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A Brody School of Medicine professor has co-authored a report issued Thursday that calls America’s health care system too complex and costly, posing a threat to the nation’s economic stability and global competitiveness.

The report, “Best Care at Lower Cost: The Path to Continuously Learning Health Care in America,” comes from a committee of the Institute of Medicine and focuses on how the inefficiencies created by an overwhelming amount of data and other economic and quality barriers hinder progress in improving health. The good news is that tools exist to put the health system on the right course to achieve improvement and better quality care at lower cost, committee members said.

“We Americans can all get much better results from the health care we receive and pay for,” said Dr. T. Bruce Ferguson, professor of cardiovascular sciences at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and an IOM committee member. The IOM is the health-care arm of the National Academy of Sciences.

The report tries to construct a road map from where the health care system and its users are — substantially constrained by unsustainable costs and quality shortfalls — to a place where better health care is delivered and received. The vehicle is a system of continuous improvement driven by the commitment of all its participants.

“We’re trying to expand what we’ve learned within pocket areas of improvement and apply them to the entire health care system to produce better value and less costs for every person in the system who requires health care,” Ferguson said.

The costs of the system’s inefficiency underscore the urgent need for a systemwide transformation.

The committee calculated that about 30 percent of health spending in 2009 — roughly $750 billion — was wasted on unnecessary services, excessive administrative costs, fraud, and other problems. Moreover, inefficiencies cause needless suffering, they said. By one estimate, roughly 75,000 deaths
might have been prevented in 2005 if every state had delivered care at the quality level of the best performing state.

The committee identified tools and assets in today’s health care environment, some that did not exist as recently as five years ago, and areas where the tools must be applied.

One is an enormous computing power that now allows access to information with connectivity almost anywhere in real time.

“When I was a medical student, I had to go to the library to look up articles in journals and photocopy them,” Ferguson said. “A medical student at Brody logs on to the Internet and accesses hundreds of times more information than I was able to gather.”

The sheer volume of information, helpful as it is, can be overwhelming. The ways that health care providers train, practice, and learn new information cannot keep pace with the flood of research discoveries and technological advances, the report said.

About 75 million Americans have more than one chronic condition, requiring coordination among multiple specialists and therapies, which can increase the potential for miscommunication, misdiagnosis, potentially conflicting interventions, and dangerous drug interactions, the report said.

“The care a patient receives at an emergency department can determine whether they will be alive five years from now,” Ferguson said. “It is no longer about physicians operating in isolation; it is all about teamwork ... and patients and their families must be integrated into the care delivery decision making and action system.”

Another important change must occur in the way providers are paid for their services, the report said.

“Simply getting paid for doing more, whether at a hospital or at a doctor’s office, is not necessarily the most efficient method to deliver care,” Ferguson said. “The incentives for care delivery are frequently not aligned with the best interests of the patient. We have to all agree we’re going to get paid for delivering better quality care, period.”

The complete report can be seen online at www.nap.edu or by calling the National Academies at 800-624-6242.

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Aileen Devlin / The Daily Reflector
Before her lecture at Wright Auditorium, Mae Jemison, the first black woman in space, left, visits with ECU faculty during an interview session held at the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center on Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012.

First black woman into space visits ECU
By Katherine Ayers
Friday, September 7, 2012

Astronaut, actress, dancer and physician Dr. Mae Jemison told a crowd at East Carolina University life is about doing anything, and everything, that interests you.

When she was 16 years old, Jemison, a native of Decatur, Ala., chose to enter Stanford University.

After graduating at age 24 from the Weill Medical College of Cornell University, Jemison has practiced medicine; served in the Peace Corps; been an actress (she appeared on an episode of Star Trek: The Next Generation); became a dancer; taught at Cornell University and Dartmouth College; founded her own company; received nine honorary doctorates; and became an astronaut at NASA.

In 1992, Jemison became the first black woman to go into space aboard the Space Shuttle Endeavour.

“You have a lot of time and you get to choose what to do with it,” Jemison said.

Jemison, 55, was on the campus of ECU on Wednesday, visiting with staff and students at the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center before giving a lecture Wednesday evening.
Jemison spoke about the importance of helping people gain a basic science literacy.

“If you can get everyone on a level where they are comfortable with science, you are going to get your professional scientists (eventually),” she said. “But first, you have to get people feeling comfortable and who know that science is important.”

Jemison said there is a push to cut science education and research and to decrease funding for the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health and the Planetary Science Institute. The cuts are being made by people who do not understand science or why research being conducted now will matter in the future, Jemison said.

“All the technology we’re currently using is based on research from the 1960s,” she said. “If we stop basic research now, we’re going to have a problem in the future.”

Jemison also spoke about the importance of helping young women close the achievement gap in science, technology, engineering and math, which is known as STEM education.

“There are studies that show that women do as well or better in science and math than boys do,” she said. “They go into college intending to study science and math and then fall out in greater numbers than men.”

The problem lies with professors who teach “weed-out” classes, which are designed to identify students who may not be a good fit for a challenging major.

“We get these incredible students who come into our classes and we don’t help them learn how to do things,” Jemison said. “We don’t help them through, even though we want to.”

Jemison used the example of Harvey Mudd College in California as a way to fix the problem.

At the college, the Computer Sciences Department split the first-year students into two groups: those that had some computer science classes before and those that had not. By the end of the year, the students were all at the same level.

However, more students stuck with the program because the intimidation factor was decreased. The school also included an internship program to give computer science majors a chance to see women computer scientists in
action. At the end of five years, the college had tripled the number of female computer science graduates.

“All of a sudden (the first-year classes) are something you are supposed to be able to do rather than a chance to weed anyone out,” Jemison said.

Jemison said it is important for parents to encourage children to explore science, even if the parent does not know a lot about the subject.

“Parents don’t want their kids asking something they may not know,” she said. “Instead of enabling them, they end up disabling them.”

Jemison encouraged students to explore everything that interested them and cautioned against planning for an exact-life formula.

“When you get so into the formula, you will miss a lot of things,” she said.

Contact Katherine Ayers at kayers@reflector.com and 252-329-9567.
The Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival opens its 13th season on Sept. 13 and 14 with two nights of concerts at A.J. Fletcher Music Center featuring internationally renowned artists Soyeon Kate Lee, piano; Hye-Jin Kim, violin; Ara Gregorian, viola; and Raman Ramakrishnan, cello. Repertoire is Gabriel Fauré’s Piano Quartet No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 45 and Antonín Dvořák’s Piano Quartet No. 2 in E Flat Major, Op. 87.

In residence at the East Carolina University School of Music, the Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival brings world-class chamber musicians to eastern North Carolina and beyond for concerts, master classes, interactive community outreach, a children’s residency and the Four Seasons Family Night.

There are four Greenville residencies — September, November, January and May — that feature the eight concerts that form the core of the concert season. Special concerts and events for supporters are offered in addition to the public concert schedule.

“As always, the festival will bring guest artists from across the globe for concerts and outreach to all in eastern North Carolina,” said Gregorian, festival founder and artistic director. “I look forward to continuing to work with our community to build the festival and to performing with our wonderful guest artists throughout the year.”

This season includes an expansion of the acclaimed Four Seasons Next Generation chamber music concerts, which feature ECU student musicians performing in conjunction with some of the genre’s greatest stars. This expansion will be called Next Gen on the Road. Next Gen on the Road will take Next Generation concerts on tour beyond the immediate region to Virginia and to the North Carolina Music Educator’s Association conference in Winston-Salem, among other locations.

“Our Next Generation residencies and Next Gen on the Road concerts are essential to the festival’s role as an educational resource and professional springboard for our ECU music students, and they also provide great concerts for the public,” said Gregorian. “It is a thrill for our guest artists, ECU faculty and current and former students to work side-by-side in the preparation for and performance of these concerts.”
For ticket information for residency performances, call the ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 1-800-ECU-ARTS. For information on how to support Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival programs and outreach, call 328-1268.
For more information about the festival, repertoire, guest artists or outreach, go to www.ecu.edu/fourseasons, or call 328-6019.

Schedule

**Greenville residencies:**

- **Season Opening Extravaganza:** 7 p.m. Sept. 13 and 8 p.m. Sept. 14. Music of Fauré and Dvorák. Soyeon Kate Lee, piano; Hye-Jin Kim, violin; Ara Gregorian, viola; Raman Ramakrishnan, cello
- **Drama and Elegance:** 7 p.m. Nov. 29 and 8 p.m. Nov. 30. Music of Schubert and Dvorák. Thomas Sauer, piano; Ara Gregorian, violin; Amit Peled, cello
- **Souvenirs:** 7 p.m. Jan. 17 and 8 p.m. Jan. 18. Music of Strauss, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Elina Vähälä, violin; Ara Gregorian, violin; Hsin-Yun Huang, viola; Krzysztof Chorzelski, viola; Colin Carr, cello; Michael Kannen, cello
- **Thrilling Season Finale:** 7 p.m. May 2 and 8 p.m. May 3. Music of Chopin, Elgar and Schumann. Adam Neiman, piano; Axel Strauss, violin; Ara Gregorian, violin; Maria Lambros, viola; Ani Aznavoorian, cello

**Next Generation and Outreach performances:**

- **Next Generation I:** 7 p.m. Nov. 8. Free. Guest artist Raman Ramakrishnan, cello, ECU faculty and ECU students
- **Family Night:** 6:30 p.m. Feb. 13. Free. Richard Manoia, clarinet; Ara Gregorian, violin; Emanuel Gruber, cello; Keiko Sekino, piano
- **Next Generation II:** 7 p.m. Feb. 23. Free. Guest artist Hagai Shaham, violin, ECU faculty and ECU students

All events in A.J. Fletcher Music Center, East Carolina University
Study: Traditional music venues have $20 million impact on WNC

The Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership and North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle have announced findings from an analysis of music venues that showed an economic impact of $20.7 million from 26 traditional music events in Western North Carolina.

The results of the study, “Analysis of Traditional Music Venues in Western North Carolina,” were announced at the annual meeting of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership, Gather ‘Round the Blue Ridge, held in Arden.

Carlisle and traditional musician David Holt were featured speakers at the event, which drew more than 160 participants from throughout Western North Carolina.

“Clearly traditional music is important to the local economies and the region,” Carlisle said. “Cultural Resources and the Arts Council are delighted to be collaborating with the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership on this important Blue Ridge Music Project.”

The study was conducted by East Carolina University in partnership with the N.C. Arts Council, an agency of the Department of Cultural Resources, and the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership. The study looked at 26 music venues in the Blue Ridge Music Trails.

“This study shows that traditional music venues and events contribute to the economic well-being of our communities and provide a very satisfying experience for tourists,” said Angie Chandler, executive director of the Blue Ridge National Heritage Area Partnership.

The BRNHA Partnership and the Arts Council undertook the study in 2011 to assess the economic impact of traditional music in the western part of the state by examining data collected from audience surveys at events. In addition, folklorists collected anecdotal information from visitors.

Some of the findings of the study include:
The 26 surveyed events produced $18.6 million of direct economic impacts, $972,611 of indirect impacts and $1.2 million of induced impacts, yielding a total economic impact of $20.7 million.

Nearly 40 percent of respondents indicated that the primary purpose of their visit was specifically to attend the music event where they were surveyed. Nearly 70 percent of survey respondents indicated that they were full-time residents of North Carolina and 65 percent of these were from Western North Carolina.

Visitors from outside the venue location spent an average of 2.9 nights in the region while attending the events where they were surveyed.

A typical community event can be expected to return more than $4,000 for every 100 visitors attending.

Overall, 99 percent of the sample said that they intended to return to the same event the following year. This response indicates a high level of satisfaction with the events specifically and likely with the venues and communities in which the events were held.

Since all of the spending that was reported on the surveys was associated with the events, not holding these events would have resulted in a loss of 65 percent of the impacts or $13 million to the economies of the various communities that hosted the events.

If these events were not held, 65 percent of survey respondents indicated that they would have traveled to another community to attend a different event.

The majority (85 percent) of the sample indicated that they participated in the arts (and music) and were also influenced by North Carolina’s musical traditions.

The analysis was conducted in order to understand the travel patterns of participants at music venues as the N.C. Arts Council works on updating the Blue Ridge Music Trails Guidebook with the BRNHA Partnership and UNC Press. The new edition, which will include a CD, will be released in the spring of 2013.

“The partnerships between the Arts Council, the BRNHA, local arts councils and tourism authorities in Western North Carolina will make a big impact on the success of this project,” said Wayne Martin, N.C. Arts Council executive director. “Working together, our organizations can re-energize the Blue Ridge Music Trails project, so that it celebrates our traditional musicians, supports the venues with increased tourism, and overall creates community pride.”
A bus pulls into the Amtrak station in Wilson. Starting Oct. 3, shuttle buses will connect with high-speed passenger rail service nationwide.

Amtrak shuttle tickets offered
By Wesley Brown
Friday, September 7, 2012

Tickets are available for a new line of Amtrak shuttle buses that starting on Oct. 3 will connect Greenville with passenger rail service nationwide, the federal train operator announced this week.

Passengers can now book their seats on the newly dedicated motor coach line — dubbed “Thruway Service” — either by calling 1-800-USA-RAIL, visiting Amtrak.com or downloading the rail line’s mobile app.

Customers have their choice between two shuttle routes, each of which will connect eight eastern North Carolina cities with the Amtrak Palmetto train at the station in Wilson.

One line will serve the communities of Greenville, New Bern, Havelock and Morehead City; the other Goldsboro, Kinston, Jacksonville and Wilmington, Amtrak spokeswoman Christina Leeds said.

“The new Thruway bus services are an important connection that will bring Amtrak passengers to eastern North Carolina communities and provide expanded transportation options for the people in the region,” Amtrak President and CEO Joe Boardman said.

The Palmetto operates twice daily serving 20 stations between New York and Savannah, Ga., and also provides access to the Amtrak national network serving more than 500 stations in 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian provinces.

Palmetto Train 89 (to Savannah, Ga.) departs the Wilson Station at 2:22 p.m. and Palmetto Train 90 (to New York) departs the Wilson Station at 2:23
p.m. Amtrak shuttles will pick up passengers in Greenville at a stop on the southeast corner of Reade and 2nd streets.

The effort to extend Amtrak’s network into Greenville dates back to 2009, during Pat Dunn’s tenure as mayor.

It gained steam this year with the backing of the City Council and mayors from four cities and towns in southeastern Pitt County, including Greenville’s new mayor, Allen Thomas.

Connection to Amtrak’s rail network was seen as a key to economic growth, according to resolutions passed in the past three months by the Greenville Metropolitan Planning Organization and the City Council.

Metropolitan planners believe that a connecting service will help relieve highway congestion and reduce fuel emissions in and around Greenville, while serving as a “vital” link between local communities and larger coastal cities up and down the Eastern Seaboard.

The City Council agreed, saying “there is a vital need to provide passenger rail transportation to Greenville’s regional medical health centers and hospital, and to East Carolina University, a major state university with more than 30,000 students, faculty and staff.”

Based on successful models in many other states, Leeds said the eastern North Carolina expansion will work well to provide service to colleges and universities, major military installations, and a number of cities and communities that have limited intercity public transportation options.

She said along with safe, modern, clean and comfortable intercity motor coach equipment, a new eTicketing system will be used to provide easy, convenient, coordinated train/bus connections for the region.

Reservations can be made or changed online and passengers will be able to print their tickets “whenever, wherever” or by using a smartphone to present their boarding pass to a conductor, Leeds said.

Amtrak is termed as “America’s Railroad,” the nation’s intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. A record 30.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in 2011 on more than 300 daily trains at speeds up to 150 mph.

Contact Wesley Brown at 252-329-9579 or wbrown@reflector.com. Follow him on Twitter @CityWatchdog.
Two ex-N.C. Central officials indicted

By Jane Stancill - jstancill@newsobserver.com

DURHAM—Two former N.C. Central University administrators have been indicted on charges of embezzling grant money that was diverted into what state auditors called a secret bank account.

Nan Coleman, who was executive director of the former Historically Minority Colleges and University Consortium at NCCU, was indicted this week by a Durham County grand jury on five counts of embezzlement. The indictments said she took $137,330 between 2005 and 2010.

Coleman was fired in 2009 for poor performance, and former NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms ordered an internal audit of the program. He later turned the investigation over to the state auditor.

Also indicted was former NCCU Provost Beverly Washington Jones. She is charged with embezzling $10,128 between 2004 and 2005. She also faces two counts of unlawfully taking grant money in the form of unauthorized checks worth nearly $52,000 between 2005 and 2009.

Her attorney, Butch Williams, said Jones “looks forward to her day in court and basically having the full story told.” Coleman’s lawyer could not be reached for comment.

The state audit, released last year, found that more than $1 million was diverted into an undisclosed account. The audit said Coleman had spent the money on herself and improper payments to Jones and others.

The audit said some money was used on questionable purchases such as repairs to cars apparently owned by Coleman and her husband, travel expenses, women’s clothes and hair-care products.

Nelms began scrutinizing the consortium soon after he was hired in 2007. The organization was discontinued.

The consortium represented a dozen public and private institutions of higher education across the state with heavy minority enrollment. It received millions of dollars in grants from the state and federal government, as well as private organizations. Its aim was to help close the achievement gap between minority and white children.

NCCU was the consortium’s fiscal agent.
On Thursday, NCCU issued a statement applauding the state auditor and the State Bureau of Investigation.

“NCCU takes seriously the matter of compliance and fiscal management and will continue to hold all personnel and departments accountable,” the statement said. “The university is pleased that this matter has been fully investigated.”

The statement pointed out the misuse of money was disclosed by the audit ordered by Nelms.

Nelms surprised the university in July when he abruptly announced his retirement, just weeks before the start of the fall semester. He emailed the campus about his plans, saying he wanted to spend the rest of his career ensuring the success of students at historically black universities.

He received severance worth a little more than two months’ salary, or nearly $57,000.

Stancill: 919-829-4559
DURHAM—UNC system President Tom Ross presented a wish list Thursday for what he wants in the next chancellor at N.C. Central University—a person of integrity who has strong management instincts, an inclusive style, people skills, creativity and a knack for community outreach and fundraising.

Ross gave his advice to the search committee that recently launched its quest for NCCU’s next leader. The panel met for several hours to interview search consultants and map out the process for finding a leader for the 9,000-student historically black university in Durham. The committee includes trustees, faculty, alumni, community leaders and students.

Harold Epps, an NCCU alumnus and trustee who chairs the search committee, said finding the right leader has never been more important because higher education faces extraordinary fiscal challenges.

“That takes an even more effective leader to manage and balance all the decisions,” he said. “So I think you need someone who can ideally give you seven to 10 years. You’ve got to get it right.”

The next leader will replace Charlie Nelms, who abruptly retired after five years on the job. Nelms had focused on toughening academic standards for students in an effort to improve graduation rates.

Ross advised the committee to find someone who can push NCCU to greater heights while also remaining true to its role as a community leader in Durham. But he predicted the search committee will have no trouble. NCCU, he said, has more upside potential than any university in the UNC system.

“This particular institution, I can tell you, will attract some very, very strong candidates because it’s a plumb job,” Ross said. “It’s a great institution. It’s got a law school, it’s got strong graduate programs, it’s got great facilities. It will bring some real talent to the table and that’s a good thing.”

Ross encouraged the panel to look inside and outside academia as it recruits candidates.
He asked the group to bring him the names of three unranked finalists; he will choose one to recommend to the UNC Board of Governors for final approval.

In the coming weeks, the committee will come up with a job description and hold forums for faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Durham community. Most of the sessions will be held on Sept. 26. Times and locations will be announced soon.

The process could take four to six months, and search committee members signed confidentiality agreements to keep candidates’ names secret.

While some universities have released the names of finalists toward the end of the search process, that kind of openness was discouraged by UNC system officials. It can scare away candidates, they cautioned.

“You know the old cliché about ‘What happens in Vegas stays in Vegas?’” said Ann Lemmon, associate vice president for human resources in the UNC system. “Without the gambling, you’re supposed to think of every search committee meeting as Vegas.”

Stancill: 919-829-4559
Raleigh—The bitter gulf in understanding between the two factions has widened, deepened and hardened. It has been fed by accusations of bias, misinformation, skewed data and, let’s face it, by emotion-driven decision-making.

Now, though, a new N.C. State University-led study offers a potential path to the kind of common ground that so many Americans are crying out for in these divided times. Common ground, that is, between “cat” people and “bird” people.

The study of identity politics among these staunchest of partisan enemies appeared Thursday in the online research journal PLOS One.

It began as a class project for undergraduate and graduate students in Nils Peterson’s Human Dimensions of Wildlife course last year. The researchers surveyed nearly 600 Americans who identified themselves as cat colony caretakers or bird conservation professionals affiliated with groups such as the Audubon Society and American Bird Conservancy.

Nationally, the debate over the effects of cats on wild bird populations—and how to deal with feral cat colonies—has been impassioned, with each side claiming the moral high ground and attacking the other’s beliefs.

In the NCSU study, those looking out for the feral cats felt their charges were misunderstood and should be protected like wildlife, with humane population control via neutering. The bird professionals, meanwhile, tended to view feral cats as an invasive species that should be removed from the wild, a group where neutering doesn’t work. Many believe the cats should be euthanized.

“Members of both these groups feel they have concerns that have been ignored,” said Peterson, an associate professor of fisheries, wildlife and conservation biology in the NCSU College of Natural Resources. “This feeling of injustice is part of what leads them to identity with their groups.”

The study found that identity politics can warp reality even without an assist from Fox News, MSNBC, Super PACs and partisan spinners.
For example, just 9 percent of cat colony caretakers believed cats harm bird populations; 70 percent believed that trap-neuter-and-return programs can eliminate feral cat colonies, and only 6 percent believed feral cats carried diseases.

But the researchers found that cat colony caretakers were more open to finding collaborative solutions to feral cat management than bird conservation professionals. Peterson said 80 percent of the cat caretakers believed it possible, compared to 50 percent of the bird conservationists.

That opens the door to seeking buy-in from cat supporters for steps that could curb feral cats, Peterson said. For example, they could be invited to participate in scientific studies of cat colonies and their effects on bird populations, so they would be more likely to trust the results than if the studies were controlled by sources they felt were biased.

They also could be trained to see the signs of disease in the cats they interact with, something that could both improve the cats’ health and caretakers’ understanding of the reality of disease in feral cat populations.

The topic is important for those interested in wildlife conservation, Peterson said, and seemed like a good way to engage the students.

It’s possible for a subject to be so contentious, though, that research becomes difficult. Peterson said similar approach to teaching research methods a couple of year ago didn’t end in results good enough to publish.

The students were looking into the feuding on the Outer Banks over stretches of beach being closed to vehicles to protect bird nesting areas.

In that case, he said, “It was really hard to get good data, because people were just so angry and secretive.”

Price: 919-829-4526

More information

The NCSU study results can be found at: bit.ly/RQOpf6

Fact check: Peer-reviewed studies have repeatedly shown that feral cats carry diseases. Trap-neuter-return programs aren’t always effective in ending cat colonies, though they can reduce numbers.

And while there is much debate on the effects of cats on bird populations, some studies have estimated that the nation’s 50 million-plus feral cats kill hundreds of millions of birds annually. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service calls feral and domestic cats a major killer of birds.
NCSU to lead federally-funded nanotechnology research

By Jay Price - jprice@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH–An international research consortium led by N.C. State University has won an $18.5 million grant to develop tiny, wearable medical devices powered by human body heat and motion that will be able to monitor the wearer’s health and how their environment might be affecting it.

The National Science Foundation announced its five-year grant to fund the nanotechnology work Wednesday. The project could lead to a second grant for five more years.

The consortium will go by the acronym ASSIST. Its full name is the Nanosystems Engineering Research Center for Advanced Self-Powered Systems of Integrated Sensors and Technologies.

NCSU will coordinate the work and undertake some of the key research, said Veena Misra, the center’s director and professor of electrical and computer engineering at NCSU.

The key point, she said, is that the devices will be self-powered, making them easy to use and wear. All the technologies involved already exist in some form and have been proven to work, but the trick is to get them to all function together in the tiny devices.

The devices could be worn on the chest like a patch, as a cap that fits over a tooth or in other ways, depending on the biological system that’s being monitored.

Misra said the main initial project will be developing a comfortable fabric bracelet that generates all the power it needs to monitor bodily functions of the wearer, such as respiration and heart rates.

It could get some power generated from the wearer’s movements and some from a type of material that turns temperature differences between one side of itself and the other into electrical current.

She gave the example of a young girl with asthma who could wear one of the bands throughout the day. It could monitor her vital signs, perhaps even wheezing events, all while continuously sampling the environment around her for pollutants such as ozone.
It might note the amount of smoke in the air at times she is exposed to smokers or carbon monoxide from a highway near her school.

It could upload the data to a smartphone, and caregivers could use it to determine what precisely is triggering attacks and what to avoid.

The idea is to personalize medicine in a new way, Misra said, and to shift from managing illness to monitoring wellness.

She noted that athletes are increasingly monitoring their heart rate and other data to improve training, and said the new devices could take a similar approach and expand it to the sick.

“Athletes have already bought into this whole paradigm of monitoring,” she said. “We want those with a risk of chronic disease to be able to do something similar. We want to take those who aren’t quite chronically sick and keep them from becoming so.”

All of the forms of monitoring are possible now, but many are impractical because the equipment is far too bulky and uses too much power.

NCSU’s role will include researching the “energy harvesting” and the sensors and packaging, and studying the social aspects of using the devices, she said.

UNC-Chapel Hill will help with medical expertise on things such as the kinds of data to monitor, and provide space in a state-of-the-art testing facility where it will be easy to study asthma sufferers, a big early thrust of the technology, as will people whose heart rate needs monitoring.

The consortium’s headquarters will be on the university’s Centennial Campus, but also will include scientists at Florida International University, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Virginia, the University of Adelaide in Australia, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and the Tokyo Institute of Technology. UNC-Chapel Hill and the University of Michigan also will be involved but not to the same degree as the partner institutions.

There also will be about 30 industry partners.

Winning the grant makes NCSU the only current institution overseeing two of the prestigious NSF engineering centers.

The other is the FREEDM Systems Center, a similar effort aimed at helping create a “smart” national power grid to make energy use more efficient and better accommodate new power sources and changes in consumption, such that created by the expected growth in the number of electric-powered cars.
That consortium was formed in 2008, with another $18.5 million grant.

The ASSIST consortium, like others that have been awarded such NSF centers, responded to a broadly worded request for proposals on nanoengineering, and the NSF used panels of research peers to help pick the right candidates to fund, said Joshua Chamot, an NSF spokesman.

The center will create a nanotechnology education program, including an undergraduate concentration and a graduate master’s certificate, as well as a personalized program for graduate students.

It will also partner with 11 middle and high schools in North Carolina, Virginia, Florida and Pennsylvania to bring nanosystems engineering into K-12 classrooms.

Students in partner high schools will be able to help with actual ASSIST research.

Price: 919-829-4526
Ryan goes on attack against Obama in North Carolina
Published Tuesday, Sep. 04, 2012

GREENVILLE, N.C. -- Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan arrived in North Carolina Monday to offer an early rebuttal to the full-throated support for Barack Obama that Democrats are expected to offer up this week in Charlotte.

Speaking before a crowd of more than a thousand at East Carolina University, Ryan said that Obama’s performance as president has been worse than fellow Democrat Jimmy Carter’s.

“The president can say a lot of things, and he will, but he can’t tell you that you’re better off,” Ryan said, echoing a line made famous by Ronald Reagan during his 1980 presidential campaign against Carter. “The Jimmy Carter years look like the good old days compared to where we are right now.”

Many talking points delivered during Ryan’s half-hour speech were familiar. Ryan told the crowd that “it’s good to be successful in business,” as his running mate Mitt Romney had been at Bain Capital. Obamacare is a “threat to young people,” he warned the many students in the crowd, and America should use its own energy to make jobs and put a dent in gas prices.

Ryan also pointed to North Carolina’s 9.6 percent unemployment rate, among the highest in the nation, to bolster his claim that an Obama presidency hasn’t worked out as planned.

Within moments of the event ending, the Obama campaign responded with its own statement saying the numbers are not as Ryan made them seem.

Danny Kanner, an Obama campaign spokesman, said the economy has turned a corner after losing 800,000 jobs a month when Obama first entered office and has added 4.5 million jobs over the last 29 months.

“Instead of the president’s forward-looking vision for an economy built from the middle out, Mitt Romney and Congressman Ryan want to take us back to the same top-down policies that caused the collapse,” Kanner said.

Ryan came out swinging Monday as Republicans attempt to preserve the bump in some polls that Romney received after the GOP convention in Tampa last week. A new Elon University/News & Observer poll shows Romney leading Obama 47 percent to 43 percent in North Carolina. A High Point University poll shows Romney leading 46-43.

Ryan was introduced by Republican gubernatorial candidate Pat McCrory.

“Can you imagine what (Democrats) are going to say?” said McCrory, a former Charlotte mayor, alluding to the Democratic National Convention that began Monday. He argued that Democrats can’t run on Obamacare or the economy, especially in North Carolina.

McCrory shouted “Elvis is in the house” as he called Ryan on stage and, with AC/DC’s “It’s a Long Way to the Top” blaring, passed the microphone off to the Wisconsin congressman. Ryan, wearing khaki pants, a white collared shirt with rolled-up sleeves and no tie, then took to the
stage, later drew laughs and some boos when he mentioned that “little gathering going on in Charlotte.”

Among those there to cheer him were Bill and Lynn Fell, who own a painting and home inspection businesses in Greenville. Both registered for the event as soon as it was announced, and showed up early to make sure they would get in the building. “I have a few trillion reasons I support Ryan,” said Bill Fell, referring to the national debt. “We need someone who understands the problems people are having. Romney does.”
A New Way to Tackle College Algebra

By REEVE HAMILTON

Alexzandria Siprian, a senior at the University of Texas at Arlington who is double-majoring in Spanish and theater, is not a math person. Early in her college career, she squeaked through her required algebra course with a D.

Ms. Siprian said that her professor was very difficult to understand, but she also blames herself “because I never tried to get help,” she said. “They have tutoring services, but I never took advantage of it.”

Her experience is not unique. Of the 1,041 U.T.-Arlington students who took college algebra in the spring 2011 semester, only about 47 percent earned a C or higher.

“Nationally, the single greatest academic barrier to student success is mathematics,” said Michael Moore, senior vice provost and dean of undergraduate studies at the university.

Seeking to improve the situation, U.T.-Arlington officials decided to take an approach that is becoming increasingly common throughout the country: letting computers do the teaching.

In August, the university opened its “math emporium,” a 5,800-square-foot space where algebra students will spend two-thirds of their class time working on desktop computers at their own pace rather than sitting through traditional lectures. The pilot program is currently being used only for algebra, though officials indicated that it could expand to other courses as well.

The concept was first developed in 1997, when Robert F. Olin, then the chairman of the math department at Virginia Tech, faced budget cuts and growing enrollment. His idea also appeared to improve the students’ success.

Mr. Olin, who is now dean of the University of Alabama’s College of Arts and Sciences, says a chief benefit of the emporium model is that students are forced to work out problems themselves and can receive instant, individualized feedback from teachers who are available in the lab.

“Teaching math is like golf or football,” Mr. Olin said. “You can look at Tiger Woods or Arnold Palmer all you want, but you’re not going to learn how to golf unless you go out on a course and start swinging.”

Some professors expressed concerns about the emporium, which is not surprising, said Jianzhong Su, chairman of U.T.-Arlington’s math department.

“When you break away from tradition, it’s natural for the academic to have some questions, have some doubts about whether this will work out or not,” Dr. Su said.

Carolyn Jarmon, the vice president of the National Center for Academic Transformation, helps universities around the country institute the emporium model. After working with more than 200 schools, she said, her group found that it was the best way to improve results, as well as to reduce costs in math education.

“Some people don’t like change, but nobody’s arguing that you can’t do this,” she said.
Other Texas schools are considering the approach. Austin Community College plans to open a math emporium in 2014.

Dr. Moore said that he hoped U.T.-Arlington’s pass rate for algebra would eventually increase to 75 percent, and added that he believed savings would come from students not having to repeat the course.

“In my gut,” he said, “I know this has to work.”
Colorado State to Offer Credits for Online Class

By TAMAR LEWIN

As millions of students have flocked to free “massive open online courses,” or MOOCs, in recent months, higher education experts have focused on two big questions: whether universities will begin to offer credit for such courses, and what might be done to prevent cheating.

On Thursday, the first glimmers of answers began to emerge. Colorado State University’s Global Campus said it would give three transfer credits to students who complete Introduction to Computer Science: Building a Search Engine, a free course offered by Udacity, and take a proctored test. While the Global Campus is apparently the first American institution to offer credit for a Udacity MOOC, several European universities have already done so.

“Our students have been asking for credit for the courses for a while, and Colorado State has been very excited about online ed, so this was those things coming together,” said David Stavens, Udacity’s co-founder. Almost 200,000 students have enrolled in the class, which is the company’s introductory computer science offering, and its most popular, Mr. Stavens said. “We’re talking with other schools, but we’re not ready to name them yet,” he added.

Also on Thursday, edX, the Harvard-M.I.T. online collaboration, announced that students in its MOOCs would be able to take proctored final exams at Pearson VUE’s brick-and-mortar testing centers around the world, where their identity can be verified.

“This will take online learning to the next level,” said Anant Agarwal, the president of edX. “Students who take our courses will be able to go to a proctoring center and take the test.”

EdX, like others who offer massive open online courses, gives out certificates of mastery to everyone who completes them. But now, the certificate given those who take the system under the existing honor code will be different from the one for those who choose to take proctored exams, for a “modest” fee, not yet announced. Students will be able to take their final exams at any of Pearson VUE’s 450 testing centers in more than 110 countries.

The proctored certificates, Mr. Agarwal said, should be valuable to students who want to prove their skills to potential employers. Initially, he said, proctored tests will be available for only one of the seven courses — he would not say which one — M.I.T., Harvard and Berkeley are offering at edX this fall.

Udacity announced its arrangement with Pearson VUE earlier this year. Only students who take a proctored test at a Pearson VUE center, for a fee of $89, will be eligible for credit at Colorado’s Global Campus. But Bob Whelan, the president of Pearson VUE, said it would be some time before either edX or Udacity exams are ready.

Andrew Ng, a co-founder of Coursera, which offers 123 MOOCs from 16 universities, said his company was exploring different options for verifying students’ identities and work originality. “Pearson is one way to do this, but there may be others,” he said. “We are also thinking about automatic plagiarism detection programs.”
Hoping for Change at Queens School Where Chancellor Has Ties

By AL BAKER

From the outside, Public School 36 looks like any other utilitarian school building in New York City. Its red brick walls rise three stories over St. Albans, a venerable working-class neighborhood in southeastern Queens.

But a buzz began surrounding P.S. 36 last year, as soon as Dennis M. Walcott was appointed schools chancellor, though it was not exactly the kind of buzz a principal welcomes. Mr. Walcott is not only an alumnus of the school, but also a grandfather of one of its students, and thus he is a frequent visitor, swinging by to drop off his 8-year-old grandson or to pick him up.

Some teachers said they worried about being under even more pressure than usual. Parents who lived outside the school’s zone began requesting spots for their children, reasoning that if the chief of all the city’s schools lets his grandson attend, it must be a very good school.

But nothing has changed, said the principal, Lynn M. Staton. The school has received no extra money or extra attention, she said, and Mr. Walcott has never asked for a favor.

The school did, however, get an unexpected phone call from the Education Department’s food-services office around the time that Mr. Walcott took office, asking what his grandson, Justin Nembhard, likes to eat.

Ms. Staton said she did not know why the office asked, but she told it that he ate what the other students ate. “I don’t go and get a king’s hat and put it on his lunch tray,” she said. “He eats what’s on the menu.”

Thursday was the first day of the school year for Justin and 1.1 million other public-school students in the city, virtually all of whom will encounter at least one significant change this year. Teachers will begin to roll out the new common core curriculum, a set of standards that emphasizes more critical thinking and nonfiction reading. With few exceptions, schools are expected to accommodate most special-education students, rather than send them to separate schools that may be far from their homes. And school lunches have been revamped to meet new federal guidelines for nutrient and caloric content.

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Mr. Walcott appeared Thursday morning at a brand-new school, the New Settlement Community Campus in the Bronx, where they stood out among a parade of navy-and-white uniforms, Spider-Man and Hello Kitty backpacks, and parents who were dropping off their children for the first time. (“Once your child has reached the classroom and you give them one last hug and kiss you will be directed to the back exit,” read a notice posted on the school door to the parents of kindergartners.)

The mayor and the chancellor stopped first at a ninth-grade algebra class, where students looked on, mildly amused, as the mayor, who graduated from high school in 1960, explained his love of math.
“Math, I always thought was easy,” Mr. Bloomberg told the class. “Because there’s a right and a wrong answer. Who likes math?”

None of the students raised their hands.

The mayor went on to explain the workings of a slide rule. “You all have calculators now, though,” he said.

Mr. Walcott did not drop off his grandson at P.S. 36 on Thursday, but he did so on his first day as chancellor in 2011. A secretary proudly posted a newspaper photograph of the occasion in the main office, but the next day, Ms. Staton moved it to a more private location in her inner workroom, so that teachers did not get the impression that Justin deserved special consideration, she said.

“We give preferential treatment to all children,” said Ms. Staton, 54, who is in her eighth year as principal at the school.

Much about the school is unchanged from when Mr. Walcott, who turns 61 on Friday, attended P.S. 36 — a time when black families were migrating to the St. Albans neighborhood from Manhattan and Brooklyn in search of a more suburban life. The building was erected in 1924, near the crossroads of Farmers and Linden Boulevards. A framed cornerstone near a set of interior stairs — a staircase Mr. Walcott once tumbled down as a boy — puts the school’s origins in 1895 (it was located nearby), when lush fields dominated the area, then a business hub for farmers from Queens and Nassau County.

Today, the main building still has no air-conditioning. The school has no gym, but it does have a new multipurpose area, as well as a flower garden.

“I remember in fourth grade, Alan Shepard taking off in 1961,” Mr. Walcott said recently about the astronaut. “There was a TV in the auditorium; I don’t know if it had it live or on the news.” Mr. Walcott said he recalled no white classmates. Today, the school is 93 percent black, with three white children, Ms. Staton said. Three-fifths of its 460 students are poor enough to qualify for a free or reduced-priced lunch. (The citywide rate is 75 percent.) The school is an average performer in the city’s grading system, which takes into account test scores, parental satisfaction and other measures; its most recent grade was a B.

Among the students, Mr. Walcott is known simply as “Poppy,” which is what Justin calls him. Olabisi Tafawa, 37, a mother of two P.S. 36 students, said that Justin’s attendance reflected the chancellor’s belief in public schools. Still, she said, she wished he could do more to elevate not only P.S. 36, but also the entire system.

“Everyone is very high on technology, but I think there needs to be more computers, especially in the younger grades,” Ms. Tafawa said, as she dropped off her daughters, Nickola and Natasha Campbell, who were dressed in the school’s blue uniforms. “Each child should have a computer to work on."

Some teachers said they did not know who Justin’s grandfather was before he was named to replace Cathleen P. Black, the publishing executive whose rocky term as schools chancellor lasted all of three months. Before that, as a deputy mayor focusing on education, Mr. Walcott had kept a lower public profile.
He paid a visit to his old school on Wednesday, as teachers were preparing for the first day. They greeted their boss with a mix of familiarity and reverence. Mr. Walcott stuck out his hand toward one teacher, apologizing if they had already met; the teacher shook it and replied, “Not today.”

Another teacher, Tanya Hampton, joked with Mr. Walcott about how having Justin, whom teachers described as smart if occasionally rambunctious, in her second-grade class had made her stronger. The two stood at the threshold of her classroom, reflecting on the day in November 2010 when Mr. Walcott surprised the boy by showing up during class.

“We’ll talk,” he said to Ms. Hampton as they parted, laughing.

Another teacher at P.S. 36, Darcy Tumielewicz, admitted that Mr. Walcott’s connection to the school made her worry that going to work would “put her under a microscope.” Now in her second year teaching first grade, she said the school was one of the best she had ever taught in.

The principal’s relationship with the chancellor goes back many years; Ms. Staton taught two of his children at a Christian school run by the Rev. Floyd Flake, the well-known Queens minister and former congressman, who is a friend of Mr. Walcott’s.

She wondered aloud whether she had made full use of her school’s deep ties to Mr. Walcott. “Maybe I’m supposed to ask the chancellor for something,” she said. “Maybe I’m not using my resources to my advantage.”

*Vivian Yee contributed reporting.*
When Ann Romney took the stage at the Republican National Convention in Tampa last week, she spoke warmly of marrying while still in college and surviving on just a little money in a basement apartment. “Those were very special days,” she said.

Then this week at the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, Michelle Obama spoke about the early days of her marriage, when student loan payments cost the couple more than their monthly mortgage payment. “We were so young, so in love, and so in debt,” she said.

Obviously, both of these women had political reasons for bringing up these decades-old memories. And, yes, both speeches have been criticized. But I was struck by Romney and Obama’s similar comments about making ends meet in their 20s. It seems that being a broke 20-something has become a required stage of life, a universal experience of sorts that older generations like to reflect fondly upon.

I’m interested in hearing your thoughts on that in the comments section below. But, first, here are some excerpts from transcripts of the two speeches:


Ann Romney: “We were very young. Both still in college. There were many reasons to delay marriage, and you know? We just didn’t care. We got married and moved into a basement apartment. We walked to class together, shared the housekeeping, and ate a lot of pasta and tuna fish. Our desk was a door propped up on sawhorses. Our dining room table was a fold-down ironing board in the kitchen. Those were very special days.

Then our first son came along. All at once I’m 22 years old, with a baby and a husband who’s going to business school and law school at the same time, and I can tell you, probably like every other girl who finds herself in a new life far from family and friends, with a new baby and a new husband, that it dawned on me that I had absolutely no idea what I was getting into.” (Full transcript)

First Lady Michelle Obama speaks in Charlotte on the first day of the Democratic National Convention. (Stan Honda - AFP/Getty Images)

Michelle Obama: “You see, even though back then Barack was a Senator and a presidential candidate...to me, he was still the guy who’d picked me up for our dates in a car that was so rusted out, I could
actually see the pavement going by through a hole in the passenger side door... he was the guy whose proudest possession was a coffee table he'd found in a dumpster, and whose only pair of decent shoes was half a size too small...

When it comes to giving our kids the education they deserve, Barack knows that like me, and like so many of you, he never could’ve attended college without financial aid.

And believe it or not, when we were first married, our combined monthly student loan bills were actually higher than our mortgage. We were so young, so in love, and so in debt.” (Full transcript)
Virginia Tech broke campus safety law, education secretary says

By Nick Anderson, Published: September 6

Federal authorities have reinstated a finding that Virginia Tech violated a law requiring colleges to issue timely warnings of threats to students and staff when the university responded to the 2007 massacre on the Blacksburg campus.

But Education Secretary Arne Duncan, in a decision issued last week, ordered a smaller fine than the $55,000 initially levied against Virginia Tech. The final amount has not been determined but will exceed $27,500.

Whether the university violated the campus safety law in its response to the gunman who killed 32 people and then himself on the morning of April 16, 2007, has been a question for more than two years. Virginia Tech, which disputes the finding of fault, says it is strongly considering an appeal to federal court.

The case has been under scrutiny as universities across the country have beefed up emergency-response systems. At Virginia Tech, those systems kicked into gear Dec. 8, minutes after an assailant fatally shot a police officer. There were e-mails, text alerts, robo-calls and sirens. A blunt advisory told the campus community: “Stay inside. Secure doors.”

That rapid lockdown was a sharp contrast to the response in 2007.

At issue in the federal probe was a mass e-mail the university sent at 9:26 a.m. that day, about two hours after police found two students fatally shot in a dormitory but a few minutes before the rest of the victims were gunned down in another building.

In the initial alert, the university said that a “shooting incident occurred at West Ambler Johnston” dorm; that police were “on the scene and . . . investigating”; and that the community was “urged to be cautious and asked to contact Virginia Tech Police” with information about the case or anything that seemed suspicious.

Seung Hui Cho, a mentally ill student from Fairfax County, started firing at students and instructors in Norris Hall soon afterward. An official timeline prepared for Virginia officials found that this second phase of Cho’s attack began about 9:40 a.m.

Critics say that an earlier and more detailed warning about the first two shootings, which occurred about 7:15 a.m., coupled with a campuswide lockdown would have saved many lives. University officials reject the second-guessing and insist that their actions were consistent with the best information available at the time from police.

The federal investigation centered on the timeliness and content of the initial alert and whether Virginia Tech followed its own safety policies.

In May 2010, the Education Department issued a preliminary finding of fault that was later confirmed. In March 2011, the department set a fine of $55,000, the maximum possible for two violations of the law.
But an administrative judge at the department overturned the fine a year later, finding that the 9:26 a.m. alert complied with the law, known as the Clery Act.

“This was not an unreasonable amount of time in which to issue a warning,” Judge Ernest C. Canellos wrote in March. “If the later shootings at Norris Hall had not occurred, it is doubtful that the timing of the e-mail would have been perceived as too late.”

Duncan disagreed.

In a 12-page decision dated Aug. 30, Duncan wrote that during the two-hour interval, the university “had not located the suspect, had not found the weapon and was confronted with the distinct possibility that the gunman was armed and still at large. Faced with this possibility, the [university] should have resolved any doubts it had regarding the timing of the warning by issuing the warning before 9:26 a.m.”

Duncan reinstated a $27,500 fine related to that finding and wrote that the department should issue a lesser fine for issues related to what he termed “inconsistent policies.”

But his might not be the final word.

Virginia Tech spokesman Larry Hincker said of Duncan’s decision: “Once again, the higher-education community has been put on notice that timeliness is situational and will be determined by department officials after the fact. The federal government has never defined a timely warning and continues to hold universities accountable even when a university’s actions are well within the department’s own guidelines.”

Hincker said in a statement that university President Charles W. Steger plans to confer with state Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli II about an appeal to federal court, which the spokesman termed “a strong possibility.”

The VTV Family Outreach Foundation, which represents many families of victims and survivors of the massacre, praised Duncan’s decision but said it is time to move on.

“Everybody needs to get beyond this,” said Joe Samaha of Centreville, president of the foundation. His daughter Reema was an 18-year-old freshman when Cho shot and killed her. “At some point, these appeals need to stop and people need to be allowed to heal. That’s the bigger story in my mind — for Virginia Tech just to be able to move forward and actually be able to work together to make sure this type of tragedy doesn’t happen again.”
U-Va. spent $34,742 on board retreat

By Jenna Johnson

The University of Virginia spent $34,742.50 on a retreat and orientation for its governing board in August at the Omni Richmond Hotel, according to public records released by the university Wednesday.

The bulk of that cost was for the consulting services of Terrence MacTaggart, a former university chancellor who is a senior fellow at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges. The association charged $15,000 for MacTaggart to attend the two-day retreat and facilitate discussions that lasted about four hours.

The view of downtown from the top floor of the Omni Richmond Hotel. (Photo by Jenna Johnson via Instagram)

U-Va. also paid $380 for MacTaggart’s lodging in Richmond and $1,232 for copies of two books published by the association, one of which MacTaggart authored. The university also paid an event rental company $110 for two “Post-it Flip Chart Pad and Markers” that MacTaggart used during his presentation.

Other costs included: $14,749 to the Omni Richmond Hotel, which included lodging for 20 people for one or two nights each, meeting room rentals, catering and other expenses; $2,735 for dinner and drinks for 29 people at an upscale riverfront restaurant; and $693 for the presence of two security officers at the retreat. (I should note: The university’s rate of about $127 per room was much less than the more than $200 per night that I spent to stay at the Omni that week.)

Receipts and other documentation of these expenses were released by U-Va. in response to a request for public information that was filed by NBC29, a Charlottesville television station.

The U-Va. Board of Visitors was originally scheduled to hold its annual retreat in July in Charlottesville. That retreat was rescheduled after a leadership crisis in June during which board leaders asked President Teresa Sullivan to resign, only to reinstate her as president by the end of the month. The exact reasons behind the failed ouster are still publicly unknown.

Previous retreats have not cost as much as this year’s gathering. Last year, the board spent more than $30,000 when it met at the Hilton Alexandria Old Town and Lorien Hotel and Spa. In 2010, the retreat was held at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront and cost more than $18,000.

In previous years, many of the board members charged the university for their travel expenses, including plane tickets and town car service. No board members have done so for this retreat, according to the records released Wednesday. And one member, Mac Caputo, reimbursed the university $253.12 to cover the cost of upgrading his room at the Omni.