Following first few weeks of the semester, students were given the chance to move to campus as room became available from no-show students or drop outs. About 35 students have moved back to campus, leaving 169 students in the two apartment complexes.

The committee will also continue a discussion of growth by taking a look at a preliminary report from the strategic enrollment management task force, a group formed to develop a plan for the long-term growth of the university, which is expected to add 10,000 students over the next decade.

The task force addresses issues like improving retention and graduation rates, determining an effective number of graduate and undergraduate students and making sure there are enough resources, in support operations and fewer meeting spaces.

If the renovation had gone ahead after reductions were made, the building would not meet the Association of College union International’s standards for programming and usage, according to agenda items.

The committee will discuss holding the project while an internal committee reviews the trend in unprecedented growth at ECU and reports findings to the facilities committee, which is to develop a new plan for the building.

The full board will meet Friday to discuss any actions recommended by the committees to the board.

The trustees will tour the campus Thursday with ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton to take a look at campus security following an incident last month in which a female student was attacked in the lobby of a residence hall by a former student who was in Greenville on business.

The board will also hold a groundbreaking ceremony Friday for the new Family Medicine Center near the Brody School of Medicine.

The $36.8 million Family Medicine Center at the Brody School of Medicine will replace current operations that are held in four locations throughout town.

The original facility was designed to accommodate 100 patients per day or 26,000 patients per year. Currently more than 200 patients per day, or 52,000 per year, are seen in the outpatient facility.
SBI probe on force at ECU game is ongoing

All findings will be turned over to the Pitt County District Attorney's Office, official says.

The Daily Reflector

Agents with the State Bureau of Investigation are still in the process of determining whether excessive force was used by law enforcement officers Sept. 6 following the home football game between East Carolina University and West Virginia University.

Fans stormed the field after the Pirates defeated the Mountaineers that weekend, and witnesses alleged law enforcement officers used excessive force attempting to control the crowd.

A local investigation threw the focus onto deputies with the Lenoir County Sheriff's Department, which said later that it had cleared its officers of any wrongdoing.

ECU Police Chief Scott Shelton turned the case over to the SBI by Sept. 12, saying that, because of the number of different law enforcement agencies that provided security at the game, it was appropriate for an independent agency to conduct the investigation.

Those helping ECU Police at that particular game included Kinston Police, Lenoir County Sheriff's deputies, Pitt County Sheriff's deputies, Winterville Police and Greenville Police Department officers.

Reporters and photographers from The Daily Reflector and The Dominion Post in Morgantown, W.Va., have

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been interviewed by the SBI as part of the investigation.

ECU officials would not divulge whether any of their athletics staff or officers have been questioned by the SBI.

"The SBI will conduct a thorough investigation," said N.C. Department of Justice spokes-

woman Jennifer Canada, before adding, "We try not to get into time lines because every investigation is different."

At the conclusion of the investigation, all findings will be turned over to the Pitt County District Attorney's Office, Canada said. Their staff will determine what charges, if any, should be filed against any officers responsible for any wrongdoing.
Dr. Randolph Chitwood gave the inaugural lecture Wednesday night in the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Chitwood gave the inaugural lecture Wednesday night in the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series offered by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University, speaking on the history of heart surgery at East Carolina University to a crowd of more than 200 people in Wright Auditorium.

He is the senior associate vice chancellor for health sciences at the Brody School of Medicine, director of the East Carolina Heart Institute and a cardiovascular surgery professor at the medical school.

On Wednesday night, Chitwood spoke of innovations that began with the turn of the 20th century and continue today when he conducts minimally invasive surgery remotely with robotic arms using the da Vinci system he developed.

Surgeons from around the world come to Greenville to learn the da Vinci Surgical System techniques developed by Chitwood and used to help patients at the Brody School of Medicine.

The local facility is the first U.S. institution to perform robotic-assisted mitral valve surgery.

The Cardiovascular Center at Pitt County Memorial Hospital now performs 1,200 cardiac surgical, 3,000 interventional, and 5,000 catheter-based procedures every year, he said. And he described the surgery as being very much like virtual reality.

"You are doing the operation as if it is a hand motion, but there are not the mistakes that hands can make," he said.

Chitwood used a large screen on the stage to show photos and videos of surgeries over the last century.

He also showed a real-time video of a heart surgery under way in his operating room at the Brody School of Medicine, and the audience saw the robotic arms working with a heart.

For Chris and Amy Mann the talk was eye-opening.

"It was fascinating," Chris Mann said. "I liked seeing the different aspects of innovation going back in history and how things became what they are today.

Mann teaches cardiac ultrasound at Pitt Community College and was in the operating room with Chitwood when he performed his first da Vinci surgery in the United States in 2000.

Amy Mann teaches science at the Lenoir Early College High School. For her, seeing the robotics in action was "awesome."

"He had very good delivery," she said. "He was interesting and funny."

Chris Mann was taken by the intimate story that Chitwood shared.

"It was like a personal journey for him," he said. "He talked about these famous surgeons that he actually knew."

"It was like he was giving his personal experience along with the discovery process itself."

Chitwood made it clear that da Vinci method and all, he is not finished. Asked after the lecture what he would research if he had unlimited funds, the surgeon said he would aim to put himself out of business.

"I would like to know how to grow blood vessels in the human heart that would work," he said.

But his list did not end there. He said he would like to research artificial arteries and see an increase in the basic sciences and research at ECU.

Chitwood's talk was the first in the Voyages of Discovery series. On Oct. 8, Walter Isaacson, CEO of the Aspen Institute and former CEO of CNN, will deliver "Creative Leaders Who Have Shaped Our World," at Wright Auditorium.

Josh Humphries can be reached at 329-9565 and jhumphries@coxnc.com.
ECU officials hold forum on ’08 hurricane season, forecast

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University researchers will discuss the 2008 hurricane season and the science of forecasting those events during a free event at 5 p.m. today.

"Wind and Water: The Science of Hurricane Forecasting and Impacts in a Changing Climate," is being presented by the Department of Geography's newly formed Division of Atmospheric Science and Geomorphology. The event is being held in room 1031, the Bate Building.

Presenters will address the questions such as how and why do hurricanes form in the Atlantic Ocean and whether there will be an increase in the number of hurricanes in the future.

Faculty, students and the general public are invited, and audience participation is encouraged. Donations will be collected to benefit hurricane relief efforts.

For more information, contact Tom Rickenbach, Department of Geography, at 328-1039 or rickenbach@ecu.edu.
Pirates rekindle in-state recruiting

Depth chart full of homegrown talent

BY A.J. CARR STAFF WRITER

Beating its Big Four rivals in head-to-head recruiting for the state’s top-rated football prospects has never been easy at East Carolina.

But that hasn’t kept coach Skip Holtz from aggressively pursuing players in his backyard. And he has found a way to sign enough tough, area talent to fill two-thirds of the starting lineup.

This week’s depth chart includes 15 former North Carolina prep players among the 22 regulars, plus the two reserve running backs, a place-kicker and a punter.

Some were deemed too short or too thin by bigger programs. Many possessed speed, but not size. For several who had other attractive options — like tailback Norman Whitley — ECU was the school of choice.

All those ECU “Tar Heels” have done is help whip Virginia Tech and West Virginia en route to a 3-1 start and a No. 23 national ranking.

When Holtz arrived, he stressed re-establishing North Carolina as prime recruiting territory despite the proximity of ACC teams.

Former Pirates coach Steve Logan had benefited from homegrown talent. But East Carolina began to lose favor when it played a game on Friday night — a prep night — several years ago. That created anti-Pirates sentiment from the high school set.

John Thompson, who succeeded Logan, did land a prize by signing quarterback Patrick Pinkney from Fayetteville. But the overall in-state haul wasn’t as productive as in some previous regimes.

During Holtz’ three-plus years, East Carolina’s staff developed rapport and gained support from high school coaches, said Pirates recruiting coordinator Donnie Kirkpatrick. They’ve also gotten prospects’ attention.

Defensive end C.J. Wilson (Belt- haven) was lightly recruited, but made second-team All-Conference USA last year. Stellar defensive back Van Eskridge (Shelby), defensive lineman Jay Ross (Wilmington), and offensive lineman Terence Campbell (Maxton) are others who created a mild recruiting stir, but are creating mayhem now.

The Pirates have landed some prospects with stars by their names. Like Jamar Bryant, who signed with Georgia, then wound up at East Carolina by way of Hargrave Military Academy.

Offensive lineman Doug Palmer (Fayetteville) received “big time offers,” Kirkpatrick said. Back Jonathan Williams (Greenville) had other opportunities as well.

Not that ECU doesn’t look beyond state boundaries. Coaches would go from Greenville to Ghana to get a blue-chipper.

A key is getting the prospects to visit, to experience a game at rowdy Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

“We have a great game atmosphere; our crowd is into football,” Kirkpatrick said. “Kids will say, ‘Ooh! I want to play here.’ They’ve been turned on by the atmosphere.”

And once they’ve become Pirates, many have helped turn ECU into a winner again.