THE DAILY CLIPS

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Science can help N.C. tourism, workshop organizers say

A conference on weather and the climate’s effects on tourism will be held Friday and Saturday at ECU.

The Daily Reflector

An economy that depends on tourism like parts of eastern North Carolina also depends on the weather.

The relationship between the weather and tourism will be the topic of a conference at East Carolina University this week.

The conference is sponsored by ECU’s Center for Sustainable Tourism.

A workshop, “Climate, Weather and Tourism: Issues and Opportunities,” will be held Friday and Saturday in the Willis Building on ECU’s campus.

“We recognize that tourism businesses, which represent a huge part of our state’s economy, are affected by climate and weather events,” said Patrick Long, director of ECU’s Center for Sustainable Tourism. “A key element of this conference is linking science with practice.”

Presenters will include researchers and business leaders from the National Climatic Data Center, the U.S. Forest Service, the World Meteorological Organization’s Expert Committee on Climate and Tourism, Great Wolf Resorts, Inc., the Outer Banks Tourism Authority, Pinehurst Resort and Country Club, and Wildwater, Ltd.

“This workshop will explore the frameworks and dimensions that are necessary to connect scientific information with short- and long-term decision-making needs of tourism businesses,” Long said.

Tourism is a major economic driver for North Carolina, accounting for $1.7 billion in travel expenditures and $4.2 billion in payroll. Almost 200,000 residents depend on tourism for employment in the state.

Scott Curtis, a climatologist in ECU’s geography department, said weather conditions, such as changing rainfall patterns, climate changes and natural hazards like hurricanes, can affect the state’s tourism industry.

To better understand these conditions and prepare for them, industry leaders need to

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work with the scientists who study climate and weather, he said.

Long hopes the dialogue started by this conference, the first of its kind to be held in North Carolina, will expand to a discussion on the research, policies and practices that need to be embraced in the future.

"It is critically important that we further our understanding of how tourism businesses and government can best respond to fluctuating weather conditions and environmental changes that affect such an important part of our economy," Long said. Sponsoring partners for the conference include the National Climatic Data Center, North Carolina Sea Grant and the Institute for Coastal Science and Policy.

Workshop attendees must register by Wednesday.

Program information and registration can be found at: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/sustainabletourism/Climate-Tourism-Workshop-2008.cfm

The cost is $25 for general public, $20 for ECU faculty members and $10 for students.
Shoppers unite at PCC Foundation's Down East Holiday Show

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

Santa Claus is making the rounds already. He began taking on-lap requests Friday at the seventh annual Pitt Community College Foundation Down East Holiday Show, and continued his work through the three-day consumer frenzy.

The North Pole celebrity should have felt right at home despite the weekend's balmy weather, in the midst of wreaths and ornaments, gifts and goodies, and excited shoppers.

Those shoppers swamped the Greenville Convention Center to kick-start the holiday season and support the PCC nonprofit organization, according to Executive Director Susan Nobles.

She said by midday Sunday they had already hosted over 6,800 paid attendees. Total attendance was more than 8,000.

"That's more than the entire weekend last year," Nobles said. "It's been the best show we've ever had."

Those ticket sales go toward the foundation, dedicated to providing resources and scholarships to PCC students. But Nobles said they had a little help this year from the Pirates across town.

"We knew that ECU was having homecoming, so we had a big marketing event to ask ECU fans to join us," she said. "They certainly did their part."

Saturday morning the line was wrapped around the convention center when they opened the doors, she said.

Nobles believes the variety of services and items available is what keeps people coming back.

"It's not just arts and crafts," she said. "And a lot of people like the idea of helping the students."

Wanda Hager stopped by the holiday show for the third year in a row with her daughter and 11-month-old granddaughter.

"We like to come for the Christmas ideas," she explained. "But we usually leave with the food."

Her bag was weighed down with cheese straws and jars of barbecue sauce. The customer load was so great the show actually ran out of shopping bags at one point, Nobles said.

But Hagar said the economy is having an impact on her holiday plans in some

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areas — she's pledging to use all the gift paper in her closet before buying any new rolls, for example.

"I'm cutting back on everybody but the grandbaby," she said, laughing.

Veteran vendor Rick Mitchell, with local business New River Pottery, insisted those cutbacks weren't hampering their profit margins this go-round.

"We are tickled to death, given the economy," he said. "I told everyone this year would be very interesting. I wanted to see if the people were out and willing to spend money. And they were."

Holiday floral decorations, a series of products from stocking-stuffer gifts were popular items at their booth, an employee said.

"I'm looking for those hard-to-buy-for people," said shopper Sandy Patchkosky. "(The holiday show) is good for that."

It wasn't Patchkosky's first time at the holiday show either.

"It's better this year," she noted, glancing over the booths. "Seems like there's more stuff. More people too, which is surprising."

Patchkosky said she plans to continue going the whole nine yards with holiday decor, but will be lessening the amount of gifts she purchases.

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East Carolina honors graduates

The Daily Reflector

As homecoming weekend kicked off at East Carolina University on Friday, the alumni association honored outstanding graduates with a ceremony and dinner.

The ECU Alumni Association recognized outstanding alumni, distinguished service and honorary alumni award winners at the Hilton Greenville.

Capt. David Fitzgerald, class of 1966, the Rev. Kenneth Hammond, 1973, Dr. Jerry E. McGee, 1966, and Lt. Gen. Gary North, 1976, were awarded the Outstanding Alumni Award, the most prestigious award given by the association.

Fitzgerald, a Navy SEAL and national security expert, has spent more than 35 years working for the U.S. Navy and the federal government. He has received a Congressional veteran commendation in 2007 for his lifelong service to the United States.

Hammond is senior pastor of Union Baptist Church in Durham, where under his leadership the church membership has grown to more than 4,500 parishioners and launched more than 20 ministries. Hammond is also a pastor mentor for Duke Divinity School and the adjunct professor of the United Christian Bible Institute.

McGee is the president of Wingate University in Wingate, N.C., having worked in higher education for more than 35 years. Under McGee’s tenure, Wingate has achieved university status, increased alumni giving from 4 percent to 32 percent participation, completed a $20 million capital campaign and constructed $35 million in new campus buildings. He also serves as a referee for college football and has officiated more than 370 games over the past 33 years.

North is commander of the 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command and is responsible for the operational readiness of five wings in the eastern United States and three direct reporting units with more than 350 aircraft and 24,000 active-duty and civilian personnel. He is also the Combined Force Air component commander responsible for developing contingency plans and conducting air operations in a 27-nation area that covers central and southwest Asia and the Horn of Africa.

The association’s Distinguished Service Award was given to Steve Showfety, class of 1970, in recognition for outstanding and uncommon service to the association and the university. Showfety has served the university in numerous capacities, including: former chairman, vice chairman, and secretary of the board of trustees; and vice chairman of the board of visitors. He also serves as a member of the ECU Foundation.

Former chancellor Dick Eakin and his wife JoAnn were given the Honorary Alumni Award.

During Eakin’s time as chancellor ECU experienced unprecedented growth in endowment funding, campus construction, academic programs, student enrollment and recognition as a doctoral-granting institution.

Under Eakin’s leadership the university completed its first major capital campaign, which raised more than $55 million, the East Carolina Scholars program was launched, the Board of Visitors was created, the Parent’s Association was established, Dowdy-Ficklen’s upper deck was completed and ECU was accepted in Conference USA.

Charles Rogers, a long time supporter of the university, also received an Honorary Alumni Award. Rogers is the founder and owner of Lifetime Houses in Washington, N.C., and a member of many groups at the university, including the Order of the Cupola, the East Carolina Advancement Network and the Chancellor’s Society, among others.
Grant to help students learn about nutrition

ECU NEWS BUREAU
Special to The Daily Reflector

ECU researchers have received a $504,000 grant to study how K-12 students can use food to learn science, math and nutrition concepts.

The National Center for Research Resources, a part of the National Institutes of Health, awarded the grant, which is a 2008 Science Education Partnership Award.

The money will fund Phase II of the FoodMASTER initiative, a program that brings science, math and nutrition concepts to life through the use of items such as measuring cups and spoons, cereals, flour, fruits, vegetables and milk.

Phase I of the project provided a 45-lesson FoodMASTER curriculum for third- through fifth-grade students. In Phase II, Duffrin and ECU colleagues David Rivera of Hospitality Management and Michael Bosse of Mathematics and Science Education, will use the grant to research the effects of the FoodMASTER multimedia materials and investigate how best to share the curriculum with teachers.

ECU conducts survey

The university's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students, faculty and staff have been asked to take an anonymous survey about their campus experiences.

"There appears to be a need for an outlet on this issue," said Linda Mooney, the ECU sociologist conducting the study. "I've had people write me and say, 'I hate surveys, but I'm glad to participate in this one. This is the first time anybody has asked me about this.'"

The survey, which can be completed online now through Nov. 18, is sponsored by the Department of Sociology in conjunction with the ECU Center for Survey Research, the Center for Diversity and Inequality Research and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Student Union.

The survey is available online at http://www.ecu.edu/glbt. All responses are anonymous.
Personal touch
Greenville hairstylist
Matt Holder expands his line of products

By Mike Grizzard
The Daily Reflector

The yellow-and-black-labeled bottles neatly displayed in this dainty downtown salon each come with one distinction — Matt Holder's signature logo on the front. It's a personal touch, but not the one Holder deems most important.

What goes inside and eventually used by Matt Holder Hairdressing clients is the product of hours of researching, mixing and testing to create just the right blends. Holder began with a couple of shampoos and conditioners to complement what he already stocked. He's expanded the line to 14 different selections, and now Matt Holder is the only name on the shelves.

The East Carolina University graduate can't say this is exactly what he planned, but he does like the possibilities of the Matt Holder brand.

"I wasn't sure about where I was headed with the product line," Holder said between appointments at his shop beside Chico's on Cotanche Street. "When we started with just those things, I thought it would be novelty buys. I didn't know how people would receive it. I didn't know people would appreciate the quality of it. You would be surprised.

See Holder, D7
at some of the big names (in the industry) that use really cheap stuff. And they sell like crazy.”

Leslie Burns, a student who works at Holder’s reception desk, has tried plenty of those mass-produced shampoos and conditioners. But no more.

“Now I’m never going to go back — ever — which is fine with me,” Burns said.

Quality really does matter, stylist and skin care specialist Kelly Covington said, especially when clients are spending $40 or more to get their hair styled. She said many of the products already have repeat customers.

“It’s been fun to watch it,” Covington said. “It’s nice when clients come in and they’re like, ‘I need some of that stuff.’ That’s the thing about this economy. The economy is such that people are thinking twice about their health care and their prescriptions. But you’re not going to keep a woman from getting her hair done.”

Holder’s product line ranges from shampoos (color-extending Prismatic and tea tree and peppermint Invigorate) and conditioners (pepper-mint-infused Invigorate, protein-enriched Oasis, and leave-in full UV protection Nectar) to sprays (high-shine polish, silicone shine serum, firm-holding spray and daily use), volume-building mists and foams, and smoothing agents.

Since Holder knows exactly what goes into each bottle, he has confidence in what he’s selling. And his clients trust his advice.

“Anybody who doesn’t think their hair is 80 percent of their look needs to shave their head one time and see if they don’t feel 80 percent different,” Holder said. “When you’re trusting somebody who is dealing with 80 percent of your look, there’s a relationship you build.

“It’s the same with product, too. People know that I’m not selling them some hotel shampoo. They know what I’m about, and it’s about quality.”

Holder’s expertise comes from more than 20 years as a stylist along with working as a product formulation educator for Joico, a 33-year-old hair care company formed by a salon owner in Southern California. He came to ECU as a music major but found his niche in hairstyling. Working backstage for local theater productions and teaching classes gained him enough exposure and credibility to be offered a corporate position in Los Angeles, “which I thought I wanted until I got out there and I couldn’t find proper iced tea or barbecue,” he said. “And
I was behind a desk or I was traveling. I was wearing a suit. "Doing that and putting on shows and actually performing shows, cutting hair in shows, was all I did. ... That was a long, lonely two years."

He had closed the Greenville salon he began in 1996 while on the West Coast. After returning to Greenville in 2001, he married and moved to Wilmington. Since his second return to Greenville, he's regained some of his former client base and drawn from the proximity to campus.

Those clients, his staff and wife, Leah, provide the perfect focus group for feedback on new concoctions. About 15 hours of his week is spent working on variations of new products. Holder formulates all of his products in the upstairs portion of the shop, which includes a color center and the Oasis shampoo room.

"There's always input from the employees about the fragrances or about how a shampoo lathers or how thick a gel is; those kind of things," he said. "They get to feel those versions of them. There are bottles around here that are testers with a working name.

"Getting more input from other people has been good. When you were as immersed as I was in it, I didn't want to just create another Joico."

He would like to create more opportunities for future stylists and has a five-year plan to begin a school that would provide an alternative to community college programs.

"My thing is to start to go into retirement a little bit as an instructor," Holder said. "What I want to do is make a more complete school so that when people come out it's like they've done an apprenticeship.

"Beauty school enables you to become a hairdresser; it doesn't make you a hairdresser. What I want to do is form a school that makes you a hairdresser so you've done enough work by the time you leave school on real people that you're doing current work so that you feel confident about what you're doing."

As for Matt Holder products, he sees no limits; especially when he makes ordering available online.

"I don't have any sort of ceiling on it," Holder said. "I'm constantly checking out new directions in the industry for products. I want to see what it can do for itself.

"If the quality stays there, it could be as big as it could be. It could happen. You never know now with the Internet. Then if it doesn't happen, everybody I know will be getting shampoo for years for Christmas."
ECU hosts workshop on approaches to early childhood intervention

A professional workshop, "Capacity-Building Approaches to Early Childhood Intervention," will be held at East Carolina University on Nov. 15 from 8:30-10:30 a.m.

An early intervention parent conference will take place from 12:30-4 p.m.

The professionals workshop will look at the elements of capacity-building help giving practices and their influence on parent, family and child behavior and functioning. The approach is based on the Individuals Disability Education Act and its assumption that the purpose of early intervention is "to enhance the capacity of families to meet the special needs of infants and toddlers with disabilities."

Workshop objectives are to increase the ability to effectively care for clients by being able to differentiate between capacity-building and dependency-forming practices and to discuss the importance of client participation in help giving practices.

Dr. Carl J. Dunst, a research scientist at the Orelena Hawks Puckett Institute in Asheville, will present the workshop. Dunst received his doctorate in developmental psychology from George Peabody College and is known nationally for his expertise in the field of child development and early intervention.

Dunst's research and practice includes the study of early intervention and its ability to support and strengthen a family's ability to provide development enhancing learning opportunities and optimize a child's development. His research and practice also includes identifying characteristics of early intervention service providers who provide capacity-building practices that empower the families of children receiving services.

Professionals attend the workshop may receive credit from the National Board for Certified Counselors credit, North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program Personnel Certificate and Public School Personnel Renewal Credit.

Credit will be awarded upon completion of the workshop at no extra charge.

Registration is online at http://ehhec.ecu.edu. Walk-in registrations will not be accepted. The cost for the workshop is $25. For information, call 744-6263.
Dr. Zia Rehman and Dr. Sunil Sharma have joined the Division of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Rehman joined the faculty as a clinical assistant professor. He is a graduate of King Edward Medical College in Pakistan and completed residency training and a pulmonary fellowship at Interfaith Medical Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. He also completed a fellowship in critical care medicine at Montefiore Medical Center in New York.

Rehman is board-certified in internal medicine, pulmonary and critical care medicine and sleep medicine.

Sharma, also an assistant professor, has a medical degree from Maulana Azad Medical College in India and completed residency training at Cook County Hospital in Chicago. He had fellowships in pulmonary, critical care medicine and sleep medicine training at University of Wisconsin Hospitals and the Medical College of Wisconsin.

Sharma was director of sleep medicine at South Carolina Heart Center in Columbia, S.C., and is active in sleep-related research. He is board-certified in internal medicine, pulmonary disease and sleep medicine.

Both doctors see will see patients at Moye Medical Center and Pitt County Memorial Hospital under the auspices of ECU Physicians, the group medical practice of the school of medicine.
Pirates enjoy victorious homecoming

- East Carolina beat Marshall 19-16 in the Pirates’ homecoming game on Saturday.

BY MICHAEL ABRAMOWITZ
The Daily Reflector

A light rain did not deter the familiar faces that sought each other in Greenville on Saturday to catch up on old times and celebrate the alma mater in Homecoming festivities at East Carolina University.

East Fifth Street was closed off from 10-11 a.m. for a parade as hundreds lined the road to watch fraternity floats, fire trucks and marching bands.

“Homecoming is a special time,” said Paul Clifford, CEO of the ECU alumni Association. “Alumni come back to Greenville to celebrate their Pirate heritage, reminisce about the good times they had as students, and celebrate the bright future that East Carolina has.”

Purple Pride was visible everywhere. Shops and cafes along Evans and Cotanche streets filled with families and old classmates. Outside, they strolled the familiar streets of their college days, smiled at the same signs that marked their favorite haunts, and the new ones that mark the changes that have taken place since they left.

On Charles Boulevard, tailgates were down everywhere a parking space could be found or made. The smell of fried chicken and barbecue hovered over Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium and swirled around Minges Coliseum. More than one margarita or beer was hoisted for a toast to friendship, success and a Pirate victory over Marshall in the football game to follow.

Ted Gartman, president of the class of 1958, was on Fifth Street with his best girl to watch the parade before heading off to celebrate the 50th anniversary of his class graduation.

“I’m gonna tailgate with some friends I haven’t seen in 50 years, then watch the game. We’re going to dance tonight,” he said.

Gartman came back to teach in Greenville for 30 years before retiring, so the changes aren’t as stark to him as to some of his classmates, he said.

“They just can’t believe the changes they see. These buildings we’re seeing here on Fifth Street were the only ones here when we all attended school,” Gartman said.

Greenville (his name) and Martha Banks, East Carolina College class of ’57, found each other on campus as classmates and stayed together ever since, they said.

“Actually, it took him two years to get to me,” Martha said.

The best part about being a Pirate for Martha?

“Being a Pirate’s wife,” she said.

Hal Moore, class of 2001, drove into town with his wife and children from their home on the Outer Banks. They first watched the parade, then went for their family tradition, lunch at Parker’s Barbecue.

“Then we’re going to celebrate another tradition and kick Marshall’s butt. This is the Pirate nation,” Moore said.

All his kids were dressed as pirates. “I believe they’ll all be going to East Carolina,” he said.

Moore said the combination of tra-
PIRATES
Continued from A1

dition and growth make him proud of his Pirate heritage.
"I've seen the college grow from 9,000 students when I came here in 1985 to today's 27,000 population. I've sat in the stadium when we could only get 20,000 fans into it, and now we get well over 40,000 in there. With the addition of the medical school and now the dental college, the town has really grown to become the hub of eastern North Carolina. It makes me proud," Moore said.

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Mayor speaks to ECU alumni on city’s future

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

The future of Greenville is bright, Mayor Pat Dunn told a small group of East Carolina University alumni who gathered Friday at Joyner Library.

Dunn gave a presentation on the state of the city and the plans for its growth in coming decades, including the planned inter-modal transit center on Cotanche Street that will connect several forms of public transportation in the heart of Greenville and near the ECU campus.

The mayor is a 1958 ECU graduate, who returned to teach at the school in 1971. Her remarks were part of the ECU Alumni Association’s homecoming celebration events.

“With the transit center, she said, will bring people, via public transportation, to the downtown area and boost the downtown economy.

“We do anticipate, as a society, that more people will be riding mass transit in the future,” she said.

Last year, approximately 250,000 people rode ECU’s bus system, and with a new, more convenient transportation center, officials expect to see a large increase in usage, Dunn told the group.

She also showed photos of City Hall that she said should last for the next 50 years.

“The glass on the outside reflects the philosophy of open government in Greenville,” she said.

Greenville has changed rapidly in the last 25 years with the addition of a medical school at ECU, a planned dental school, general growth at the university, Pitt Community College and a diverse economy, she said.

While the slow economy is hindering growth in Greenville right now, the mayor said she doesn’t expect it to last long. She said that building permits are down, but sales taxes are actually up in the city.

Dunn emphasized the importance of the city and the university growing together to make Greenville a better place to live.

“Clearly the university and the city are very much intertwined,” she said.

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See MAYOR, A7
Interior design students plan barracks that are less institutional, more like home

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Military barracks for injured soldiers tend to be institutional and drab, but an East Carolina University class wants to change that.

Instead of sterile white walls, students in Hunt McKinnon's interior design classes would use color to bring life to barracks and make soldiers feel more at home. Instead of dull training rooms, they would use vibrant designs to motivate injured soldiers toward better health.

McKinnon's design students are working in teams to create barracks for Wounded Warriors at Camp Lejeune as a class project that may ultimately be used by the U.S. Marines.

The project is to design barracks that would provide assisted living for Marines going through treatment and rehabilitation. McKinnon's students want to get away from the institutional feel of the current barracks used to house injured soldiers.

The students presented the projects, now in the third of four stages, to ECU faculty Wednesday including Provost Marilyn Sheerer.

Shearer said she was very impressed with the projects which included floor plans, fabric samples, photos and artist's renderings.

Emily Giles, a senior from Danville, Va., said the project has been a great learning experience for her.

"The most interesting thing was
ALISON EVANS, East Carolina University interior design student, presents a design for barracks for wounded Marines that may be used by the U.S. Marines in the future at the Rivers Building on campus Wednesday evening. Emily Giles, a member of Evans’ team, looks on.

The ability to consider other people such as wounded Marines, usually we design for people who can function normally,” Giles said.

“The best part of the learning process has been to meet with the Marines — it’s not hypothetical, it’s real.”

The students have visited barracks in the area and talked with wounded Marines about what they would like to have in a new facility and are incorporating the soldiers’ input into the designs.

Giles’ group focused on psychological health, she said, by considering the colors and placement of amenities like workout areas, family areas and recreational areas.

She said the environment of barracks now are very sterile and un-inviting. Her team’s designs would encourage soldiers to feel at home and motivate them to get better, she said. Her team researched colors and patterns that increase psychological health and incorporated the research into their designs.

The Marines may actually use some of the ideas generated by the class project in a new facility at Camp Lejeune or in future Wounded Warrior projects, McKinnon said.

“This is a way for students to use their skills and realize that social engagement is part of being a designer,” McKinnon said.

“They realize that this project can make a difference in somebody’s life, and that has made a huge difference in how they approach it.”

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Tracy impressed during visit to ECU

Former Pirate standout takes in Clark-LeClair and spends time with East Carolina’s baseball team.

BY JOHN SWARTZ
The Daily Reflector

Chad Tracy walked inside Clark-LeClair Stadium on Friday for the first time. The infielder wasn’t wearing spikes, instead donned in dress shoes and suit pants.

The former East Carolina baseball player who played for former coach Keith LeClair, now a third baseman with the Arizona Diamondbacks, took the chance to tour the facility that wasn’t around when Tracy wrapped up his Pirate playing days back in 2001. "This place is amazing," Tracy said. "It just shows you that a lot of the hard work that these guys have put into this program has paid off. It’s been three years since I’ve been here, and it’s the first time that I’ve been inside the gates. It’s amazing that East Carolina has a program like this … it’s a beautiful thing to see.”

The former ECU baseball great is in town this weekend to take part in another Pirate program’s celebration. As the ECU football team kicks off its homecoming game against Marshall today at 3:30, Tracy said he’s been keeping tabs on the gridiron season.

“They’ve done a great job this year,” he said. “When they beat Virginia Tech and West Virginia, don’t think I wasn’t running around (the Diamondbacks) locker room in September and letting everybody know about it.”

As big a football fan as he is, Tracy’s life is baseball. He took

See TRACY, C5

TRACY
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the time on Friday to share some of his life’s wisdom with the current crop of ECU baseball players. He didn’t come with a speech or lecture, but Tracy instead stood right in front of the firing range.

“I didn’t give them a whole lot of advice,” Tracy said.

“They asked questions, and I answered them as good as I could from (my) experience. Some of them had some questions about pro ball, working out during the season, how to keep weight on … just off-the-wall questions. Some of it didn’t even have to do with baseball.”

Current ECU coach Billy Godwin sees a visit like Tracy’s as an opportunity for someone outside the program, but who’s been through it, to reiterate the lessons he and his staff are trying to teach.

“What we have here is a direct result of all the hard work that guys like Chad put into this program, and we’re certainly honored to have him back on campus this weekend,” Godwin said. "There were a lot of valuable things (Tracy) shared with (the players) about his time here. He talked about some of the hard work that he paid when coach LeClair was here. It’s the same thing we’re doing now. It does reinforce the important things that we want our guys to do and what this program stands for.”

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NAACP demands action on graffiti

Slurs were painted in NCSU tunnel

FROM STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH — The head of the state’s NAACP chapter Friday called for a “strong response and punishment” for the N.C. State University students who painted racist and threatening graffiti aimed at President-elect Barack Obama.

The lack of such a response “creates a hostile environment and exacerbates the possibility of continuing activity,” NAACP leader William J. Barber II wrote to NCSU Chancellor James L. Oblinger.

NCSU officials did not have an immediate comment on the letter.

Campus police said Thursday that four students who admitted painting the graffiti in NCSU’s Free Expression Tunnel will not be charged with a hate crime. Under the state’s hate crimes law, they would have had to commit another type of crime, for which the language in the graffiti would have been an aggravating factor.

In the letter, Barber referred to the episode as “alleged hate crimes.”

“What we currently know through the media and other reports is quite disturbing,” Barber wrote. “Last year the NAACP worked hard to make hate crime activity a felony in North Carolina. We do not take these matters lightly. While we cannot chase every incident, the report of what has happened on your campus is particularly alarming due to the sinister and specific nature of the words and pictures.”

The graffiti said “Shoot Obama” and “Kill that n—.” The U.S. Secret Service determined that there was no actual threat to Obama.

Barber asked Oblinger to meet with NAACP leaders Wednesday. The organization, he said, wants to review the evidence and examine legal and school policies regarding punishment in such incidents.

He also said the NAACP wanted to explore activities to change an “atmosphere of negativity.”

More than 500 people attended a rally at NCSU on Thursday to show opposition to the graffiti.
UNC-CH looks for 5 percent cuts

FROM STAFF REPORTS

CHAPEL HILL – UNC-Chapel Hill is preparing for a higher level of budget cuts than previously expected.

Chancellor Holden Thorp told the university community this week that cuts may rise to 5 percent. Campus and UNC system leaders had been expecting and preparing for 4 percent cuts.

That’s $25 million from an overall state appropriation of $574 million, Thorp wrote in a memo. The $574 million in state money represents about 22 percent of the total UNC-CH budget.

“These are extraordinary economic times, and the global financial crisis and its ripple effects create uncharted territory for most of us,” Thorp wrote. “We’re closely examining everything that we do to make responsible choices to position the University for the economic recovery.”
'Free' hate

The Free Expression Tunnel at N.C. State University sometimes has clever scrawls on it, other times a little profanity, but four students who have admitted painting racist and life-threatening graffiti pertaining to President-elect Obama now perhaps understand where the line falls between expression and wretched, hateful, tasteless excess. They got the word from NCSU police and an organization that justifiably has little sense of compromise about such things, the U.S. Secret Service. It's safe to assume that college students confronted by the Secret Service sit up pretty straight.

Now the question is, what steps should the university take with the four. Expulsion would not be out of the question. Suspension for a semester or a year would be the minimum. The students won't face criminal charges, only because the area where they wrote their garbage is supposed to have graffiti on it. But they must be punished, not the least because their actions reflected with terrible unfairness on their fellow students and the university.

So here's to the students who cast a different kind of reflection after the walls had been repainted by university workers. They left positive messages, and others critical of the threatening graffiti. A rally in the NCSU Brickyard against the graffiti drew 500 people, people more typical of the open-minded, diligent students who attend N.C. State.

Chancellor James Oblinger was on the money with these words: "The strength and positive force of spirited debate is sapped when we resort to name-calling and negativity. Worse, when we lower ourselves to engaging in racist characterizations and inappropriate statements of anger and hate, we make a mockery of our right to free speech."
UNC landmark damaged by fire

BY ANNE BLYTHE
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - An early-morning fire on Saturday damaged Gerrard Hall, a 19th-century building at UNC-Chapel Hill where U.S. presidents, famous poets and Hollywood stars have taken the stage.

Chapel Hill firefighters rushed to the landmark on Cameron Avenue at 3:04 a.m. after an automatic fire alarm call.

Automatic sprinklers had partially extinguished the blaze, Assistant Fire Marshal Tommy Gregory said in a news release, and fire crews were able to fully snuff out the flames.

UNC police were investigating the cause of the fire. The first floor of the building sustained water and smoke damage. The fire marshal estimated overall damages at $50,000.

Gerrard Hall, a backdrop for many group photographs in the history books of UNC-Chapel Hill, took 15 years to construct.

Work began in 1822 on what, for many years, was called “New Chapel.” But money problems delayed completion of the building until 1837 — just in time for graduation ceremonies in what the Raleigh Register described as a “commodious building” with large galleries and “taste and becoming style.”

For most of its first century, Gerrard Hall was used as a chapel with stiff-backed pews.

Over the years, Presidents James K. Polk, James Buchanan and Woodrow Wilson spoke at Gerrard, as did poets Langston Hughes and George Moses Horton.

A scene in “Patch Adams,” the 1998 movie starring Robin Williams, was filmed in Gerrard.

The hall was named for Maj. Charles Gerrard of Edgecombe County, who left 14,000 acres to the university at his death in 1797.

It was through the sale of some of that land in Tennessee that UNC collected enough money to finish construction of the building.

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EDITOR’S CHOICE
Excerpts from essays, blogs and other good stuff

Editor’s Note: Bill Virgin is a reporter for the Seattle Post-Intelligencer. This column originally appeared in that publication.

It’s time for new thinking on costs of higher education

While the nation deals with its economic crisis, individual Americans who are in college, have been or hope to go are confronting their own financial calamities, with the cost of higher education right in the middle of it.

College is expensive and getting more so. The latest College Board data show that tuition and fees for in-state students at public schools and at private colleges continue to rise faster than inflation.

To cope, students are taking on more and more debt: 60 percent of bachelor’s degree recipients borrow money, the College Board says, with the average debt for borrowers rising 18 percent (after adjusting for inflation) between 2000-01 and 2006-07.

The prospect of ever-higher bills for tuition and room and board is prompting pressure for even more assistance in the form of loans and grants to students.

That’s one way to get the boat past the obstacle: Raise the bridge.

But maybe there’s another way: Lower the river.

Are colleges and universities capable of lowering their expenses so that students’ bills, if not reduced, at least don’t increase faster than inflation?

They may be about to find out, especially in the public higher-education sector, where state governments are already pinched between declining tax revenues and increasing demands for spending on everything else.

The conventional response has been to throw more budget-setting responsibility, in lieu of financial support, to the schools. But unless those schools have gargantuan endowments and a willingness to tap them for operational spending, what the colleges are left with is the freedom to raise bills on their own.

Colleges are making some stabs at trimming budgets. The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities says initiatives by its members range from standard moves such as consolidating departments, cutting energy bills by making buildings more efficient and outsourcing functions such as the bookstore and dining services, to more innovative approaches, including the sharing of purchasing, courses and programs, computer systems and libraries among schools that are in the same city, region or state.

At least one college president questions whether conventional notions about budget balancing through spending cuts apply to higher ed.

“The higher education business model as it has stood for decades does not permit the assumption that lowering cost lowers price,” meaning tuition, William Durden, president of Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pa., said in an e-mail interview.

“In fact, I would assert that the business or financial model for higher education in the United States is broken, and we can’t get to where you want to get with your question. What ‘business’ starts off with a model in which cost is always far higher than price, and must be, to get done what the producer and the ‘consumer’ expect of it?”

What the consumer of American higher ed expects is something more than training for a trade; many colleges are expected to be both a school and a major research institution. That consumer also expects the social and cultural accoutrements of American college life, including athletic programs.

“These are big-ticket items with no clear agreement from producer or consumer of what is enough.” Durden writes. “Would America accept for all its youth an undergraduate education that has no athletics, no residential life (all online), no new knowledge? I sincerely doubt it. If they did, we would lose the distinction of a distinctively American education.”

But if colleges can’t trim their costs to the point that the total bill isn’t galloping beyond students’ reach, will Americans be driven to rethink what they will accept?

Might they, for example, find more appeal in the City U model, one that in the past been aimed mainly at working adults using evenings, weekends and online instruction to pursue a degree part time? Might more be pushed to community colleges (public two-year colleges constituted the one category in the College Board survey in which inflation-adjusted costs declined last year)? Might still others head for specialized vocational training programs, particularly if (as some in the manufacturing community contend) there are still good-paying jobs to be had that don’t require the time or expense of a college degree?

There may be expanded opportunities for all those approaches to attract more students, and there may be opportunities created for new systems and structures of post-high-school education that are less expensive.

Not that any of those, or all of them combined, are the definite and definitive answer. Each has its own problems and drawbacks. But students cannot continue to emerge from college with thousands of dollars in debt; the current economic debacle would suggest that they can’t afford to now. Colleges can’t afford to keep jacking up tuition bills with the hope that students, state government or someone else will cover any budgetary shortfalls.

If ever there were a time for a new model to emerge, this would be it. Without one, about the only aspect of college most students will be able to afford without ruinous levels of debt is the sweatshirt bearing the school’s name and logo.
War-zone medicine helps at home

Conference discusses practices applied in treatment of trauma

By Keith Darcé
UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

November 8, 2008

On the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, doctors and nurses are wasting little time coming up with new ways to treat troops mangled by gunfire and roadside bombs.

Almost as quickly, those innovations are making their way to emergency rooms in San Diego County and across the United States, where they’re helping save victims of violent crimes, car crashes and other accidents.

The advances range from the sophisticated – including high-tech prosthetics to replace amputated limbs – to the simple, such as old-fashioned tourniquets applied immediately after injury to stop potentially fatal bleeding.

Some of the war-zone techniques are forcing trauma specialists to rethink practices that have been standard for years.

“We are learning at warp speed,” said Dr. Michael Sise, a clinical professor of surgery and chief of the trauma unit at Scripps Mercy Hospital in Hillcrest. “This is the fastest transfer of wartime learning in history.”

Sise helped the Scripps Health hospital network coordinate a conference yesterday to discuss the synergy between military and civilian trauma-care experts. About 250 physicians and nurses from 12 states, Canada and Mexico attended the gathering at the University of San Diego’s Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice.

The rapid assimilation of battlefield lessons largely is being driven by health providers who also are military reservists. Upon returning from deployments in Iraq or Afghanistan, they apply newly learned techniques to their civilian jobs, Sise said. The information spreads quickly among hospitals through the nation’s highly networked trauma-care system.

Articles in medical journals and continuing-education courses for health professionals also serve as conduits between the war theater and state-side emergency rooms.

At yesterday’s conference, organizers held courses on topics such as how to quickly stabilize a trauma patient, controlling severe blood loss, state-of-the-art rehabilitation for amputees and preparing for a tour of duty as a combat physician or nurse.

For centuries, wars indirectly have served as laboratories for developing important medical advances. Nearly 2,400 years ago, the Greek physician Hippocrates gave this advice to his followers: “He who would become a surgeon should join an army and follow it.”
Statistics suggest that trauma care in Iraq and Afghanistan has far exceeded efforts of previous conflicts. About 10 percent of U.S. troops wounded in the current wars have died, according to the Department of Defense. That compares with a 25 percent death rate in the Korean and Vietnam wars and a 30 percent death rate during World War II.

Among the most important lessons to emerge from Iraq and Afghanistan is an understanding that more service members survive serious wounds if they are transported rapidly from war-zone field hospitals to specialized medical centers in Germany and the United States.

The technique even has a name: damage-control surgery.

Here's how it works. Instead of performing major surgery at a field hospital, doctors stabilize the patients enough to move them to a major medical center. They focus on stopping blood loss, sterilizing injuries and packing wounds with absorbent gauze.

For a soldier or Marine whose leg is shredded by a roadside bomb, damage-control surgery might mean cleaning the wound in the field and holding off on removing the limb for three or four days -- until the patient arrives at an amputation center in the United States, Sise said.

"It's doing as little as you have to do," he said. "That significantly increases survival."

The method challenges a long-held notion among emergency-room physicians that they must do everything possible for patients before passing them on to the next stage of care, said Dr. Michael Rotondo, chairman of surgery at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine in Greenville, N.C.

"We used to operate until the anatomy was perfect, but we would end with a dead patient," Rotondo said during one of yesterday's sessions.

Another innovation emerging from Iraq and Afghanistan is a throwback to the past.

Battlefield medics are widely using tourniquets to stop hemorrhaging, which is a leading cause of death among severe trauma victims.

The device fell out of favor in the United States decades ago after doctors became fearful that it damaged healthy tissue in an injured limb and contributed to a higher rate of amputations.

Experience in the current wars suggests that the lifesaving benefits of tourniquets outweigh those risks, said Dr. Jay Johannigman, chief of trauma and critical care at the University of Cincinnati.

As a result, the American College of Surgeons is considering new guidelines recommending that all ambulances carry tourniquets.

Not everyone believes the net effect of war is beneficial to medicine. Critics point out that research into new treatments for civilian diseases sometimes takes a back seat to military medical needs. They also said some service members suffer horrific consequences because of exposure to battlefield medical experiments that never would be permitted in the civilian world.

Still, Valerie Norton, an emergency department physician at the University of California San Diego Medical Center, said there's much to learn from war.

During a course at the conference, she learned about a novel treatment for military personnel who suffered concussions after being near bomb blasts. Norton compared their injuries to those of a young soccer player who falls during a game and hits his head on the ground.

After arriving at a local emergency room, the athlete typically would be treated with over-the-counter pain medication, sent
home and told to check in with his family doctor after a couple of weeks.

The problem is that many patients such as the soccer player experience headaches, short-term memory loss, periodic confusion and other symptoms of a condition that has come to be known as post-concussion syndrome.

Service members suffering from the condition are, in some cases, receiving up to six hours of therapy each day to help them fully regain their mental functions, Norton said.

“We're learning from our colleagues in the military that post-concussion syndrome is really more common than we think,” she said.

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