THE DAILY CLIPS

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Vice President Joe Biden cried as the father of U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. David J. Smith explained how his son, an East Carolina University student, was killed from injuries suffered in Afghanistan. “He said, ‘A parent should not have a child proceed them in death,’” Dr. Leonard Smith said on Friday.

Smith and other family members were at Arlington National Cemetery on Veterans Day to honor David James Smith, who died Jan. 26, three days after he was injured by an improvised explosion device in Taghaz, Helmand province. He was 25.

Biden's visit “sort of made the day a little easier for all of us,” Leonard Smith said. “We certainly all appreciated him being there.” He said Biden spent five to 10 minutes with him; David's mother, Mary Jane McWilliams; stepfather, John Jones; and stepmother, Olga Smith. Biden visited several families and gravesites in Arlington's Section 60, where many servicemen and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan are buried.

“He was hugging my wife and Mary Jane, and shaking my hand over and over again,” Smith said. “It means a lot to the families of those fallen warriors that the government recognizes (their sacrifices).”
Before he left, Biden placed on Smith's headstone a coin bearing the vice presidential seal. The family gave Biden a rubber bracelet bearing his name, which the vice president immediately put around his wrist.

Smith was an ECU senior from Frederick, Md., majoring in distribution and logistics, before he was deployed to Afghanistan in October 2009. He had already served a tour in Iraq from 2006-07.

On the morning of Jan. 23, his father said, Smith was preparing security perimeters in Taghaz, a town of about 7,000. He'd found a stash of detonators and was talking about them with his platoon commander when a fellow Marine saw someone go between buildings who wasn't supposed to be there. A Marine approached the person, and the person detonated an IED. Smith and two other Marines suffered fatal injuries.

“He was a great kid,” his father said. Those who knew Smith at ECU said he loved to be the center of attention and had a great sense of humor. “David had an infectious laugh and smile,” said Dr. Leslie Pagliari, associate dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science. “We will miss him in person, but his bravery will never be forgotten. He will forever be a pirate.”

On Nov. 5, Smith's family was presented with a coin from the college at ECU's annual Military Appreciation Dinner. The coin has three stars representing his leadership, service and integrity.

The next day, Smith's family tossed the coin to begin the ECU vs. Navy football game for Military Appreciation Day.

A leadership award has been created in Smith's name that will be awarded annually to an outstanding student in the college. It will represent the college's highest honor for a student.

“Our valiant men and women in uniform are the heroes of this country,” said David White, dean of the college. “And we as a college we pleased to give Sgt. David Smith this great tribute, as a student, a man and one of our courageous soldiers.”
The Greater Greenville Community Foundation marked its 10-year anniversary Saturday with a red carpet gala honoring guests for their philanthropy — and recognizing two local residents who exemplify the foundation's spirit of giving.

Greenville businessman Walter Williams was presented the foundation's 2010 Legacy Award in honor of his lifetime of selfless giving and continued philanthropic spirit. Young cancer survivor Riley Philpot, who has gathered Riley's Army of family and friends who contribute to a fund for pediatric cancer patients, was presented the foundation's 2010 Youth Philanthropy Award.

Williams is founder of Trade Oil Co. Inc. and Trade Mart, the regional chain of gas stations and convenience stores that merged with WilcoHess in 2005. A longtime supporter of East Carolina University and its Pirate Club, Williams has provided funding for scholarships and endowments and led fundraising efforts for the strength and conditioning center and baseball stadium. The university's basketball arena was renamed for him in 1994 in honor of his $1 million contribution to the university's Shared Vision Campaign.

In 2005, Williams and his wife, Marie, contributed $1.2 million to the ECU College of Education's STEPP Program (Supporting Transitions in Education through Planning and Partnerships). Williams is a member of the Pitt Community College Board of Trustees.
“We were more than honored to present this special tribute to Walter and his family in appreciation for all he has done for so many in this community,” GGCF Executive Director Melissa Spain said. “His legacy truly exemplifies that which we so admire as a foundation and community.”

Riley, 10, was honored for her courageous four-year battle with cancer and her philanthropic example made possible through her Riley's Army Fund. “When Riley was diagnosed with cancer four years ago, she, along with her parents, Kirk and Kelly, decided there was a profound need to take the willingness of so many of their friends and volunteers and turn that into a community-wide program that would provide individual support for families who were also fighting the battle of pediatric cancer, and all of the challenges that come along with that,” Spain said.

“Riley and her family and her army of volunteers have been a constant inspiration to all of us at the Greater Greenville Community Foundation, and we are thrilled to be able to present Riley with this honor this evening.”

In its 10 years, the Greater Greenville Community Foundation has distributed more than $3 million in grants to more than 150 charities and nonprofits, colleges and universities in Greenville and beyond. The foundation has more than $15 million in endowments and planned gifts by way of bequests. “We have worked diligently for the past 10 years to turn the foundation into Greater Greenville's most pro-active community partner for serving as an advocate for the many charities and organizations represented in Pitt County,” Spain said.

The gala, held at the East Carolina Heart Institute, was attended by donors, supporters, board members, community partners, foundation board members and staff. Gala committee members were David and Sydney Womack, chairpersons; Melissa Spain, co-chairwoman; Jim and Ann Lanier; Bill and Mary-Hannah Taft; Ernest and Charlene Silver; Dr. Earl Trevathan; Ann Whitehurst; Tommy Stroud; Marvin and Rebecca Blount; and Max Joyner Sr.

“We really wanted to make this red carpet gala a milestone celebration for every donor, community partner and individual who has served tirelessly over the years as well as offered their continued financial support to help us serve Greenville and eastern North Carolina by changing the lives of thousands and making this community a better place to live, work and raise our families,” Spain said. “Tonight was indeed a celebration of philanthropy, and we look forward to the many new successes that we will see happen in the future through the power of giving.”
An artifact from the Battleship North Carolina is at East Carolina University being treated and conserved by an ECU faculty member and graduate students until February, when it will be returned.

A rubber relief map of the island of Iwo Jima from the Battleship North Carolina was displayed Thursday in ECU's Joyner Library to mark Veterans Day. Now the World War II map will be worked on by Susanne Grieve of the Department of History, who specializes in conservation work for the maritime studies program, and graduate students in the program.

The intelligence map was made of rubber from a mold and then injected with foam to form the relief of the island and is at an approximate scale of 1:12,5000. The map shows airstrips and key topographic features of the island and would have been used for training military personnel and airmen, Grieve said.

“The map is made of rubber so it could be folded and mailed, which unfortunately is contributing to its deterioration,” she said. Emily Powell, a second-year graduate student in the history program and conservation student, pointed out that the map is cracking in some areas and Mount Suribachi is sinking.

The USS North Carolina participated in the Iwo Jima campaign, but the map was not part of its wartime equipment, said Mary Ames Booker, curator of collections for the battleship memorial in an article published in the Wilmington Star News. The map has been on permanent loan to the memorial from the U.S. Navy since the 1960s.

“The aesthetic damage, such as someone put a sticker on the map and when it was removed it damaged the area, we can fix that,” Grieve said. However, some of the deterioration is because of the materials made to construct the map.
“Because they mounted it onto this board with materials that are turning acidic, that is contributing to its deterioration. Plastics and rubber materials are the hardest for conservators to treat,” she said.

After they have completed their work on the map, Grieve and the graduate students will create a “microclimate” to surround the artifact. The case will be oxygen free and be UV-light filtered to protect the rubber map. “We don’t want to do a lot to the map. We want to conserve what is here and to place it in a stable environment,” Grieve said.

Joyner Library hopes to have a presentation about the conservation of the map in January by Grieve and her students, said Robert James, assistant director of administrative services. “It’s a natural collaboration to have this piece displayed in the library for students, faculty and the public to see on Veterans Day since we have several items in our Special Collections from World War II,” he said.

The map will be returned to the USS North Carolina in February so it can be part of a battleship commemoration of the landing on Iwo Jima by U.S. forces in February 1945.

**Geography Awareness Week events planned**

Of all the water on the planet, less than 1 percent is available for human use, according to the World Health Organization. Will we have enough to support a growing global population? How will a changing climate affect access to freshwater around the world? Beginning Monday and continuing to Friday, ECU will celebrate Geography Awareness Week. Fresh water is the theme for this year's events.

Launched in 1987 by presidential proclamation, Geography Awareness Week is an annual opportunity for families and schools to engage in fun, educational experiences that draw attention to the importance of geographic understanding in ensuring our nation's economic competitiveness, national security, environmental sustainability, and the livability of our communities in the 21st century.

Three events are planned for this year's Geography Awareness Week at ECU. All events are free and open to the public.

A video presentation and panel discussion on “The Future of our Fluid Planet: Water, Climate and Perpetual Change,” will be hosted by the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Department of Geography on Tuesday, 7—8:30 p.m., in Room B102 of the Brewster Building. Topics addressed by the panel will include fresh water and issues related to climate change. Audience participation is encouraged.

The second event will be Wednesday, noon to 2 p.m., at Wright Place (Mendenhall Student Center, in the case of rain). This will be ECU's first Mapping Party, also hosted by the ECU Department of Geography in conjunction with the department's planning program student organizations, GeoClub and SPAN. This event is a public-participation mapping activity, where people collect or correct spatial data and post it online on the site Openstreetmap.org.
This student-centered mapping party will develop the first version of the “Real Student Map of ECU,” beginning with “ECU’s Hidden Treasures.” Students will seek out and locate special places they feel other students need or want to know about. Examples of locations may include the best places to study, safest places or routes at night, best food, best free parking, best tailgating locations and many more. Students can contribute to a suggested category or create a new one. Prizes will be awarded for the best contributions in categories and the best category suggestion.

Also, a book display by John Wiley and Sons, Inc. will be 12-2 p.m., Monday, in Room D210 of the Brewster Building.  
For more information, contact the ECU Department of Geography at 328-6230.

Poetry reading at ECU to benefit food bank
North Carolina poets whose work is featured in the new anthology “The Sound of Poets Cooking” will present a benefit reading at ECU at 8 p.m. on Thursday in Bate Building, Room 1032.

ECU poet and English professor John Hoppenthaler has organized the reading, which will benefit the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina. Attendees are asked to bring a can of food as part of an annual campaign, which last year collected nearly 350 pounds of food.

The Sound of Poets Cooking, edited by Richard Krawiec, features poetry by more than 60 poets alongside recipes that they contributed. In addition to Hoppenthaler and Krawiec, others whose work is represented in the anthology and who will be reading at the event include Marty Silverthorne, Jim Clark, Alison Elrod and Shelby Stephenson.

“We did this near Thanksgiving last year as a faculty reading, but after it was over, we all thought it was an idea that ought not just be seasonal,” Hoppenthaler said. As a result, Creative Writing at ECU sponsors both a fall and spring food drive, with a reading of original literature as its centerpiece. Faculty and students from throughout campus are encouraged to bring food donations to the Department of English office, Bate 2204, if they are unable to attend the reading. Items will be collected Wednesday through Nov. 23 and will be delivered before Thanksgiving.

The Food Bank requests that no glass items be donated. Especially needed are canned fruits and vegetables along with canned meals, such as stews, soups, tuna, spaghetti and ravioli. Pop-top cans are preferred. Other foods that are always welcome include peanut butter, cereal, rice, pasta, dried beans, baby formula and infant cereal. Loose glass and plastic jars of baby food cannot be accepted.

“The Sound of Poets Cooking” was recently published by Jacar Press in Durham. All proceeds from sales of the book, which will be available at the reading, go to fund writing workshops in excluded communities.
Parking restrictions in the lots surround Bate will be lifted for this event.
For more information, contact Alex Albright, director of creative writing at ECU, at 328-4876.

**Program ranked in nation's Top 10**
The doctoral program in Bioenergetics and Exercise Science, part of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science, has ranked eighth in the nation for 2010, according to a national survey.

The American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education conducted the review based on contributions of faculty in the areas of productivity, funding and visibility. Student performance, productivity, employment rates and sites were also included. The faculty associated with the program ranked first in the receipt of external federal funding for research per faculty member.

“This recognition underscores the work of our exceptional faculty and students, and we are extremely proud of this accomplishment,” said Dr. Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance.

The doctoral program is interdisciplinary with the Departments of Physiology and Biochemistry.

**Upcoming Events:**
Thursday: Screening of “El Secreto de Sus Ojos” (The Secret in Their Eyes), Hispanic Film Series, 5:30 p.m., Bate Building 1031. This psychological thriller is set in Buenos Aires in 1999. This event is part of International Education Week at ECU. For more on the Week's events, visit [http://oia.ecu.edu](http://oia.ecu.edu).

Thursday: “Brigadoon,” with book and lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner and music by Frederick Loewe, 8 p.m., McGinnis Theatre. This musical will be presented six times in November by the ECU School of Theatre and Dance. Purchase tickets online at [www.ECUARTS.com](http://www.ECUARTS.com), and by phone at (800) ECU-ARTS.

Saturday: Adapted Sports Day, 9 a.m.—7 p.m., Student Recreation Center.

See [www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Gorham Center shaping futures of children
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Monday, November 15, 2010

A community center that established its name by being the lever on which a struggling Greenville neighborhood uplifts itself has taken the challenge to do the same for children now coming to it from across the city and Pitt County.

The Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Community Center in west Greenville has thrived under the support of the Greenville City Council, educational guidance from East Carolina University and Pitt Community College, and the dedication of a growing professional and volunteer staff. It has expanded the spectrum of educational and social services that its founder and inspirational leader, the late ECU professor Lessie Bass, envisioned for the community she adopted several years ago.

Bass died in January 2009. Since then, the ECU School of Social Work, which administers the programs at the LGICC, has held fast to her vision of empowering people to shape their future. Expanded resources and services now help people who come from throughout the city and county, said ECU assistant professor and LGICC Executive Director Kerry Littlewood, director of programs Deborah Moody and former Pitt County Schools special education teacher Shawan M. Sutton, now program director of the university's Youth Excelling for Success (Y.E.S.) 21st Century Community Learning Center.

Moody, who worked with her friend and mentor Bass to open the center in 2007, said her goal is simply to make sure Bass' dream comes true. She nearly left after her friend's death, but she realized her connection to the center was too strong and Bass' dream too
important for her to walk away. Moody has replaced her mentor as the inspirational leader of the LGICC and the community it occupies.

“The dream is coming true now,” Moody said. “Our 21st Century after-school program is a perfect example. Dr. Bass wanted something to offer the children of this neighborhood, and to see it come true so quickly is pretty amazing.”

The education program began in June 2009, funded by a $240,000 grant from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, and is directed by Sutton. It provides supplemental education in math, science, reading and social studies to 115 city and county children in a non-traditional, hands-on teaching style, with an outreach worker and volunteer in each classroom.

“We're not just supporting the children's educational development, but also supporting the school system and the community,” Sutton said.

Other on-site activities include chess, music, art, crime prevention classes from the Pitt County Sheriff's Office, physical education and community gardening. Students also take trips to places such as the N.C. Zoo, the N.C. Planetarium and the battleship USS North Carolina.

Throughout the September-May process, the children's progress is evaluated and adjustments are made that target each student's needs, Sutton said. The 21st Century Community Learning Center also provides the Summer Significance Camp to keep children positively engaged during the school break, Sutton said.

Other programs for youth at the LGICC include the Youth at Work and Youth Apprenticeship Program (Y.A.P.) provided by STRIVE through a grant from the Greenville Police Department, and music appreciation classes with musician and historian Michael Garrett. But the Lucille Gorham Center is “intergenerational,” after all, and programs for other ages thrive there as well, Moody said.

Health screenings for neighborhood residents are held, quilting club members gather for social companionship and productive activities, gardening plots are cultivated, and work training and job skills classes are available.

“Every day I am amazed at the reputation that this center has achieved at the university, in city government and all the different levels of the community,” Littlewood said. “That is very helpful in cultivating resources to bring to the center.”

The Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Community Center has become a state and national model for excellence in community service, said Judy Siguaw, dean of the College of Human Ecology at ECU. It all springs from the humble efforts of the staff at the center and the university to follow Bass' lead of offering friendship and encouragement to individuals who wish to better themselves and the community in which they live, Moody said.
“People are still grieving over Lessie's death, but I want them to have some joy, too. Lessie liked to party and enjoy life, so we like to have a great time doing the work we do,” Moody said.

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Event honors social worker's legacy

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, November 14, 2010

Hundreds of friends and beneficiaries of the legacy of the late pioneering social worker and East Carolina University professor Lessie L. Bass celebrated her memory in west Greenville Saturday with a building dedication in her name.

The Lessie Bass Building at 1100 Ward Street houses the administrative offices of the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center, which Bass founded and opened in 2007 to serve the social, spiritual, health and educational needs of community residents of all ages.

For her work at the center and at the ECU College of Human Ecology Department of Social Work, Bass received the 2008 UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Public Service. More important to Bass, however, her friends and colleagues said, were the personal relationships she formed with those she worked beside and those she helped throughout the community.

Those relationships were the foundation of her success and the guiding principle of her work, her friends said.

“Equally important with her professional skills was her compassion for people,” Mayor Pat Dunn said. “You can have all kinds of expertise, but you need that personal relationship with people to find a way to work together.”

Judy Siguaw, dean of the ECU College of Human Ecology, spoke of the value that Bass' center has had for the university and its students.

“It shows the core essence of what our college is about; enriching lives and enhancing communities,” Siguaw said. “Her work left a great resource for internships connected with the community, which is vital and continually expanded upon, true to Dr. Bass's vision.”
City Council member Rose Glover helped Bass' dream unfold in her council district as the city formed a working relationship with her to provide facilities and support. She saw Bass and her closest friend, Deborah Moody, now serving as the center's director of programs, come into the neighborhood two years before the center's doors opened. Bass and Moody went home-to-home, befriending west Greenville residents and finding out what it would take to bring them to a community center, Glover said.

“This was great. Instead of telling the people what they would do, they were asking them what they needed,” Glover said. “That had the biggest impact on the success of the center. I can tell you, on behalf of the entire council, that this center is one of the best investments the city has ever made, and will continue receiving our support.”

Merrill Flood, director of community development for Greenville, described the spirit in Bass that everyone at the gathering came to share. “When you came in contact with Lessie, you were instantly enlightened,” Flood said. “She never saw people based on income or stature in the community. She just saw people.”

Today, the center has expanded with state grants and a rare combination of public and private financial support to offer educational afterschool programs, recreational and cultural activities and health care for those in need. This year, close to 16,000 people have visited the Gorham center for support, education, training and companionship, center officials said.

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Notre Dame death prompts ECU changes
By Ronnie Woodward
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, November 14, 2010

Communication is a priority when it comes to videotaping East Carolina football practices, especially after a Notre Dame student recently died while taping a Fighting Irish practice when the hydraulic lift he was on collapsed during high winds.

Although ECU head coach Ruffin McNeill has the final call on whether or not to put students on lifts when weather is a factor, the decision-making process is far from a dictatorship. East Carolina Director of Video Services Greg Pierce, football video coordinator Will Davis and the student videographers themselves have plenty of input.

That open line of communication has been stressed in recent weeks.
“Coach McNeill, his support staff and assistant coaches have let us know that if we ever feel we are in harm's way that we just need to come down,” said Addison Harvey, an ECU senior who has been videotaping Pirate practices and games since he was a freshman. “There is just much more awareness now.”

Harvey cited a conversation he had with McNeill about a week after the death of ND student Declan Sullivan. The weather in Greenville was windy and rainy, and McNeill told him to come down from the lift if he ever felt uncomfortable.

ECU has not made major changes to its videotaping procedures since the ND tragedy, but it has done a couple of things to enhance safety.
It is in the process of ordering wind gauges that the students can take with them on the lifts. Harvey said the gauges will likely make him feel more comfortable.

Sullivan died Oct. 27 when the scissor lift he was on toppled over. The National Weather Service estimated that winds in the area were gusting around 50 mph at the time, and the Irish had practiced indoors the day before because of the weather.
“As a result of the tragedy at Notre Dame, we have revisited our protocol for filming practice,” ECU assistant athletic director Nick Floyd wrote in an e-mail message. “While we felt comfortable with our previous approach, we are in the process of formalizing our
procedures to make sure they are in conformance with OHSA and other risk management guidelines.”

The Pirates usually use two hydraulic lifts, along with a wooden structure that is in the middle of the practice facility, to tape practices. Pierce said there are different kinds of lifts and different weight requirements, but ECU doesn't allow more than two videographers on any lift at a given time. East Carolina also doesn't use the lifts if winds are above 25 mph, which the company that provides them recommends.

Harvey and Pierce both said that lowering the lifts during certain situations is also critical when it comes to preventing danger.

Those type of guidelines have been reinforced since the Notre Dame tragedy.

“I just reiterated to my kids to do whatever they feel comfortable with,” Pierce said. “We are talking about videotaping football practice. You have to use your better judgement and if they don't feel comfortable going 45 feet up in the air, don't go 45 feet up in the air.”

ECU has not had an incident during Pierce's nine-year tenure. He said ECU's coaches have been key, citing an example when former Pirate coach Steve Logan made it a priority to send home videographers when lightning was in the area during a practice.

Harvey admitted that Sullivan's death was in the back of his mind the first time he went up on a lift after the tragedy, but he feels comfortable with the situation at East Carolina. “We film all the time and it's something that could happen to anybody,” he said. “But you just hope now that there is more awareness nationwide toward the dangers of being up in those lifts.

“Coach McNeill and his staff have been great about letting us know to come down if we feel uncomfortable, which I think all coaching staffs around the nation need to tell that to their video students.”

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WINTERVILLE - Lisa M. Corbett, 38, died Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2010. A memorial service will be conducted Sunday at 3 p.m. at Covenant United Methodist Church.

Lisa, a native of Greene County, Ohio, lived her youth in Ocala, Fla. She was a 1994 graduate of Florida State University with degrees in psychology and nutrition/dietetics. She was an independent contractor with the Brody School of Medicine as a dietitian. Lisa was a member of Covenant United Methodist.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Anne Sawyer. She is survived by her husband of 17 years, Reide Corbett; sons, Ian and Noah Corbett, of the home; parents, Barry and Miriam Elkins, of Kissimmee, Fla.; and brothers, Scott Elkins and wife, Kristi, of Moody, Ala., and Darin Elkins and wife, Elizabeth, of Atlanta.

A memorial fund will be set up in Lisa's honor, details will be finalized soon, contact J.P. Walsh, walshj@ecu.edu.

ECU College of Business ranks among top schools

The College of Business at East Carolina University has again earned top marks, ranking among the best U.S. business schools for the fourth year in a row according to The Princeton Review.

The New York-based education services company features ECU in its new 2011 edition of “The Best 300 Business Schools.” As part of its rating, the College of Business is outlined in a two-page profile highlighting academics, career and placement, student life, and admissions information. The profile also touts the college’s solid preparation in teamwork, communication and interpersonal skills, quantitative skills and computer skills.

Quotes from business students applaud the school’s “very demanding” classes as well as faculty and administrators who are “accessible and want to help.”

“The College of Business is proud once again to rank nationally as a top business school,” Rick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said. “We strive to shape future leaders who succeed in business and contribute to their communities, and so we greatly value this distinction as one of the best institutions for students to earn a solid business education.”

The Princeton Review compiled the information based on surveys of 19,000 students attending the 300 business schools as well as on school-reported data. The ranking lists and other data are available online at www.PrincetonReview.com.

There are approximately 2,500 business schools in the United States.

The College of Business at ECU was founded in 1936 and has been continuously accredited by the AACSB since 1967. The college has more than 3,100 undergraduate students, 870 graduate students, 135 faculty members, as well as 30 degrees, majors and concentrations.
43 ECU physicians named to annual Best Doctors list

Forty-three physicians from the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University have been chosen by their peers for inclusion in the annual “Best Doctors” list.

The annual list is compiled by Best Doctors Inc., a Boston-based group that surveys more than 30,000 physicians across the United States who previously have been included in the listing asking whom they would choose to treat themselves or their families.

Approximately 5 percent of the physicians who practice in North Carolina make the annual list. A partial list of the state’s best doctors is in the November issue of “Business North Carolina” magazine.

ECU physicians on the list are Dr. William A. Burke, dermatology; Drs. Greg W. Knapp, Lars C. Larsen, Gary I. Levine, Robert J. Newman, Kenneth Steinweg and Ricky Watson, family medicine; Drs. Paul P. Cook and Keith M. Ramsey, infectious diseases; Dr. David Goff, pediatrics and internal medicine; Drs. Mary Jane Barchman, Paul Bolin and Cynthia Christiano, nephrology; Drs. Raymond Dombroski and Edward R. Newton, obstetrics and gynecology; Drs. David Hannon, Charlie J. Sang Jr. and Carolyn T. Spencer, pediatric cardiology; Drs. Irma Fjordalisi, Glenn Harris, William E. Novotny and Ronald M. Perkin, pediatric critical care; Dr. Michael Reichel, pediatric developmental and behavioral problems; Dr. Debra A. Tristram, pediatric infectious diseases; Dr. David N. Collier, pediatric obesity; Dr. Daniel P. Moore, pediatric physical medicine and rehabilitation; Dr. Elaine Cabinum-Foeller, pediatric abuse; Dr. Diana J. Antonacci, John Diamond and Kaye L. McGinty, child and adolescent psychiatry; Drs. James J. Cummings and Scott S. MacGilvray, neonatal medicine; Dr. Karin Marie Hillebrand, Thomas G. Irons, Dale A. Newton, Kathleen V. Previll and Charles Willson, general pediatrics; Dr. Robert A. Shaw, pulmonary medicine; Drs. Robert Harland, Eric Toschlog and Emmanuel Zerovos, surgery; Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood Jr., cardiothoracic surgery; and Dr. Charles S. Powell, vascular surgery.

BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Stair, Cichon join medical school staff

Dr. Richard Stair and Dr. Martin Cichon, both emergency physicians, have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Stair joined the medical school as a clinical assistant professor and associate residency director in the Department of Emergency Medicine. He comes to Greenville from Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount, where he worked in the emergency department.

Cichon has a bachelor’s degree from the University of California-Davis, a medical degree from Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poland, and he completed residency training in family medicine at ECU.

Cichon is board-certified in family medicine and is fluent in English and Polish. He sees patients at MedDirect at the corner of Arlington Boulevard and Heart Drive.

The University of Maryland, where he also completed residency training in emergency medicine. He is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

Stair sees patients in the emergency department at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Cichon, a native of Poland, joined the medical school as a clinical assistant professor. He comes to Greenville from Nash General Hospital in Rocky Mount, where he worked in the emergency department.

Cichon has a bachelor’s degree from the University of California-Davis, a medical degree from Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences in Poland, and he completed residency training in family medicine at ECU.

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PEOPLE IN THE NEWS SPOTLIGHT

Nellie Taylor retires, concludes 47-year career with East Carolina University

Nellie Taylor of Greenville retired on Oct. 29, ending a 47-year career at East Carolina University. She was director of Materials Management, a position she held since 2003.

The Materials Management staff honored Taylor with a reception on Oct. 26. About 130 friends, family, co-workers and business associates attended. She was presented a Pandora bracelet and three charms, which included an amethyst for ECU and a crown because she has always been known as the “queen of purchasing,” said Susie Keene, Business Services coordinator and office administrator.

“She has always been a good steward of the school’s resources and dedicated in assuring her customers achieve their goals,” Scott Buck, associate vice chancellor for Administration and Finance, Business Services, said. “Nellie has earned the respect of her peers in state procurement, her university colleagues, her employees and the vendor community.”

Taylor began her career as a secretary in the Department of Continuing Education six weeks after graduating from ECU. Twelve years later, she became a purchasing agent in what would become the Department of Materials Management. Taylor was promoted in 1990 to assistant director, associate director in 2001 and director of Materials Management in 2003.

“I have seen many changes during my tenure here,” she said.

As director of Materials Management, Taylor oversaw the operation of the Purchasing Office, Central Stores and Receiving, Fixed Assets, Medical Storeroom, ProCard Office and Surplus Property. All purchase contracts for the university, including supplies, materials, printing, equipment and service, are made through Materials Management.

“I will always remember with pride the things I was privileged to be a part of in the growth of this great institution,” Taylor said. “I remember purchasing the first linear accelerator at ECU, the first MRI unit, working with Dr. (Randolph) Chitwood and Dr. (Leslie) Nifong to purchase the first robot to be used for heart surgery, and the many buildings I have helped furnish. My career has been very rewarding.”

Taylor has served on many boards and search committees at ECU, including Shared Visions in the 1990s, ECU’s first major fundraising campaign. Under her supervision, two Materials Management teams received Synergy Awards, and in 2003 she was honored with the ECU Founders Day Award in recognition of her distinguished service.

She thanked her staff for their support and contributions.

“You made me look good,” she said. “We are only as good as our team, and I have been blessed to have great teams.”
A bead on design
By Samantha Thompson Hatem, Correspondent
RALEIGH—If you've ever considered switching careers late in life, let Eric Ennis inspire you.

At 78, Ennis has taken the same skill set - attention to detail, precision sewing and an eye for style - that made him a successful fashion designer for three decades and put them to work in a new career. Ennis is what he calls a "beading-on-textiles artist" or, more simply put, he sews beads onto fabric to create gallery-worthy pieces of art.

"A friend told me I'm 'painting with beads,'" says Ennis, whose company Le Couturier was once one of the area's go-to society dressmakers. "I guess that's what I'm doing."

From his home near Crabtree Valley Mall, Ennis spends hours at his dining room table in front of an oversized lighted magnifying glass carefully sewing bugle beads, seed pearls, rhinestones and other types of beads onto patterned swatches of fabric. Matted and framed, the result is a jeweled showpiece that blends the style of fashion, the beauty of art and hard work of a homemade craft.

"The work is gorgeous, intricate and unique," says Jeannie Mellinger, who is the director of communications for the N.C. Symphony and has known Ennis for a decade. "The most interesting thing about Eric, I think, is how he has had this lifelong desire to sew and create. And now that he no longer has his couture business, he has found another way to use his design skills and has discovered real joy in it."
Music came first
Ennis never set out to be an artist. Or even a fashion designer, for that matter. When he left North Carolina in his 20s, he was going to make a career for himself in music. After earning a degree in music from East Carolina College, now East Carolina University, in 1955, his dream was to become the next great tenor, a Pavarotti before there even was a Pavarotti. He went to the University of Michigan for a master's degree in music voice and opera and was later drafted into the Army.

While in the service, he found the perfect outlet for his singing - the U.S. Army Chorus based in Arlington, Va. Back then, the chorus was in its infancy with just 38 members, all men.

After three years, including a year touring with the National Opera Company, Ennis opted out of an Army chorus career and headed to New York City to get his break in the business. There were gigs here and there at churches and synagogues, but his big break never materialized.

So he did what so many do when their dreams don't work out: He put his other talents to work to make money. It all happened by chance. A friend had an upcoming performance at Carnegie Hall, and she needed something to wear. Ennis, who had watched his mother sew and had even made curtains for himself, offered to help her out. "I knew how to handle a machine, but I'd never made a garment," he says.

He bought some satin brocade and got to work using his instincts to create a blue gown with a big, beaded Elizabethan collar.

The day after his friend performed, Ennis had three new clients. "I panicked," he says. "I didn't know what I was doing."

Dressing for performance
Regardless, his newfound fashion design business blossomed, mostly from performers who needed elaborate gowns to wear on stage. Among his more famous clients was Patricia Brooks, a New York opera singer and lyric soprano.

He toyed with going to one of New York's famed fashion schools, but a friend convinced him he had enough natural talent without it. Besides, he says, New York was starting to wear on him. He had grown disenchanted with the city.

In 1966, Ennis, who grew up in Goldsboro, moved home to North Carolina to be closer to his aging parents. He brought with him his fashion design business, and quickly got to work sewing.

His first clients came from the business cards he put up at a local hair salon. Word soon spread about his talent, and his client list evolved to include many of the area's society ladies making their "sipping and praying" dresses, as he called them, the dresses they wore to cocktail parties and to church.
But the bulk of his business came from brides, debutantes and the beauty pageant community, from Miss North Carolina contestants to reigning Miss Americas. Two of his more prominent clients, he says, included the wife of Gov. Robert W. Scott, Jessie Scott, and the wife of Gov. Dan K. Moore, Jeanelle Moore.

For 30 years, he sewed gowns, learning the tricks of dealing with picky brides and demanding mothers. "The gowns were elegant, grand types," he says. Hand-beading came with the job, especially during that time, when fancy gowns meant fancy beadwork. By the early 1990s, tastes began to change. Beauty queens wanted to show more of their body and skin in slinky dresses rather than full, intricately beaded gowns. As styles got more casual, demand for the "sipping and praying" dresses waned. Ennis decided it was time to retire from the business.

**A day job**

A decade ago, Ennis, who also spent 28 years as the choir director at the Church of the Good Shepherd, switched gears, taking a job at the N.C. Symphony as an assistant librarian, which is still his day job. "I like it because it's a complete change of pace," he says.

It also allows him to spend his creative energy and time at home working on his art.

Madonna Phillips, a local mixed-media and glass artist, was among the first to see his new beaded art, a quilted piece that was sectioned with different beaded patterns. She suggested he take one color theme, instead of a whole quilt full of them, sew beads onto just a single swatch and then matte and frame it. "I thought that if he wanted to sell them, he might have better luck selling one color theme, rather than an entire quilt," she says.

Now she realizes his work symbolizes more than just his new life as an artist. It's also about Ennis' past life as a fashion designer.

"Not everyone could have an Eric Ennis garment before, but with these, you can still have a little piece of him," she says. "His work is a fashion vignette of the garments that he used to make."

Ennis is impatient for his work to get noticed, and for good reason. "I'm 78," he says. "I don't know how long my hands are going to hold out. Or how long my eyes will hold out."

**One piece a month**

For now, he turns out about a piece a month. It's painstaking work for any age. Each bead is hand-sewn onto a patterned piece of a fabric. Some are as simple as a dragonfly beaded with a mix of long and round gold beads. For other pieces, he uses a mix of bead types - maybe rhinestones and pearls - as well as bead sizes. It's easy to see his progression in the last year and a half, moving from simple designs to more intricate patterns with a variety of colored beads.
He charges from $400 to $1,800 for his work, a steal, really, when you consider the cost and quality of the beads (he never uses plastic) and the frame.

"To me, what he's done and what he's doing is the kind of work that you just don't see anymore," Mellinger says. "The intricacy of his work is what blows your mind. You can't even see how the beads are attached, they're done so carefully."

You can find his work at the Bellagio Gallery in Asheville. There's another piece hanging at Bella Monica restaurant in West Raleigh. He's also sold his work at Little Art Gallery in Cameron Village, and he was among the artists donating a piece in the recent Works of Heart art auction against AIDS, a fundraiser Ennis helped organize in the early 1990s.

"I know it takes time," he says. "I just want to share what I do with people."
Wayne Hardee stands talks about the modified version of an indian longhouse he and others built in the Catechna Indian Village in Grifton across from the museum Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2010. The longhouses the indians built were in reality 100 feet long by 20 feet wide and accommodated a large number of families. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Locals say Indian villages would be draw
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, November 14, 2010

When Tom Thompson visits Jamestown, he sees reconstructed Native American structures and a colonial fort as evidence of the area's rich history. He also sees a parking lot packed with cars on a Tuesday morning, people paying to watch as archeologists excavate Virginian soil in search of preserved relics.

The executive director of the Beaufort County Economic Development Commission believes that same scene is possible in his own backyard, while in the Pitt County town of Grifton, history-minded residents also are working to bring a long-lost heritage back into public view.

The Secotan Indian Village on Bath Creek was a point of contact between colonists and an existing population of Algonquian Indians. It's one of a few instances where two distinct cultures met, and briefly coexisted.
Not only that, it was the site where Elizabethan court artist John White painted iconic depictions of Native American life — people, towns and their rituals, the area's flora and fauna — that are used in displays and books nationwide. Thompson believes he's found where the village stood.

“We're talking about a world-class tourist attraction,” he said, describing Secotan as a regional capital where religious rites, farming and trading occurred. Thompson actually gives discovery credit to Kevin Duffus, a Raleigh-based historian and researcher. Duffus was researching Bath resident Edward Salter — a 1700s assemblyman and possible member of Blackbeard's pirate crew — for a book in 2007. In the process, Duffus stumbled across a record of the site compiled by state archeologists in the late
1980s. The agency was conducting exploratory work because corporate landowners wanted to build a bulkhead around the point.

“I wasn't sure whether we should speculate publicly that this Algonkian (sic) village might be the long-sought Secota (also Secoton and Secotan), since the sources and maps are far from clear on its location,” researcher Wilson Angley wrote in a letter about their findings.

The brief further described the site as having a “rich potential for more thorough investigations in the future.”

Thousands of artifacts were discovered, some colonial but most believed to be Native American, Thompson said. Calls made to current state archeologist Steve Claggett this week were not returned.

“The Lost Colony isn't the only mystery here,” Thompson remarked. “How did this thing stay (hidden)?”

There are barriers to identifying the site as Secotan with certainty. East Carolina University archeologist Randy Daniel said it could take six months to a year of research before actual digging could begin. He suggests looking at those original artifacts for clues about what may have existed on Bath Creek.

Daniel was asked by Thompson to participate in the project seeking Secotan but he declined because of a rigorous schedule of classes and other academic obligations. The First Colony Foundation, a nonprofit organization including several archeologists, has agreed to explore the site for evidence of Secotan, Thompson said.

Then there's the issue of access.

The more than 400 acres on the southwest side of Bath Creek piquing the interest of Beaufort County officials are owned by PotashCorp, a Canadian company operating a phosphate plant in Aurora. It's currently used as farmland, said spokeswoman Michelle Vaught.

The facility's general manager wrote to Beaufort officials supporting “a methodical and scientific approach to any further investigation of the site.” He, in concert with professional archeologist Patricia Samford, suggested other sites around Bath Creek be explored first, a committee of experts formed and a market study conducted to assess the plausibility of a successful tourist attraction on the PotashCorp land.

Vaught said they believe granting access to archeologists to be premature, so no one is authorized to be on site yet.

Thompson sees Secotan as a potential center for a regional draw, including Bath's colonial history, the recreation of a Blackbeard pirate ship and the Aurora Fossil Museum. They want the public observing progress and eventually volunteering in the digs, he added. That can't happen without permission from PotashCorp.

“I want the whole thing,” he said. “It should be a national historic site.”

Beaufort County isn't the only local entity hoping to develop heritage tourism.
Pitt County historian Wayne Hardee got hooked on history when he found his first arrowhead while working in tobacco at age 13. He's now leading the effort in Grifton to create a scaled-down version of what a Tuscarora village might have looked like in the 1600s or 1700s.

The Catechna Village consists of a bark-covered, shortened long house, a lean-to, a rudimentary fire pit, and land tilled for a garden. Hardee isn't sure it was the exact location where a village stood, but he said it doesn't matter. The Tuscarora nation was so vast it could have been anywhere in the area, he said. The land along Creek Shore Drive was provided by the town and offers a view of Contentnea Creek.

“What we want to do is make this like a living village,” Hardee said of the town's eventual aim. “There's nothing around here like this. I think (reception) is going to be strong.”

He and a few other volunteers laid the groundwork for the village four years ago by applying for a grant through the N.C. Rural Center. Of the $200,000 awarded under the Small Town Economic Prosperity effort, $15,000 was allotted for the village by the Grifton Community Development board.

They still plan to purchase furs, pottery and other props, Hardee said, before opening to the public early next year. The Grifton Museum across the street also will feature a larger room to house artifacts found in southern Pitt County.

Hardee said they hope to host a speaker or specialist in primitive arts for demonstrations every quarter or so in addition to regular volunteers explaining Native American life each weekend.

“We want to revitalize Grifton and get it back on the map, bring attention to life on the Contentnea” said Town Commissioner Sammy Whitehurst, who assisted Hardee in constructing the village. “Once he started building, the excitement started to pick up.”

ECU History Department professor Christopher Oakley said both instances are part of a larger trend. Specializing in North Carolina and Native American history, Oakley remarked it's not uncommon these days to get calls from amateur archeologists uncovering arrowheads or individuals hoping to tie their genealogy to one tribe or another.


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Craftspeople show and sell

By Lynn Bonner, Staff Writer

RALEIGH—Fifty vendors filled Cobblestone Hall in City Market downtown Saturday looking to catch shoppers who they hope will be part of an onslaught looking for handmade holiday gifts over the coming weeks.

To craftspeople, shows like this one in the weeks leading up to the holidays are like the day after Thanksgiving for mall retailers and big box stores. Crafters spend months designing and making holiday-themed products for a string of shows in November and December. They'll haul their wares from city to city, and sometimes state to state, to find buyers who fancy handmade hats, jewelry or soap.

Some craftspeople with a track record selling year-round said holiday shoppers contribute up to 50 percent of their craft-related income.

Wendy Allen spends three months in spring and summer in production, making hats, scarves and pins from wool felted by hand, all in preparation for the cooler months when she sells the accessories at craft shows around the country.

Allen, who lives in Union County, hires a seasonal worker for May through August, and works "really, really long hours" to prepare for the craft-show sales like the one Saturday in Cobblestone Hall.

A group of seven local jewelry designers, The Handmaidens, organized the fair, one of several on most crafters' calendars this month.

"This is the time people are thinking about holiday gifts," said Kiona Van Rhee-Wilson of Raleigh, one of the Handmaidens. The craft show has repeat customers who come looking for gifts, she said.

Some of the vendors sell only in the weeks leading up to holidays. Others depend heavily on holiday shoppers or adapted to the season by creating Christmas-themed items.

The craft market was the first for Robin and Danny Groth, married East Carolina University graduate students who make cake toppers featuring dressed-up woodland creatures that the Groths sell on the Internet. To grab Saturday's holiday shoppers, they created a series of big-eyed, earmuff-wearing owls that they perched in a table-top Christmas tree and sold as ornaments.
After about three years of selling crafts, the Groths noticed customers' preference for owls, and in September they started sewing dozens of them.

Garden designer Doug Kowalczyk of Raleigh figured out how to extend what could have been a solely warm-weather business into a year-round income producer by planting small gardens in containers.

He marketed some Saturday as holiday gifts that he said would look good on a deck.

"Some plant folks are calling it a year," Kowalczyk said. "This business is gearing up."

For crafters, as for Toys R Us and Walmart, one key to a successful holiday season is making sure they have enough inventory on hand.

Kimberly Thigpen started last summer stocking up on fragrances and other ingredients used in the bath products she and her husband sold Saturday. The Rocky Mount couple started the side business selling soaps, lotions and balms about a year ago.

Preparing for the holiday shopping season means a lot of long nights and full weekends during the summer, Thigpen said, testing and producing items that would go into gift bags and boxes.

For the holidays, she came up with a "Cold Comfort Balm," an ointment for cold sufferers.

"A lot of shows are squeezed around the shopping season," she said. "It takes a long time to get ready."

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Finding Ross cost $140K

By Eric Ferreri, Staff Writer
CHAPEL HILL The search that resulted in the hiring of UNC President-elect Tom Ross cost the university more than $140,000.

That's far more than university leaders had hoped to spend, yet far less than institutions often dole out looking for their leaders.

At the outset of the search this year, system leaders said they didn't want to spend more than $100,000 looking for a successor for UNC President Erskine Bowles, who is retiring at the end of the year.

But the process proved more cumbersome than anticipated. The total cost was $141,595, according to data released by the UNC system at the request of The News & Observer. Most of that - $127,227 - went to R. William Funk & Associates, the Dallas-based search consultant that assisted in the search and handled the logistics.

Taxpayers did not foot the bill. The UNC system used private money, interest gleaned from unrestricted gifts given to the university over time. It is a pot of money UNC system leaders use in a variety of ways, from salaries for some employees to the box lunches given to members of the system's governing board during meetings, said Joni Worthington, a university spokeswoman.

Though they weren't spending public money, university leaders said this year that they hoped to keep the search's costs close to the $89,524 spent on the 2005 search that brought Bowles to the job.

But the search parameters have changed since then.

Search rules
In 2005, a single 13-member committee conducted the search, which turned out to be a mistake. In the late 1990s, university leaders had inserted language into the university code requiring a presidential search to use three committees: one to write a leadership statement, a second to review initial candidates, and a third to narrow the field to finalists. In 2005, nobody apparently knew those guidelines, so the single, smaller committee was used. This year, UNC leaders knew the rules and put three committees together totaling 55 people.

More people meant more meetings with the search consultant, pushing the costs up. The consultant handled much of the search's heavy lifting - recruiting and evaluating candidates, conducting background checks and arranging interviews.
"We wanted to keep it as low as we could, but because the process involved 55 people, it just cost more," said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system's Board of Governors. "It was more involved and more inclusive, and also required greater involvement by the consultant."

The consultant, Bill Funk, was hired in part because of his knowledge of the state and the UNC system.

Funk recently led searches for the UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor and provost. UNC-CH paid him $213,581 in private funds for the search that resulted in the hiring of Holden Thorp as chancellor.

It budgeted $144,700 for the provost search, though a spokesman said this week that it wasn't clear whether the university had spent that entire sum. On that search, campus leaders weren't happy with any of the three finalists and ended up naming interim provost Bruce Carney to the permanent post.

Even the $213,000 spent at UNC-CH is lower than what a lot of universities spend on searches. The University of Illinois recently spent $302,000 on a search for its new president, in 2007 the University of Iowa spent $314,000, and in 2002 the University of Michigan spent $334,000, according to published reports.

**Near and far**

Even after conducting national searches, universities often end up with candidates who were right under their noses the entire time.

Thornton rose through the ranks at UNC-CH and was the arts and sciences dean when named chancellor.

And Ross, who takes over the UNC system Jan. 1, is president at Davidson College and is well known in North Carolina for his previous work as a judge, courts administrator and head of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

At other times, a search produces a fresh face. Randy Woodson was the Purdue University provost before becoming N.C. State University's chancellor this year and has proved popular in Raleigh.

University leaders say search consultants are a necessary expense because of their ability to produce a deep pool of talented candidates.

"You can do this without a search firm," Gage said. "I don't know you'd get the results you want. In our case, it was too great a risk."

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UNC's Kenan-Flagler to start online MBA

UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School announced this morning that it will begin an online MBA program next summer, following the recent news of a similar degree at N.C. State.

The Chapel Hill school is accepting applications for its first class, which will be limited to 50 students and is scheduled to start in July 2011. Tuition will be $89,000 for the two-year program. That total will include books, texts, student fees and lodging and food costs for four weekend immersions.

N.C. State's College of Management plans to begin taking applications in January and start its program next fall. Its 2-year program will cost $30,600 for in-state residents.

Both schools are betting on the increasing acceptance of online learning, especially among busy professionals who want a business degree. More than 80 universities now offer online MBAs. But some schools, including Duke University, have refused to join the trend.

UNC's new program will have the same admissions criteria of its traditional MBA, and the classes will be designed and taught by Kenan-Flagler professors.

"As we redefine what quality online education means, our goal is to be the preeminent MBA program," said Kenan-Flagler dean James W. Dean Jr., in a statement.

UNC is working with an outside company, 2tor Inc., to develop the program, MBA@UNC.

“MBA@UNC continues our role as an innovator and educational leader,” said executive director Susan Cates, a graduate of UNC’s residential MBA program, in a prepared statement. “I’m proud that it fulfills UNC’s mission to enhance access to learning so that we can develop the next generation of leaders.”
Alcohol-caffeine mix raises state's concern

RALEIGH Caffeinated malt beverages banned in at least two states are now coming under scrutiny in North Carolina, where Gov. Beverly Perdue is asking that they be removed, at least temporarily, from store shelves.

Perdue's request follows a move this week by Washington state officials to ban the drinks, which are 12 percent alcohol and come in splashy, multicolored, 23.5-ounce cans similar to nonalcoholic energy drinks. In Washington, regulators banned the drinks after nine students at Central Washington University were hospitalized and one student nearly died after drinking them, according to published reports.

The combination of alcohol and caffeine, both of which dehydrate the body, can be dangerous, said Mary Covington, executive director of campus health services at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Opponents say the drinks pose a danger because people may not realize how much alcohol they're consuming.

"The caffeine actually masks the sedative effect of alcohol," Covington said. "It makes people feel less impaired than they are. They think they're OK, but it's an illusion."

Michigan also has banned the drinks, and other states are considering doing so as well. In North Carolina, the ABC Commission, which regulates alcohol sales, will take up the issue Thursday. Most beer in North Carolina has an alcohol content of 3 to 5.5 percent. A standard can or bottle is 12 ounces. A single, 23.5-ounce caffeinated malt beverage, at 12 percent, provides at least four times the buzz.

"We've never regulated caffeine before," said Jon Williams, chairman of the state's ABC Commission. "But these products seem designed around combining a high amount of alcohol with a high amount of caffeine."

The drinks, which generally sell for $2 to $3 each, are widely available in convenience stores and other places where beer is sold.

Perdue said in a news release Friday she wants the manufacturers to remove them from shelves voluntarily until they're "proven safe." A federal Food and Drug Administration study of these energy drinks is under way and eventually may answer the question.

The most prominent of these products is Four Loko, a malt beverage that comes in a variety of sweet, fruity flavors and also contains guarana, taurine and caffeine.
Warning labels
In the Triangle, universities say they're watching the issue but thus far have not seen its ill effects.

But these drinks aren't breaking any new ground in combining alcohol and caffeine. Drinkers have been mixing the two for years; when the Red Bull energy drink emerged earlier this decade, drinkers quickly paired it with vodka, which has a far larger alcohol content by volume and thus could do more damage depending on how much is consumed, Covington said.

And that's the point the manufacturers of Four Loko have tried to make in recent weeks as their product has come under fire. Four Loko is made by Phusion Projects LLC in Chicago. A company spokesman said Friday that Perdue's request that the drinks be removed from store shelves is misguided since it doesn't also target drinks that mix caffeine with liquor, which has a far higher alcohol content.

"No matter which type of alcohol a person may choose to drink or to - in some cases - abuse, responsible alcoholic beverage companies have a responsibility to work to ensure their products are consumed safely, responsibly and by adults of legal age," a company statement issued Friday reads in part. "Our cans feature seven different warning labels, our alcohol-by-volume warning is in a font as large as is allowed by law, and we work alongside our distributors and the stores that sell our products to ensure they are marketed, sold and consumed lawfully and responsibly."

That argument resonates with John Boy, owner of Sam's Quik Shop, a popular beer shop near Duke University.

"What's the difference between stocking that or something else?" Boy said. "They're not banning liquor, are they?"

Four Loko sells well in Boy's shop, but students seem to treat it as a fad or an oddity, he said.

"It's the latest and greatest thing out there," he said. "But one year the students want one thing, then it's something else."

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Spencer Shell, center left, hugs Johnathan Smetana, one of his rescuers, during a recognition ceremony at the Tally Student Center at N.C. State University. Smetana was one of three students who performed CPR on Shell.

N.C. State student thanks many rescuers

By Martha Quillin, Staff Writer
RALEIGH–N.C. State University junior Spencer Shell had an "It's a Wonderful Life" moment Friday afternoon when 17 people were recognized for the parts they played in saving his life.

There was Christian Olson, the graduate student and former Marine who saw Shell collapse during a jog across campus on the afternoon of Sept. 2, and ran to his aid; and Matthew Cross, a classmate and part-time firefighter who joined Olson and another student in administering CPR.

Then there was the student who figured out, with no wallet or identification, who Shell was so someone could call his parents in Stanly County; and more than half a dozen Raleigh paramedics, emergency medical technicians and firefighters who took over lifesaving efforts and delivered Shell to Rex Healthcare, where he awoke seven days later with no recollection of what had happened to him.

Now that he knows, he is struck by how many lives were touched by his near-death.

"There's this amazing interconnectedness," he said after a ceremony on campus to celebrate his survival and honor the people, named and unnamed, who helped him defy the odds.
Shell is studying computer and political science, not statistics, but he believes it's highly unlikely that all the factors at play the day his heart stopped occurred by chance.

"I feel a divine hand over it all," said Shell, who describes himself as a reticent public speaker but who was a ready witness for what he believes.

First was the unusual time and course of his run: 5:30 p.m. up Dan Allen Drive, through the middle of campus.

"Usually I run at, like, 1 or 2 in the morning, through the woods or on the greenway," Shell said. "I like seclusion, peace. I don't really like to run through crowds."

There was the happy accident that Olson, trained in lifesaving techniques, was running in the opposite direction and was just seconds away when Shell leaned over, then fell to the ground unconscious, purple and with no pulse.

Olson has a habit of being in the right place and keeping a cool head. When he was 12 or 13, he and his grandmother were out for a winter walk when she slipped and fell into a lake. She couldn't swim. He pulled her out.

Years later, his father said, he and Olson were at a parade in Hawaii when an elderly man collapsed. Olson performed CPR on him, too.

"We joke that if you're in trouble, you want Christian standing next to you," said Jerry Olson, who came to the NCSU student center Friday to see his son and the others receive plaques for their quiet heroism.

The event that brought all these people together was rare in itself for a man of Shell's age. Doctors told him he had "acute respiratory distress syndrome," in which the lungs fill with liquid and cause severe shortness of breath. That caused his heart to stop. Few people survive such an incident, the specialists said.

The rescue breathing and chest compressions Olson and Cross helped perform kept oxygen moving into Shell's body for the four or five minutes it took for paramedics to arrive. Technically, Shell said, he was dead 20 minutes, but because they kept working on him, he was able to recover with no brain damage.

He was running stairs while still in the hospital, to rebuild his strength.

He's not jogging again just yet but has started riding his bike. If his heart stops again, there's a defibrillator implanted in his chest.

"I'm more invincible than ever, now," he said with a grin. "I'm bionic."

And maybe a little lucky.

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Million-dollar college presidents on the rise

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, November 15, 2010; 12:35 AM

George Washington University President Steven Knapp earned $985,353 in pay and benefits in 2008, making him the best-paid chief executive of any private college in the Washington area, according to an annual survey by the Chronicle of Higher Education.

Nationwide, 30 chief executives of private colleges earned more than $1 million in total pay and benefits in 2008, according to the report released Sunday and based on a survey of tax documents for 448 colleges.

The million-dollar college president is a recent phenomenon. No president earned that much in 2004. Last year's Chronicle survey found 23 seven-figure presidents. Industry leaders note that the vast majority of presidents earn far less; million-dollar pay is often the result of a lower salary padded with a large, one-time payment.

"It's X number of presidents out of 4,500 institutions. It's half of 1 percent," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education, representing presidents and provosts. "About half the people on that list have a very good reason why they earned that money."

The top earner among private college executives in 2008 was Bernard Lander, founder and president of Touro College in New York, who died in February after building a network of 31 schools and colleges. Most of his $4.8 million in pay will go to his estate. Presidents earning more than $1 million include Steven Sample at the University of Southern California ($1.9 million), Lee Bollinger at Columbia University ($1.8 million), Richard Levin at Yale ($1.5 million), Nancy Cantor at Syracuse ($1.4 million) and Donna Shalala at the University of Miami ($1.2 million). Sample's term has ended.

Knapp's compensation, just shy of the million-dollar mark, was set by GWU's trustees based on market data for leaders with similar experience at other national universities, said Candace Smith, university spokeswoman. Knapp came to GWU three years ago from the provost's job at Johns Hopkins and has three decades of higher education experience.

"Our goals for George Washington are monumental," said Russell Ramsey, the board chairman. "The board feels our compensation levels are competitive with universities of our caliber."
A year ago, former GWU President Stephen J. Trachtenberg topped the Chronicle list at $3.7 million, a figure that included a large lump-sum payment to the departing leader.

In the survey released Sunday, Georgetown President John DeGioia ranked second in pay among leaders in the region with $911,613 in compensation. Former Johns Hopkins President William Brody ranked third with $851,155; his term ended in 2009. American University President Cornelius "Neil" Kerwin ranked fourth with $760,774.

AU officials said Kerwin's pay included a base salary of $480,609 and several other forms of compensation, some to be held in reserve.

Apart from Brody, six Maryland and Virginia college presidents earned more than $500,000: Stevenson University's Kevin Manning ($623,437), Hampden-Sydney College's Walter Bortz III ($597,327), Gallaudet University's Robert Davila ($584,745), Catholic University's Very Rev. David O'Connell ($521,929), Washington and Lee's Kenneth Ruscio ($505,119) and McDaniel College's Joan Develin Coley ($504,776).

The terms of Bortz, Davila and O'Connell have ended. O'Connell's pay was collected not by the president but by his religious order.

Presidential salaries "have virtually no impact on tuition increases," said David Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, because they account for only a tiny percentage of overall campus budgets.

Salaries are typically set through marketplace studies and reflect "the stressful 24/7 nature of the position," he said.

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Third suicide this year at William & Mary highlights challenges of prevention

By Jenna Johnson
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WILLIAMSBURG - Friends of William and Mary sophomore Whitney Mayer awoke one morning last month to a final status update on Facebook: "thank you my friends. I love you, I love you, I love all of you. but I guess not enough, I'm sorry."

Mayer's body soon was found near Lake Matoaka, her favorite spot on campus. It was the third apparent suicide this calendar year at the College of William and Mary, leaving the school grappling with questions about what could have prompted the deaths and how another one might be prevented.

Before this year there had not been a suicide at the school in five years. And there is no way of knowing how the three deaths at William and Mary compare with other schools because no independent group compares suicide rates at colleges and universities.

Still, William and Mary, an elite state university with nearly 8,000 students in Virginia's Tidewater region, responded with major new initiatives on campus. College officials dispatched grief counselors. And the student government put notes on dorm-room doors warning of the signs of severe depression.

"Even if these aren't people we know directly, you always know someone who knew them," said Wesley Ng, president of a student health group. "It's scary when it touches you so closely. ... A lot of people are asking why, what could I have done?"

In February, senior psychology major Dominique Chandler was found dead in her campus dorm room. In April, the body of junior geology major Ian Smith-Christmas was discovered in his car, parked in Virginia Beach. And Mayer was found Oct. 15.

The student newspaper, the Flat Hat, raised questions about a decades-old label with this headline: "Surge in deaths leaves College battling reputation as a 'suicide school.' " College officials say such suggestions are unfair. William and Mary had 11 suicides in the 41 years before the recent run of deaths.

Few dispute that the school is filled with more than its share of high achievers, some of whom have difficulty admitting they might need help coping.
Students often joke about their devotion to academics and campus involvement, sometimes using the term "TWAMP," which stands for "Typical William and Mary Person." On a recent Thursday night, the town's half-hearted attempt at a bar scene - three delis near campus that serve alcohol - were sparsely filled. Meanwhile, the library was packed.

Campus suicide awareness campaigns often have focused on getting students comfortable with using words such as "depression" and dispelling myths about the counseling center. "None of the students on this campus want to have problems," said Caitlin Goldblatt, a senior literary and cultural studies major who was friends with Mayer. "They want to be perfect."

Nationwide, the number of college students who have mental illnesses increases each year, as improved diagnoses and medication make it easier for them to stay in school and manage campus life. But problems can intensify amid the stresses of social conflicts, course work and the difficulties of transitioning to life away from home.

"Generations ago, some of the people we see on our campus now would not have made it to college," said Patricia Volp, William and Mary's dean of students.

Although statistics on college suicide rates are limited, experts say at least 1,100 students kill themselves each year nationwide, making suicide the second-most common cause of death for college students, after car accidents. Still, people of college age who are enrolled in classes are less likely to commit suicide than those not enrolled in school.

"Being in a college can be a protective factor," as students are part of a community stocked with easily accessible resources, said Elana Premack Sandler, a specialist at the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, a national group charged with helping curb suicide. "They can envision their future and they have that kind of structure."

But it can be a difficult for colleges to monitor the health of thousands of students while also adhering to privacy laws and making appropriate decisions about when one has become too ill to safely stay enrolled.

"Who is going to speak up if the consequence of speaking up is getting kicked out?" said Courtney Knowles, the executive director of the Jed Foundation, a New York-based group that seeks to prevent campus suicides. "Sometimes staying in school is the best thing for a student who is struggling."

Yet helping students who remain on campus can be difficult, even when colleges have fully staffed counseling centers. Students with serious issues do not always seek help - and when they do it's usually from friends or family members, not university officials. Many colleges, including William and Mary, have added information about mental health issues to orientation sessions for students and parents. Officials also have trained professors and residence hall advisers to spot the signs of depression.
New York University, which has struggled with student suicides in recent years, screens every student who visits the health center for depression. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology extended its counseling center hours into the night several days a week and encouraged faculty members living in the residence halls to closely watch the stress levels of students.

Cornell University had at least six students commit suicide last school year. Three of those deaths were in one month, prompting the university president to take out full-page ads in the student newspaper urging: "If you learn anything at Cornell, please learn to ask for help."

Even before the recent run of deaths, William and Mary - chartered by British royal authority in 1693, making it the nation's second-oldest college, after Harvard University - had acquired a whispered reputation as a "suicide school." In May, a group of commenters on College Confidential, an admissions Web site, passionately debated the label in a discussion about William and Mary.

After the deaths last semester, the university added a case manager in the dean of students office who carefully tracks vulnerable students and coordinates with all departments on campus to monitor them.

When a student is having a mental health crisis, health professionals and administrators assess the student and make a plan of action. That sometimes includes a leave from school.

"They could be doing straight-A work, but we have to focus on their medical issues first," said Virginia Ambler, William and Mary's vice president of student affairs. "The goal always is to get a student to a point where they can succeed." Volp added: "And be alive."

Some of Mayer's friends said they knew she had dealt with mental health issues since high school. Others said they had no idea.

This semester seemed to be going well for Mayer. She was thinking about majoring in environmental sciences. She was involved with several clubs and had an internship as an event planner for an environmental nonprofit group. She had a new boyfriend, sophomore John Klepadlo. She spent hours at Lake Matoaka with her friends, canoeing, camping, watching a meteor shower and sitting on the dock. She filled her e-mails with exclamation points and words written entirely in capital letters.

But her demanding load of classes included a difficult chemistry course. And the problems of the world seem to weigh too heavily on her, said Klepadlo, a psychology major from Virginia Beach.

"At times she was happy, but she always had this thing eating away at her," Klepadlo said. "She didn't want to bother anyone with her problems."
Hours after Mayer's death, her roommate, Jess Yon, found typed letters sitting on a desk in neat rows and columns - messages of love and apology from Mayer to a number of people in her life. Mayer also left instructions on how to take care of her house plants.

On the front door was a letter to Yon, explaining what had happened and detailing the steps she needed to take, including notifying the campus police of a student death.

"It was just so thorough. She told me what to do. She said, 'It's not your fault,' " Yon said.

"She was so passionate about so many things that weren't academic. I can't comprehend what the trigger was."