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Pushing pink

Increase breast cancer awareness

Much attention is being paid this month to whether states are colored red or blue. But another color represents every state in the union during October — pink.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month uses pink ribbons as reminders of work that’s being done and the endless effort still needed in the fight against a terrible disease that claims tens of thousands of American lives each year.

The National Cancer Institute estimates that more than 182,000 women and nearly 2,000 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and that more than 40,000 women and about 450 men will die from the disease.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month consists of advocacy, government and business organizations working to raise breast cancer awareness, and also to educate women about the connection between early detection and survival. Since NBCCAM began in 1985, both awareness and survival rates have increased significantly.

The 2007 survival rate for early stage breast cancer five years after diagnosis was 98 percent, up from 74 percent in 1985. In 2007, 75 percent of women over 40 were receiving regular mammograms, up from just 30 percent in 1985.

Those are impressive numbers, but NBCCAM never slows its efforts to improve them. The organization works year-round to develop new outreach programs for awareness and early detection. Efforts to support that work can be seen in every community, none more so than Pitt County.

Pitt County Memorial Hospital and University Health Systems is holding its Pink Power campaign to fight breast cancer this month. Area motorcycle enthusiasts came together earlier in the month for the “Ride for the Cure,” and the Greenville Women’s League held its “Bunco for Breast Cancer” event at the Hilton Greenville.

Physicians East will hold a breast cancer awareness candlelight vigil on Thursday to honor those lost to cancer and to celebrate survivors. Also on Thursday, the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center will present the Breast Cancer Forum. Dr. Cynthia Lynch, assistant clinical professor at East Carolina University, will speak on “Breast Cancer Treatment: An Individualized Approach;” Dr. Lisa Bellin, a breast surgeon at the center, will talk about new innovations in breast cancer surgery; and Kathryn Bennett-Chambliss, a clinical dietician at the center, is scheduled to discuss the relationship between diet and cancer.

Greenville and Pitt County can be proud of the role its medical community plays in the fight against breast cancer. Many others also participate by purchasing certain pink items and contributing to various other fundraising activities.

Despite all those efforts, however, it’s expected that breast cancer will strike one in every eight women. Until there is a cure, this month will remain a time for pushing the pink toward keeping up the year-round fight to raise awareness and survival rates.
Award goes to professor in religious studies

BY ECU NEWS BUREAU
Special to the Daily Reflector

Mary Nyangweso Wangila is the first recipient of the J. Woolard and Helen Peel Distinguished Professorship in Religious Studies at the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University.

Established in 2007 by Dr. Jesse R. Peel, the professorship honors Peel’s parents, the late J. Woolard and Helen K. Peel of Everett.

Wangila said she hopes that, through her work, her students will discover an appreciation for different religions and the roles religion plays in the lives of men and women.

Symposium coming soon

ECU will host a symposium 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Oct. 27 on the challenges facing wartime military personnel returning from deployment.

“Operation Re-Entry: Rehabilitation Challenges Facing Military Personnel, Veterans and Their Dependents” will be held in the Health Sciences Building, College of Nursing wing, Lecture Hall 1102. Registration deadline is Oct. 17.

The fee is $35. Call 744-5205 or e-mail bullockamy@ecu.edu to register, or visit www.ecu.edu/ah/rah.cfm.

Research earns grants

Research by faculty members at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU has received grants totaling $219,606 from the Brody Brothers Foundation Endowment Fund.

Recipients are:
- Drs. Joseph Chalovich and Mechthild Schroeter of the department of biochemistry and molecular biology received $33,000 for cancer research.
- Dr. Roberta Johnke of the department of radiation oncology received $10,000 for photodynamic therapy and radiation therapy research.
- Dr. James McCubrey of the department of microbiology and immunology and Drs. Suzanne Russo and Roger Ove of the department of radiation oncology received $43,000 for cancer research.
- Drs. Justin Moore, Stephanie Jilcott and Lloyd Novick of the department of public health and Dr. Suzanne Lazorick of the department of pediatrics received $21,500 for obesity research.
- Dr. Jacques Robidoux of the department of pharmacology and toxicology received $34,906 to study adipose tissue turnover.
- Dr. Claudio Sibata of the department of radiation oncology received $10,000 for photodynamic therapy research.
- Dr. Li Yang of the department of internal medicine received $43,200 for cancer research.
- The Summer Scholars Student Research Program received $24,000 to support research stipends.
Juchniewicz joins ECU School of Music as assistant professor of music education

Jay Juchniewicz has joined East Carolina University School of Music as assistant professor of music education. Juchniewicz completed his bachelor of music education, master of music education and doctor of philosophy in music education and instrumental conducting at Florida State University.

Prior to accepting the position at ECU, he taught at Jinks Middle School and Bay High School in Panama City, Fla.

Juchniewicz has presented research at numerous conferences including the National Association for Music Education national conference and the American Music Therapy Association national conference. His articles have been published in Psychology of Music, Research Perspectives in Music Education, Southern Journal of Music Education, Journal of Music Therapy and Florida Music Director.

Juchniewicz is a member of the National Association for Music Education, the Society for Music Teacher Education, the North Carolina Music Educators Association and the North Carolina Bandmasters Association.

He teaches undergraduate and graduate coursework in instrumental music education and supervises student teachers at ECU.
Trotman, Rosalie M.

Rosalie M. Trotman/Mrs. Rosalie Moore Trotman, 70, died Friday, Oct. 10, 2008. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Eastern Pines Church of Christ, with Larry Evans officiating. Rosalie was a graduate of Stokes-Pactolus High School and attended East Carolina University. She worked at the Daily Reflector for 43 years in a number of capacities, and most recently was a features and lifestyle editor. She worked simultaneously in admissions at Pitt County Memorial Hospital for 23 years. Rosalie was a member of the North Carolina Press Club. She held various offices and had been honored with the Communicator of Achievement Award. She was a member of the Epsilon Sigma Sorority where she completed service as President. She was a past board member of the Family Support Network of Eastern North Carolina and a past member of the Pitt County Women’s Commission. She was also a member of the Eastern Pines Church of Christ, where she served in the Sisters in Service (SIS) group. Rosalie will be remembered as someone who spoke her mind in a positive and optimistic way. She enjoyed playing bridge and bunco as well as outings with her “Birthday Girls.” She had a great love for reading and her pets and truly enjoyed life. A loving mother and grandmother, she will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frances Idell and David Raymond Moore; and her husband, John Q. Trotman, in 1990. She is survived by a son, John A. “Tony” Trotman and wife, Becky Brantley Trotman; grandchildren, Lauren Grace Trotman and Shane Anthony Trotman, all of Winterville; and a special family friend, Robert L. Strickland of Washington. The family will receive friends immediately following the service. Memorial contributions may be made to: Eastern Pines Church of Christ, 3380 Portertown Road, Greenville, NC 27858 or The Family Support Network (CDSA), Irons Bldg, Oglesby Drive, Greenville NC 27858. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home & Crematory, Greenville.

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ACAT ENABLED

COX NEWSPAPERS

11/12/18
Experts look forward to more study of region's artifacts

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, October 12, 2008

Archaeologists, anthropologists and other scholars gathered on the East Carolina University campus Saturday to discuss and review the 12,000-year-old archaeological landscape of what they said has been described as "the least understood physiographic region of the state."

The symposium, "25 Years and Counting: Current Archaeological Research on the North Carolina Coastal Plain" was a comprehensive exchange of information on this fragile and threatened region, according to a news release from the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology.

The symposium's keynote speaker, Stanley South, of the University of South Carolina, spent years researching the coastal plain area in the 1950s and 1960s and is considered the foremost expert on colonial and post-colonial archaeology in the region by his peers.

"My early career was spent studying prehistoric archaeology," South said. "When I got in to historical archaeology in 1958, there was very little being done in that field in America; maybe a half dozen archaeologists did that in the entire country."

South studied the early occupations of the English in the 18th century, at Brunswick Town in 1725.

It was during South's heyday in that field that the Colonial Williamsburg restoration was established in Virginia. His field work focused on the North Carolina coastal plain, though.

"The British came to Brunswick Town, on the Cape Fear River, in 1725. They lived there until 1776, the outset of the American Revolution. It was abandoned by 1820 and became part of Arden Plantation and is now a state historic site," South explained.

"Each house had a particular collection of artifacts that were available from the trade network that included Britain, China and other parts of the world, shipped to that town and made available to the upper middle class and wealthy people who lived there," he said.

When they broke dishes, they would throw them into pits in their yards, South said. And when they abandoned a property, later settlers from the 19th century would use those pits as garbage dumps and threw their trash on top of that. It all had to be carefully separated by archaeologists.

"Those fascinated by artifacts from the past can see several blocks of the town's stone and brick excavations that I exposed back then," South said.

Saturday's speakers covered topics such as research into the life of Native Americans on the coastal plain dating back 12,000 years, presented by I. Randolph Daniel of the ECU department of anthropology, and present and future trends in coastal development patterns, presented by Doug Huggett, major permits coordinator for the state Division of Coastal Management.

Charles Ewen, a historical archaeologist with ECU's anthropology department, served as one of the hosts for the symposium, and to South during his visit. He testified to South's prolific contribution to North Carolina's archaeological and cultural research.

"Stan South is one of the founders of North Carolina archaeology. He has dug at just about every site there is in the state. In fact, I'm hoping to find a site that Stan hasn't been to already. Everywhere I dig, it seems,
Stan has worked at some part of the site," Ewen said. Ewen said continued research is important. "Now more than ever, with all the development taking place on the coastal plain, the last really undeveloped part of North Carolina, if we don’t learn about what’s there now, there won’t be anything left to look at," said Ewen. 

A boom in development makes understanding and protecting the region's cultural heritage critical, he said. "If the park service hadn’t bought the outer banks, it would all be developed by now, I think. The current poor economic conditions have slowed that process temporarily, though," Ewen said.

That slowdown allows the state’s cultural resource managers more opportunity to search for sites worthy of preservation, South said.

In 1966, the U.S. Archaeological Society pushed Congress to acknowledge that these historic cultural resources were going to be destroyed, he said. Legislation was passed to provide for digs to occur at development sites. "We were able to get a percentage of each big development to be set aside for archaeological research. Since 1966, there has been a great blossoming of cultural resource management throughout the country. Otherwise they would be totally wiped out," South said.

Now, before development occurs, state archaeologists first go in and search for valuable sites. Federal and state laws determine methods of development that allow for preservation of historically significant sites.

About 90 percent of current archaeologists work in cultural resource management, South and Ewen said. This can also be done voluntarily by property owners who wish to preserve artifacts of potential value.

"I could tell back then that CRM would have to exist one day. Back in the ‘50s, I was the one government people would call to check out those sites for value."

Ewen said most state residents like the idea of some archaeological preservation.

"The fact that CRM legislation hasn’t been repealed in the face of 40 years of rapid developmental pressure shows that people think it’s important," Ewen said.

South spends his days sifting soil in South Carolina.

"I’ve been digging at Spanish Santa Elena, settled between 1556 and 1566 on Paris Island, off the coast, where they train the U.S. Marines," South said.

In 1977, South published "Method and Theory in Historical Archeology." Since then he’s published several on the subject. But he’s most proud of his latest book, a collection of poems inspired by his career.

After the symposium, South invited the guests to hear him read from his collection of poetry, "Namenda's Echo," at the Tipsy Teapot on Evans Street.

He had a down-to-earth view of his work history.

"Archaeologists really treasure our dumps. We’re garbage collectors of past centuries."

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COX NEWSPAPERS
Exhibit looks at power of the badge

By Kurt Shaw
TRIBUNE-REVIEW ART CRITIC
Sunday, October 12, 2008

Historical enamel badges from the Museum der Arbeit in Hamburg, Germany, were the inspiration for an exhibition on display at Society for Contemporary Craft in the Strip District.

Dubbed "The Enamel Experience," it features works by 23 invited artists from the United Kingdom, the USA and Germany. The exhibition examines the personal and intimate nature of the badge and how it is used to communicate a wide range of different ideas and thoughts.

This travelling exhibition was organized by Elizabeth Turrell, an internationally renowned enamel artist and researcher from the Centre for Fine Print Research (CPFR) at the University of the West of England. She got the idea to curate a badge exhibit from viewing two collections within the Museum der Arbeit -- Museum of Work -- that share relics of historic badge making, the Wild Badge collection and Carl Wild Badge Factory.

Part of the Wild factory, which was in operation in Hamburg from 1902 to 1998, was recently re-installed in the museum. When museum personnel were packing up the contents of the factory, they found crates of Iron Crosses originally intended for the Third Reich.

"They have the original machine for making the Iron Cross," Turrell says of the museum. "It was electric and made one badge at a time, and it's so big, it wouldn't fit in this gallery. It's quite extraordinary."

Of course, all of the badges in this exhibition were made by hand. And unlike the Iron Cross, they explore many social issues including, perhaps not so ironically, abuse of human rights perpetrated by governments and preservation of the memories associated with the Holocaust.

For example, several hand-held badges by British artist Tamar de Vries Winter feature photographs of her grandmother Josef Lachmann, a German Jew who served in the Medical Corps and was awarded the Iron Cross during World War I.

He escaped the Holocaust, as the family moved to Tel Aviv in 1933, but the shadow of the Holocaust colored the experiences of her family and friends. The series of badges she has created combine photographs of her grandfather encased in enamel and a badge design that blends the olive branch -- a symbol of peace -- with an artifact of war -- the Iron Cross.
Also borrowing from military history, German artist Uta Feiler, created "Medals for deserved, but not conferred honours," a series of medals made to look like colored bars that generals wear, only these are meant for housewives and mothers.

Kathleen Browne, an art professor who teaches jewelry making at Kent State University in Ohio, and a collector of badges herself, used her invitation to participate in this show to make startling social commentaries about the U.S. engagement in Iraq.

Finely crafted in sterling silver and expertly enameled, her work, which features what are now iconic images of interrogation tactics, commemorates what Browne describes in her statement as "...the shameful events that have happened during the war in Iraq..." Her works, with titles such as "Interrogation Expert, Guantanamo Bay" and "Interrogation Expert, Abu Ghraib," offer commentary about human and civil rights.

Robert Ebendorf, a distinguished professor of jewelry and metals at East Carolina University, collects found elements for both material and inspiration. Like a large number of the artists in this exhibition, Ebendorf approached this project by recalling his own memories of badges earned and acquired.

The first badge he remembers receiving was for perfect attendance to CCD classes when he was 8 years old. The resulting work, cobbled together from found objects and religious medallions, demonstrates a unique familiarity and preciousness in the coupling of found objects with sterling silver and fine enamel.

Irony and humor are also used by a number of the artists in the show.

Marjorie Simon's Art Appropriation Badges honor those "who most embody the spirit of another artist," For example, her piece "Appropriated Artist: Andy Warhol" imitates Warhol's classic silk screens while replacing the iconic Marilyn Monroe with the Mona Lisa.

With a sense of humor, Sarah Perkins created beautiful and proud trade-union badges for artists -- even though they don't have unions. Some of her imaginary groups include "Metalsmiths United," "Jewelers United," and "Associated Enamelists."

"I think this exhibit has a connection to Pittsburgh and Pittsburghers because it celebrates work," Turrell says. "I think its important that everyday life is celebrated. Badges are messages. Everybody is familiar with them.

"Sometimes people don't even take any notice. But these little, tiny things can relay powerful messages. They can be frightening, like the swastika. Or they can give joy."

SMALL PIECES 'TAG' BIG STORIES
On display in conjunction with "The Enamel Experience" is "TAG," an exhibition of small metals by 15 current and past graduate students from East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina.

All have studied under Robert Ebendorf, a distinguished professor of jewelry and metals at East Carolina University. He rallied the participants around the idea of a community outreach project. For this exhibition the Society for Contemporary Craft paired each of the artists with an individual from the Pittsburgh community -- a tattoo artist, a brewmaster, a beekeeper, a fireman, a botanist and a steelworker, among many others -- to engage in a discussion around identity.

In response, the artist created works that have been inspired by or relate to the idea of a badge, a patch or a visual identification system. For example, Susan McMurray of Greenville, N.C., was paired with Guy Sokol, a fire chief from the South Side. Inspired by the fireman's tales from decades of devoted service, McMurray created a necklace made of white and black pearls. The white pearls represent lives saved, and the black pearls, colleagues lost.

"She was very passionate about the project," says Elizabeth Turrell, who organized the project. "She wanted to be paired with a fireperson. Her father is also a fire captain, who is now retired."

The necklace is displayed next to a photograph of Sokol standing proudly in his backyard, in full uniform.

The remaining works are as varied in subject as they are media:

• A badge made of spoons for a collector of African American artifacts;

• A badge featuring fragments of plant life for a botanist;

• Even a badge fashioned into an image of St. Arnold, the patron saint of brewers, for a brewmaster.

Together, all make for a compelling display that is as much a slice of life related to our city as the works themselves relate to the history of badge making and personal identity.

*Kurt Shaw can be reached at kshaw@tribweb.com or.*
Is Pitt safe from an economic slump?

By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, October 11, 2008

Pitt County’s government and business leaders have long said the community is recession proof given the continuing growth of East Carolina University and University Health Systems.

Wanda Yuhas, director of Pitt County’s Development Commission, is no longer making that claim.

With a diverse manufacturing base, the university and area hospital, the conventional thinking has always been if there is trouble in one business area, others will be steady.

“Six months ago we would have said we were virtually recession-proof,” she said, “In our current economic climate we may not, be able to say that with confidence.”

Yuhas said hospital officials have said that with an already large indigent patient base, a dramatic rise in unemployment and suffering in other sectors of the business community could cause the hospital to suffer.

While none of the clients currently developing projects are canceling their plans, Yuhas said her office hasn’t seen new client activity in nearly three weeks.

Still, people continue to move into the community and commercial developers continue to show interest in the community’s business climate.

The credit crunch has slowed down some overseas businesses interested in Greenville. However, it’s possible that same crunch will give retail developers a chance to look at areas where growth will boom when the economy picks up.

“Until the last two weeks we’ve been in wonderful shape. We are in good economic health, yes. We are going to take some bruises, and we expect to recover more quickly that most places would,” she said.

While local business leaders work to ride out the stock market’s instability, local government entities face the same instability, coupled with a mandate to maintain the same level of services.

Four of Pitt County’s major government institutions have banking ties with Wachovia. Financial officers with these institutions say this week’s duel between Wells Fargo & Co. and Citigroup Inc. for the purchase of Wachovia Corp. created no immediate problems in their operations, but they remain on the lookout.

“It leaves an unsettling feeling when your banking institution is in the process of being bought out to prevent bankruptcy,” said Michael Cowin, Pitt County Schools assistant superintendent of finance.

East Carolina University and the city of Greenville are already discussing plans to delay projects in an effort to offset predicted revenue losses. Pitt Community College’s financial aid office has more students seeking financial aid to help with school and living expenses. The state’s revenue shortfall has the school system questioning what it will need to do to make up for a possible loss of revenue.

City of Greenville

The city’s investments are doing as well as can be expected in this turbulent market, said Bernita Demery, financial services director.

There has been a 43 percent drop in the city’s investment portfolio earnings, she said. While revenue from investments is down, the percentage of growth from property tax revenue is more than expected, 19 percent vs. the predicted 13 percent growth, she said. However, it’s too early in the fiscal year to determine if the
trend will continue.

"We are looking at tightening our belts, and we will look at our capital spending until we see how the rest of the year finishes up," she said.

As for the city's investments, about 34 percent is invested in Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae, Demery said. With the federal government's takeover of the mortgage institutions last month, the city is still getting a decent return on that investment, she said.

The city not only follows investment regulations of the state Department of Revenue's Local Government Commission, it has an investment advisory committee that follows the city's portfolio.

City Manager Wayne Bowers told the City Council on Thursday that the N.C. League of Municipalities, an association of municipalities, is warning its members that sales tax revenues are expected to be flat this year. Bowers said he had expected sales tax dollars to be down and budgeted for only a 2 percent increase.

"If we have no growth this year we would only have a loss of $79,000 (in revenue)," Bowers said. Greenville is better off financially than many institutions, he added.

The city banks with Wachovia Corp., keeping about $4.5 million in an operating account which is used for the city's daily finances. Demery said she's checked with the bank and it has the money on hand to cover the city's accounts.

Pitt County

Like the city of Greenville, Pitt County government banks with Wachovia Corp. County finance officer Melodie Bryan told commissioners last week the dispute between Wells Fargo and Citigroup over the bank's take over shouldn't be cause for alarm.

Pitt County has a number of different wires coming in and out of its accounts with Wachovia, Bryan said, including payroll accounts and health insurance funds. As a result, she said, deciding to end any banking relationship would be complex and take a long time to complete.

The sale of Wachovia could be beneficial locally. Bryan said, regardless of which way the sale goes, it creates a stronger banking institution for Pitt County to work through in the future.

"It may help the county because Wells Fargo brings a lot to the table," said Chris McDaniel, assistant director of financial services. "It would be a stronger bank because it would be one of the players in the banking industry."

McDaniel, who works with the investments of taxpayer dollars, said Pitt County has an assortment of low risk, low reward accounts, such as certificate of deposits, commercial paper and money markets.

The county puts this money into both short-term and long-term investments, he said, whenever it receives an influx of tax money, similar to the recent number of residents who paid their property tax early to get a two percent decrease.

"It may affect us in a reverse way," McDaniel said, referencing the economic problems on Wall Street. "With commercial paper, there aren't many buyers in that market, so the rates go up. So we benefit that way."

Pitt County Schools

The school system was feeling the economic pinch long before Wall Street's meltdown, said Cowin, assistant superintendent of finance.

"The increased cost of fuel alone has created much uncertainty for all school systems," Cowin wrote in a Friday e-mail.

There is $20 million shortfall at the state level with concerns on funding for transportation, leaving Pitt County Schools to redirect budget dollars from both instructional and operational programs to ensure money is available.

Along with fuel costs, food and supplies for the system's child nutrition program increased about 25 percent, which is a $2 million rise. Utility costs also are up.

"We are fortunate that Pitt County has not been hit hard by bank foreclosures and massive losses in jobs," Cowin said.
Thorpe installed as chancellor

ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer

Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp wants his university to solve the world's grandest challenges.

But to reach this audacious goal, he offered a basic path.

"We just need to take care of our people," Thorp said in a speech moments after his formal installation as UNC-CH's 10th chancellor. "If we do that, then the students' successes, the big ideas, the recognition, the grant dollars, and the solutions to society's greatest problems will take care of themselves."

Though he has been on the job since July, Thorp, 44, was feted formally Sunday, the university's 215th birthday. A native of Fayetteville with a bachelor's degree from UNC-CH, Thorp sprinkled his speech with Tar Heel lore, citing both Hinton James -- UNC-CH's first student -- and Michael Jordan -- its most famous. He spoke of an illustrious past and a bright future, but he warned of significant challenges.

He echoed a theme that campus leaders have been talking about quite a bit lately: the increasing competition for top students. A science whiz kid himself with a doctorate in chemistry from California Institute of Technology, Thorp said he wants UNC-CH to be the "best place to teach, learn and discover." But he cautioned that the university will have to ratchet up its merit- and need-based aid packages to lure students now in the crosshairs of many elite private universities.

Harvard, Yale and other top universities have, in the past couple of years, changed financial aid policies to appeal more widely to middle-class students. As Thorp noted Sunday: "Financial aid practices of the top privates have made it easier for students to choose excellent universities outside North Carolina. When that happens, they are less likely to come back and contribute to our state and our economy."
Thorpe had similar words for the university faculty, which he wants to nurture and keep happy. He pledged a new emphasis on faculty recruitment and retention, already a high priority.

"The defining principle of a research university is that teaching and discovery are done by the same people," he said. "Those who do well are scarce. But not here at Carolina. We need to support our gifted teacher-scholars, and attract their new colleagues to inspire our students."

For employees, Thorpe promised a rewarding workplace. Just last week, the university raised the minimum annual salary to $25,000; that meant a raise for 290 workers.

Thorpe mentioned at several points his desire that UNC-CH operate on a global stage, particularly in areas or worldwide interest like the environment and public health. He acknowledged that it might seem implausible that a university composed largely of North Carolinians could compete academically on a global scale, or even compete with private universities, and still meet the requirement that it remain affordable to its own residents.

"It's not the easy way to be Carolina," he said toward the end of his speech. "But over the centuries we have shown the courage of our convictions. So though it may not be the easy way, it's the only way we know."

Big goals, surely. But with Thorpe, it isn't hyperbole, said UNC President Emeritus William Friday.

"There's no rhetoric in it," Friday said. "You have to say it and believe it. It's what he knows, and it's what has made this place what it is."

The ceremony Sunday stretched for most of two hours and was highlighted by rousing words from Allan Gurganus, the North Carolina poet and novelist who has known Thorp and his family for decades.

He summarized the university's new leader this way: "Holden Thorp will never make a plausible fictional character. Flaws are a fiction writer's spice rack. I've known him all his life, and his faults keep not emerging."

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McCain to campaign today in Wilmington

Republican is working to win over conservative Democrats, but the economy is a challenge

ROB CHRISTENSEN, Staff Writer

RALEIGH - Republican presidential candidate John McCain will make his first public appearance in the state since the May primary today, trying to lift his party’s prospects in Eastern North Carolina -- a culturally conservative rural region that has been struggling economically.

McCain, who will appear at Cape Fear Community College in Wilmington, is trying to win over many of the conservative Democrats who have cast their ballots for Republicans in the past. His visit follows a similar one in Greenville last week by his vice presidential running mate, Sarah Palin.

"The demographics of Eastern North Carolina is that it has a lot of working-class white voters," said Peter Francia, a political science professor at East Carolina University. "Republicans have an opportunity to win those and have proven that in past elections."

President Bush carried the East over Democrat John Kerry by a 60 percent to 40 percent in 2004, according to exit polls.

The East is an area that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton -- and her husband, former President Clinton -- worked heavily in the May Democratic primary. And it is a region where Democrat Barack Obama showed some weakness, even while he was winning the state.

But with the economy struggling, Obama's prospects have much improved, and polls indicate he is now competitive in the region. An average of three polls conducted in the East by Public Policy Polling, a Raleigh survey firm, shows a near deadlock -- Obama 47 percent to McCain's 46 percent.
Obama has made five campaign appearances in North Carolina since the primary and has greatly outspent McCain in the state on TV advertising and organizational efforts.

Democrats on Sunday sought to remind voters of the pain in the coastal plains.

"This is an important week," four-term Gov. Jim Hunt of Wilson said in a teleconference for the news media. "I think John McCain is running out of time. His message is not resonating in Eastern North Carolina. The reason is that our families in Eastern North Carolina are hurting. They are losing jobs."

Democratic Congressmen G.K. Butterfield and Bob Etheridge also argued Sunday that McCain would be bad for Eastern North Carolina because he backed Bush's economic policies, did not support the federal tobacco buyout and did not support the most recent farm bill.

"We can't have four more years of the Bush policies," Butterfield said.

Republicans say they expect McCain to do well in a culturally conservative area with a large military influence.

"Obama is the most liberal member of the Senate and the most liberal presidential nominee ever," said Ferrell Blount, a former state GOP chairman from Pitt County. "While McCain is a military person, Obama is not favorably disposed toward the military, in my opinion. It's a pretty clear contrast."

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Economic concerns to guide ballot choices

BARBARA BARRETT, Washington Correspondent
Comment on this story

PITT COUNTY - N.C. 11 runs through the heart of Pitt County, southward through fields still white with cotton, past homes where worry fills the air like humidity. Tractor-trailers rumble by, or they stop at the Country Mart for $3.99 diesel.

The four-lane highway links countless economic stories: of the cafe supervisor who must pay for a ride to work, the trucker who may soon file for bankruptcy, the unemployed woman whose trailer hasn't had electricity for a year.

Josie Briley, 51, knows there's a presidential election this year, but she couldn't tell you who's running.

"We don't have no current," she said, "so I don't watch no TV."

On television last week, Sens. Barack Obama and John McCain couldn't say in their debate whether the economy will get worse before it gets better. They should take a drive down N.C.11.

The farmer knows about the economy. So does the trucker. The barber, too. His business is down 20 percent the past six months.

"And it's not just me," said Steve Roebuck, 69, as he ran a comb around a client's balding head in the near-empty downtown of Bethel. A McCain 2008 sticker was pasted on the wall next to the Ten Commandments. "We lost 159,000 jobs in the United States in the month of September. The whole world is suffering now."

Big hurt in small towns
In many ways, the communities along Pitt County's main north-south highway reflect the rest of North Carolina -- a dichotomy between the old farming economy and the new industries stemming from technology and higher education. Whether business is down, milk costs more or the banks won't offer loans, the effect for residents around here is the same: They have less money.

Strung along N.C. 11 are small towns with empty storefronts, trailer parks where children's togs wave from clotheslines, farmlands sown with peanuts. There's also the city of Greenville, where jets fly over the new hospital wing and East Carolina University's Pirates are 3-2.

The unemployment rate in Pitt County was 7.5 percent in August, slightly above the statewide rate of 6.9 percent. The median household income is $33,000.

This could be McCain country, in the tradition of southern Democrats who vote Republican in presidential races. More than 8,000 McCain supporters showed up at a Sarah Palin rally Tuesday in Greenville. But Obama has opened an office here, too, and folks who might normally swing toward McCain say now they're not so sure.

Begin in Bethel, pop. 1,774, at the northern tip of Pitt County's slice of N.C. 11. Stores are boarded up, the streets feel deserted. The Piggly Wiggly closed a few months ago, and now folks must drive 14 miles to the nearest grocery. Outside a local bank, new teller Carrie Graham-Brown stands on a stepladder and adjusts the marquee to remind customers their last Christmas Club payments are due.

She's overqualified for this job. She's a paralegal who works in real estate, but her business wasn't doing well and she was living on credit cards.

A Republican by nature, she doesn't know how she'll vote yet. She just knows she's angry.

"Why is it that I'm up here with this sign and I can't keep my business afloat?"
Graham-Brown asked.

A few miles south, W.C. Moore, 65, oversees the first day of cotton harvest on his 2,500-acre farm. He figures the crisis will hit him this winter, when it comes time to take out new loans for next year's seed. The bank will want more collateral -- land, equipment.

His wife, sitting in the farmhouse, is incredulous. "We don't have anything else to give them," she said. The couple are in the middle of a renovation -- ceilings, carpets, walls knocked out. They saved for it for years.

She hopes McCain will protect the country from the immigrants she says are taking jobs. Her husband thinks McCain will protect farms and industry. Also, Obama makes the Moores nervous.

"First, look at his name," W.C. Moore said. "Does that sounds like an American name to you?"

Keep driving. There's the Country Mart truck stop on the right, where Miriam Jenkins, the cafe's night supervisor, denies a customer who wants a free slice of pie.

"Uh-uh, baby. It ain't my restaurant. We just run it for the Man."

Jenkins, 40, loves this job, enough to pay someone $15 each way to drive her here six days a week. Her transmission went out, but she has to work to help her in-laws pay the $1,200 mortgage on the house they bought in 2005.

The payments had been $900, but the rate adjusted upward. Her mother-in-law gathers the family to go over the bills, to decide which will go unpaid, to figure out who can go find extra work.
This year, Jenkins said with a laugh, "I'm broker. It wasn't so bad last year, but this year, it's really taken a toll on me."

She's definitely voting. "Obama," she said. "I hope he ain't making no promises he can't keep. We need someone who can fix this."

Out back, trucker Gerald Payton, 38, wearing a "World's Greatest Dad" T-shirt, watches the numbers click on the pump, up, up, up.

He lost everything after Hurricane Floyd. Now his mortgage rate is 14 percent -- $1,800 a month. He has two children at home, another three who have moved out but whom he tries to help.

He's about to declare bankruptcy. Payton moves modular homes for a living. He planned to spend $900 in gas the next two days to move a home, but he won't get paid for 20 days, and in the meantime he won't have the cash to fill the tank to take another job.

Payton sits in his house and worries. He has welding experience, so he put out some resumes. His wife takes care of the grandkids, but now she might have to work, too.

He had no income the month of September. "It's going to get worse," he said.

Payton has not even registered to vote. He doesn't know whom he would vote for.

**Weighing options**

Down in Greenville, Jim Moye, 64, pulls his golf clubs from his trunk and hollers to a friend walking across the putting green at the Greenville Country Club.

"Want to play a hole or two?"

Moye's voting for Obama. His small businesses can't get credit right now. The United States' image abroad makes things worse, he said.

Nearby, insurance agency owner Chris Challender, 51, hands a bucket of balls to the high school girls he coaches. He doesn't even look at his investments these days -- let his broker have the stomachaches.

"Probably McCain," he said. "I think it's going to be less impact on my business."

Nine miles south in downtown Ayden, at CJ Salon, owner Carol Rieman's husband, a professor, just learned he didn't earn tenure at East Carolina University. And her business income is down 50 percent from a year ago.

"We're moving out west where the economy's better," she announced, her hands in the sink, rinsing color from a client's hair.

In Rieman's 28 years as a hairdresser, things have never been this bad. All clients talk about is the economy. A woman in her 70s canceled her health insurance so she could afford her medicines. A lady who owns the new hot dog shop may have to shut it down.

"If you'd asked me three to six months ago if I would vote for Obama, I'd say, 'No way!' " said Rieman, 48.

Now?

"I'm not going to say no, but I'm not going to say yes."

She wants to vote for McCain. But she hears him talk and wonders, does he really get it?

"I don't hear McCain talking about our economy as if it's that bad," Rieman said.
'We need help'

It's bad all right, say her neighbors a few miles to the south.

In Grifton, Misty Moye, 33, leans against the wooden rail of her mother's front porch as her 3-year-old daughter plays in the shade with a cousin. Pine needles drift to the ground.

Moye sees gas prices going up, and then food going up, and then everything else, including the goods in the discount store where she works. Deodorant has gone from $1.50 to $2.75. A gallon of milk is four bucks. Customers tell her: "Y'all need to change the name, because it's not the Dollar General anymore."

Moye's mother opens her storm door, leans outside to see what's going on.

"The economy is bad," Louise Moye said. "We need help. And Barack is the man."

She shuts the door.

Misty Moye nods. She watches the young girls skip across the front yard and offers this truism: "Whoever gets into office, they got a lot of cleaning up to do."

And N.C. 11 goes on southward.

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OBAMA PROPOSALS

JUMPSTARTING THE ECONOMY

* Enact windfall profits tax on excessive oil company profits to give families an immediate $1,000 emergency energy rebate to help pay rising bills.

* Establish $25 billion state growth fund to prevent state and local cuts and $25 billion in a jobs and growth fund to prevent cutbacks in road and bridge maintenance and fund school repair.

TAX RELIEF

* Temporarily extend an expiring tax break to let small businesses write off the cost of many new investments immediately, rather than over several years.

* Create "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to $500 per person, or $1,000 per working family.

* Eliminate all income taxation on seniors making less than $50,000 per year for an average savings of $1,400.

JOB CREATION

* Create 5 million new green jobs by investing $150 billion over 10 years to advance the next generation of biofuels and fuel infrastructure including acceleration of plug-in hybrids.

COMPILED BY NEWS RESEARCHER LAMARA WILLIAMS. SOURCES: BARACKOBAMA.COM, JOHN-MCCAIN.COM, THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McCAIN PROPOSALS

JUMPSTARTING THE ECONOMY
* Pass legislation suspending a requirement that investors age 70 1/2 begin to liquidate their retirement accounts.
* Have the government buy bad home-loan mortgages and renegotiate them at a reduced price.
* Repeal the 54-cents-per-gallon tax on imported sugar-based ethanol, increasing competition and lowering prices of gasoline at the pump.
* Roll back corn-based ethanol mandates, which are contributing to the rising cost of food.

**TAX RELIEF**
* Keep the top tax rate at 35 percent and maintain the 15 percent rates on dividends and capital gains; phase out the Alternative Minimum Tax.
* Cut the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 25 percent.
* Allow first-year deduction, or "expensing," of equipment and technology investments.
* Establish permanent tax credit equal to 10 percent of wages spent on research and development.

**JOB CREATION**
* Build 45 new nuclear power plants by 2030, creating roughly 700,000 jobs.

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- Map: Tough times along Highway 11
Thorp to be installed as UNC chancellor

From Staff Reports
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CHAPEL HILL - The new chancellor of UNC-Chapel Hill is expected to talk about his plans for the university at an installation ceremony Sunday during University Day festivities.

Chancellor Holden Thorp's installation ceremony, which is open to the public, starts at 3 p.m. in Polk Place, between South Building and Wilson Library. A reception will follow.

Thorp, a chemistry professor, was elected chancellor in May and started work July 1. Previously, he was dean of the university's College of Arts and Sciences.

A concert by the UNC Symphony Band, the UNC Wind Ensemble and the Carolina Choir will begin at 2:40 p.m., followed by a procession of faculty, students, staff, alumni, visiting dignitaries and leaders.

State Supreme Court Justice Patricia Timmons-Goodson will administer the oath of office, and UNC President Erskine Bowles will preside. The university also will present distinguished alumna/alumnus awards to several people.

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Staff writer Jim Wise; Staff writer Mark Schultz


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