THE DAILY CLIPS

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Publication recognizes hospital’s success with technology

Hospitals & Health Networks’ magazine, a publication for hospital and system executives, named University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina to this year’s list of most wired hospitals.

The designation, which represents the seventh time UHS has been selected, comes after Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Heritage Hospital in Tarboro and The Outer Banks Hospital in Nags Head implemented a new electronic medical records system called HealthSpan.

HealthSpan has the ability to connect health care providers across eastern North Carolina through unified computer access to patient information, according to a press release from PCMH. UHS also implemented wireless connectivity in these hospitals.

"Being leaders in the information-technology field is a cornerstone of our long-range strategy for delivering health-care services in our region," said Dave McRae, chief executive officer of UHS.

The article reports the 100 most wired hospitals showed better outcomes in patient satisfaction and risk-adjusted mortality rates.

UHS is not finished with its HealthSpan project. The press release says the system will bring HealthSpan online at three more local hospitals — Bertie Memorial Hospital in Windsor, Chowan Hospital in Edenton and Roanoke-Chowan Hospital in Ahoskie.

UHS also plans to expand HealthSpan modules to include medication administration checking, to implement additional modules for operating rooms and specialty areas and to bring a new electrocardiogram management system online, among other things.

“Our current strategic plan calls for us to really leverage technology to support patient safety, quality and regulatory compliance,” said Stuart James, chief information officer for UHS.

“Being able to rapidly transmit medical data and provide consultations and educational programs for physicians and other health professionals in our region will greatly benefit patients who need specialized medical care but may not be able to travel long distances to receive it,” he said.

The national designation is based on the magazine’s 2008 Most Wired Survey and Benchmarking Study and appears in its July edition.

Other North Carolina hospitals on the list include Carolinas HealthCare System in Charlotte, Duke University Health System in Durham, Mission Hospitals in Asheville and Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem.
Holland envisions East Carolina's own sporting mini-city

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

In a perfect sporting world for Terry Holland, the land around in between East Carolina's football and baseball stadiums would become an ECU athletics metropolis.

The director of athletics feels like there should be a feeling of connectivity between all of the university's sports programs. That includes a physical link, so a big part of Holland's plan for the future is having connectivity between the fields on which those sports are played.

Holland hopes upgraded facilities are on the horizon for track, softball, women's soccer and tennis, and he hopes the fields of play will stay within the same immediate vicinity as the school's current athletic facilities.

"We're going to try to do it first class, but it's going to be expensive, and the further you move away from your central core, the more expensive it becomes," said Holland, now entering his fourth year at East Carolina. "And it becomes harder to keep everybody together. We have a great family atmosphere here that is very unique in today's intercollegiate athletics. We need more space, but so does everybody else."

Holland said the first item on the list will be upgrading the softball field, a project he said will also be one of the quickest to set in motion. But others should follow quickly, Holland said, each field or stadium on campus has a different set of needs. "Softball will probably be the first we will address, although the need for a new track is critical right now as well," Holland said. "You do have sort of a pecking order there (in terms of the order in which upgrades will be made), but it's all driven by the fact that they all need a tremendous upgrade."

The need for a modern softball facility is certainly not a new one. In fact, 2008

Read more about East Carolina athletics online at reflector.com

ECU

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ECU senior outfielder Beth Nolan named having a softball stadium at ECU as her greatest wish in last year's media guide.

If Holland has his way, there will be another stadium next to Clark-LeClair, the state-of-the-art home to ECU baseball which opened in March of 2005.

"With softball, we want to try to move it closer to what we have in baseball, especially since they're sitting right beside each other," Holland said.

But the AD also noted the school's cramped tennis courts and untilled soccer field as looming projects, as well as trying to solve the ongoing problem of an overcrowded gymnasium inside Minges Coliseum.

"Tennis is very crowded, and that is one of the only courts on campus," Holland said. "Soccer doesn't have lights and the ability to play games in the evening. The women's basketball, men's basketball and volleyball teams all play in the same building and practice in that same building. All of those things all fit together."

One of the lingering questions regarding all future field and facility upgrades is what available space exists to offer any new construction. Holland said he would love to be able to keep all future fields on the same side of Charles Boulevard.

Numerous sites, including the current intramural fields adjacent to Clark-LeClair, are possibilities for future projects, but cost is always an overriding factor, Holland said.

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A FRESH FACE FOR FALL

Johnny Wainwright, left, and Chris Conner apply a fresh coat of paint to the sign at the main entrance to East Carolina University in Greenville. Fall semester begins Aug. 20.

EAST CAROLINA UNIVERSITY PHOTO BY MARC J. KAWANISHI, VIA AP
Retention on agenda for UNC trustees

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL - UNC-Chapel Hill had a good year for faculty retention in 2007-2008.

Of the 51 faculty members who got offers from other schools, UNC-CH made counteroffers to 26.
Of those, 18 stayed, and eight left.

The retention numbers are among the materials the UNC-CH Board of Trustees will discuss at its meetings today and Thursday.

The report said last year's hefty salary increases helped the university retain tenured and tenure-track faculty, and it cautioned that lower increases next year will make the university less competitive.

The board will gather for Chancellor Holden Thorp's first trustees meeting at 4 p.m. today at Carolina Inn. Other agenda items include approving designs for the Kenan Stadium expansion and the Carolina North Innovation Center.