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Education budget changes likely
By Ginger Livingston And Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Area officials caution that an education budget released Tuesday is a proposal and changes are likely before the final document is approved by the General Assembly.

The state House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education proposed a $10.6 billion outlay for the state's public schools, community colleges and university system, a 10.5 percent reduction.

The proposed K-12 budget of $7.2 billion reduces spending by $694 million, an 8.8 percent cut.
The House proposal keeps teachers in the classrooms but only allows teacher assistants for kindergarten and first-grade classes. This could result in the loss in 130 teacher assistant positions in Pitt County Schools, spokeswoman Heather Mayo said.

Pitt County could lose 33 non-instructional support positions, five instructional support positions and slightly more than 10 administrative positions if the proposal remains unchanged.

School officials have said they'll try to absorb the losses through attrition, but some layoffs are likely.

The proposal doesn't shift the responsibility of workers' compensation insurance payments and school bus replacement to the counties, which the governor proposed, Mayo said.

However, the school system will have to cut $672,662 from its 2011-12 fiscal year budget and just more than $1, million in fiscal year 2012-13, Mayo said. Those cuts can't be made without reducing additional positions in the district, she said.
The university system's proposed budget is $2.4 billion, a 15.5 percent cut from the current budget. The proposal also would limit students to nine semesters of financial aid starting in the fall. It also would prevent any tuition increases.

ECU's state appropriations have been cut by $100 million during the last three years, John Durham, university spokesman, said.

Durham said it was too early in the budget process to say how much more money the university would lose and how many faculty and staff positions could be cut.

“What remains unknown is exactly how big these reductions will be,” Durham said. He said he didn't think every campus would get a 15.5 percent cut.

A cut of that size in East Carolina University's appropriations would be more than $40 million by some estimates.

N.C. State University Chancellor Randy Woodson told The News & Observer a 15.5 percent cut would slash more than $80 million from his school's budget, costing an estimated 550 to 700 jobs. UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp told The Daily Tar Heel that his school could lose $75 million.

The community college system's budget of nearly $992 million reduces spending by $110 million, a 10 percent cut.

“This is one more step in a long saga, but we are very happy with this proposed budget,” Dennis Massey, Pitt Community College president, said. “It is a 10 percent cut for the community college system but it's much better than the governor's budget.” While the amount of cuts don't vary much between the two proposals, the House budgeted for full enrollment growth funding which the governor did not.

“PCC has been growing 10 percent each year for the past three years, and since enrollment growth funding doesn't come (until) the year after, without it would be very difficult to accommodate next year's demand,” Massey said.
Education subcommittee members spent Wednesday asking questions and making comments about the proposal. The members are expected to propose amendments next week. Once the committee approves the proposal it will be sent to the full appropriations committee for approval.

House leaders are planning an early May vote on the full budget. It will then go to the Senate where more changes are likely before final approval.

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**Proposed Cuts**

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- The community college system’s budget of nearly $992 million reduces spending by $110 million, a 10 percent cut.
Editorial: Dental school spared

The budget proposal released by the N.C. House this week confirmed many of the fears held by educators and university officials. The spending blueprint would cut funding for public schools by less than was feared but the University of North Carolina system's spending proposal is closer to Gov. Beverly Perdue's plan than expected.

For East Carolina University, the House proposal keeps intact funding for the School of Dental Medicine, a critical initiative that promises to serve all of eastern North Carolina. It provides some small measure of relief to see that money pledged for its development appears to be protected, even as campus officials are sure to be concerned by the details of this new budget framework.

There is plenty of negotiating left to do before the General Assembly finalizes a state budget for Perdue to sign. With a revenue shortfall estimated to reach $2.4 billion, striking a balance that can appease a legislature controlled by Republicans and a Democratic governor promises to be no easy task. The conflict is readily evident in the response of GOP leaders to Perdue's budget proposal and the protests that immediately followed the release of the House plan.

While both blueprints include deep cuts to nearly all parts of state government, the House proposal would slash spending on state universities by 15.5 percent. East Carolina Chancellor Steve Ballard is already on record arguing that such a sharp reduction in spending would harm the university's mission, and N.C. State Chancellor Randy Woodson claimed that House plan would cost his school between 550 and 700 jobs, 200 of which would come from the faculty.

For post-secondary public education, the news was little better. Though Pitt County Schools has readied itself for the possibility of a 15 percent funding cut, the House budget is closer to 10 percent. Perdue's proposal stands in stark contrast as it would protect every teaching position as well as pay for
enrollment growth. Education, representing 60 percent of the budget, is unlikely to emerge unscathed, but a resolution close to Perdue's plan would be ideal.

Critical to eastern North Carolina is that both budgets include funds for the new dental school, an initiative with tremendous potential for the region. Extreme suggestions to cut the UNC budget had included the elimination of funding for the new program, but thankfully that was abandoned.

That is one ray of light amid an otherwise gray landscape. The economic situation remains dire for education funding as the competing forces in Raleigh try to reach a consensus.
Editorial: Slash and burn

Now we know. Now we know what happens when shortsighted, special-interest lawmaking confronts a major budget crisis and brinksmanship trumps statesmanship.

Given the chance to show their mettle in that crisis, to prove they were right all these years when they criticized a Democratic majority's governing, Republicans in the state House have failed. They have failed the state and its people. They are presenting budget proposals that will eviscerate state government and the public education system in a way that would set back North Carolina to a point from which it might never recover.

Must there be budget-cutting? Yes, and some of it will require job reductions. But Republicans in their targeting reflect more of an ideology. They want to diminish progressive programs (Democratic programs, of course) and slash regulation of business or anything that looks like it.

In the name of closing a budget gap estimated at between $1.9 billion and $2.6 billion, House Republicans, led by Speaker Thom Tillis (although "led" is hardly the word for it), propose to cut funding for public education, environmental protection and public safety. They would do this while recklessly allowing a temporary state sales tax to expire. Under Gov. Beverly Perdue's proposed budget, three-fourths of that 1-cent tax would be kept on the books, bringing in an additional $800 million-plus to ease the pain.

Thousands of jobs will be lost with the House plan, and with them, services that most North Carolinians take for granted as part of the state's covenant with its citizens.

The numbers are astonishing. But there will be human consequences.

Parents who value the yeoman's effort put forth by teachers' assistants will quickly feel the impact of these proposed cuts, because assistants will be funded only in kindergarten and first grade. Those with children who are "at risk," meaning in need of special attention, will be told the help they counted
on may not be there because of budget cuts. Families who have seen the positive results of the More at Four and Smart Start early childhood programs now will see the consequences of $16 million in money lost.

And on and on. Larger classes and fewer offerings are likely in community colleges and universities, with the job-training community colleges taking a 10 percent cut and the public universities taking 15 percent.

And on and on. The Department of Justice will lose 91 jobs, the state court system 390 jobs and legal aid for the poor, which keeps justice at least a little more fair, will lose millions of dollars.

And on and on. You'll pay for ferry rides that now are free, pay more for driver education. Expect longer lines everywhere, and likely higher fees everywhere as well.

In a move reflective of the Republicans' resentment of those in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the agency will lose hundreds of jobs. GOP leaders have long felt that DENR has given business too hard a time with permitting, and that it's full of liberal tree-huggers. Those tree-huggers have fought for decades to keep North Carolina's water and air clean and to protect natural wonders that are valued not just by residents but by the millions of tourists who have spent tens of millions of dollars on Tar Heel soil through the decades.

For Republicans to give up a temporary sales tax that few people even notice in the name of some anti-tax ideology and thus kill jobs, diminish the quality of public education and put this state's natural resources at risk is appalling. Perhaps the Republican-led Senate will do better. Certainly it could no worse.
The Daily Reflector
Winard Harper, a drummer who performed with Taylor and who is currently serving as a guest artist and lecturer at the School of Music, will be featured during several performances. (Web Photo)

**Jazz festival performers honor Taylor**
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
The 2011 Billy Taylor Jazz Festival, which runs through Saturday, will feature performers who recently collaborated with the late musical legend. Connaitre Miller, associate professor of music and vocal jazz coordinator at Howard University, and Afro Blue, a vocal group Miller formed in 2002, will be the featured performers during East Carolina University's annual salute to the music Taylor called “America's classical music.”

Winard Harper, a drummer who performed with Taylor and who is serving as a guest artist and lecturer at the School of Music, will be featured during several performances.
“It just came together that everyone has a direct connection to Dr. Taylor,” said Carroll V. Dashiell Jr., the festival's artistic director and professor of bass at ECU's School of Music.

“It's a very emotional time,” said Dashiell, who was a child when he first met Taylor.

Taylor died on Dec. 28 in New York at age 89. He was a prolific composer and performer but was perhaps best known for his reports on CBS News' “Sunday Morning.”

His advocacy for jazz started years before when he founded “Jazzmobile,” which brought jazz performances into the neighborhoods of New York City. He also hosted a weekly jazz radio show and was the first black to lead a television studio orchestra.

One of Taylor's compositions, “I Wish I Knew How it Would Feel to Be Free” was one of the best known anthems of the civil rights movement behind “We Shall Overcome,” Dashiell said.

Born in Pitt County, Taylor's family moved from the area when he was 5 years old, but he never severed ties with the community.

Taylor performed numerous times at ECU and, in 2002, the school renamed its annual jazz festival after him.

Taylor selected Miller to arrange a vocal composition he wrote, “It's a Matter of Pride,” a piece he wrote in memory of Martin Luther King Jr. It became the title cut on Afro Blue's 2009 CD “It's a Matter of Pride,” which included several other compositions by Taylor.

Afro Blue and the ECU Jazz Vocal Ensemble will perform the piece during Saturday's gala performance at Wright Auditorium.

“I think it is a great honor to be able to participate in a festival that was named after him,” Miller said.

“We are past the deep sadness,” she said. “He left such a great legacy that rather than focus on sadness of his passing, instead we'll celebrate the legacy he left behind.”
The festival started Wednesday with a free performance of the ECU Jazz B Band Ensemble.

It continues tonight with another free event, the ECU Jazz Bones Concert starting at 7:30 in Fletcher Recital Hall.

Friday, the ECU Jazz Combo will perform beginning at 8 p.m. in Christinne's at the Hilton Greenville. Tickets are $10 for the general public and $5 for students.

The event culminates Saturday at 8 p.m. with Miller performing with Afro Blue and ECU Jazz Ensemble A at Wright Auditorium. Tickets are $10-$15. All tickets can be purchased at www.ecuarts.com or by calling 800-328-2787.

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Lebo optimistic after solid first year at East Carolina

By Rick Scoppe, The Daily News
Those who question East Carolina University’s commitment to basketball — and there are many, although the ones that matter most to coach Jeff Lebo are his competitors on the recruiting trail — won’t be able to do that once the new $15 million practice facility is completed.

The school has raised about $9.5 million for the new two-story, 48,000-square-foot facility that’s part of a $200 million “Second Century Capital Campaign,” which includes 7,000 additional seats in the end zone at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium along with new softball, soccer and track and field venues.

Lebo, who was in town Wednesday for the annual ECU spring banquet sponsored by the Pirate Clubs of Onslow and Jones counties, said the new practice facility “was vital” for the future of his program.

“The one thing that we fight more than anything else recruiting-wise is (that other recruiters say), ‘There’s no commitment to basketball. Look at their facilities,’” Lebo said in an interview before speaking to ECU fans at the Jacksonville Country Club.
“We’ll be able to put an end to that. When you put $15 million into a facility, basketball’s important at East Carolina. We haven’t had maintenance probably in our program in a long time. … It’s time.

“I’ll tell them tonight if you don’t have maintenance on your program, you end up looking like a bum. Our program has struggled because of that. So you constantly got to have attention to that. … Hopefully, we’ll have that done in two years.”

As an assistant at the University of South Carolina under Eddie Fogler, Lebo saw the program add a new practice facility. Until then, the Gamecocks, like ECU, had to share their arena with students as well as the volleyball and women’s basketball teams.

“When I was at South Carolina practice facilities were just kind of starting out,” Lebo said. “Now just about everybody has them, and our league has some state-of-the-art facilities. The rules are changing. Now you can work with your kids before the season, after the season. Individual instruction and improvement is such a big thing.”

Lebo talked about a number of topics before heading into the Grand Ballroom for his speech to the fans, including his first season in which the Pirates finished 18-16 (8-8 in Conference USA) to tie for the second-most wins in the school’s NCAA Division I history.

Initially, Lebo said he wasn’t sure what to expect as he took over a program that had suffered through 14 straight losing seasons.

“But it was a lot better than what I anticipated in the end,” he said. “The biggest thing was when I took over, there was no pride in the program. There was nothing fashionable about putting on an East Carolina basketball T-shirt. In fact, you couldn’t find one around campus.

“So after this year I think the kids feel better about themselves, about the program, about the way they played, and you could tell just the way they played, just the way they carried themselves toward the end of the year. That was probably the most rewarding thing for me than anything else.”

But Lebo said 2010-11 was just the first step.

“Just because we won 18 games doesn’t mean we’ve arrived by any stretch of the imagination. But I think the kids feel good about themselves,” he said, “and their work habits … it’s a whole different mentality than when we first came in.”
But can Lebo win at ECU? He believes so, which is no surprise. But the former University of North Carolina guard, whose wife is from Williamston and whose father-in-law played football at ECU, said the Pirates must “put a product out there” the state’s basketball-savvy fans can appreciate.

If that happens, the fans will come, as they did, Lebo said, down the stretch at home.

“At the end of the year, it was just awesome. The crowds were huge,” he said. “The students came out. the community came out. They rallied behind the team and were a factor in the games. It was a gigantic factor. It was a tough place to play.”

Fans, however, don’t win games. Players do, and on the first day of the late signing period Wednesday the Pirates signed 6-foot-7 Maurice Kemp Jr., who averaged 16.7 points and 9.9 rebounds a game this past season for Miami Dade College.

Kemp is Lebo’s fourth signee for next year; the other three signed during the early signing period. ECU has one more scholarship to give, which Lebo said he will use.

“I think we’ve helped ourselves in some areas. Obviously coming back to the state of North Carolina, the kids don’t know I played (at UNC), but their parents may,” he said with a laugh. “Soon it’s going to be their grandparents.”

One key for ECU in recruiting, beyond the practice facility and winning, is getting players to visit, Lebo said.

“I know when I was here as a player I thought Raleigh was it. I thought the ocean was right next to that, until I met my wife. Then I learned there was some more out here to the right,” he said with a smile.

There are plenty of others who see eastern North Carolina, and ECU by extension, the same way, which Lebo must try to change. He said if he can get recruits to visit and “see some of the excitement and see the Pirate Nation, they’re really going to be taken back a little bit.”

And perhaps come to play for the Pirates.

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Reed Saxon – AP/ College students, faculty and staff of the California State University system protest state budget cuts.

**Colleges protest higher ed budget cuts**

Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. California State University students and faculty are protesting state budget cuts that could lead to higher tuition, larger class sizes and lower enrollment.

More than 100 faculty members, students and staff have occupied a building at the university's Sacramento campus, and about 100 counterparts on the Long Beach campus marched to an administration building that had already been closed down as a precaution.

The Sacramento rally began early Wednesday afternoon with more than 600 protesters, who blamed CSU Chancellor Charles Reed for not doing enough to oppose cuts California lawmakers are using to close the state's $26.6 billion budget deficit. The protestors marched from the school's library quad to an administrative building to present a set of petitions.

Similar events are planned at campuses in Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and other states where legislators are slashing education spending to close huge budget shortfalls.

In California, deep budget cuts during the height of the recession two years ago led to sharp tuition hikes, employee furloughs, course cutbacks and reduced enrollment at the CSU and University of California systems.
Rep. Lewis to speak to NCCU grads
From Staff Reports
DURHAM–U.S. Rep. John Lewis of Georgia, whose scheduled appearance at N.C. Central University last winter was canceled because of weather, will speak at the school's spring commencement for undergraduates.

Lewis, a major figure in the civil rights movement, had been scheduled to speak at NCCU's Martin Luther King Convocation. Now he will deliver the undergraduate commencement address May 14 at O'Kelly-Riddick Stadium and will receive an honorary Doctor of Human Letters degree.

While a student at Fisk University in Nashville, Tenn., Lewis organized sit-ins at segregated lunch counters in the city. In 1961, he joined the Freedom Riders, who challenged segregation at Southern bus terminals.

In 1963, he became head of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, which helped shape student activism during the civil rights movement.

Later in life he got into politics, first with the Atlanta City Council. He serves in the U.S. House of Representatives, to which he was first elected in 1986. In February, Lewis received the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

NCCU expects to confer about 590 degrees at the undergraduate commencement. Master's and professional students will receive their degrees the day before.
N.C. State student housing in works
BY DAVID BRACKEN - Staff Writer

N.C. State University students could have two new off-campus housing options when they arrive in Raleigh for classes in the fall of 2012.

Late last month, Landmark Properties of Athens, Ga., submitted a site plan for a 149-unit development in West Raleigh near where Western Boulevard, Hillsborough Street and Buck Jones Road intersect.

The $20 million project, called The Retreat at Raleigh, would be built next to the Wolf Creek off-campus student housing complex.

Another private developer, Capstone Development of Birmingham, Ala., is on track to open a 10-story, 277-unit apartment building adjacent to NCSU's campus in August of next year.

Landmark owns and manages about 5,000 units in college towns in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, South Carolina and Texas. The Retreat at Raleigh would be the company's first project in North Carolina.

"There hasn't been a lot of new development in that market for a while," said Jason Doornbos, Landmark's vice president of acquisitions and development. "There's demand there, and we've got an interesting product type."

The Retreat at Raleigh will feature cottagelike units spread across 22 acres. The complex, which will be a mix of two-, three- and four-bedroom units, is designed to appeal to groups of students who might otherwise rent a single-family house off-campus.

Founded in 2003, Landmark got its start building similar low-density developments in Athens, the home of the University of Georgia, after the town passed an ordinance stating that no more than three unrelated people could live in a house.

"We see that in a lot of college towns around the country because they don't want students moving into the single-family neighborhoods and taking them over," Doornbos said.

A Raleigh ordinance states that no more than four unrelated people can share a residence. Landmark's project is under review by city planners.
In its current form the project won't require a public hearing.

Landmark's units will be open to nonstudents and those enrolled at other Raleigh colleges and universities.

Both Capstone and Landmark are betting that enrollment growth at NCSU will continue to outpace the university's ability to add on-campus beds.

That is likely to be the case, even counting additional student housing planned for Centennial Campus, said Ralph Recchie, NCSU director of real estate. "I think there is enough business to warrant this kind of investment," he said.

But Recchie said the university would prefer that additional housing be higher-density and closer to campus.

Such housing reduces students' reliance on cars, and eases parking and congestion around the university. Landmark will provide a shuttle to campus for its tenants as part of their rent.

Having more students within walking distance of campus is also crucial to NCSU and Raleigh's goal of turning Hillsborough Street into a more vibrant, pedestrian friendly strip.

"If development is going to happen we'd just assume it happen closer in," Recchie said.

Of course, building closer to campus requires developers to pay more for available land that may be in short supply. That in turn leads to higher rents.

Doornbos said The Retreat at Raleigh would likely offer cheaper rates than Capstone's Stanhope Center. Landmark has its 22-acre site under contract, and expects to close on the property after its site plan is approved.

As for financing, Doornbos said Landmark hasn't yet secured the loan. The company has a group of banks, including Wells Fargo and BB&T, that it works with regularly on projects.

"It is a challenge in this market to get financing," he said. "But for the people that have the balance sheet and the capacity to get it, the banks will lend."

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Yale University physics student killed inside chemistry lab when lab machine snags hair

By Associated Press

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A Yale University student nearing graduation was killed inside a school chemistry lab when her hair was pulled into a piece of machine-shop equipment, school officials said Wednesday.

Michele Dufault, a senior majoring in physics and astronomy, died Tuesday night after her hair became caught in a fast-spinning lathe, university President Richard Levin said. Her body was found by other students who had been working in the building, he said.

“This is a true tragedy,” Levin wrote in a message to Yale students and faculty.

In a Facebook profile picture, Dufault is shown with long brown hair that fell below her shoulders. She died from accidental asphyxia by neck compression, according to the Connecticut medical examiner’s office. New Haven authorities received a 911 call about the accident at around 2:30 a.m., police spokesman Joe Avery said.

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration has opened an inspection that will look into factors surrounding the accident and whether the lab complied with safety standards, said Ted Fitzgerald, an agency spokesman in Boston.

Dufault was from Scituate, Mass., and was graduating in a month, said her grandfather Robert Dufault. She studied constantly and loved sports, he said.

“She was a living saint,” the grandfather said. “She was a good, smart girl.”

An uncle called her brilliant.

“She’s a wonderful, wonderful kid and that should be celebrated. There’s nothing but good things to say about her,” said Frederick Dufault, of Holliston, Mass.

Dufault intended to work in oceanography after graduating and played saxophone in the Yale Band, Levin said.

At the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, Mass., where Dufault graduated in 2007, Head of School Robert Henderson Jr. said those who
knew her were drawn to her personal strength, modesty, good humor and perseverance.

“Michele was an extraordinary young woman, one of the most precocious students who her teachers ever encountered,” Henderson said. “She was simply brilliant. Her mind, her sense of curiosity, her perceptiveness, her sensitivity, and her enjoyment of what she did were extraordinary. She was a true intellectual. She was also distinctly humble, seemingly unaffected by her prodigious talent and academic attainments.”

On its website, Yale’s chemistry department says it maintains a state-of-the-art machine shop in which students, faculty and staff can build or modify research instruments. Access is limited to those who have completed a shop course, according to the website.

Levin, the university president, said he has initiated a review of the safety policies and practices of laboratories, machine shops and other facilities where undergraduates have access to power equipment. He said access will be limited to those facilities until the review is completed and monitors will be present.

“The safety of our students is a paramount concern,” he said.

Yale was offering counseling to students. The lab was closed Wednesday and classes were canceled in the building that houses the lab.

Yale police are leading the investigation, New Haven police spokesman Avery said.

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Associated Press Writer Michael Melia in Hartford, Conn., contributed to this report.

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Physicians May Heal Themselves Differently
By KATHERINE HOBSON
Doctors weigh treatment options differently when they are deciding for themselves and when they are treating patients, according to a new study.

Doctors were more likely to opt for treatments with a higher chance of death—but lower risk of serious side effects—for themselves than for their patients in a survey of 940 primary-care physicians evaluating one of two hypothetical medical scenarios.

The results suggest that the "act of making a recommendation changes the psychological processes influencing their decisions," write the authors, from Duke University and the University of Michigan.

It also means patients should be sure their physicians understand their values and should ask their doctors about the reasons behind their recommendations, says physician Peter Ubel, a study author and professor at Duke's Fuqua School of Business and Sanford School of Public Policy.

The study, published in the Archives of Internal Medicine, presented one of two clinical scenarios. One involved colon-cancer surgery and the other was about treatments for avian flu. Physicians were randomly chosen to either weigh the options for their own treatment or to make a recommendation to a patient.

One option in the colon-cancer scenario was an operation that completely cures 80% of patients with no complications, fails to cure 16% of patients—meaning they will die within two years—and cures but leads to complications such as a colostomy or chronic diarrhea for the remaining 4%. The other option was a different surgery that also cures 80% of patients without any complications, but fails to cure 20% of patients.

The option with a lower risk of death may seem to be the logical choice. But 38% of physicians tasked with weighing the decision for themselves picked the treatment with the higher death rate—preferring not to risk complications. Only 25% of the physicians in the other group said they would recommend a patient go that route. In the avian-flu scenario, 63% picked the treatment with the highest chance of death for themselves, with 49% recommending it for patients.
The results don't necessarily mean that physicians always make less risky decisions for their patients than for themselves, says Dr. Ubel. It does mean the mindsets for those decisions are subject to different psychological biases. He recommends patients "don't ask for advice until the doctor understands you a little better," including how you weigh issues such as quality of life versus length of life.

And, he says, when a physician gives advice, ask why he or she is making that recommendation, to ensure the reasons align with your preferences, he says.

Similar research among non-physicians shows that they, too, will come to different conclusions in medical scenarios in which they're deciding for themselves and those in which they have been told to decide for others.

"When you put on the doctor hat," it changes how you decide, says Dr. Ubel.

A physician's recommendation rooted in his or her knowledge of the situation is more helpful for patients than a neutral recitation of options, says Timothy Quill, one of the authors of a commentary accompanying the study, and a professor of medicine, psychiatry and medical humanities at the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry.

He cautions, however, that doctors should consider "the patient's values, not [their] own values or what [they] think they should be doing as a physician."

Write to Katherine Hobson at katherine.hobson@wsj.com
By Jim Stem for USA TODAY
Larry Braue, director of veteran services at the University of South Florida, teaches a class on March 29.

**Vets go from combat to campus**
By Trevor Hughes, USA TODAY
After a four-year stint in the Marines that took him to Iraq and Afghanistan, Las Vegas native Michael Dakduk returned home in 2008, enrolled in the University of Nevada — and got bored.

It wasn't that Dakduk, now 25, lacked the discipline or drive to succeed in school. The former sergeant says he found it hard to study calculus or write English papers — and listen to fellow students complain about the workload — when his mind was still replaying what he had seen and been through.

"I'd revert back to thinking about guys getting blown up, getting shot at," he says, instead of focusing on what he called his "mundane and menial" schoolwork.

As returning veterans struggle to make the transition from military to civilian life on campuses with younger students without their kind of life experience, colleges and universities are increasingly developing programs to address their needs.
"I paid a steep price to have my butt in that seat," says Matt Randle, 30, a former Army combat medic who is now a senior at the University of Arizona in Tucson. "I had a keen sense of not fitting in."

Dakduk graduated in December and now helps other returning veterans as executive director of the Student Veterans of America in Washington. Randle founded and is student-director of the Arizona campus' Veterans Education and Transition Services office. Dakduk and Randle say making connections with fellow veterans helped them get the support and encouragement they needed.

"You cannot stay in the cave," Randle says. "A little bit of personal connection goes a long way."

Campuses become 'Military Friendly'
For qualifying veterans, the post-9/11 GI Bill pays the full in-state cost of any public college. The Yellow Ribbon Program helps veterans attend private schools that can be more expensive, says Keith Wilson, director of Education Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

The number of veterans enrolling in college is increasing: Approximately 800,000 returned veterans used GI Bill benefits last year, up 40% from 2009, Wilson says.

Among them soon may be Sal Giunta, the Army staff sergeant who last year became the nation's first living Medal of Honor recipient since the Vietnam War. He discussed plans to end his Army career in June and to move to Fort Collins, Colo., to pursue his education at Colorado State University, in an interview with the Army News Service in January. Wilson says colleges are increasingly offering peer mentoring, special orientation sessions and even private lounges for veterans.

"We have a social responsibility to recognize that when they take that uniform off, they don't want a handout," Wilson says. "They just want an opportunity that they put on hold when they put on that uniform."

Veterans Affairs is testing a program called VetSuccess on Campus at eight colleges, including the University of South Florida, Cleveland State University and Salt Lake Community College, offering personalized assistance to every veteran on campus. It hopes to add nine more in 2012, Wilson says.

Sean Collins, brand manager for G.I. Jobs, which surveys 7,000 universities annually to compile a "Military Friendly Schools" list, says of the 250,000-400,000 veterans who are now separating from the military annually, 25% will be in college within two years.
A nine-year Navy veteran, Collins says veterans bring maturity, perspective and leadership experience to campus — traits that are desired by college administrators. He says relatively few require special accommodations.

"The schools that are most successful in attracting and retaining veterans are those that can build a sense of community of campus," Collins says.

'You're starting all over'
Administrators at the University of South Florida in Tampa have worked hard to create a supportive atmosphere, says Larry Braue, the school's director of veterans services. He says that has paid off with enrollment by veterans rising 10% to 15% annually.

One of them is junior Scott Steinbacher, 31, who left the Navy in 2006. He is working toward becoming a physician's assistant.

Steinbacher says making the transition to campus life was hard because he missed the camaraderie and sense of purpose provided by the military.

"I jumped out of helicopters, and now I'm working in an office," he says. "Coming back to college, you feel like you're starting all over."

USF was the first college to get a full-time VA-funded VetSuccess representative on campus, Braue says.

"When (veterans) realize … that the school respects them, it makes it easier for them to sit in those classes," he says.

Hughes also reports for the Fort Collins Coloradoan