THE DAILY CLIPS

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Public Forum

Allied health practitioners honored

Allied Health Professions Week is being celebrated nationally this week to honor those working in the more than 200 allied health professions. If you’ve ever had the unfortunate opportunity to spend time as a hospital patient, you’ve more than likely come in contact with allied health practitioners — physical therapists, occupational therapists, lab technologists, health information administrators — to name a few. Allied health professionals make up an estimated 60 percent of America’s health care workforce. They are essentially everyone working in health care other than physicians and nurses.

We are presently facing a shortage crisis, and with the aging of the baby-boomer generation, the need for even more allied health professionals is becoming apparent. Statistics show that, proportionately, the population of North Carolina is growing slightly faster than the United States as a whole. People are also living longer. An adequate supply of allied health professionals, especially here in eastern North Carolina, is vital. However, according to information recently released by the N.C. Council for Allied Health, although North Carolina is facing increased demand for allied health workers, educational programs that produce these graduates face serious challenges, one being too few qualified applicants.

Opportunities are unlimited for those who have an interest in pursuing a career in an allied health profession, and the number of jobs is projected to grow substantially in the next few years. Eastern North Carolina needs ambitious, caring and qualified people to fill them.

This week, show your appreciation. Take this opportunity to acknowledge some of the allied health professionals here in eastern North Carolina who are actively involved in maintaining your high standard of health care. And at the same time, do some exploring on your own. There may be just the right health career out there waiting for you.

KIT ROBERSON
School of Allied Health Sciences
East Carolina University
Pitt prepares for terror attacks

By Amanda Karr
The Daily Reflector

Emergency responders in Pitt County grappled with a series of hypothetical terrorist attacks Thursday in an exercise designed to prepare them for responding to the real thing.

About 100 people from law enforcement, fire, medical, public school, communications and National Guard backgrounds gathered at the Pitt County Agricultural Center for the exercise, which is one of the largest the county has held.

"It gives all agencies a chance to test their plans and see how all the agencies can work with one another during a true time of disaster, a bio-terrorism or (weapon of mass destruction) event," Pitt County Emergency Services Director Noel Lee said of the drill.

Thursday's scenarios were varied and challenged responders to deal with multiple emergencies simultaneously.

First, an explosion in a chemical lab at East Carolina University brought out police and others, including members of the National Guard 42nd Civil Support Team. Guardsmen worked to determine what the chemical was, while emergency responders were called to assist the injured.

Then, an ECU transit bus crashed into Belk Hall. Emergency medical and fire personnel hurried to that site, while ECU police tried to divide forces between the two scenes. Officials discussed setting up a joint command center and access routes to get additional personnel on scene.

Meantime, citizens reported a peculiar smell on Old Creek Road that was making people sick, and school personnel at Elmhurst Elementary put the school in lockdown as the result of a threat there.

Personnel handling each emergency grouped around one of four tables, taking notes and using walkie-talkies, cell phones and land lines to communicate with other groups. Nobody was allowed to join the discussion until contacted and response times were taken into consideration as officials worked to make the simulation as realistic as possible.

Along the side of the room, dispatchers took calls and amateur radio operators stood by in case other communications failed.

At the front of the room, an emergency operations center took over a stage where officials gathered information and made decisions on allocating resources.

Pitt County Memorial Hospital personnel occupied their own table as they set up plans to deal with the influx of injured people.

"We've been able to integrate what we've trained and worked with independently with the rest of the team," John Meredith, medical director for emergency preparedness response, said.

He said the exercise highlighted the importance of increased communication between agencies and pointed to a need to look at alternative triage sites.

Communication, as in reality, was a big concern.

"We've been seeing classic disaster problems with communication. This is the way to discover those," Greenville Fire Chief Mike Burton said.

Pitt County's new mobile communications trailer should be operational in about two weeks, Lee said. The trailer will give responders on different frequencies the ability to communicate.

The National Guard team also offers communication alternatives.

The unit has a mobile cell phone tower and a vehicle equipped to use satellites to provide constant connection to the Internet, Commander John Callaway said.

Officials also hope the exercise will encourage communication between agencies.

"The most important thing is to communicate and know who the responders are. It's better to know them face to face now than on the scene," Callaway said.

The drill was paid for with federal money from the Department of Homeland Security.

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The importance of seeing ‘Earnest’

ECU funnies up the stage with popular Oscar Wilde comedy

By Kelley Kirk-Swindell
The Daily Reflector

What’s in a name? East Carolina University theater student Jake Stewart can tell you.

Born John Wesley Stewart IV, his parents gave him the nickname “Jake.”

“Names are so important; it’s the person’s aura,” Stewart said. “John” has a different aura than “Jake.”

Jake Stewart will play Jack Worthing in “The Importance of Being Earnest,” which opens at 8 p.m. Thursday in McGinnis Theatre on campus. The play, by Victorian author and cultural pundit Oscar Wilde, runs through Nov. 22.

Stewart, a Trinity native, describes the character he plays, Earnest, as a lovable liar.

In the play, Jack Worthing pretends to be Earnest while he is in London.

“He’s ashamed that he was adopted, so he puts on this persona of Earnest so he can have a shot at being in the social call,” Stewart said. “He’s so desperate to fit in.

“Earnest just sounds more upright, more refined,” he added.

Stewart himself didn’t plan on being an actor.

“I got stuck into a theater class in high school and had a very inspirational teacher,” Stewart said.

After two trips to New York to see professional productions, he was hooked.

The first show he saw was “Phantom of the Opera.”

“Then I saw Hugh Jackman in "The Boy From Oz” during my freshman year (at ECU),” Stewart said. “He’s masculine and he’s talented and confident but not arrogant; he’s just a great role model for the leading-man type.”

The ECU production of “The Importance of Being Earnest” aims to recreate the feel of Victorian England.

“It’s going to be pretty true to the first productions at the St. James Theatre in London,” said Kristin Wetherington, who plays Gwendolen Fairfax, Jack Worthing’s love interest in the play.

“It’s just such a beautiful time period. It sounds really dorky, but it’s really exciting,” she said.

All the characters will be dressed in clothing, footwear and jewelry in keeping with the Victorian era.

Minus the zippers and snaps, Wetherington’s costume will be all Victorian, right down to the corset under her dress.

“Gwendolen’s a huge flirt, which is very fun,” Wetherington said about her character.

“But you have to remember that the way you flirted in Victorian times is very different than the way you flirt today.”

Gwendolen and her mother, Lady Bracknell, are the socialites of the play.

“Gwendolen is best described as a little pretentious,” Wetherington said. “She was brought up a little sheltered by her mother.”

The actors adopt convincing British accents as part of attempts to make the presentation authentic.

“It’s been a real challenge because it’s the first the period piece I’ve been in,” Jake Stewart said. “Being from the South, I tend to mumble. I had to break that habit to learn the English accent.”

Even though Stewart always had a good ear for accents, he said it’s a completely different speaking with an accent in a play than it is when you are joking around at a party.

“The biggest challenge is to keep the energy of the language in your voice,” Stewart said. “You have to completely put all of your body and all of your voice into it.”

The cast works hard at getting it right, too; they practice six days a week for four hours each day.

“Not to mention the time on our own when we work with our vocal coach or practice in our room, which is in addition to all of our regular course work,” Stewart said.

Kristin Wetherington, however, doesn’t have to contend with the school work. She graduated from ECU in May.

Since graduation, Wetherington has kept busy acting in two of the university’s summer-theater presentations. She also performed in “Sister of Eden” this summer at Cape Fear Regional Theater and will appear in the local presentation of “The Nutcracker” by the Dance Arts Theatre before she returns to the Cape Fear theater for a production of “Beauty and the Beast” in January.

“It’s nice to have faculty who think that much of your skills to work with you again,” Wetherington said.

Stewart and Wetherington have worked together in two other ECU shows. In “Grease” the pair played Rizzo and Kenickie, and in “As You Like It” they were Rosalind and Orlando.

Wetherington said that the tea scene in Wilde’s play is one on her favorites. Gwendolen and Cecily, the granddaughter of the man who adopted Jack, find out that they are each in love with a man named Ernest.

“Both characters think that the other is skeeming on their man,” she said.

“It’s that kind of humor that Wilde infuses throughout the play.

“I think the play is that kind of British comedy that is like a really well-written sitcom,” Stewart said. “It’s kind of like a Jerry Seinfeld show: so many little puns and jabs. And Oscar Wilde is such a genius that you’ll never pick it (all) up the first time around.”

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Malcolm R. McLeod

ISLE OF PALMS, S.C. — Malcolm Robert “Rob” McLeod, 30, died unexpectedly on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005, after a brief illness. A graveside memorial service will be conducted Saturday at 11 a.m. in Pinewood Memorial Park.

Rob was a Pitt County native and graduate of D.H. Conley High School and East Carolina University. He was employed in restaurant management in Charleston. He was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Greenville, N.C.

A kind and compassionate person by nature, Rob never met a stranger. He was a loving son, brother and uncle, and will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is survived by his parents, Malcolm G. and Kay McLeod; sister, Mary Beth M. Crisp and husband, Lindsey; nephew, Allen M. Crisp; and niece, Elizabeth Kay Crisp, all of Greenville, N.C.; grandmother, Elizabeth Byrum of Matthews, N.C.; and aunts, Melissa Myers and husband, Tom, of Summerville, and Patsy Baker and her husband, Danny, of Matthews, N.C.

The family will receive friends tonight from 6 to 8 at Wilkerson Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to First Presbyterian Church, 1400 S. Elm St., Greenville, NC 27838.
Peer-based tuition to get a look

The UNC system will wait to consider it until Erskine Bowles takes over as president.

BY JANE STANCILL
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — In setting tuition in the future, University of North Carolina system leaders may look nationally at the rates other public universities charge.

Given the escalating cost of higher education around the United States, that is likely to mean bigger bills for students in North Carolina.

A UNC system tuition task force agreed Thursday to consider a plan that would routinely allow campus increases as long as tuition and fees for in-state undergraduates remain in the bottom quarter compared to rates at similar public universities around the country. Rates for out-of-state students could climb higher as long as charges remain below the top quarter of schools nationally.

At the same time, the plan would establish a limit on increases each year based on a three-year average of campus increases nationwide.

The task force then put the issue on hold until early next year, so that UNC President-elect Erskine Bowles can offer his opinion.

The group was formed during the summer after the prickly legislative debate on whether to allow UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University control over their own tuition rates without getting approval from the systemwide Board of Governors. Leaders at the two universities say they need to raise tuition to remain competitive and pay professors better salaries.

The draft guidelines would give the two big campuses more flexibility by allowing them to propose their own sets of peer universities for tuition purposes.

Each of the 16 campuses in the UNC system has its own set of approved peer campuses — public and private — that have similar characteristics such as size, quality and type of academic programs. The campuses use these lists for comparisons on things such as professors' salaries.

The peer lists, which are under review by a consultant, could become much more important if UNC uses them to set tuition. Student costs in North Carolina would then fluctuate with the market.

UNC Board of Governors Vice Chairman Craig Souza expressed concern that the peer lists for NCSU and UNC-CH could be manipulated to "get the answer we wanted."

But Hannah Gage, co-chairwoman of the task force, disputed that, saying, "We're not looking at anything to game the system."

Under the guidelines, campuses that do not give adequate financial aid to needy students would face tougher scrutiny. But the whole conversation is a touchy issue in a state where the constitution guarantees a free education "as far as practicable."

Although the poorest students are often covered by financial aid, those with moderate income will feel the squeeze, UNC board member Gladys Robinson said. "What do we do to help these students, because those are the ones who may drop out in two years?" she asked.

The guidelines could affect tuition rates starting in 2007.

Also Thursday, the board's budget and finance committee turned its attention to tuition for next fall, recommending limits of $451 in tuition and fee increases at NCSU and UNC-CH, or as much as a 10 percent increase for in-state students. The cap for N.C. Central University would be a $322 increase, or a little more than 10 percent more than the current rate.

The committee's limits on increases range from $271 to $451 across the system. The board will consider campus requests for tuition increases in February.

Staff writer Jane Stancill can be reached at 956-2464 or janest@newsobserver.com.
THE PEOPLE'S FORUM

We’ll add N.C. seats

Your Nov. 5 article "Public aid to scholars, athletes" reported that members of the N.C. School Boards Association are concerned that the legislature's recent enactment of a special scholarship provision will take away seats from North Carolinians. Your Nov. 8 editorial "Shell game" expressed similar worry.

I write to you assure you and your readers that UNC-Chapel Hill recognizes these concerns and our responsibility to the citizens of our state. Therefore, our implementation of the scholarship provision will increase, not decrease, the number of native North Carolinians on our campus.

We will grow beyond our planned projections to accommodate the provision and to ensure that no resident student is turned away because of it. The growth beyond our projections will include more native North Carolinians and more non-resident scholars. The bottom line is more seats for North Carolina students, not fewer.

It is our belief that the scholarship provision provides both more opportunity and a better educational environment for North Carolinians.

Jerome A. Lucido
Vice Provost for Enrollment Policy and Management
UNC-Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill
TV's delay on football
game times penalizes fans

Want to know the starting time for the Boston College at N.C. State basketball
game on Feb. 23?
No problem. That game will begin at 3:45 p.m., with television
coverage by CBS.
But if you’re interested in finding out what time the Maryland at
N.C. State football game will start on Nov. 26, forget it.
You can just sit there with your day planner on your lap and your
life on hold until the television networks decide it’s time for you to
know.
The summer before the season, the ACC has its entire basketball
schedule set, complete with starting times and television coverage.
But in football, starting times are unpredictable.
After the first three weeks of the season, the ACC allows its television partners (ESPN, ABC and Jefferson
Pilot/Raycom) to cherry-pick games and set starting times. For the
majority of those games, the times are announced 12 days before game
day. Three games can be set with only six days’ notice.
The short-warning system is what schools accept along with the big
checks from the networks. The ACC is paid more than $30 million
annually for its football telecasts.
“In a perfect world, it wouldn’t be like this,” North Carolina athletics
director Dick Baddour said. “We would have a system that would
work better for our fans.”
This season, Baddour is better qualified than most to address the
subject.
Against Maryland on Saturday, the Tar Heels will play their third noon
home game of the season. In few cases has there been any sort of long-
range kickoff information for fans.
This week’s starting time wasn’t set until late this past Saturday.
Like some other ACC schools, noon kickoffs don’t work well for Carolina. Fans
arriving from Raleigh have to leave home about 10:30 a.m. Those arriving from
Charlotte need to get hustling before 9. For some folks, that means trying to
recruit a babysitter who is willing to come over at about 8:30 on a Saturday morning.
It’s easier to find and sign shut-down cornerbacks.
“It’s hurting us some at the gate because a lot of fans just
don’t have enough time to make plans,” Baddour said.
Warren Matthews, vice president in charge of sports programming for ABC, said
flexibility is a must for the network.
“We have 13 Saturdays, and that’s it. We have to put
the best possible game in the best possible time slot,”
Matthews said. “It’s not like basketball, where there’s an
almost unlimited number of
games and games being played every night, plus
night and day on the week-
ends. Football and basketball
are two different situations
entirely.”
Because so much money rides on the ratings,
Matthews said ABC and
ESPN have to be selective in
football.
“That’s especially the case
when we go into prime time
on Saturday nights on ABC,”
Matthews said. “When we
put on a football game in the
place of established, regular
programs, we need to have
the time to make a good
decision.”

Baddour, whose athletics
budget is bolstered by TV
revenue, agrees that the
networks need a lot of
leeway in football.

“There’s no perfect solu-
tion on this,” Baddour said.
But it would be in the best
interests of all parties to seek
something better when the
current contracts expire
after the 2010 season.
A good starting point
would be for the league
schools to insist that
virtually all starting times be
announced at least two
weeks before game day.
Remember that beginning
in 2006, Division I-A schools
will play 12 games each
regular season, meaning that
more starting times will get
snagged in the six- and
12-day nets.
Late-season night games
also should be closely regu-
lated. With a 7:15 p.m. start
Saturday, the N.C. State-at
Boston College game
probably will be played in
uncomfortable weather
conditions for fans, with the
temperature expected to
drop as low as 42 degrees.
Mid-November night games
are fine for Florida but too
late for New England.
The ACC needs TV, that’s
a given. In exchange for the
income, some concessions to
the networks are inevitable.
But the paying customers
deserve more consideration
than they’re getting. These
are the people who are
making the effort to
purchase the tickets, drive to
the games and provide the
atmosphere in the stadiums.
Give ‘em a break.

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Different paths lead to a degree

Many students get part-time jobs, take longer than 4 years to finish

By Kate Holloway
USA TODAY

Entering Michigan State University as a freshman, Joseph Montes assumed he would complete his degree in four years.

Two majors, multiple part-time jobs and three internships later, the 22-year-old fifth-year senior from Lake Orion, Mich., isn't necessarily disappointed that it didn't turn out that way.

The journalism major picked up a second major in English so he could take special writing classes. He also has worked for the campus newspaper and took a third semester off to intern with a daily newspaper. He works 30 hours a week and will graduate without debt.

"You need to think about your school and the pathway you're going to take," Montes says. "There are so many different ways to get an education these days."

Hundreds of thousands of high school seniors are surfing the Web and poring over catalogs to figure out where they're going to college. But many high school seniors will base the decision on some traditional assumptions that aren't necessarily true any longer.

Most 18- and 19-year-olds starting college will take more than four years to graduate and will work at least part-time while in college, and many will earn credit from more than one school. And they shouldn't count on multiplying their first year's expenses by four to approximate a final price tag.

Among traditional-age college students — those who entered postsecondary education at 18 or 19 — only 45% finished in four years, according to the U.S. Department of Education, says Jacqueline King, director of the Center for Policy Analysis for the American Council on Education.

"I would actually get a catalog from a local college and bring it with you" on campus visits, says Arlene Cash, vice president for enrollment at Spelman College in Atlanta.

"Students who transfer should ask which courses will transfer to their chosen university," King says. "I had a couple classes that didn't count at all, and I wish I had a little better communication with the schools I was considering transferring to," says Holly Munk, who transferred from Milwaukee's Marquette University to Chicago's Saint Xavier University.

How likely am I to graduate on time?

The average time it takes a traditional-age student to earn a bachelor's degree has been inching up each decade, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Causes may include work schedules, mobility and course availability.

A prospective student can ask what percentage of the university's students graduate in four years, but they also should ask why it is taking them longer, says Thyra Briggs, dean of enrollment at Sarah Lawrence College, a private liberal arts school in Bronxville, N.Y.

"It doesn't necessarily mean that the students aren't getting into classes," she says. "It just means that the students aren't graduating out of classes."

Asking specific questions about program requirements is a good idea, but not everyone can plan around a specific program.

"It's kind of a Catch-22, because at the time that you're finishing high school, you have no idea what you want to do with your life," Montes says. "Yet you're making one of the most important decisions about where it's going."

That makes academic guidance crucial.

"I think it's really important for parents to ask about the institution's approach to advising," says Tom Taylor, vice president of enrollment, marketing and communications at Ball State University in Muncie, Ind.

"Though many parents would like to see their son or daughter graduate in four years for financial reasons, students and college admissions experts say prospective students need to weigh the importance of a four-year finish against other priorities," Taylor says. "Second majors, internships, activities and outside study may all enrich the experience but may also add to the time spent getting a degree."

"You need to evaluate what's important to you," Montes says.

How will my tuition and aid change?

Annual tuition increases have become routine at many colleges, so unless a college commits to locking in a four-year tuition rate for an incoming class, it's reasonable to assume the cost will go up.

The easiest way to plan is to ask for the school's percent in tuition change over the past few years.

"You're probably looking at a broadband of 5% to 10%," says Barry Simmons, director of scholarships and financial aid for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg.

Financial aid and scholarships are more complicated. Universities and the government provide need-based aid on a sliding-fee scale, so parents need to reapply for the aid every year.

"Another issue is front-loading," Simmons says. "Some colleges are more generous with need-based grants the first year and then cut back or shift to more loans in later years."

Simmons says personnel should be upfront if the school expects frontloading. A college's financial aid offices should be able to explain the policies.

Some colleges offer merit-based aid. Students are more likely to find renewable scholarships from the institution rather than ones that have been offered by others.

How much debt am I going to accumulate?

Prospective students and their parents can ask college financial aid officers what is the average indebtedness of a given school's graduates, but they also should be aware that they may not get an answer, and if they do, the answers might not be directly comparable.

"They need to ask if private loans are included or excluded," Simmons says. "And if private loans are excluded, do they have figures on private loans?"

Simmons suggests all families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as possible starting Jan. 1, regardless of income. Even if you don't qualify for grants, FAFSA will help you qualify for federal loans, which are generally cheaper and
based on more liberal terms.

"Even Donald Trump could get a
loan to go to college, but a lot of
people don’t realize that," he says.

How should I balance work
and loans?

Many admissions and financial
aid experts agree that taking out
loans is more financially efficient
than spending extra time in college
because of a job.

"A lot of students put in more
working hours than they perhaps
should be because they’re adverse
to borrowing money," says Dan
Rosenfield, dean of enrollment
management for the University of
Louisiana-Lafayette.

"If, because they work too many
hours, they graduate a year later or
two later, they have lost one or two
years of employment," he says.

King says middle- and upper-in-
come students are as likely to work
as low-income students. "It used to
be that your student days were
times of scraping by," she says.

Montes is one student who
worked more than the recom-
mended number of hours and still
scraped by. "I’m the kind of person
that hates being in debt. I’ve been
at zero and lived really frugally over
the last five years to be out of debt,"
says Montes, who spends 30 hours
a week at his four part-time jobs.

He doesn’t recommend it to ev-
everyone, though.

"My GPA is not that great," he
says. "If you’re going to be a biology
major, and you pretty much sell
yourself to grad schools based on
what your GPA is ... work gets in
the way."
University plugs in to where wireless users study

Upgraded network gives MIT a look at students' computing habits

BY BROOKE DONALD
Associated Press

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – In another time and place, college students wondering whether their favorite corner of the library is occupied would have to risk hoofing it over there.

But for today's student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, that kind of information is just a click away.

MIT's upgraded wireless network, extended this month to cover the entire school, doesn't merely get you online in study halls, stairwells or any other spot on the 9.4 million square foot campus.

It also provides information on how many people are logged on at any given location at any given time. It even reveals a user's identity if the individual has opted to make that data public.

MIT researchers did this by developing electronic maps that track across campus the devices people use to connect to the network, whether they're laptops, wireless PDAs or even Wi-Fi equipped cell phones.

The maps were unveiled this week at the MIT Museum, where they are projected onto large Plexiglas rectangles that hang from the ceiling. They are also available online.

Red splotches on one map show the highest concentration of wireless users on campus. On another map, yellow dots with names written above them identify individual users.

"With these maps, you can see down to the room on campus how many people are logged on," said Carlo Ratti, director of the school's SENSEable City Laboratory, which created the maps. "You can even watch someone go from room to room if they have a handheld device that's connected."

Researchers use log files from the university's Internet service provider to construct the maps. The files indicate the number of users connected to each of MIT's 2,800 access points. The map that can pinpoint locations in rooms is 3-D, so researchers can distinguish connectivity in multistoried buildings.

"Laptops and Wi-Fi are creating a revolutionary change in the way people work," Ratti said. The maps aim to "visualize these changes by monitoring the traffic on the wireless network and showing how people move."

Some of the results so far aren't surprising. The maps show, for example, that the bulk of wireless users late at night and very early in the morning are logged on from their dorms. During the day, the higher concentration of users shifts to classrooms.

But researchers also found that study labs that once bustled with students are now nearly empty as people, no longer tethered to a phone line or network cable, move to cafes and nearby lounges, where food and comfy chairs are more inviting.

Researchers say this data can be used to better understand how wireless technology is changing campus life, and what that means for planning spaces and administering services.

The question has become, Ratti said, "If I can work anywhere, where do I want to work?"

"Many cities, including Philadelphia, are planning to go wireless. Something like our study will help them understand usage patterns and where best to invest," said researcher Andres Sevtsuk.
Ex-UNCC chief's aim: Restore honor

In an interview with the Observer on Thursday, former UNCC Chancellor Jim Woodward said he accepted an unpaid post as an N.C. lottery commissioner to help repair the games' tarnished image. "I believe we can run an honest, transparent lottery," he said. Here are excerpts.
— JIM MORRILL

Q. Why did you agree to do this?

"I'm proud of (North Carolina's) reputation of honest and clean government. That reputation has been damaged. If I'm offended by this, it brings a duty to try to help. ... One of the things I will be most interested in, going forward, will be that revenue from the lottery not be used to supplant other funding (for education). If this were not for education, I would not be involved."

Ex-UNCC chief wants to restore honor

Woodward from ID

Q. Any ties to lottery vendors in your background?

"No, to the best of my knowledge. I've never (even) bought a lottery ticket in my life."

Q. How can the commission restore faith in the lottery?

"The burden is now on us to be overly careful about transparency. ... It is not sufficient to satisfy the law. It is necessary to satisfy the intent."

Q. Should the governor step in to reassure people?

"I would encourage the governor to be more visible in helping all the commission members and other political leaders to restore public confidence in the process."

Q. In your conversations with the speaker, did he say anything about Geddings or his former aide Meredith Norris, who also worked for Scientific Games?

"Jim will tell you mistakes have been made (and that) he's very disappointed in Kevin Geddings for not disclosing his full relationship with Scientific Games. ... I view (Black) as a conscientious elected official (and) decent person. Yes, he has a responsibility there because of the position he holds. And he accepts that."

Q. Are you worried about this sullying your reputation?

"There is a risk. I clearly don't want that. ... But I don't have further aspirations. I'll never run for public office. ... If people like (commission chairman and former Glaxo CEO) Charles Sanders weren't on the commission, I wouldn't do it. The risk is too great."

Q. Scientific Games is under criminal investigation for possible violations of N.C. lobbying law. Could that ultimately disqualify them from winning a state contract?

"The burden at some point becomes so great you can't be a viable candidate for a contract. ... (However,) it's healthy that attention has been given by the media to these questionable activities early. It will help prevent questionable activities later."

Q. What will you look for in a lottery director?

"We need someone who is skilled and talented. Sort of like a university chancellor. That's a joke, by the way."
UNCC sets fast path to uptown

Chancellor Dubois hoping for drawings, curriculum by May

BY APRIL BETHEA
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UNC Charlotte is speeding design and construction plans for its new uptown site at Ninth and Brevard streets, Chancellor Phil Dubois said Tuesday.

Campus leaders hope to have renderings of the building and an academic curriculum, by the time the N.C. General Assembly convenes its short session in May, Dubois said. That information could be crucial as the school asks for money to support the project it hopes will increase its reach outside University City.

Dubois announced the new timeline for the plan during Tuesday's Uptown Rotary Club luncheon. It was part of the effort by the new chancellor to reintroduce himself in Charlotte's business, political and social circles.

Another issue that struck a chord with some at the luncheon was the amount of state funding the university receives. Dubois said UNCC ranked 14th last year among the 16 UNC-system campuses in state appropriations, receiving nearly $3,200 less per student than UNC Chapel Hill.

If businesses see that their employees benefit from classes at the uptown site they might be more inclined to support the school financially, said Lamar Thomas of TNL Equipment after the luncheon.

The university already rents classroom space uptown in the Mint Museum of Craft + Design, offering mostly business administration courses.

Dubois said the uptown site is the campus' top priority for construction projects. That message also was sent to new UNC system President Erskine Bowles during visits with UNCC administrators, faculty, students and trustees on Monday, Dubois said.

Dubois hopes funding for the $39 million building will be on Bowles' legislative request for the system for the next session.

With the new building, Dubois said, UNCC could offer health-related courses and possibly relocate its Community Design Studio from the South End.

Luncheon guest Don Millen, founder of venture capital firm Dragonfly Capital, said he thinks the uptown building would be more convenient for workers who want extra training without having to drive to University City. He described the campus' push toward uptown as a natural transition.

Dubois' "very strong commitment to connect the school to the larger community" also pleased Marty McCarthy, an Episcopal clergyman, who called the speech "wonderful."

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