would help doctors find meaningful trends and warnings for patients suffering from a variety of chronic illnesses, such as diabetes and high cholesterol. In a campaign to fight an epidemic of chronic disease, such information would be very valuable.

While intuition and experience may go a long way, today’s clinicians are dealing with an unprecedented amount of information. Some of their patients have complicated conditions that demand consideration of many variables. Better record-keeping and added computational power can empower them to effectively apply medical knowledge in such situations.

“Computers are useless. They can only give you answers,” Pablo Picasso has been quoted as saying. His sentiment reflects the ideal doctor-computer relationship perfectly. Smart, well-designed software and forward-thinking medical education will help. But, the keyboard and touch-screen are like the stethoscope and scalpel. They are only as good as their users.