THE DAILY CLIPS

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E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Tuition hike causing some students to rethink options
By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, July 24, 2010

The rising cost of higher education in North Carolina has some students taking a long look at their options for the future.
State budget shortfalls have forced the 17-campus University of North Carolina system to raise tuition significantly this year.
Tuition has increased by an average of 9 percent since 2008 across the UNC system.
At East Carolina University, undergraduates who are North Carolina residents will see a hike of $390 this year and a $263 increase in 2011. Until this year, tuition at ECU had only increased by 2 percent since 2008.
North Carolina State tuition will increase by $900 this year, up to $6,393. UNC-Chapel Hill will increase by $950 and N.C. Central will increase by $548.
Casey Oliver, a rising senior at J.H. Rose High School, said the cost of tuition could play a major role in where she decides to go to college.
“Tuition costs have the potential to influence my college decision immensely,” she said. “The schools I really want to go to are quite expensive. I will try to be able to go to one of them, but if I can’t get enough scholarships and financial aid, I may have to go with a UNC system school.”
Oliver said UNC schools are still a great bargain compared to her first choices, which are out-of-state private schools with tuition around $30,000.
“Their extremely high prices and the reputable good deal of some of the UNC-system schools does influence me to consider public North Carolina universities,” Oliver said.
Oliver said as the gap between private school tuition and public school tuition narrows, she will likely take the option of a private school.
“The smaller the gap gets between the UNC schools and most private schools, the less of a deal I’ll feel like I’m getting and the less likely I’ll choose them over private school,” she said.
“However, their tuition is still leagues lower.”
Oliver said rising tuition will not force her to consider taking classes at a community college and transfer credits, but many students likely will choose that route as community college enrollment swells across the state.
Pitt Community College is expecting its largest enrollment ever this fall. In the past year, PCC saw the largest increase in applications from one year to the next in the school’s history.
Gov. Beverly Perdue said she does not think tuition has reached a tipping point in the UNC system yet where students will make alternate plans based on the cost of higher education in the state.
The state budget for 2010-11 significantly cuts funding to the UNC system but also fully funds financial aid, she said.
“We have made sure that there is also money for college scholarships,” Perdue said. “You can’t expect low-income students to come back and retool without some sort of financial assistance.”
Perdue said there is an obvious tie between a strong university system and economic growth in North Carolina.
“I am very concerned about students who have financial stresses,” she said. “I clearly understand the tie between economic growth and education.”
Perdue said large companies considering a locating in North Carolina always ask about education in the state, along with questions about quality of life and the work force.
For many ECU students a tuition increase may cause some sticker shock, as a significant portion of the tuition increase was approved after many students left town for the summer.
ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said ECU continues to have the lowest tuition of the seven largest schools in the UNC system, and is ranked second in both graduate and undergraduate tuition among a group of 16 officially recognized peer universities from across the country.
“I understand their pain, and I understand their sticker shock,” Ballard said. “It pains me philosophically to see the students with a much higher cost for education this year.”
ECU officials said that raising tuition, while regrettable and unpopular, is the only way to maintain the quality of education at the university.
ECU has faced $19 million in base state budget cuts, resulting in spending cuts at the university.
ECU has eliminated vacant positions and dealt with the shortfall by making budget cuts, 92 percent of them in administrative areas.
Ballard said any further cuts would affect the academic core of the university.
“We have done all we can to protect our students,” Ballard said. “We are now faced with either reducing the quality of education across the board or asking our students to pay more. We are not willing to reduce quality.”
Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Chatzy to be featured speaker for ECU Incredible Women Series

The third event in the ECU Incredible Women Series on Oct. 14 will focus on financial issues facing women and will feature Jean Chatzy as keynote speaker.

Chatzy is an award-winning journalist, best-selling author and motivational speaker. She's the financial editor for NBC's “Today” show, a contributing editor for Money and Travel and Leisure, and a columnist for The New York Daily News.

She also is the author of four books, which include best-sellers “You Don’t Have to Be Rich” and “Pay it Down! From Debt to Wealth on $10 a Day.” Her latest book, “Make Money Not Excuses,” will be released Sept. 26.


The event will address financial issues, such as investment options, reasons to be engaged in financial decisions, philanthropic giving, and creating financially grounded female leaders of tomorrow. Nationally known humorist Jeanne Robertson will be the luncheon speaker.

Breakout sessions on financial management strategies for women also will be available. The day will conclude with remarks from Kelly King, BB&T CEO and chairman, and the recognition of six women as Incredible ECU Women.

The daylong event is open to anyone. Registration begins at 8 a.m., with the keynote address schedule for 9:30. Persons interested in attending should e-mailolsonj@ecu.edu or call 328-9550. The cost is $100 per person. Registration closes Oct. 7.

Created in 2003, the Women's Roundtable at East Carolina University seeks to elevate and encourage leadership and philanthropy by women. Through its network of women graduates and friends of the university, the Women's Roundtable creates a culture of giving at ECU by focusing its efforts on raising funds for ECU's Access Scholarship program; building a strong volunteer base of women committed to advancing the university; and forming a deeper pool of women to be considered for other leadership roles at ECU.

In addition, those who join the Women's Roundtable will have an opportunity to network with a diverse group of intelligent, influential and resourceful women. These women demonstrate the leadership that distinguishes ECU and personifies the role that women can play in shaping the future.

For more information about joining the Women's Roundtable, visit www.ecu.edu/womensroundtable, call 328-9550 or e-mail Marcy Romary at romarym@ecu.edu.
Greenville Police Department Officer K.M. Gaines talks to Pirate Speech Campers about the importance of helping others. This year’s camp has 13 campers.
Cliff Hollis/ECU News Services

Dr. Xiaoming Zeng

**Pirate Speech Camp participants learn to help others**
Saturday, July 24, 2010

**ECU News Services**
Children participating in Pirate Speech Camp are putting East Carolina University’s motto, “to serve,” into practice.
Last week was “helping hands” week at camp.
Greenville fireman Chris Lancaster and police officer K.M. Gaines talked with the children about how they help others in the community. Lancaster demonstrated a personal safety alarm so firefighters can be found if they become trapped in a structure while extinguishing a fire.
The camp provides a fun, intensive therapeutic environment to improve the communication skills of children with severe expressive language deficits including autism, said Julia Morrow, camp director and coordinator of external clinical education in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences.
Also last week, parents and children spread mulch on the playground in appreciation for the donated camp space. On Thursday, the children donated small blankets they made for the animals at the Pitt County Animal Shelter.

Next week, Kelly Philpot of Riley’s Army will receive homemade quilts that the campers designed for children with cancer. Dr. Rose Allen, ECU associate professor and director of distance education in communication sciences and disorders, donated the fabric and assembled the quilts.

Other themes have included zoo week, beach week and five senses week, Morrow said.

This is the third summer that ECU has offered the five-week camp in space provided by St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in downtown Greenville. The camp was able to expand this year to two groups for a total of 13 children ages 4 to 10 because of a donation from the Autism Society of Greenville.

2010 Million Meal Event challenge

Donations for the ECU Million Meal Event are down sharply, and organizers are asking for help.

ECU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center wants to raise $10,000 by Aug. 6.

In the last two years, ECU Million Meal Event volunteers have packaged nearly 300,000 meals for hungry people through a partnership with Stop Hunger Now, an N.C.-based nonprofit that supports sustainable food programs in 79 countries.

Fundraising this year has suffered because of the economy, meaning the ECU event only has money to buy supplies to package about 50,000 meals. Without more donations, the event will donate 52,000 fewer meals to support relief efforts in places such as Haiti and Sierra Leone.

“It’s really paramount that we raise as much money as we can,” Shawn Holland Moore, community partner coordinator for the VSCLC, said.

More than 1.02 billion people worldwide do not have enough to eat — more than the populations of the United States, Canada and the European Union combined, according to the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization. Every six seconds, a child dies from malnutrition or related causes.

Money donated to the ECU Million Meal Event will go towards meals that contain rice, dehydrated vegetables, protein powder, chicken flavoring, and 21 essential vitamins and minerals.

Donors can give online using a link from the Volunteer and Service Learning Center’s website: www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/volunteer. The event is the first item under the Volunteer heading on the left side of the page.

“It’s so easy to do,” Moore said. “I just gave online. The advertised link goes right to the ECU donation page on Stop Hunger Now’s website.”

People interested in volunteering may contact Mike Loeffelman in the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center at 328-2735 or at loeffelmann@ecu.edu.

New chairpersons fill needs on campus

Dr. Xiaoming Zeng has been named chairman of the Department of Health Services and Information Management in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

An associate professor, Zeng earned his medical degree from Peking Union Medical College in Beijing in 1997 and his doctoral degree in health information management from the University of Pittsburgh in 2004. During his doctoral study, he finished a two-year fellowship training in biomedical informatics from the Center for Biomedical Informatics at the University of Pittsburgh. He has been teaching health information technologies and informatics-related courses since joining ECU in 2004.

He has been instrumental in the planning and development of a master’s degree in health informatics and information management. He has a special interest in education and workforce development for health information technology professionals. He has formed partnerships with other departments, community colleges, health care providers and workforce development boards to support the preparation of health IT professionals in eastern North Carolina.
Zeng replaces Dr. Elizabeth Layman, who served as department chairwoman for 14 years. She led the department in unprecedented growth from three to 13 faculty members, the largest undergraduate enrollment in the college, a second bachelor’s degree in health services management, a planned master’s degree in health informatics and information management, merger with the Department of Community Health and several post-baccalaureate certificate programs serving MBA, MPA and MPH students. She represented ECU on UNC Tomorrow and has served on numerous university and national professional committees. Layman looks forward to her expanded roles in teaching and research and to “return[ing] to my passions — building the discipline’s body of knowledge and shaping its future leaders.”

The College of Human Ecology has welcomed two new unit heads this summer. William “Bill” Bloss began as chairman of the Department of Criminal Justice on June 1, and Shelia Grant Bunch became director of the School of Social Work on July 1.

Bloss held appointments as professor of criminal justice and director of the international criminal justice studies program at The Citadel. He earned his doctorate in criminal justice and a master’s degree in criminology from Sam Houston State University. Bloss has served as a regional police academy director, police training coordinator and law enforcement officer. His research focuses on transnational crime, international terrorism, comparative crime and criminal justice, police practice, surveillance, and privacy rights in criminal justice. His books include “Under a Watchful Eye: Privacy Rights” and “Criminal Justice and Transnational Crime and Terrorism in a Global Context.”

“There has never been a greater need to prepare the next generation of criminal justice leaders,” Bloss said. “Our exceptional faculty is committed to providing the highest quality educational programming that enables students to realize their full potential and ready themselves to improve public safety and quality of life across society.”

Bunch has been an integral part of the ECU School of Social Work faculty for 24 years, serving on many community and university committees. She earned her doctorate in sociology from N.C. State University, a master’s degree in social work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a bachelor’s degree in social work from ECU. She has served as interim director of ECU’s School of Social Work since 2008, and she is the former coordinator the baccalaureate social work degree. She has published in the areas of grandparenting and kinship, intimate partner violence, and rural social work.

She has served as the principal investigator for the ECU Child Welfare Education Collaborative and has been the principal or co-principal investigator on multiple grants. “My goal for the School of Social Work is to help create a work environment where faculty and staff can enjoy their work as we prepare the next generation of social workers to meet the challenges of practice in an increasingly complicated society,” Bunch said.

“We are looking forward to improving our programs, increasing our community partnerships, and using our scholarly and creative activities to contribute to the profession.”

**GEAR UP Future Educators Academy held**

The GEAR UP Future Educators Academy was held July 12-16 on campus, hosted by the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach in the ECU College of Education in collaboration with GEAR UP North Carolina. The theme for the summer enrichment program was “Charting the Course.”

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a state-funded program with a record of addressing barriers that keep low-income students from achieving their academic potential and pursuing higher education. The event served 45 rising 10th- and 11th-grade students from throughout North Carolina who have shown an interest in a career in education.

The GEAR-UP FEA 2010 program included information on college admission, academic success and the teaching field. Students were given the opportunity to participate in actual college classes.
In the evenings, students explored campus, used the student recreation center and participated in challenges. On the last night of the camp, they had a banquet.

Participants were housed in Clement Residence Hall with a residential life coordinator and eight teaching fellows. The fellows, from three UNC system universities, were counselors.

Participating school districts included Asheboro City, Columbus, Craven, Granville, Lexington City, Newton-Conover, Rutherford, Union, Wayne, and Winston-Salem/Forsyth.

For more information, contact Christa Monroe at monroec@ecu.edu, T. Chanel Sidbury at sidburyt99@students.ecu.edu or call the Office of Professional Development and Student Outreach at 252-328-2950.

William “Bill” Blass

Shelia Grant Bunch
Dance the night away
By LYNSEY HORN
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, July 24, 2010

Put on your dancing shoes and grab a partner because Greenville has a few dance clubs that are just begging for you to come break in the dance floor and show off your skills. There are several different types of dance clubs that offer opportunities for everyone to get involved in different types of couples and singles dance styles.
USA Dance is an organization made up of people who love ballroom dancing that offers lessons and opportunities for anyone to release their inner dancer.
The Greenville chapter has been around since 1996 and holds dances on the fourth Saturday of each month. The dance is open to members or anyone who wants to spend their Saturday night dancing and socializing. A lesson is offered at 7 p.m. and open dance begins at 8 p.m.
Admission is $6 per person for members, $9 for nonmembers and $5 for first-timers and students.
Different teachers, who are members of the USA Dance or who are invited by members, come each month to attend the dance and teach the lessons.
Chikako Massey is the president of the Greenville USA Dance chapter and one of the dance instructors. She teaches all types of dance, as do many of the teachers. Some of the types of dances taught are the fox trot, tango, rumba, waltz and swing.
“It integrates physical aspect and mental aspect. You’re expressing the beauty of the dance,” said Massey of ballroom dance. “In some ways it is spiritual because you have to interpret the music. You can get enthralled by the music. Sheer physical fun.”
Randy and Mary Nichols are also teachers of the USA Dance lessons. They are members of the local USA Dance chapter and will be teaching shag at the August dance. They have been teaching ballroom, shag and line dance classes at ViQuest every Thursday for nine years and also give private lessons in their home.
“It is well worth it to come to a lesson. People will be surprised by the strong ballroom community in this area,” said Massey.
She has even taught ballroom dance to the East Carolina University football players in the past and is currently working to set up classes for the players in the spring. She said they were very involved and quick learners.
Massey and her husband, Dennis, also hold private lessons in their home and she teaches other classes in the area. She teaches ballroom aerobics every Monday at the Pitt County Community Schools complex and every Wednesday at the Senior Center. There are other organizations that also offer opportunities to put on some dancing shoes. The Couples’ Dance Club, led by Jarvis and Hazel Tripp, host a dance every other month for members and couples in the area interested in ballroom dance. They also teach private ballroom lessons in their home.

“It’s a great way to socialize and get good exercise,” said Hazel Tripp. At their events, they offer local couples an opportunity to dine on hors d’oeuvres and dance all night to live music. The July event was a summer luau. It was a casual occasion with a Hawaiian theme that featured musician Chuck Eatmon. Tickets for the dances are $35 per couple for members and $65 per couple for guests.

The Folk Arts Society of Greenville is another area dance group. It is “dedicated to enriching the community’s understanding, appreciation of and participation in traditional and contemporary folk arts,” according to its web site.

It hosts contra and salsa dances two times each month in the fall and spring with the East Carolina University Folk and Country Dancers student organization. An instruction session is offered prior to the dances which are held at the Greenville Masonic Temple.

“Contra dance is similar to square dance but dancers move through lines not squares. We have a caller that tells you what you need to do next and a live band that plays old-time music,” said Elizabeth Smith, secretary of the board.

The salsa dances are the third Friday of every month and the contra dances are the second Saturday. Lessons begin at 7 p.m. and open dance begins at 7:30 p.m. Admission is $5 for members, $8 for guests and $3.

People of all ages ranging from high school to senior citizens attend the dances, said Smith.

For more information about the USA Dance Association Greenville chapter, visit 
www.greenvilleusadance.org.

For more information about The Couples’ Dance Club, call 355-1793 or e-mail 
couplesdanceclub@yahoo.com.

For more information about the Folk Arts Society of Greenville, visit 
www.ecu.edu/org/ecufolk/fasg/Home.html.
Probe expands into Duke researcher's credentials, data

Concerns widened Friday about a Duke University scientist accused of padding his academic credentials and manipulating scientific data.

The journal Lancet Oncology, a leading publication for scientific breakthroughs, said it was launching an investigation into a study it published three years ago by Dr. Anil Potti, a Duke cancer genetics researcher.

Potti was put on administrative leave last week amid allegations he claimed to be a Rhodes scholar on government grant applications. Officials with the prestigious program said he was not awarded the scholarship.

Earlier this week, Duke researchers halted three clinical trials that rely on Potti’s science, which purported to predict which chemotherapy treatments would work best in cancer patients. About 109 people in the Triangle and elsewhere had already enlisted in the research project and will continue on drug treatments prescribed through the studies that are now in question.

Duke officials have started their own investigation - their second in a year stemming from concerns over Potti’s science - as the case mushrooms into an international scientific scandal.

"Pending investigation and clarification, we now issue an expression of concern about the article," wrote the editors of Lancet Oncology. The action is considered serious, although short of a retraction.

The peer-reviewed journal, based in England, said the action was based on the concerns of 15 European scientists who were Potti’s co-authors in a December, 2007 Lancet Oncology study.

Many of the European researchers provided genetic specimens to Potti’s team at Duke, and were then listed as co-authors of the article. Potti’s group used the samples in an experiment that appeared to prove they could predict the success of cancer therapies for different patients based on the patients’ unique genetic makeup.

"The authors expressed grave concerns about the validity of their report in light of evolving events," the Lancet Oncology editors stated. They added that the European co-authors had repeatedly tried to contact Potti and others at Duke about the study’s statistical analysis, and “had been ignored.”

Questions have surrounded Potti’s method for years, and came to light last fall in The Cancer Letter, an online newsletter.

Two biostatisticians at MD Anderson Cancer Center at the University of Texas discovered what they described as numerous glaring errors in Potti’s methods, which are published as part of the literature so that other scientists can replicate the work and build on discoveries.
Baggerly, one of the Texas statisticians. "Regardless of how they were made, they're still there. And as long as they're there, don't treat patients."

Baggerly said shutting down the clinical trials was his primary aim in raising concerns about Potti's work. He said he was concerned that patients were being prescribed treatments based on unreliable science.

"I'm far more interested in the aspect of the raw data, which underlies the science, which is being used to justify the treatment for patients," he said.

'Open' investigation

Dr. Michael Cuffe, vice president of medical affairs at Duke, has said patients are at no risk, since the therapies they're receiving are commonly prescribed and approved.

Cuffe said Friday that the university's investigation into Potti and his work would be "open and transparent."

He said issues about Potti's resume may be resolved as early as next week, while allegations of scientific misconduct would take longer to examine. He said Duke wants an outside organization to lead the investigation, and has asked for help from federal research agencies and other funding organizations.

"There are some issues of data integrity that have been alleged, but also complex issues as to the statistics and nature of the science, and that is different," Cuffe said. "Scientific debate is different from misconduct. And I think we need to resolve both. Some sort of national body devoid of Duke would help us all reach a conclusion so all of us can move forward."

sarah.avery@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4882

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'Little miracle' survives injury

An X-ray shows a metal rod lodged in Jessiah Jackson's brain. Jessiah has fully recovered.

BY ILANA YURKIEWICZ - STAFF WRITER

In a room at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, Jessiah Jackson was running around, babbling, giggling and doing everything else typical of a 17-month-old boy.

There was no sign that, only a day before, he had a metal rod lodged two inches into his brain.

In a case being touted by family members and hospital workers as a "little miracle," Jessiah is alive, alert and without any apparent brain damage after a neurosurgeon at UNC Hospitals removed an L-shaped part from a pressure washer that was embedded in the back of the boy's head.

The gruesome tale began a little over a week ago in Wilmington, where Jessiah lives with his grandparents, who are his legal guardians.

Jessiah was playing outside, where the family was remodeling a deck to make a new outdoor play area for the youngest members of the family, when the toddler climbed onto a chair that was next to the family's pressure washer. The chair toppled, throwing Jessiah backward and stabbing a hook on the machine's hose crank through his skull.

"I look away for a split second, and he was standing up in that chair, and the chair was going back. I couldn't do anything," said Carlton Jones, Jessiah's uncle.

Fortunately, the child was in the hands of two certified nursing assistants. Both his aunt and uncle, who were watching him, are trained to handle medical emergencies.
They immediately dialed 911 and then sat with the boy to keep him still.

They had no way of knowing at the time, but the rod had missed critical blood vessels in Jessieh's brain by only a hair.

If they hadn't kept him stationary, any movement of the metal in either direction could have spelled instant death.

While they waited for the ambulance, Jessieh vomited three times and alternated between bursts of tears and lying still, Jones said.

"He wanted to go to sleep, but we kept talking to him to keep him up," he said.

The crank had to be sawed apart from the machine, and Jessieh was airlifted to a hospital in Wilmington with the hook still stuck in his skull. Doctors evaluated the grisly injury, but they told the family it was too dangerous for them to treat.

Sedated and medically paralyzed from head to toe so that the rod would not move, Jessieh was airlifted a second time to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, where he was handed off to neurosurgeon Anand Germanwala.

About the surgeon

Since graduating from medical school in 1999, Germanwala has handled his share of challenging cases.

Last year, he became the first surgeon in the world to treat a bleeding brain aneurysm through a patient's nose.

That particular patient also had a second nonbleeding aneurysm, gaining Germanwala the additional distinction of being first to clip a double brain aneurysm.

But the neurosurgeon said he had never seen anything like the toddler with a metal rod sticking out of his head.

He was upfront with the family about the dangers of the surgery.

"I could come out and tell you the child died on the table. I could say everything went well. Or I could say something in between," he told them.

He also told them that prayers would help.

"We jumped on our knees and started praying," said Joseph Jones, Jessieh's grand father. "I said, 'Please God, if you take him away ... I was about to lose my mind.' "

Two-hour operation

The hook had drilled a hole in Jessieh's skull about the size of a quarter, Germanwala said.

The case was especially difficult because the L-shaped piece of metal tunneled into the toddler's brain at an angle - meaning the surgical team couldn't just pull straight to get it out.

During the two-hour procedure, an additional piece of Jessieh's skull about the size of a silver dollar was sliced off. Manipulating the hunk of metal out left a cavity in Jessieh's brain, which doctors squirted with saline solution to prevent infection.

When Germanwala came out of the operating room with the good news, Jessieh's family smothered the doctor with hugs.

Checking for damage

Just hours later, Jessieh was up, running around and laughing as if nothing had happened. It's likely that the only memory he'll have of his whole experience is a tiny spot on the back of his head slightly softer than the rest.

The rod had punctured a part of the brain called the left occipital lobe, responsible for vision on the right side. So far, examinations by ophthalmologists have been unable to find any evidence of damage to Jessieh's eyesight. Further tests are planned for the coming weeks.

"We're calling him the miracle baby," Carlton Jones said.
The Washington Post

William and Mary may be home to oldest standing schoolhouse for black children

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, July 23, 2010; B01

WILLIAMSBURG -- At a time when some venerable Southern colleges are finally acknowledging and apologizing for their past ties to slavery, an inquisitive scholar at the College of William and Mary thinks he has made a more inspiring find: the nation's oldest surviving schoolhouse for African American children.

Terry Meyers, an English professor with a penchant for local history, suggests that the College of William and Mary was instrumental in opening a school in 1760 -- at the urging of Benjamin Franklin, no less -- and so became the first college in America involved in the education of black students.

The story of the Williamsburg Bray School evokes a different Virginia than the one known as a political and ideological epicenter of slavery. It is the Virginia that was an outpost of the European Enlightenment and host to an intellectual movement that would spawn the Declaration of Independence, with the nascent college at the fore.

"To me, the Bray School stands out as a bright spot in an otherwise dark narrative," Meyers said.

Alfred Brophy, a law professor at the University of North Carolina who studies antebellum academia, terms Meyers's potential discovery "incredibly positive": a Colonial school for free and enslaved blacks, initiated by a British philanthropy and established by a benevolent Colonial college, for the religious education of "heathens," with the ultimate goal of saving their immortal souls.

That image might counterbalance an otherwise ugly history of slavery at William and Mary. The college was funded with taxes on tobacco harvested by slaves. The college owned slaves, as did some faculty members and even a few students. Slave labor built core campus buildings, maintained the grounds and fed the residents. Thomas Roderick Dew, the college president in the 1830s and 1840s, "may be the single most important pro-slavery thinker this country ever produced," Brophy said.

It would also seem to run counter to later sentiments in Virginia and other Southern states, which explicitly forbade teaching slaves to read or write. Virginia's revised code of 1819 deemed "any assemblages of slaves . . . at any school or schools for teaching them reading or writing" an unlawful assembly and gave authorities the power to punish those assembled with as many as 20 lashes.

The Bray School is an improbable find, if indeed it has been found: a forgotten Colonial structure in a town that is a living monument to Colonial America, a place historians have picked clean.

Meyers, 65, is an English scholar. Therein, perhaps, lies his strength: Meyers loves words, and he found
details in Colonial documents that other scholars had missed.

"I do read texts closely," he said in his snug campus office on a recent morning.

Meyers thought he knew most of the 88 original Colonial structures that are Williamsburg's crown jewels. Six years ago, he became intrigued at the mention, in a book of town lore, of another 18th-century home that had apparently gone missing. It had belonged to a Dudley Digges and sat at a corner across from the college campus.

The wrong Digges

Meyers began researching Digges. He decided that historians had lost track of the house in part because they had linked it to the wrong Digges, a Yorktown patriot. Meyers found another Dudley Digges, an uncle of the more famous patriot, who had bought a home in Williamsburg in 1763.

Documents suggest that the structure was built as early as 1712. It was quarantined for smallpox in 1748. And in 1760, Digges rented it out to an English charity, the Associates of Dr. Bray.

It was Franklin, future Founding Father, who proposed Williamsburg as one of three Colonial sites for the "Instruction of Negro Children." Franklin had visited Williamsburg in 1756. In a soon-to-be-published article in the journal Anglican and Episcopal History, Meyers argues that Franklin chose William and Mary after learning firsthand that the college had a history of educating black children.

As early as 1740, a professor named William Dawson was hitting up the bishop of London for "a collection of religious books to be approved of, by your Lordship, for the benefit of the Negroes & the Poor of this Colony." Dawson would become college president. Minutes of a 1760 meeting show Franklin recommending Dawson by name to help lead the school.

What, then, became of the Bray School?

Records show it endured until the death of the schoolmistress, Anne Wager, in 1774. Archival photographs from the 19th century show the former schoolhouse, a two-story, four-room wooden cottage, framed by a pair of chimneys. Wager taught as many as 30 students at a time, mostly slaves, some free. Two, named Adam and Fanny, were owned by the college.

The children were taught to read and write, and the girls to knit and sew. School rules instructed Wager to lead the students "in a decent & orderly Manner to Church."

Documents suggest that the Digges house had fallen into disrepair by 1801. It was later converted to a dormitory, greatly expanded and moved to a new address on Prince George Street. It served as faculty housing; a philosophy professor hanged herself there in the 1970s.

By the time Meyers found the structure in 2004, its Colonial origins were mostly hidden beneath a jumble of misplaced windows and mismatched doors. Someone told him that the building was on a list for demolition.

"This is 18th century, we're pretty sure of that," Meyers said, patting an oak banister inside the dwelling on a recent day. "And that's pretty much all."

The chimneys are still there, along with an old, Hobbit-sized door, half hidden behind a poster. The
building houses ROTC training rooms. Some who have spent the night there say it is haunted.

The professor's narrative suggests that it is the nation's oldest standing building used for black education. Meyers thinks the second-oldest is the former First African Baptist Church of Boston, built in 1806.

His curiosity helped spawn a campuswide initiative, one of the more far-reaching efforts of its sort in academia. It is called the Lemon Project, after a slave named Lemon who was owned by the college but who, paradoxically, also sold produce to the institution.

A 2009 resolution from the college's governing board recognizes that William and Mary "owned and exploited slave labor from its founding to the Civil War" and urges a long-term commitment "to better understand, chronicle, and preserve the history of blacks" at the college.

Meyers, who has needled the college about its slave-holding past, said the Lemon Project puts it "way out ahead of a lot of Southern schools."

**Collegiate regret**

Colleges have mostly avoided slavery in exploring their own histories for fear of sparking protests and angering alumni.

In 2007, following the lead of the legislature, the governing board of the University of Virginia broke decades of silence by issuing a resolution of "particular regret" for its use of slave labor, the first collegiate board in the nation to make such a statement.

University of Maryland President C.D. "Dan" Mote Jr. has refused to tender an apology, but he commissioned a 2009 report that showed that a majority of the original university trustees owned slaves.

Among Williamsburg historians, no one seriously doubts the authenticity of Meyers's claim.

"It sounds as though this is probably the [Bray School] property," said Edward Chappell, director of architectural and archaeological research at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. History, he said, is "often a little messy."

But the professor has no absolute proof.

There is consensus, at least, that some testing should be done to determine the age of the structure. Meyers would like to see the ground excavated at the original Digges address.

Provost Michael Halleran said he is "deeply impressed with what Terry has come up with" and "would love it to be true."

Robert Engs, a retired University of Pennsylvania historian who has advised the college on how to address slavery, said the identity of the structure matters less than the story behind it.

"What's impressive was that the people who created this school believed that African Americans had immortal souls, just like white people," Engs said, "and that they needed salvation."