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Almost $900K headed to ECU

Grants will provide funds for health care initiatives in eastern North Carolina.

BY ECU NEWS BUREAU
Special to The Daily Reflector

The Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust of Winston-Salem has awarded East Carolina University three grants totaling $868,445 for health care-related endeavors designed to benefit residents of eastern North Carolina.

"ECU faculty and staff are leaders in addressing many of the pressing community health issues in eastern North Carolina," said Karen McNeil-Miller, president, Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust. "It's a natural fit for us to work closely with ECU in serving our mission of improving the health of lower income persons throughout the region."

One of the grants will provide $298,188 to establish mental health services in Greene County schools. ECU's Department of Psychology, Greene County Health Care/Student Health Services, school personnel and community members will work together to provide mental health services to students through school-based health centers.

"Students with unmet mental health needs are at risk for a host of problems," said ECU psychology professor Jeannie Golden. "By addressing the mental health needs of school-aged children, the likelihood of breaking this cycle greatly increases."

The second grant for $309,030 will facilitate the statewide expansion of a school nurse case management program for children with chronic diseases, a See ECU, B3
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from the trust in support of 11 health care-related projects.

Research awards made

With the aim of supporting homegrown research, ECU provided grants this summer to support the projects of 24 faculty members.

The grants, which total $427,000 for 19 projects that range from gastric bypass and diabetes research to biofeedback and reflexology, were funded by the Division of Research and Graduate Studies.

The grants typically help researchers generate data and findings that are in turn used to net external grants. In the first two years of the program, $1.1 million in Research Development Awards has led to about $4 million in additional external research grants.

This year, the grant program encouraged interdisciplinary grant requests, enabling more than one principal investigator from different departments. Four such grants were awarded this year.

The grants went to:

- Leslie K. Allison (physical therapy)
- Kori Brewer (emergency medicine and physiology)
- Sloane C. Burke (health education and promotion)
- Moahad Dar (internal medicine)
- Kathryn L. Davis (exercise and sport science), Patricia Hodson (physical therapy), Guili Zhang (curriculum and instruction)
- Paul DeVita (exercise and sport science)
- Brett Keiper (biochemistry and molecular biology)
- Barbara Kellam (nursing)
- Yong-qing Li (physics)
- Kwang Hun Lim (chemistry)
- Loren Limberis (engineering)
- Amy G. McMillan (physical therapy)
- Rebecca Powers (sociology) and Jeffrey Popke (geography)
- Evelio Rodriguez (internal medicine)
- Carmen Russoniello (recreation and leisure studies) and Nicholas Murray (exercise and sport medicine)
- Nancy Stephenson (nursing)
- John E. Wiley (pediatrics-genetics) and Gregory A Gagnon (pathology and laboratory medicine)
- Lester A. Zeager (economics)
- Xiaoming Zeng (health services and information management)

Poorman named director of financial aid

Julie L. Poorman, a veteran administrator of student financial services, has been named director of financial aid.

Poorman joined ECU on Aug. 1 from Berklee College of Music in Boston, where she served as director of the office of student financial aid.

Previously she had been director of state scholarship administration for the Maryland Higher Education Commission and director of the office of admissions and student financial aid at Eastern New Mexico University.

"We are delighted to have a leader of Julie Poorman's experience and ability join us in this critical position. About 65 percent of our students receive financial aid, and they will benefit from her expertise and insight," Judi Bailey, senior executive director of enrollment management, said.
UNC officials put satellite campus under microscope

North Carolina Central University's campus at a Georgia church was not properly approved, UNC officials say.

The Associated Press

DURHAM — North Carolina Central University officials are trying to decide what to do with about 50 students who attended a satellite campus at a megachurch near Atlanta run by a school trustee.

The News & Observer of Raleigh reported Sunday that the campus is New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga., whose pastor is NCCU trustee Eddie Long.

The newspaper said University of North Carolina officials never properly approved the programs offered by the New L.I.F.E., which operated for four years.

"I can think of no justifiable reason why the former NCCU leadership would have completely ignored and failed to abide by the appropriate approval process in creating this program," UNC system President Erskine Bowles said late last week in a statement e-mailed to The News & Observer. "Such action is contrary to all university policy. To say the least, it is very disappointing. We are working closely with Chancellor (Charlie) Nelms and his new leadership team to examine the various academic, legal, and financial questions associated with this Georgia-based program."

Nelms came to NCCU a year ago and said the program quit admitting new students in March 2007. "Since no members of the current executive leadership team were involved in creating the New Birth program, we can only infer that it was established in order to provide quality educational opportunities for participating students," he said.

NCCU is "currently developing a teach-out option for students nearing degree completion," Nelms said.

The name and signature of Beverly Washington Jones is on several documents, but she declined to comment. Jones was dean of NCCU's University College when the New Birth program was created and later became provost, a position she held until earlier this year.

And NCCU's chancellor at the time was James H. Ammons, who's now president of Florida A&M University. He didn't respond to written requests for an interview, The News & Observer said.

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NCCU
Continued from B1

The New Birth program, which began in 2004, ended in June when the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, refused to authorize it.

Long, the trustee who's the church pastor, also is a 1976 NCCU graduate named to the university's board of trustees in 2002.

Long released a statement through his Washington-based spokesman, Dan René, describing his church as "one of the largest congregations in the United States" and said it uses a variety of institutions and programs to meet the needs of its members."

Last week, Long announced a $1 million gift to create a distinguished professorship fund at NCCU, and he has delivered at least two commencement addresses at the school.

A UNC system officials said the program should have been reviewed, but there's no mention of it in minutes from trustee meetings in 2003 and 2004. And Long's role in the program's creation isn't clear.

Kay Thomas, the NCCU board's chairwoman now, said she didn't recall being briefed or voting on the program, but added that her board doesn't routinely approve specific distance education programs.

"I see no problem with it," Thomas said. "The idea is to get people certified for jobs, even if they're not North Carolinians."

But Alan Mabe, the UNC system's vice president for academic planning and university-school programs, said the UNC Board of Governors should have vetted it. "We don't have any records of it being presented," Mabe said.

NCCU's Faculty Senate did discuss the program briefly in a contentious debate, said Kofi Amoateng, a finance professor who headed the faculty in 2004.

"It was not an easy approval; it was a close fight," he said. "I was not very happy. We never thought it through. We needed time to study, but it got pushed through."

Amoateng, who has taught at New Birth, said the students there got the same education as those in Durham, is one of several business professors to occasionally teach at the New Birth site.

In four years, 25 New Birth students earned undergraduate degrees from NCCU. The program didn't receive tax dollars. Instead, NCCU raised the money to pay instructors and rent the church space through tuition receipts.
Colleges peddle bicycles

BY DORIE TURNER
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Emory University is hoping to make bikes the must-have back-to-school accessory this fall.

The school is selling discounted bicycles to students and faculty, adding bike lanes to campus roads and stocking bikes that can be borrowed for free. The university is pushing its $250,000 "Bike Emory" initiative, launched a year ago, in hopes of convincing students and faculty that the eco-friendly bikes are a better alternative to their four-wheeled, gas-guzzling counterparts.

Cycling already has a foothold at many colleges, where hefty parking fees, sprawling campuses and limited roads make it tough to travel. Still, most students are reluctant to leave their cars parked.

"They're using them to drive from residence halls to class, which is a two- or three-block commute," said Ric Damm, an administrator and cycling coach at Ripon College, which is giving away $300 bikes to freshmen who leave their cars at home. "We thought, 'How can we provide an incentive to get them out of that behavior?'"

Damm's school, outside Oshkosh, Wis., has spent $26,000 on its free bike program, which so far has signed up half of the 300-student freshman class, Damm said.

"I think a big draw is the just the environmental aspect," said freshman Regina Nelson, who readily signed up for a free bike. "And, honestly, I think that anything free when you're in college is good, especially something like a bike that is worth something."

Emory started a bike-share program a couple of months ago. It has just 20 bikes now, but that will double by this fall, said Jamie Smith, who oversees the initiative. The sign-out lists for the bikes had just 12 names on them after the program started in April, but that number climbed to 45 in June during the typically slow summer, Smith said.

At Duke University in Durham, N.C., the bike-share program started last year had to start a waiting list because all 100 bikes were checked out within just a few weeks. Now the school spends $24,000 each year on the program, and most of its bikes are checked out every day, said Watts Magnum, who runs the program.

Students say they like the convenience of having a bike whenever they need it.

"I've had two bikes stolen, so I stopped buying bikes because they kept stealing them," said Andre Loyd, a graduate student in Duke's biomedical engineering program, as he checked out a bike recently.

Northern Illinois University and Illinois State University have also both started free bike-share programs, painting the bikes bright colors and handing a lock and helmet to every customer. Illinois State revamps abandoned bikes instead of shelling out the money for new bikes.

Some colleges are looking for ways to appeal to reluctant cyclists.

The University of Washington has bought 40 electric bicycles for a bike-share program set to launch in January. Anyone with a university ID can borrow one of the bikes, which give an extra boost to cyclists who may be concerned about tackling Seattle's steep hills.

The university received a $200,000 grant from the state Department of Transportation for the pilot program, and the school said it hopes to add to the 5,000 cyclists who roam the campus each day.
College of Business establishes diversity enhancing scholarship

Charitable gift made by ECU alumnus Danny Scott, Anheuser-Busch Foundation Matching Gift Program

The College of Business at East Carolina University announced the establishment of a diversity enhancing scholarship, thanks to a charitable gift from alumnus Danny Scott and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation Matching Gift Program. The $52,000 endowment will fund the first diversity-based scholarship offered through an academic college at ECU.

The Danny R. Scott Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student in the College of Business who contributes to educational diversity while demonstrating academic excellence and financial need. The amount of each scholarship will total $2,300 per year.

"This scholarship is a way for me to help deserving students attain a quality education, while also reflecting the university's strong commitment to diversity and education," Scott said. "Student body diversity entails many dimensions, and I believe it's crucial to the classroom as well as campus life to include a wide array of backgrounds and perspectives to enhance the learning experience."

Scott, a 1984 graduate, lives near St. Louis, Mo., with his wife, Connie Shelton, a 1985 graduate of ECU. He has worked with Anheuser-Busch for more than 19 years. Most recently, he was named vice president of diversity -- a new position focused on developing and implementing Anheuser-Busch's company-wide strategy for diversity and inclusion.

"The College of Business is grateful to Danny Scott and the Anheuser-Busch Foundation for creating this new scholarship -- an opportunity that will help our students while enriching ECU's academic environment," Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said.

The first recipient of the scholarship will be announced in April for the 2009-10 academic year. Scholarship application forms will be available beginning Feb. 1, for this and other scholarships administered by the College of Business Scholarship Committee.
East Carolina grad competing in Olympics

BY TONY CASTLEBERRY
The Daily Reflector

When Hector Cotto’s football life ended, the rest of his life began.

In 2004, Cotto was a member of the football team at Fayetteville State. Despite being on full scholarship, Cotto was hoping to transfer, but his options seemed limited.

Then longtime East Carolina track and field coach Bill Carson stepped in and effectively changed Cotto’s future. Carson took a risk on offering me a scholarship after not running competitively in track for a year and a half,” Cotto said from Beijing, where he’ll run the 110-meter hurdles in the Olympics for the Puerto Rican team. “Without taking that risk, I would have never competed in track and field again.”

The change of schools, coupled with his re-introduction to hurdling, was exactly what Cotto needed.

Once at East Carolina, he was nothing short of brilliant. He set two Pirate records during the '04-'05 season, running the 400-meter hurdles in 51.82 seconds and clocking a 13.78 mark in the 110 outdoor hurdles. He was an All-Conference USA selection in both events.

A versatile runner, Cotto ran virtually every hurdles event as well as a member of the 1,600 relay team. He credits his time at East Carolina with helping him make his mark internationally.

“The training I got at ECU was great,” he said. “As a college athlete, I trained with the 400-meter runners, and the conditioning we did back then gave me the strength I needed to compete at the next level. Competing at the Division I level, I was always running against the best and that also helped in preparing me to run against the best in the world.”

Cotto remembers his East Carolina days fondly.

“On the track and field team, you run with your teammates and their support is invaluable. The city of Greenville is an amazing place to live, with great people,” Cotto said.

Cotto stepped up to the challenge when he arrived in Beijing. He said the Olympics has been everything he expected and more.

“I was not surprised to make the team,” Cotto said. “I am in the best shape of my life. I am running faster and stronger than ever before.”

Now that he is a part of the team, Cotto says making the 110 hurdles final is his primary goal. The opening ceremonies began on Friday — his birthday — and he’s fully focused on his races Aug. 18-21.

He also is enjoying the non-track portion of his Olympics experience, including a recent trip to China’s Great Wall.

“It is something you can’t quite grasp unless you see it in person,” he said. “It is something I’ll definitely treasure for the rest of my life.”

“Other than that, I am just looking to stay focused and prepare well for the rounds,” he said. “I’ll do my best at these Olympics and do my best to take it all in.”

Tony Castleberry can be contacted at castleberry@coxnc.com or at 329-9891.
Conference urges more help to gays
Homophobia said to block AIDS efforts

BY JULIE WATSON
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Jorge Saavedra's moment of truth came in the middle of an impassioned speech to 5,000 people about the paltry amount of money being spent to stop the spread of AIDS among gay men.

The Mexican federal official paused, then said publicly for the first time that he was gay.

As he held up a photo of himself with his partner, the crowd applauded wildly. Afterward, men from Africa and India congratulated him with tears in their eyes.

"They told me I was a hero and that they wished they could do the same in their countries," said Saavedra, who is infected with HIV and also heads the AIDS prevention program in a country where many gay men live in denial.

Saavedra's coming out on Tuesday at the International AIDS Conference sent a powerful message to the world: Homophobia must be stamped out if AIDS is to be controlled.

Fewer people are dying from AIDS, but new HIV infections among gay and bisexual men in many countries are rising at alarming rates.

Yet less than 1 percent of the $669 million reported in global prevention spending targets men who have sex with men, according to UNAIDS figures from 2006, the latest available data.

UNAIDS says these men receive the lowest coverage of HIV prevention services of any at-risk population. And experts say discrimination has driven gay and bisexual men in developing nations underground — turning them into one of the epidemic's hardest groups to reach. From Mexico to India, a surprising number of men who have sex with men insist they are not gay, and in many countries, governments still refuse to admit homosexuality exists.

During the conference's inauguration, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged nations "to follow Mexico's bold example and pass laws against homophobia."

In 2003, Mexico banned discrimination based on sexual orientation, and it has opened what it calls homophobia-free health clinics. The government has a national campaign that includes radio spots with mothers accepting their gay sons. Saavedra's program has earmarked 10 percent of its $12 million budget toward prevention among gay and bisexual men.

Worldwide, few developing nations check the rates of HIV infection among men who have sex with men, but researchers who have surveyed some of these countries say they are finding the rates are nearly twice that of the general adult population.

"This fight needs to be driven by epidemiologists" who urge making this high-risk group a priority, not only for the human rights argument, but for the public health argument, said Chris Beyrer, director of the Center for Public Health and Human Rights at Johns Hopkins University. "It's a virus, so you need to put the money where the virus is."

INFECTION MORE LIKELY

Gay and bisexual men are 19 times more likely to become infected with HIV than the general adult population, according to the Foundation for AIDS Research, which collected data in 128 countries. In Mexico, this group is 199 times more likely to acquire HIV. To date, 57 percent of the HIV diagnoses in Mexico are from unprotected sex between men.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
NCCU operated Atlanta campus

UNC system never approved branch

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — For four years, N.C. Central University operated a small satellite campus at a suburban Atlanta megachurch run by a university trustee, offering a series of programs that were never properly approved by university system officials.

The program folded this summer after running afoul of the university's accrediting agency, and campus officials are now trying to figure out how to take care of about 50 students whose college careers have been interrupted.

With the demise of the small campus, dubbed the New L.I.F.E. College Program and housed at the New Birth Missionary Baptist Church in Lithonia, Ga., questions arise why a North Carolina public university created an out-of-state branch campus 400 miles away.

"I can think of no justifiable reason why the former NCCU leadership would have completely ignored and failed to abide by the appropriate approval process in creating this program," UNC system President Erskine Bowles said late last week in a statement e-mailed to The News & Observer. "Such action is contrary to all university policy. To say the least, it is very disappointing. We are working closely with Chancellor [Charlie] Nelms and his new leadership team to examine the various academic, legal, and financial questions associated with this Georgia-based program."

Few NCCU officials past of present would comment.

Current Chancellor Charlie Nelms, who came to NCCU a year ago, offered only the following statement: "Since no members of the current executive leadership team were involved in creating the New Birth program, we can only infer that it was established in order to provide quality educational opportunities for participants to meet the needs of its members."

A 2005 story in a church publication called The New Birth Voice said the NCCU program was "directly in line with Bishop's vision of wanting to provide quality education to individuals right here on the New Birth campus from the time of childhood (Faith Academy) through the college years (New L.I.F.E. College)."

Long's wealth has drawn attention. He is currently one subject of an investigation by U.S. Sen. Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican. Grassley, the ranking Republican on the Senate Committee on Finance, which is responsible for tax legislation and oversight, has requested financial information from a handful of large ministries to see whether they are enjoying tax exemptions not proper for nonprofit agencies.

Grassley has asked Long's church and five others for detailed financial information; as of early July, Long had submitted only general financial information, which Grassley's office deemed "not responsive," according to a press release on Grassley's Senate Web site.

In 2005, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported that a tax-exempt charity Long set up to spread his gospel paid him more than $3 million between 1997 and 2000, compensation that included a $1.4 million home and a $350,000 Bentley automobile.

Long told the Atlanta newspaper in 2005: "We're not just a church, we're an international corporation. We're not just a bunching bunch of preachers who can't talk and all we're doing is baptizing babies. I deal with the White House. I deal with Tony Blair. I deal with presidents around this world. I pastor a multimillion-dollar congregation."

Long, the pastor at New Birth since 1987, is a native of Hatboro, a Charlotte suburb, and an NCCU graduate. Over 21 years he built a 300-member church into a 25,000-member congregation, according to the church's Web site. The church is staggering in size, with manicured lawns, a 3,700-seat sanctuary, a 10,000-seat complex and so much parking that there's a separate area designated for buses and vans. The church sends shuttles to a train station to pick up parishioners, according to its Web site. It also houses a K-12 Christian academy, a fitness center and a bookstore, and its Web site offers Long's sermons via video or audio podcast.

Long's role in the creation of the NCCU...
COURSES OUTSIDE N.C.

Some of North Carolina's public universities offer courses and degree programs in other states. Fayetteville State University, for example, offers social work courses at Fort Sam Houston in Texas; a result of a close relationship it has with the military. And executive MBA programs at some campuses occasionally offer courses out of state, a UNC system official said.

campus at his church is not clear. It is not clear whether NCCU's Board of Trustees was ever told about or voted to approve the New Birth program. There is no mention of the program in the minutes of any trustee meeting in 2003 or 2004.

Kay Thomas, the board's current chairwoman, said recently she has no recollection of being briefed or voting on the program, but added that her board doesn't routinely approve specific distance education programs.

"I see no problem with it," Thomas said. "The idea is to get people certified for jobs, even if they're not North Carolinians."

No record of it at UNC board

A UNC-system official said the program should have been vetted.

"It should have been presented to the [UNC system's] Board of Governors as a distance learning program," said Alan Mabe, the UNC system's vice president for academic planning and university-school programs. "We don't have any records of it being presented."

It was discussed, at least briefly, by NCUC's Faculty Senate. The debate was contentious, recalled Kofi Amoateng, a finance professor who headed the faculty in 2004.

"It was not an easy approval; it was a close fight," he said of a faculty vote on the program; adding that the relationship NCCU would have with a church gave some faculty members pause. "I was not very happy. We never thought it through. We needed time to study, but it got pushed through."

Mabe said there was no problem with a public university teaching classes in church classrooms as long as the rent paid to the church was fair. According to a 2006 memorandum of understanding laying out the relationship between the university and the church, the academic programs were housed within the church's "Christian Education Division."

Still, officials say the courses had no religious component, and a News & Observer examination of course syllabi found no evidence of any.

Amoateng is one of several business professors to occasionally teach at the New Birth site. His most recent Principles of Finance course had five or six students enrolled and met Friday evenings and on Saturdays. Those students got the same education as those in Durham, he said.

"We cover the same topics," he said, adding that the church provides a high-tech classroom and computers. "In some ways," he said, "it's better than what we have here."

While the university considers the New Birth initiative a distance education program because it is not on the Durham campus and has an online component, it was operated like a small, traditional college. Students were taught by local instructors hired by NCCU to teach night and weekend courses in criminal justice, hospitality and tourism, and business administration.

25 undergraduate degrees

Some courses were taught by NCCU faculty members paid a stipend to occasionally go to Lithuania, 20 minutes east of downtown Atlanta. The church provided classrooms, computer labs and even a student lounge. In four years, 25 New Birth students earned undergraduate degrees from NCCU. Some never set foot on the Durham campus until graduation day, said Kimberly Phifer-McGhee, NCCU's director of distance education programs.

Because it was outside North Carolina, the program wasn't funded by state dollars; rather, NCCU raised the money to pay instructors and rent the church space through tuition receipts.

It doesn't appear that the church reaped any windfall. Students paid $888.57 per three-credit course, which was more than the going rate for an in-state student at NCCU but less than a nonresident would traditionally pay, Phifer-McGhee said.

From those revenues, NCCU paid the church $120 per student per course taught, Phifer-McGhee said. UNC system officials confirmed that is the proper way to administer an out-of-state program. The church provided classrooms, equipment, offices and administrative support, helped recruit students and instructors and, on occasion, videotaped courses and sent them to NCCU for evaluation, according to the 2006 memorandum between NCCU and the church.

Instructors hired by NCCU to teach courses at New Birth had advanced degrees and taught at other colleges in the Atlanta area. Others were professionals, particularly in the hospitality field.

But in declining to approve the New Birth program earlier this year, the SACS cited, in part, questions about the backgrounds of some of the faculty. One instructor's background boasted a master's degree, but the field was not specified. The credentials for at least two instructors had not been provided, a SACS administrator wrote in a March letter to NCCU, and a human growth and development instructor's degree was listed as "doctor of graduation."

"Not all of them had the appropriate credentials to teach the courses they were teaching," said Paulette B. Bracy, NCCU's accreditation director.
New advice stokes debate on test for prostate cancer

BY WADE RAWLINS
STAFF WRITER

Robert Braam, a retired transportation engineer, has been talking up the value of regular checkups since he learned last month — to his surprise — that he had prostate cancer. He had no symptoms.

So Braam questions the new recommendation of a government medical panel discounting prostate tests for older men.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task force, an independent panel of experts that reviews clinical practices for the federal government, said routine prostate screening for men 75 and older wasn't necessary. And it also said more evidence is needed to determine whether men under 75 benefit.

"I want people to get a PSA test," said Braam, 64, of Raleigh, who is exploring his treatment options. "It saved my neck as far as I'm concerned."

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PROSTATE
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The task force’s recommendation reignites an intense disagreement among physicians and patients about the value of the prostate-specific antigen test, or PSA test. The blood analysis is used in combination with digital rectal exams to screen for prostate cancer — the most common cancer among men.

An estimated 186,000 cases will be diagnosed this year in the United States, with 5,050 in North Carolina, according to the American Cancer Society. And prostate cancer is the second-leading cause of cancer deaths among men.

The blood test, which measures a protein produced by the prostate gland, has been widely used since the 1990s to screen for prostate cancer in men 50 and older. A high PSA level or sudden jump in the number might indicate cancer and invites further testing.

"This task force just renews the fiery debate on what is the role of PSA," said Dr. Raj Pruthi, director of urologic oncology at the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. "I don’t think we understand it enough to write it off and say it’s no good. I don’t think it’s the answer to everything, either."

Despite its widespread use, the PSA test remains controversial. The National Cancer Institute says it's not clear whether the benefits of PSA screening outweigh the risks of follow-up diagnostic tests and cancer treatment. The disease is often slow moving, leading some to argue that the cure may be worse than the disease.

The institute is conducting a long-term study to determine whether screening reduces the number of deaths.

One the test’s drawbacks is it often detects small, slow-growing cancers that would never become life-threatening. That puts patients at risk for complications from unnecessary treatment such as surgery or radiation. Some men who would never have died of prostate cancer undergo surgery that leaves them impotent or incontinent.

CANCER DIAGNOSES

Leading cancers among men in the United States, based on 2008 estimates:

1. Prostate: 186,210 cases
2. Lung: 114,690 cases
3. Colon and rectum: 77,250
4. Urinary bladder: 51,230
5. Non-Hodgkin lymphoma: 55,450
6. Melanoma: 34,950
7. Kidney: 31,130
8. Oral cavity and pharynx: 25,310
9. Leukemia: 25,160
10. Pancreas: 18,770

CANCER DEATHS

Leading causes of cancer death among men in the United States, based on 2008 estimates:

1. Lung: 90,810
2. Prostate: 28,660
3. Colon and rectum: 24,260
4. Pancreas: 17,500
5. Liver and bile duct: 12,570
6. Leukemia: 12,470
7. Esophagus: 11,259
8. Urinary bladder: 9,950
10. Kidney: 8,100

SOURCE: AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY
Testing can do harm

Dr. Russell Harris, a professor at the UNC-CH School of Medicine who served on the task force and voted for the recommendation, said the panel tried to weigh the benefits and harms of screening.

"By testing in situations where you shouldn't test and following it up with treatment, you actually can hurt people with screening tests," Harris said.

For example, Harris said, if you screen 100 men in their 60s and 70s, about 15 to 20 will have a positive PSA test. A follow-up biopsy on those with high readings would find three to five men with prostate cancer.

"Of those three to five who have prostate cancer, certainly no more than one would have died from the cancer," Harris said. "The other men had prostate cancer under the microscope, but it doesn't grow fast. We are certainly going to be over-treating a number of men."

As men get older, their prostates enlarge normally and the PSA levels go up. So PSA levels are less useful for detecting cancer in older men, Harris said. And prostate surgery can irreparably alter the quality of some men's lives.

"I had a gentleman in my office last week," Harris said. "He is now wearing diapers. This is a big, healthy guy out taking hay for his horses. This is a hard thing for him."

The need for vigilance

But Dr. Judd W. Moul, chief of the division of surgical urology at Duke University Medical Center and director of the Duke Prostate Center, expressed concern that the recommendation will be misinterpreted.

"This government report will be interpreted by many men that the PSA test is no good and doesn't work," Moul said. "The truth is the test is too good. We're picking up too many small prostate cancers in older men who may not benefit."

While there are no completed randomized trial studies in the United States, Moul said the sheer drop in the percentage of men with cancer that has spread beyond their prostate shows the benefit of screenings. Before the PSA test was widely used, Moul said, prostate cancer was not initially detected until it had spread to the bones of 20 percent to 25 percent of the patients. That number has dropped to about 2 percent or less.

"We're making huge inroads in decreasing the mortality from prostate cancer," Moul said. "We do not want to go back to the bad old days prior to the PSA test."

Moul questioned setting a specific age cutoff for screenings. He said the recommendation should encourage a discussion among men and their doctors.

Dr. Stephen Freedland, a urologist at Duke, said there is "very good circumstantial evidence" that screening does reduce the risk of death. He recommends his patients get a baseline PSA test at age 40 and begin regular tests at age 50.

"The fault is not screening or diagnosing cancer, but over-treating it," Freedland said. "That is something we as a community are struggling with. It's difficult to give someone a cancer diagnosis and not treat it."

Freedland said physicians have to take the time to educate their patients about the options, including "watchful waiting." He said he sees a growing minority of patients who are comfortable with aggressive monitoring.

One of Freedland's patients who has taken that approach is Edward Hans of Durham.

Hans, 74, a retired manager for an electronics manufacturer, was diagnosed with cancer in 2005. He said his physician told him the cancer was small, so he chose simply to monitor it. He has a biopsy every six months to see whether the cancer has changed.

"Because of my age, they said it was going to be slow-growing," Hans said. "Other things will happen to my health before this will manifest itself."
ECU construction faculty, students make China trip

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

A group of East Carolina University students saw firsthand the gigantic effort by the nation of China to prepare for the 2008 Olympics.

The construction management department at ECU organized a three-week tour of China in May for three teachers and 13 students.

The group saw the Beijing National Stadium — affectionately referred to as "The Bird's Nest" — and the Beijing National Aquatics Center up close.

For security reasons, the group could not tour buildings, but seeing them was spectacular, said Eric Connell, assistant professor in the department of construction management.

"They choose some of the best architects and construction companies in the world," Connell said. "The Olympic village looked really first rate."

Two of the instructors who made the trip with the group, Huanqing Lu and George Wang, are originally from China.

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ECU VISIT
Continued from B1

"We got access to things that we probably would not have gotten access to without their intimate knowledge of local traditions," Connell said.

The group visited with American companies based in China, including Caterpillar, the large manufacturer of construction and mining equipment.

The group learned of Caterpillar's donation of equipment to help with recovery after China experienced a large earthquake during their visit. Connell said he was impressed with the way the country responded to the disaster and helped save thousands of lives.

Connell said the largest benefit for his students was learning that their careers can take them anywhere in the world. Most of the students had never traveled abroad, he said, and two filled out applications to work at companies based in China.

"It is growing so fast over there that there are probably opportunities for everybody," Connell said. "The world of their future careers is getting smaller. Hopefully we have given them the world view of their career instead of just a local one."

Construction management majors coming from one of the best programs in the Southeast can work anywhere, Connell said. "If you want a job there, you can get one. Some of them probably never thought of that before."

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Colleges seeing surging enrollment

The Associated Press

WINSTON-SALEM — Some universities in North Carolina are facing their own housing crisis.

Officials at Winston-Salem State University don't think they will be able to fit all new students this fall into dorms. East Carolina University and Elizabeth City State University expect similar problems as enrollment could hit record levels, school officials said.

Winston-Salem State expects to have about 1,200 freshmen this year, which would break the school's record of 1,083 freshmen in 2005. The school is expected to need 260 hotel rooms off campus for this year's new students.

Chancellor Donald Reaves told the Winston-Salem Journal the school has been adding housing, but this year's surge caught officials by surprise.

"We didn't know that this was going to hit us this quick," Reaves said. "People will say it's the economy. During bad economic times, people gravitate to colleges and universities so they don't have to look for a job. Some of that could be going on here."

The 16-campus University of North Carolina System has warned its colleges that 80,000 more students than usual are likely to enter its universities by 2017, said Kemal Atkins, the vice provost for student affairs at East Carolina in Greenville.

He said the school is expecting 4,600 freshmen in the fall, a 400-student increase over last year that would mark an enrollment record.

Elizabeth City State University also will feel a housing crunch.

But it isn't just freshman pushing up demand.

Upperclassmen are choosing to stay on campus where housing is closer to dining halls and health care facilities, and offers shorter walks to class. Dorms also offer amenities such as Internet and cable television, Atkins said. Rising gas prices also may be dissuading students from living off campus.

Enrollment increases are affecting more than housing. At Winston-Salem State, officials are trying to find faculty to teach additional classes. Parking areas, library space and other campus services must also adjust, officials said.

"It's a good problem to have but it's a management challenge," Reaves said.
School of Arts gains 'U'

The Associated Press

RALEIGH — The North Carolina School of the Arts has a new name.

Gov. Mike Easley on Friday signed legislation changing the name of the Winston-Salem school to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts. The measure takes effect immediately.

School officials requested the switch because they felt the inclusion of the word 'university' would better reflect that the school is a campus within the University of North Carolina System where students can obtain college degrees. They said the name change would help eliminate confusion with other schools and help the university market itself. Some alumni opposed the change and unsuccessfully asked lawmakers to give graduates more time to discuss it.
State workers say paychecks have been erratic since a new system began.

BY LYNN BONNER
STAFF WRITER

RALEIGH – About a dozen people held a brief, silent demonstration in a state building Friday to demand improvements in the state payroll system.

Organized by the N.C. Public Service Workers Union, about a dozen workers, supporters and union organizers decided to stand in the front lobby of the Adams Building on Dorothea Dix Hospital's campus in Raleigh. They said they wanted to see Dempsey Benton, head of the Department of Health and Human Services, or another administrator about the problem paychecks. The Adams Building houses the offices for top DHHS officials.

In December, the state controller's office rolled out a new payroll system, called BEACON. Since then, employees at DHHS and other state agencies have said the state has been slow to pay them all they are owed and that the unpredictability of their paychecks has led them to make late payments on mortgages, cars and tuition.

Angaza Laughinghouse, president of a local union chapter, said the payroll mistakes amounted to an emergency. "I don't think they understand what we're going through right now," he said.

DHHS spokesman Tom Lawrence threatened to have police remove the protesters. "You'd be better off standing in silence at BEACON headquarters," he said. "We can't do anything at all."

When Lawrence asked police to escort the protesters from the building, they hesitated.

After a conversation with Lawrence, a Dorothea Dix officer offered a compromise where four people would remain in the building while the others left.

Dix employee Annie Barnes of Raleigh said she was not worried about being arrested. "We have a right to be here and seek an appointment," she said.

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