THE DAILY CLIPS

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Halloween revelers come out in force
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Monday, November 1, 2010

Saturday night proved a good dress rehearsal for Halloween on Sunday.
About 50 officers stationed downtown Saturday in anticipation of a greater-than-average
crowd ended up with one matching or exceeding most Halloween nights, Greenville
Police Department Spokesman Cpl. Kip Gaskins said.

Between 15,000 and 20,000 students, Greenville residents and visitors from out of town
flooded the district. There were a couple of assaults reported and fights in which pepper
spray was utilized by responding officers.

Gaskins said the chemical is used to break up fights so officers don't have to use force. It
protects citizens and law enforcement, he said.

Overall, it was nothing police didn't expect “anytime you put a big crowd together and
get alcohol involved,” he said.

It was unclear at 11 p.m. if those numbers or incidents would be matched Sunday night.
Gaskins said the evening started slowly compared to years past, but police had no real
idea of the volume of people before midnight. By 11:30 p.m. Gaskins was guessing
20,000 people would pack downtown.

The number of officers on hand was certainly higher Sunday. About 200 were stationed
downtown and in the surrounding neighborhoods. Twenty-five of those came from
assisting agencies — Pitt County Sheriff's Office and police from East Carolina University, Winterville, Ayden and Kinston.

Most were clustered downtown as the parties picked up speed and lines grew outside of nightclubs. Officers checked bags and patted down each person entering through three designated entrances.

Throngs of students trickled from the neighborhoods around ECU dressed as Where's Waldo or Lady Gaga.

Ladybugs, bees and butterflies flitted into bars and clubs or house parties, shouted with the sidewalk preachers and stopped for photos. Fire and rescue workers watched and waited to be called on — not to be confused with the firefighters, nurses and policewomen in modified uniforms — leotards and mini-skirt versions.

There were additional patrols in neighborhoods throughout Greenville and conducting a busy DWI checkpoint where Fifth Street splits off from 10th Street.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at k kennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
East Carolina University researchers want to know what tourism businesses and organizations perceive as the potential effects of an oil spill or leak off the coast. Researchers this week finished collecting data for a study funded by North Carolina Sea Grant that will provide a baseline for future comparison if oil becomes present on the coast.

A key factor in the state's economy, tourism businesses and organizations seek to maintain stable income under uncertain conditions. “The study will identify concerns of North Carolina tourism employers and managers, especially in wake of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf Coast,” said Steve Rebach, North Carolina Sea Grant associate director.

Risk managers, tourism authorities and businesses could use the results to address concerns if tourism businesses are affected by future oil spills or leaks. The results may also help state and local governments and industry leaders to be proactive in setting policies and procedures to deal with such an event.

“Tourism is of such great importance to North Carolina, particularly dominating the coastal region economy; it accounts for over $16 billion of visitor expenditures and generates over 190,000 jobs for North Carolinians,” said Patrick Long, director of ECU's Center for Sustainable Tourism. “Understanding and preparing for disasters before they occur can potentially lessen the severity of their impacts and serve to protect the businesses upon which our economy depends.”

The ECU research team includes:

Huili Hao research director, Center for Sustainable Tourism
Whitney Knollenberg, graduate student in Sustainable Tourism
Catherine Smith professor in the English Department
Ken Wilson associate professor in the Sociology Department
Donna Kain associate professor in the English Department
Rebecca Powers associate professor in the Sociology Department
Patrick Long director, Center for Sustainable Tourism

The team also involves undergraduate students who conducted telephone interviews with employers and managers of tourism businesses and organizations.

The ECU Center for Sustainable Tourism is dedicated to promoting sustainable tourism throughout the eastern N.C. region, North Carolina and the nation through innovation in
graduate education, leadership development, community consultation and collaborative research. For more information about the center, visit http://www.ecu.edu/sustainabletourism/.

North Carolina Sea Grant is an inter-institutional program of the University of North Carolina system that provides research, education and outreach opportunities relating to current issues affecting the North Carolina coast and its communities. For more information about North Carolina Sea Grant, visit http://www.ncseagrant.org/.

Incredible ECU Women honored

The Women's Roundtable at East Carolina University held its third event in the ECU Incredible Women Series on Oct. 14, raising more than $35,000 to support the group's activities and scholarships and honoring six women as outstanding leaders.

The event at the Greenville Convention Center focused on financial issues facing women and featured Jean Chatzky, best-selling author and financial editor of NBC's “Today” show, as keynote speaker.

The six honorees were selected by the Women's Roundtable at ECU for their achievements in the fields of public service, performing arts, fine arts, business and industry, sports, education, health sciences, media, professional and research. They join the 100 Incredible ECU Women recognized in 2007.

The two Greenville residents are Holly M. Garriott, '01, '05, and Dr. Sylvia T. Brown, '75, '78.
Garriott, founder and executive director of Emerge Gallery, which became the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge in 2009, is a ceramics artist who was invited to create an ornament for the White House Christmas tree in 2008. Garriott developed an internship and professional development course for the ECU School of Art and Design. She is secretary of Uptown Greenville, an organization dedicated to revitalizing downtown and has helped coordinate PirateFest, an arts and music festival that draws more than 20,000 people to Greenville.

Brown, dean of the ECU College of Nursing and a published scholar, considers her greatest professional accomplishment to be her role in preparing future nurses. She helped to develop the nursing education concentration in the ECU master's program. She also was instrumental in the development of the ECU doctoral program in nursing.

Brown has written or co-authored more than 75 peer-reviewed articles and proceedings and 27 funded research grants. She has served as president of the Dream Factory of North Carolina, an organization that grants dreams to chronically and critically ill children, and as a board member of the National Dream Factory. Brown also has been president of the Beta NU Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International, an honor society for nurses.
The other honorees were Dr. Dorothy G. Pruitt, '56, of Oxford; Lynn M. Shubert, '77, Washington, D.C.; Margie P. Johnson, '69, of Virginia Beach, Va.; and Dr. Mary Helen Hackney, '88, of Richmond, Va.

Best-selling novelist to read at ECU

New York Times best-selling author Ann Hood will visit ECU on Wednesday for a reading and book-signing. Hood, a resident of Rhode Island, is traveling to promote her seventh novel, “The Red Thread,” which was published by Norton in May, and also to explore colleges in the region for her son, a high school senior.

Hood earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Rhode Island and soon after graduation took a job as a flight attendant for TWA. During an economic downturn, she was furloughed and began working at a SoHo bookshop and also at Tony Roma's famous ribs restaurant in New York, experiences she would soon incorporate into her first forays into fiction.

After returning to work international flights at TWA, she took up the practice of writing on her long subway rides into New York and also in flight while her passengers slept. When TWA workers went on strike and all flight attendants were replaced, she found herself suddenly a full-time writer and began hustling freelance work to The Washington Post, Mademoiselle, Redbook, Story, Self, Glamour, New Woman and Parenting.

Her first novel, “Somewhere off the Coast of Maine,” was published in 1987. More recently, “The Knitting Circle” was a New York Times bestseller, and her memoir, “Comfort: A Journey through Grief,” was a New York Times' Editor's Choice and also named one of the top 10 nonfiction books of 2008 by Entertainment Weekly.

Hood's essays and stories have also appeared in the literary journals More, Tin House, Ploughshares and the Paris Review. In addition to her seven novels, she has published a short story collection, two memoirs and a book on the craft of writing.

Hood's reading, set for at 8 p.m. in Bate Building Room 1032, is sponsored by the English Department and its Creative Writing program. It is free and open to the public. Parking restrictions will be lifted for the evening for lots surrounding Bate.

For more information, contact Alex Albright, director of creative writing, at 328-4876 or albrightd@ecu.edu.

‘Ghost Ships and Villages' art exhibited

A special art exhibit, “Ghost Ships and Villages,” showcasing the work of sculptor Jenn Torres, will be on display until Nov. 7 in the Mendenhall Student Center.
Torres, a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi, will also be a guest lecturer to discuss the exhibition at 6 p.m. Friday in Great Room One, Mendenhall Student Center.

“I have always seen the boat as a form of escape, as a way out or, perhaps, as a way in,” Torres said. “In many cultures, boats are still used for hunting and fishing and as a way to move goods in and out of communities.”

Torres said the boats on display express how in some cultures boats have become a life force, a necessity in the most basic of ways and that she has always been fascinated with water and ships.

“I spent a lot of time as a kid near the Hudson River, on the beaches of the Atlantic Ocean and all the areas in between,” Torres said. “Most of my work has come in the form of installation. I firmly believe that art must have a true and firm presence. The audience needs to interact, to move around the work, to be affected and impacted by the work.”

The art exhibition features art from more than 30 villages and ships, some as short as 18 inches and others as long as 15 feet. ECU and the Student Activities Board are sponsoring the exhibit. For more information, contact Alex Davis at 328-4713 or davisal@ecu.edu.

Upcoming Event:

Tuesday — Dr. Temma Berg will present “Frankenstein: Engendering a Text, Embodying a Text,” 7 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Berg, professor of English and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Gettysburg College in Pa., joins ECU for the 2010-11 academic year as the David Julian and Virginia Suther Whichard Distinguished Professor in the Humanities and as a professor in the Women’s Studies Program. Free and open to the public.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these and other ECU activities.
Every budding entertainment reporter hopes to be one of the greats and, perhaps, one of the best ways to reach the top is to learn from the best.

Luckily for some East Carolina University communication students, they get to learn from one of the most successful film, theater and movie critics in America. Jeffrey Lyons, best known as co-host of “Sneak Previews,” will be a visiting scholar today through Nov. 8 at the School of Communication in the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

Linda Kean, director of the School of Communication, has been working with Phillip Horne of the IBX Development Foundation and Frank Dooley of the Eastern North Carolina Film Foundation since the summer coordinating Lyons' visit. The famed critic is to begin teaching on Tuesday for instructor Charles Twardy's feature writing class, which is geared toward arts and culture reporting. There, Kean said Lyons probably will discuss his career, tell students how he broke into the industry, and show interview footage and article clippings.

Having Lyons as a guest, Kean said, offers students a different perspective into their prospective fields, especially considering the caliber of experience Lyons has.

“Although all of our faculty are certainly experts in their area, I think students don't always give them their due,” Kean said. “One of the things (a guest lecturer's visit) does for the students is, it adds credibility to whatever it is the speaker is saying, which, most
of the time, reinforces what faculty has told them. It's good for them because they get the same message in a different package.”

In addition to his guest-teaching appearances, Lyons is scheduled for a public lecture at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday on the second floor of Joyner Library and to be the keynote speaker at the university's high school media workshop on Thursday.

Today, Lyons is scheduled to appear with Henry Hinton on “Talk of the Town” and to speak to a graduate class at ECU.

“I think that he's one of the outstanding people in this field,” Kean said. “So I think it's important for the students to hear those real world experience stories. So many of our students are interested in entertainment and arts reporting and I just think it gives them an experience that's not in place of what they get in the classroom, but in addition to.”

Lyons' son, Ben, who also is a film critic (as co-host of “At the Movies” and contributor to “The Daily 10”), may be more familiar to young students, said Michael Dorsey, interim dean for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, but he says they'll have a lot to learn from a man who's been in the business for more than 40 years.

Lyons was co-host to PBS' popular series “Sneak Preview” from 1982-96. He then became a critic for radio station WNBC until his last report on June 26, 2009. He's also appeared in the films “The French Connection” and “Deathtrap.”

“I mean you're dealing with a world-class film critic here,” Dorsey said. “This is an individual who has had a syndicated radio show, a syndicated television show, he has written books, he has actually starred in movies. ... He's just a wealth of experience.”

Lyons is one of the more anticipated guests the College of Fine Arts and Communication has had. He's also the first big-name in the communications field, Dorsey said.

“In our particular college, most of the famous people who come are artists and musicians,” Dorsey said. “I think it's really refreshing to have someone from the communications area — someone of this notoriety. And I know the program is growing so rapidly and becoming so professional, that this is just the first of many. I can see top-flight journalists and public relations people from all over coming.”

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'Super-slow growth' ahead on jobs, NCSU economist warns
Posted: October 29

Any joy that the unemployment situation improved based on new September data is premature, warns N.C. State University economist Dr. Michael Walden.

“I'm afraid we've entered a new phase of the economy - from slow growth to super-slow growth,” Walden told WRAL.com on Friday after analyzing new data. ‘This isn't another recession - the so-called double dip - but it does mean we're effectively moving only sideways.”

East Carolina University economist Dr. James Kleckley concurs.

"When I look at the [seasonally adjusted] data, I see that N.C. has gained 35,300 jobs since December, but 22,200 have been in government," Kleckley told LTW and WRAL.com. "So like Mike says, the economy is not growing as much as we would hope.

"I think that we are growing slowly," he added. "You probably could call it a sideways drift upwards."

The state Employment Security Commission reported that the jobless rate in the Triangle fell to 7.5 percent last month from 8 percent in August. Statewide, unemployment fell in 97 of 100 counties and all 14 major metropolitan areas.

The overall unemployment rate fell to 9.1 percent from 9.7 percent the previous month, but the ESC noted that the figure is not seasonally adjusted. Economists generally consider the seasonally adjust number to be more accurate in measuring the actual jobs picture.
"I think that any unadjusted rate can be misleading," Kleckley said of the ESC data. "First, you can only compare it to other unadjusted numbers (i.e., you should not compare unadjusted counties to the seasonally adjusted state number). Second, the only appropriate period-to-period comparison is to the previous year (September to September).

"When you seasonally adjust, you remove the seasonal factors from the information. Then you can compare any one month to any other," he added.

**Seasonally adjust rates are higher**
Numbers as adjusted for seasonal factors by James Kleckley, director of Business Research, and economists at East Carolina University tell a different story.

In the Raleigh-Durham-Cary-Chapel Hill metro area, unemployment remained unchanged in September from August at 7.8 percent. In Raleigh-Cary, the adjusted rate was the same as the previous month at 8.1 percent.

In Durham-Chapel Hill, the rate also was identical at 7.1 percent. The adjust statewide rate fell slightly to 9.6 from 9.7 percent.

**More people stop looking for work**
Walden pointed out that one factor affecting the rate were either people dropping out of the workforce and therefore no longer measured statistically. Plus, job growth occurred primarily in the government sector.

“September was not a good month for the job market in North Carolina,” Walden said.

“Even though the headline unemployment rate dropped, this was only because of the large number of unemployed workers who dropped out of the labor force, and therefore aren't counted as unemployed,” he explained.

ESC data shows that the number of people in the work force fell by more than 31,000 while the jobs total increased by just over 4,000.

**Governments add 20,000 jobs in metro areas**
Meanwhile, government sector jobs increased by 20,000 across the 14 metro areas while the private sector lost jobs.
“The only substantial job gains were in local government - specifically local schools,” Walden said. “Most private sector categories shed jobs.”

The professional and businesses sectors added 1,500 jobs across the 14 largest metros, but at the same time manufacturing fell by some 1,400 and information related employment dropped by 300.

In the Triangle, job growth of 2,200 jobs in Durham-Chapel Hill and 500 in Raleigh-Cary came largely through 4,300 government positions.

Last week after the statewide ESC data report was issued, Walden also cautioned against belief that the jobs picture is improving.

Referring to the declining size of the job force, Walden noted: “We think most of these are ‘discouraged workers’ who have stopped looking for work and therefore aren't officially counted as unemployed. Based on the household survey, the number of jobs [in N.C.] actually declined by 6,665 in September.”

Walden noted that the survey of employers did show growth yet added a couple of caveats.

“The second jobs survey - the ‘payroll survey’ - did show an increase in jobs of 10,100, but 9,600 of these were in government,” he explained. “Leisure and hospitality was the largest private sector job gainer. However, seven of the 10 private sector industry categories registered a drop in jobs.”

Whether North Carolina's job situation improves depends on the rest of the global economy, Kleckley said.

"The slow growth in N.C. will continue until the nation begins to grow more quickly," he explained. "We certainly should continue all economic development efforts, but the single largest influence of growth is the national (and now global) economy."

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Letter: Planning would aid stadium view
Monday, November 1, 2010

On Oct. 23, I had the pleasure of watching our ECU Pirates defeat Marshall at homecoming in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. It was a great game and during halftime we were able to see many of the local high school bands play alongside the Marching Pirates.

While I am glad to see ECU support the Arts by inviting these students to the game, there has got to be better planning on the part of ECU officials in regards to where these students are seated. Starting with about 10 minutes to go in the second quarter, the droves of high school band members began the trek down to the field. This lasted until 10 minutes into the third quarter.

While I support the idea of inviting these bands to play, I am not a fan of paying good money for season tickets and not being able to see the game. Not only is it hard to see over the hats and tubas, I happen to be 6-foot-5, and when I have to stand up that knocks out the view for a row or two of fans behind me.

Next year at ECU's homecoming game, I hope the officials will be better organized and put the high school bands together in a section where they can easily exit to the field without blocking the view of fans. That way we can all enjoy both the local high school bands and our beloved Pirates.

CHRISTOPHER BOWEN
Ayden
The warm welcome offered Friday evening at Congregation Bayt Shalom, Hebrew for House of Peace, could have been expected by those who read the open invitation: “Come on over and schmooze with the Jews.”

About 75 people turned out for Neighbor Night at the Jewish house of worship and cultural center on East 10th Street to meet the congregation and its spiritual leader, Rabbi Alysa Stanton. Guests included clergy from other religious faiths, members of the Greenville Human Relations Commission and students and faculty of East Carolina University and Pitt Community College.

“People are invited to our congregation any night, but we get so many inquiries about what we do here, what our services are like and ‘What exactly is a rabbi?’” Stanton said.

After praying over the matter, the rabbi decided to simply invite anyone with an interest to the temple for an impromptu evening to mingle, share questions and answers and break bread together.

Stories of the Jewish custom of breaking bread with neighbors can be read in the scriptures that Stanton displayed to her guests, so it was nothing unusual for her and her fellow congregation members to be doing.

Stanton had been a guest at the Greenville Mosque and Islamic Cultural Center on Evans Street for the breaking of the fast ending the holy month of Ramadan, she said.
“I really believe that we should be able to go in respect to visit our neighbors' holy spaces, in a neighborly way, while holding firm to our own faith,” she said. Stanton escorted her guests on a tour of the synagogue, including the tabernacle that contained the two handwritten parchment scrolls that contain the holy scriptures known as the Torah. A question-and-answer session followed, led by congregation member Al Schreier.

Then Stanton commingled guests and congregation members in the tabernacle to give them a sense of the traditional Friday evening prayers that usher in the Sabbath, pronounced Shabbat in its original Hebrew form.

“Our community is a salad bowl, where everyone brings something different. I don't know which ingredient in the salad that we are in Greenville, but we're definitely part of the mix,” Stanton said.

“We have participated in many community service events and celebrations each year as residents of Greenville. I like to think that so many people have come to see our Jewish life here tonight because the community celebrates us as well.”

Stanton said she would like to see neighbor nights become a common event at houses of worship throughout Greenville, just as the Muslims and Jews have done.

“By understanding our differences, we can embrace our commonalities and move forward together,” she said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
No foul play seen in Duke student's death

DURHAM—Duke senior Drew Everson was most likely alone when he fell early last Friday and suffered injuries that would prove fatal.

And there are no indications of foul play, Duke spokesman Michael Schoenfeld said Friday.

But the university won't know more until the results of an autopsy come back, Schoenfeld said. Everson, 21, was found last Friday near a stairwell behind a dining hall on Duke's East Campus. He died two days later.

Duke police enlisted the Durham Police Department's forensics unit to examine the scene where Everson was found.

"They have looked at the evidence available and have come to the conclusion that this was not a crime; this was a tragic accident," he said.

Everson had been out with friends at Satisfaction, a Main Street bar and restaurant, the night before, according to one of Everson's fraternity brothers. But it isn't clear what happened after he left.

His death prompted a massive outpouring of grief this week at Duke, where Everson was described as bright, popular and funny with a rare ability to bring people together.

A memorial service Wednesday in Duke Chapel drew more than 1,000 mourners.
Duke scientist asks to retract cancer work

A discovery once touted by Duke University as a major leap in using genetics to prolong the lives of cancer patients is now likely to be retracted, officials said Friday.

The work, led by Dr. Anil Potti, appeared to establish a genetic basis for predicting which treatments would best benefit individual cancer patients. Potti has been on paid administrative leave since July under the taint of having padded his academic credentials.

His scientific findings have also been questioned for more than a year, leading to Friday's request to retract a 2007 article in The Journal of Clinical Oncology. One of Potti's leading collaborators and co-authors at Duke, Joseph Nevins, reassessed their work and found it didn't support the conclusions they reported. Nevins asked the editors to retract it.

Editors at the journal said Friday that they are reviewing the request. Nevins and Potti did not return phone messages for comment.

For scientists, retractions are embarrassing public acknowledgements of errors and other serious problems. But the Potti controversy has also blemished Duke, which investigated him late last year and declared his work acceptable for use in human trials.

"Having something wrong on a research paper is OK; people make mistakes," said Keith Baggerly, a biostatistician at MD Anderson Cancer Center in Texas who was among the first to question Potti’s research when it couldn't be replicated. "To my mind, there is a different level of error involved when you go to say this is how we're going to treat patients."

Duke had been running three clinical trials based on Potti's findings, enlisting 111 lung and breast cancer patients, primarily in the Triangle. The
patients were steered to different medicines based on the Potti group's calculations of their genetic susceptibility to chemotherapies.

Dr. Michael Cuffe, vice president of medical affairs at Duke, said the patients were never put in harm's way.

"The trials have been on hold since last summer, appropriately so, and the patients are under the care of their clinical oncologists," Cuffe said, noting that all the patients received common chemotherapies, although some of the drugs were not approved for their type of cancer.

Duke had halted the clinical trials a year ago after Baggerly and others raised concerns that the science behind them was faulty. The university lined up an outside reviewer to check Potti's research, although Duke never disclosed who led that probe.

Sally Kornbluth, Duke's vice dean of research, said last year's investigation of Potti's work did not "drill down" to re-check the actual data that were used to form his calculations.

She said that review team was "not aware that there were data integrity issues with the work." As a result, the reviewers did not catch the problems that have now led to Nevin's request for a retraction.

**A skeptic's surprise**

Baggerly said he cautioned Duke officials that the data were wrong and was surprised when officials reaffirmed their support of Potti's work and restarted the trials in January.

"I still have a question: If we told them about these exact problems last November, while the trials were suspended, why did they choose to reopen the trials in January?" Baggerly said. "That's my basic question."

Potti has been a lucrative source of federal and private research dollars to Duke, garnering at least $1 million in recent years. In addition, his findings appeared to prove some of the promise of genomic medicine, which aims to use a person's unique genetic information to tailor therapies.

After Duke cleared Potti's work in January, the controversy simmered until July, when a scientific newsletter called The Cancer Letter published
discrepancies in Potti's résumé and biographical information. Among the embellishments were claims he received a prestigious Rhodes Scholarship.

Duke then put Potti on paid leave, launched a second round of investigations into the scientific findings, and looked into the résumé charges. In August, the university said it found "issues of substantial concern" related to Potti’s professional credentials but did not elaborate. Potti had been characterized in Duke publications as a Rhodes Scholar.

Although he cannot teach or conduct research, he continues to be employed while the inquiries into his research continue. Kornbluth defended the university's handling of the case, which could well result in additional scientific clarifications.

"We cannot rush to judgment," Kornbluth said. "This has to be dealt with appropriately through the misconduct process."

A separate effort is under way by the Institute of Medicine to use the Potti experience to explore whether additional rules and disclosures are needed in genomic research. Kornbluth said that effort will benefit all of science.

"This is a very new, cutting-edge area," Kornbluth said. "We're developing the guidelines. Duke is on the cutting edge of these areas, and we have to think carefully what is best."

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UNC Hospitals urge 'ring of immunity' for flu defense

Almost everyone is now recommended to get a flu shot, but infants and others who can't get the vaccine are among the most vulnerable to severe illness.

That's why doctors at UNC Hospitals are working to build a protective barrier around them, vaccinating their family members and others who routinely spend time with them.

"The best way to protect them is build a ring of immunity around them," said Dr. Mike Steiner, a pediatrician at N.C. Children's Hospital. "The only way to get influenza is from contact with someone who has it. You don't get it just out of the blue."
Steiner said the children's hospital launched the program last week, and has already provided about 100 vaccinations.

Jennifer Davis of Apex was at the hospital Friday getting a flu shot that will not only guard her against infection, but also her 9-year-old daughter Skylar, who has cystic fibrosis. The disease impairs Skylar's lungs and other organs from functioning well and makes her especially susceptible to viruses.

"This is just one less thing I have to worry about," said Davis, who also needed the shot for her job. She works at a gym where she tends infants and children in the drop-off care center. "Now I don't have to worry about every little germ."

Earlier this year, health leaders at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention simplified their recommendations for who should get annual flu shots, expanding the list to include everyone over the age of 6 months.

Previous recommendations focused on young children, older people, pregnant women and people with chronic illnesses. People who are allergic to eggs cannot receive the shot, because its manufacture uses eggs.

Even with the expanded recommendations, this year's flu shot season is unfolding uneventfully - a welcome contrast to a year ago. Then, North Carolina was in the throes of a wicked flu season, as the novel H1N1 strain hit too early for widespread vaccinations, hit young people hardest, and kept health leaders guessing about its next move.

"This year is more typical," said Dr. Zack Moore, public health epidemiologist with the state Division of Public Health.

Moore said a few flu cases have been reported around the state, picked up by a network of hospitals, doctors' offices and clinics designated to provide the surveillance data.

So far, he said, the virus's trajectory seems to suggest a more predictable arc, with the peak of infections likely to hit North Carolina in January, February and March. Last year, the state was struck hardest in October and November, and instead of hitting older people with severe illness, it slammed young people.
In addition, the vaccine supply for H1N1 had to be rationed as manufacturers rushed to meet the early demand.

Vaccine supplies appear to be ample this year, Moore said, with shots and nasal mist readily available at doctors' offices, pharmacies and other retail outlets. All vaccines this year include protection against the H1N1 virus, plus two other strains that appear to be circulating.

"There's no excuse not to get a flu shot, because you can get one just about anywhere," Moore said, noting that many retailers now employ nurse practitioners and other health professionals who can give the shots to children.

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For Exposure, Universities Put Courses on the Web

By D.D. GUTTENPLAN

LONDON — Until recently, if you wanted to take Professor Rebecca Henderson’s course in advanced strategy to understand the long-term roots of why some companies are unusually successful, you needed to be a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where Ms. Henderson teaches at the Sloan School of Management. Admission to the Sloan School is extremely selective, and tuition fees are over $50,000 a year.

For the past two years, though, anyone with an Internet connection can follow Ms. Henderson’s lectures online, where the lecture notes and course assignments are available free through M.I.T. OpenCourseWare. Why give away something with such a high market value?

“I put the course up because the president of M.I.T. asked us to,” said Ms. Henderson. “My deep belief is that as academics we have a duty to disperse our ideas as far and as freely as possible.”

Mary Lou Forward, executive director of the OpenCourseWare Consortium, a worldwide organization of about 250 academic institutions around the
world, adds that universities get “global engagement” from posting courses online.

There are also “recognition for individual faculty members who may be well known within their disciplines but not outside them,” Ms. Forward said, and what Ms. Henderson calls “first mover advantage.”

M.I.T.’s announcement in 2001 that it was going to put its entire course catalog online gave a jump-start to what has now become a global Open Educational Resources Movement whose goal, said Susan D’Antoni of Athabasca University, in Canada, is “to try to share the world’s knowledge.” Harvard, Yale, Stanford and the University of Michigan all now offer substantial portions of their courses online. In Britain, the Open University, which has been delivering distance learning for over 40 years, offers free online courses in every discipline on the OpenLearn Web site; the Open University also maintains a dedicated YouTube channel and has often had courses listed on the top 10 downloads at iTunes University. There, students can gain access to beginner courses in French, Spanish and German as well as courses in history, philosophy and astronomy — all free.

Most OpenCourseWare is in English, but its Web site offers courses in Chinese, Dutch, Japanese, Russian, Spanish and Hebrew. The African Virtual University, based in Nairobi, has produced education courses for science and math teachers in English, French and Portuguese.

Much of the early work on Open Education was financed by wealthy universities or foundations, especially the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, whose mission includes using “technology to help equalize the distribution of high quality knowledge.”

But relying on philanthropy is not sustainable. Ms. D’Antoni, who followed the movement’s explosive growth in her former job at the International Institute for Educational Planning, part of Unesco, said the initial focus was getting educational material onto the Web. “The big problem then was copyright — getting legal permission to use things,” she said. “Now there is all this material. But who is using it, and what are they doing with it? And who is going to pay for it?”

At least a partial answer to those questions — and a sense of where Open Education is going — should become more apparent this week, when
hundreds of educators, academics, computer scientists, artists and at least a few hackers gather in Barcelona for two meetings that might be said to represent the two wings of the movement.

One event, Open Ed 2011, is the seventh-annual meeting of a group that began as an educational offshoot of open-source software, which allows users to alter, change or improve computer programs freely and to distribute the results without charge. Open Educational Resources, the term adopted by Unesco in 2002, makes course content and on-line learning tools available without cost over the Internet to users who are similarly free to adopt, improve or redistribute them.

Open Ed 2011 is being held at the CosmoCaixa, the science museum in Barcelona, and organized by the Open University of the Netherlands, the Open University of Catalonia and Brigham Young University. The gathering is for researchers, academics and administrators “who wish to learn about the institutional decisions needed to make open education a reality.” The theme this year is “impact and sustainability.”

Meanwhile, at the Barcelona Museum of Contemporary Art, “edupunks, hackerspaces, creative commoners, radical librarians and Wikipedians” at the Drumbeat Learning Freedom and the Web Festival will assemble for “three days of making, teaching, hacking, inventing and shaping the future of education and the Web.” The Drumbeat festival is organized by Mozilla, the nonprofit foundation that owns the makers of Mozilla Firefox, the open-source Internet browser. The festival has political and educational ambitions.

“There’s a lot of overlap,” said Ms. Forward, the executive director of the OpenCourseWare Consortium, who plans to attend both gatherings. Ms. Forward, a former dean of African studies at the School for International Training in Brattleboro, Vermont. Ms. said that for her, “questions of unequal access” to education were the most pressing. “What I think about all the time,” she said, “are ways to bring education to people.”

Mark Surman, executive director of the Mozilla Foundation, said applying Mozilla’s resources to the problems of education “fits in a couple of ways.” “We have an instinct that as the Web affects society, those parts of society can also affect the Web,” he said.
Mr. Surman describes the Open Education movement as having three pieces: “There’s the content piece — can I get the material? And the pedagogy piece — what are the ways we can teach each other using the Web? How can we make this better for learners and teachers? And finally there’s the question of accreditation and certification.”

This has been a sensitive subject for the movement. One reason M.I.T. decided to “give away” its courses, Ms. Forward said, was “we didn’t think we could replicate the quality of a student’s experience on campus.”

M.I.T. students can use OpenCourseWare courses to get a feel for a subject or an instructor, while students at other universities can use them to supplement their own courses. “If you’re taking a course on Pompeii, and you want to know more about volcanoes, we have a course for that,” Ms. Forward said. But while OpenCourseWare students attend the same lectures, and take the same tests as M.I.T. students do, they do not get M.I.T. credit, or an M.I.T. degree.

At the Open University, where the model is not a selective one, their OpenLearn courses are designed to offer a gateway to enrollment. So far, the experiment seems to be working, with some 6,000 students from the free courses going on to enroll in fee-paying courses.

But as a public institution, the Open University also has a mission to disseminate its content as widely as possible. In the past, this meant that science lectures were broadcast on the BBC, often in the middle of the night.

While the Open University still produces science programs, these days you are more likely to find the Open University on YouTube, where Andrew Law, the university’s director of multiplatform broadcasting, stars in “Head Spin,” a film about optical illusions.

Some students at the African Virtual University do pay tuition, said Bakary Diallo, the university’s rector. “Education has costs, and someone has meet them,” he said. But in work financed by the African Development Bank, the university has also produced 33 modules in math, chemistry, physics and biology for use in training teachers under the creative commons model that can be available almost anywhere in the world. “This is a pan-African institution,” Mr. Diallo said, “and now Africa is contributing to global knowledge.”