Renovated locker room and upgraded facilities are part of ECU's plan to raise the profile of the football team and attract top-notch recruits.

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

When it came to designing a football locker room befitting a big-time program on the rise, East Carolina University athletic brass turned to its most knowledgeable employee: head coach Skip Holtz.

The university asked its fourth-year coach to put his locker-room ideas on paper, and that's what he did. Using a piece of notebook paper, Holtz scrawled an extremely rough blueprint of how such a locker room should look, what's in it and what isn't.

With that sketch, $342,000 and three months of work by exclusively local companies, what the Pirates have is more suite or lounge than locker room.

Although a season of college football undoubtedly will leave its signature on the place, one could hardly find an errant strip of tape in there right now. And in an era when every helmet logo, treadmill and bottle of energy drink have some bearing on image and recruiting results, the presence of that locker room means the task of attracting athletes just got easier.

"We felt like we needed a touch of class," Holtz said of the renovation. "The locker room just didn't have a first-class appearance. With the way these players have been working and the success that they've had the last two years, we felt like we should do something to reward them."

From the opening kickoff until the final play of the season, keep up with Pirate football online at reflector.com/sports

Holtz said his team, which finished 8-5 last season and beat Boise State in the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl, deserves one of the best facilities in the nation.

The newly-named Sloan-Styers Football Locker Room, funded largely by a donation from ECU alumnus David Bond, is a major departure from the one to which senior players had grown accustomed.

"I'm thankful for it," said senior linebacker

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FOOTBALL
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Quentin Cotton. "It was just a lot of hard work and everyone coming together as a family. We wouldn't have had that locker room if not for the contributors, but we earned it as a football team.

"If you want a Division I locker room, you've got to win games."

Purple walls inside the 4,291 square-foot facility encase 125 lockers, all trimmed in wood. Flat-screen televisions hang from the ceiling. ECU also has started a program allowing former players to dedicate lockers in their names.

Athletics Director Terry Holland says the new locker room is one of the athletic department's signature pieces, crediting the department's effort and financial commitment of donors.

Its renovations come on the heels of recent projects to upgrade the program's practice fields, weight room and team meeting rooms. Holland, in his fourth year at East Carolina, praised the athletic department's renovations made possible by-endowment funds and other donations.

"A lot of hard work and planning by the coaches and our facility staff have provided the crowning jewel for the competitive upgrades that began in the spring of 2005 as a result of the Circle of Excellence Campaign," Holland said. "Members of the Directors Circle and the Coaches Circle contributed $5 million to give ECU athletes the opportunity to compete at the highest level, and their generosity has reverberated throughout our department and has impacted every one of our teams."

The locker room was slowly beginning to look more like the real thing by the opening day of practice last Friday. Already, the names of true freshman and other newcomers were taped across the unoccupied lockers, and cleats and turf shoes lined the bottom shelves of many.

The room won't see its first game day until Sept. 6, when the Pirates host West Virginia in the second game of the season. But it will see plenty of traffic in the meantime.

"It's unbelievable. It's a night-and-day difference (from the old locker room)," said JJ. McLamb, assistant athletics director for admin-

"We wouldn't have had that locker room if not for the contributors, but we earned it as a football team. If you want a Division I locker room, you've got to win games."

Quentin Cotton
senior, linebacker

right direction."

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THE NEW locker room will see its first action on Sept. 6, when ECU hosts West Virginia.
How a spider tale spins

Since he came to East Carolina University six years ago, Dr. Jason Bond has named four spiders after people. He named a trapdoor spider Stasimopus mendelai, after Nelson Mandela.

He even named one spider apo-mastus kristenae for his wife, Kristen.

Now, Wednesday night, all eyes will be on the ECU associate professor, when he reveals the ill-tempered spider he named after the egotistical host of "The Colbert Report." The show airs at 11:30 on Comedy Central.

It's the first on-air appearance for Bond, who runs a lab for taxonomy, phylogeny and evolution of spiders and millipedes at ECU in Greenville.

Once before, he talked to Colbert over the phone for the show, as he tried to balm the host's bruised ego with a promise to name a spider after him. The Stephen Colbert character, played by the "Daily Show" alumus of the same name, is in the mold of Fox News blowhard Bill O'Reilly.

Colbert — who has a regular segment called "Who's Not Honoring Me Now?" — was affronted last year when Bond, a Neil Young fan (his favorite Young albums are "Everybody Knows This is Nowhere" and "Live at Massey Hall") named a spider Myrmechiphila neilyoungi for the rocker. Colbert went on the air with an indignant rant that basically posed the question: Where's mine?

Soon after, ECU's communications department contacted the show with an offer to name a spider after Colbert, and the rest is soon-to-be history.

So how does one man attain so much power — to associate, by name, species of spiders with a specific human for all time?

"Most taxonomic decisions are subject to peer review," Bond says. "There are rules that govern how a species is named and described. As long as those rules are followed, and as long as the paper that the names are published in passes peer review ... once the names are formally published, they're in [use] forever."

And he means forever, noting that taxonomic nomenclature goes back to 1758.

"I think that people are under the impression that most species have been discovered and described," he says, adding that the Colbert publicity "has brought some attention to biodiversity studies and the idea that there are new species out there. While there are about 40,000 species of spiders that have been described — gosh, there could be twice as many, at least another 40,000 out there remaining to be discovered."

Of course, when he's on the show Wednesday, he'll bring one of the newly dubbed Aptostichus stephenocolberti along with him. He describes the species as "kind of docile at first," until they get angry and "they get kind of worked into a frenzy, and will really just bite about anything you put in front of them."

"They're pretty sizable spiders," he continues. "They're not tarantula-big, but they're pretty good-size trapdoor spiders. I guess I've heard that the character of 'Stephen Colbert' is not scared of spiders."

How about the real Stephen Colbert?

"I don't know if I should say," he answers with a laugh.

Bond, 40, says he's not finished with the spider-naming biz. Next up? A spider to be named after actress and mega-mom Angelina Jolie later this summer.

That spider must have lots of nice legs.

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NCSU program opens sign-up

N.C. State University's Encore Center for Lifelong Enrichment has begun registration for its fall 2008 courses, trips and events, which run from Sept. 8 to Dec. 12. The center offers noncredit programs for adults 50 and older. New offerings include courses on Abraham Lincoln, Turkey, existentialism, religious fanaticism, the 2008 election and China.

Three courses will focus on World War II. One will encourage participants to write their memoirs of the war; another focuses on the war in the Mediterranean; and a third will feature veterans who have shared their stories with the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

Special events include a seminar on eating local and a day trip to the Roanoke Canal Museum and Sylvan Heights Waterfowl Park. An open house will be held Sept. 8 and will feature an appearance by News & Observer columnist Barry Saunders.

The membership fee is $50 and runs from September 2008 through August 2009. Membership includes university benefits such as library privileges and discounts on campus events. Most short courses are $45 each, but costs can vary. For more information, call 515-5782 or visit www.ncsu.edu/encore.

Check out more community events or post your own at share.triangle.com. Click on "Events" and then, "Community." For more information on community listings, call 829-4629 or send e-mail to yourtriangle@newsobserver.com.
**CAREER MOVES**

News about people who have been named or promoted to positions and news about business activities in North Carolina should be sent to Business News Desk, The News & Observer, 215 S. McDowell St., Raleigh, N.C. 27601 or e-mail amy.rue@newsobserver.com

**New leader at Power Systems in Raleigh**

ABB, the global electrical engineering conglomerate, has picked an energy executive to head its Power Systems of North America unit in Raleigh.

**Martin Gross** moved to the Triangle from his post at ABB's world headquarters in Zurich, Switzerland, to assume his new assignment, effective Aug. 1. Gross has been with the company since 1986, most recently overseeing the Global Power Generation Group. He had previously lived and worked in Germany and Poland for ABB.

ABB operates in more than 100 countries and employs more than 115,000 people, including about 450 in Raleigh and Cary. The company employs 12,000 people at its North American headquarters in Norwalk, Conn.

The Power Systems group in Raleigh oversees global manufacturing, marketing and sales of electrical substations, network-management software and repair services.

Gross replaces Mike Barnoski, who is retiring from ABB after nearly three decades.

**In other moves ...**

**Jamie Nunnelly** joined the National Institute of Statistical Sciences as communications director. Nunnelly will provide communications counsel and services to NISS and the Statistical and Applied Mathematical Sciences Institute in Research Triangle Park.

**Andrew M. Lamar** has joined City Ballet in Raleigh as an instructor of advanced ballet technique. **Paige Worsham** joined as a pointe instructor.

**Jim Swingle** has been named director of property sales for King Corp., doing business as The King Partnership Property Sales, the newly created real estate division of The King Partnership Advertising Agency. Swingle is responsible for sales at the Villages of Apex.

**Edward Pollard** joined the Raleigh office of McKim & Creed as general counsel. **Jason Allen** was hired as a project engineer and **Elizabeth Burke** as a project accountant. McKim & Creed provides engineering and surveying services.

**Greg E. Murphy** joined Clark Nexsen as a senior civil engineer. Clark Nexsen is an architectural, engineering, planning, and interior design firm with offices in Raleigh and Charlotte.

**Amanda E. Wade** joined the firm as an interior designer, and **Dave G. Blankard** joined as a senior structural engineer.

**Jim Hefner**, former vice president and general manager at WRAL-TV joined UNC-CH's School of Journalism and Mass Communication as a professor of journalism.

**Maurice Coleman**, managing director at Cherokee Investment Partners of Raleigh, was appointed academic committee chairman of the Dean's Advisory Council for the E.J. Ourso College of Business at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

Hemophilia of North Carolina named three experts to its board of directors: **Tracy Kelly**, a pediatric nurse practitioner in hematology- oncology at Duke Children's Hospital and a clinical instructor at Duke University School of Medicine; **Adam Trunkley**, a communications leader for the information protection services group at IBM in Cary; and **Sally S. Wright**, a social work clinical specialist at the Harold R. Roberts Comprehensive Hemophilia Diagnostic and Treatment Center, UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Bob Greczyn**, president and chief executive officer of BlueCross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, has been re-elected chairman of the East Carolina University Board of Trustees. **David Brody**, a Kinston developer and philanthropist, was elected vice chairman and **Robbie O. Hill** secretary.

**James M. Landwehr**, director of data analysis research at Avaya Labs Research, was named chairman of the trustees of the National Institute of Statistical Sciences in Research Triangle Park. **Jessica M. Uatts**, of the University of California-Davis, will serve as vice chairwoman. New board members are: **Mary Ellen Bock** of Purdue University, **Keith Soper** of Merck, **Clifford Spiegelman** of Texas A&M University, **Michael Kosorok** of UNC at Chapel Hill and **James Rosenberger** of Pennsylvania State University.

The United Arts Council of Raleigh and Wake County has five new board members: **Ellie Brauneis** of Price WaterhouseCoopers; **Leesa M. Craigie**, director of news and special projects at WRAL-TV; **Randy Fraser**, retired from Time Warner Cable; **John J. Heaty Jr.** of Hyde Street Holdings and **Quinlan Maynard** of Golden Corral.

Enterprise Women magazine in Cary named new member to the Entering Women National Advisory Board: **Sung-Joo Kim** of Sungjoo Group in Korea, **Lisa Pline** of Technical Services in Durham, and **Marion K. Hook** of Adobe Rose inn in Tucson, Ariz.

**Jon D. Hensarling**, associate attorney at Ragsdale Liggett in Raleigh, was named to the International Affairs Council board of directors. The council promotes understanding of world affairs, diplomacy and the recognition of North Carolina as a center of education, culture and business.

**Brant Spesshardt**, a Raleigh financial planner with Banyan Rock & Talent, has been elected to a second term as board chairman of Community Partnerships, a Raleigh organization that creates opportunities for people with disabilities, mental illnesses or other social and economic disadvantages.

**Christopher Viethbacher**, president of North American pharmaceuticals for GlaxoSmithKline, will lead the annual National Multiple Sclerosis Society Dinner of Champions. The event will celebrate the positive contributions made by health and life sciences organizations.
Lessons from Ghana: ECU students learn about their heritage

By Danielle Kucera
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, August 03, 2008

Sometimes home can be thousands of miles away.

This summer, six East Carolina University students and three faculty members learned that first-hand when they traveled across the Atlantic to Ghana in search of their heritage.

"One of the things that impressed me the most is that they said, 'Welcome back,' and that just made the trip worthwhile right there," said Catherine Rosario, a rising junior who went on the trip. "Even when I went through customs, the man said, 'This is where you belong,' and that felt great — to be so welcomed."

From July 1-16, this group of East Carolinians explored a new world which, they said, was both similar and different to the one they know so well.

"To me, it reminded me of the Carolinas back in the '50s and '60s. The technology and buildings look more like ours in the '50s and '60s. But the people are not wasteful," Rosario said. "They take full advantage of everything they have."

One of the things the students said surprised them the most was how much TV had skewed their perception of Africa — especially when they traveled to Ghana's most populous city, Accra.

There, bumper-to-bumper traffic weaves through a street-side marketplace shadowed by buildings the size of those in Raleigh, said David Dennard, director of the African and African-American Studies program at ECU.

"If you want toilet tissue, there's someone in the road selling toilet tissue. So while you're stuck in traffic, you can get a newspaper, purchase food, clothing or many other items," he said. "There are ATM machines. You may see a guy with a herd of cattle and he's on a cell phone — so two worlds, old and new, kind of co-exist." Although Ghana's economy still primarily relies on agriculture, the efforts of people passionate about industrializing the nation during the late 1950s, such as first Prime Minister Kwame Nkrumah, began a successful exchange of ideas between Ghana and the U.S., Dennard said.

When the group exchanged their money for Ghanaian money, they learned Ghana's dollar is almost on par with the U.S. dollar. But the country still has a long way to go.

"People are cutting grass with machetes," Dennard said. "There are pockets where people don't realize what has been invented. That's why I think it's so important for us to develop these linkages, where we can share some of these ideas and make these exchanges."
In addition to Accra, the group traveled to the W.E.B. Du Bois Centre, visited an old slave factory, went to the Elmina and Cape Coast slave castles, danced with local drummers, drank from coconuts, haggled at the marketplace and even stumbled upon a festival.

To prepare for the trip, the students had to attend four classes, which covered the history of West Africa, Ghana and the Atlantic Slave Trade. They also read a number of books, which included "The Souls of Black Folk" by W.E.B. Dubois and "Ama: A Story of the Atlantic Slave Trade" by Manu Herbstein, whom they met on the trip.

"I'm telling you, I read the book, but after meeting the author, it actually brought the book more to life, and it helped me to understand the book so much better. It would have taken me years and years to learn what I learned just by going there," Rosario said. "Going there enriches it so much more, brings it to life."

Although Dennard said he mainly wanted to give the students a chance to learn about their heritage, he also wanted to show them the importance of traveling and learning about other cultures.

"A lot of students who come to ECU are a little provincial, and one of the things that we want to do is make them more cosmopolitan," he said.

"One of the things that helps with that is the preparation — getting passports, visas and immunization."

Kimberly Harper, a third-year doctoral student, said being immersed in a new culture helped her drop her misconceptions.

"In America, you have to be in some kind of racial category. I didn't feel that in Ghana. It just felt like I was among people who all shared my same background," she said. "I learned just a great respect for the people of Ghana, just what we normally see on TV of Africa — famine and what have you — is so different than how it actually is."

Dennard said he plans to take students back to Ghana next summer. And although the trip is part of the year-old African and African-American Studies major, any student can go by applying through ECU's summer study abroad program and having at least a 2.0 grade-point average, said Carolyn Dunn, summer study abroad coordinator at the university.

"This year we actually had participation from every one of the colleges and schools on campus, and we had 241 students travel abroad this summer," she said.

The six who went to Ghana said the 15 days they visited the country were enlightening, but not enough.

"There is so much more that I need to learn," Rosario said. "I didn't really know that much about my history at all. I've spoken to my friends, and they said they've learned so much in class, and I'm telling them there's so much more to know. I've only touched the crust of it."

Other summer travelers

The summer is a popular time for student and mission trips. Here's a list of others who traveled during the season.

Twenty-three teachers are traveling to Poland and Germany through Aug. 11 with the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching. All the travelers are Holocaust/tolerance educators and plan to learn more on the subject.

St. Peter's Catholic Church sent 100 members of their youth group and 22 adults to Pittsburgh, where
they worked with an orphanage and church from July 19-26. The community raised $25,000 to send them on the trip.

Two local students, Andrew Gray and Brock Davis, recently returned from a 10-day trip to Zimbabwe where they ministered to the people there. They had planned to stay longer, but had to leave early because of dangerous uprisings, a result of an election going on in the country.

Two teams of Covenant Church members traveled to Bulgaria June 14-16 to build relationships with the people there.
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