Research Funding Ramped Up

By John Durham

East Carolina University will allocate an additional $1.5 million — the largest share of new state appropriations for institutional support — to enhance the university’s research infrastructure during the coming year.

“This is both a real and a symbolic commitment,” said Dr. Deirdre Mageean, who joined the university in July as vice chancellor for research and graduate studies. “The dollars will support new positions, services and opportunities in the research division. At the same time, this allocation signals our intent to ramp up our discoveries and innovations as we strengthen our status as a leading research university.”

Chancellor Steve Ballard noted that the university has a long and successful tradition of teaching and service and has no intention of scaling back those endeavors as the research enterprise grows.

“Indeed, we are better than ever at delivering instruction, both on campus and online,” Ballard said. “I am proud of our successes in teaching and in partnerships in Greenville and throughout eastern North Carolina. And we have an excellent base to build from in research.”

Mageean said the university has developed nationally known research strengths in the health sciences, the basic sciences and selected other areas such as coastal studies. Building on those successes, she said, ECU should expect to significantly increase its outside funding for research in the coming years. Recent annual totals have been between $30 million and $40 million. The new funding commitment will help assure that aspiring researchers on the ECU faculty have access to the administrative support they need to bolster their chances for success, Mageean said.

“A robust research agenda is the best tool we have for improving the lives of the residents of this region,” she said. “New discoveries, new knowledge, new applications are all needed to ensure that the East has a chance to thrive.”

The new money for research was part of a $6.8 million pool of state appropriated dollars — known as general institutional support funds — that accompanied funds for new faculty positions at the university.

Mageean said she has reorganized the division to improve efficiency and reduce overlap.

“I am excited about our accomplishments and our potential,” she said. “We have truly remarkable accomplishments and successful researchers on this campus. My job is to help make it possible for more faculty members to join those ranks.”

Phil Dixon To Address Grads

Phil Dixon, former chair of the East Carolina University Board of Trustees and a noted Greenville attorney and civic leader, will be the featured speaker at the university’s fall commencement, Dec. 17.

About 2,200 candidates who have completed required course work during the fall semester will be eligible to receive degrees at the ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m. in Minges Coliseum on campus. The public is invited and no tickets are required. Participants in the event should be at the coliseum by 9:30 a.m.

Dixon served on the ECU board from 1993 to 2001 and was chairman from 1999 to 2001. He was named to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors this year. Among his awards are “Citizen of the Year” from the Pitt-Greenville Chamber of Commerce, an Outstanding Alumni Award from ECU and the Distinguished Service Award from the Greenville Jaycees.

Schedules for unit ceremonies are included in the Campus Calendar, p. 11, and can be found at www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/commencement/college_school.cfm.

Crime Forum Studies Safety

Crime prevention was the subject of a panel discussion organized by the ECU Neighborhood Coalition Nov. 14.

Community members, police, university and student members addressed the recent concerns over the safety of Greenville’s downtown area.

The meeting, titled, “Take Back the community — What can we do to increase safety?” provided a forum for property investors, community watch groups, Greek life, students, university police and city officials.

ECU police chief Robert Stroud said the ECU Police Department is dedicated to the safety of the citizens.

“We ultimately would like to deter what happened,” he said. “We are re-dedicating our efforts in public safety.”

Michelle Lieberman, ECU’s student neighborhood relations facilitator, led the meeting and reminded attendants that her office is available to the community for assistance.

The Neighborhood Action Hotline is 328-5499. The next ECU Neighborhood Coalition meeting is slated for Dec. 12.
My work at the university is evaluated by my colleagues, students, the public, and me, in the concert hall as well as in the classroom, where the building blocks of performance preparation are objectified and studied abstractly. I am fortunate to be able to teach the fundamental concepts of conducting, score study, rehearsal technique, voice building, and program development on a daily basis in a classroom setting in addition to modeling and demonstrating these ideas and techniques in rehearsals and performances with the university’s choral ensembles. As a result, my students, many of whom are preparing to be music educators and performers themselves, are encouraged to compare and evaluate the practicality and effectiveness of what I teach in the classroom, with the hands-on realities of performance preparation with an actual ensemble. In short: I inspire my students to regularly evaluate whether I practice what I preach—and, if the end result worthwhile.

However, the success of my teaching is probably more a result of my obvious love for what I do and the faith and trust by which my students share their insights and experiences and the particular wisdom it has brought them. I appreciate their strengths and weaknesses and can summarize the educational goal among cultures is stressed daily. One of the greatest joys of my teaching career has been the establishment of the Modified Foreign Language Program at ECU in the fall of 2000. The goal of this program is to help students who have learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, or a history of failure in foreign language study to complete the foreign language requirement for a BA degree. Our program was the first of its kind in the UNC system. In the fall of 2004, UNC-Greensboro began its own MiFLP using our program as its guide.

For many students in the modified program, this is the first time they feel that they have a chance for success in learning a foreign language. Their learning difficulties are openly discussed without embarrassment. Due to the fact that they spend four semesters together as a group with the same instructor, they become a closely-knit unit. They encourage and support each other. It takes a great deal of energy to work with these students, but I never cease to be amazed by their determination to succeed.

Each day that I walk into the classroom, I am amazed and honored to be there. Some days it’s a struggle. But each day brings its reward. Maybe the long-term reward is helping a student to broaden his or her horizons to embrace a world that stretches beyond eastern North Carolina. I’m working on it. Stay tuned… I’ve not finished yet!

Karen Vail-Smith
Health and Human Performance
Max Ray Joyner Award for Faculty Service Through Continuing Education

Award-Winning Teachers Share Philosophies

Danie Bara
School of Music
Robert L. Jones Award for Outstanding Teaching

Teaching is my passion. Spanish is my vehicle. Every day that I spend on campus, I have the opportunity to pursue my passion. And I get paid for it! What a fortunate person I am!

My teaching philosophy is simple. I try to provide an atmosphere in which students can feel comfortable and know that it is safe to make mistakes, because none of us is perfect. The foreign language classroom is often a place that causes high anxiety in students. They must produce conversation in this unfamiliar language, which may force them out of their comfort zones. It has always been my belief that students learn better when their atmosphere is relaxed and non-threatening. Mutual respect is fundamental. Tolerance of different belief systems within the classroom, as well as tolerance of differences among cultures is stressed daily.

One of the greatest joys of my teaching career has been the establishment of the Modified Foreign Language Program at ECU in the fall of 2000. The goal of this program is to help students who have learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, or a history of failure in foreign language study to complete the foreign language requirement for a BA degree. Our program was the first of its kind in the UNC system. In the fall of 2004, UNC-Greensboro began its own MiFLP using our program as its guide.

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Carole Christian
Foreign Languages and Literatures
University Award for Outstanding Teaching and Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award

My philosophy of teaching, therefore, is to help my students see the disciplines of music study, conducting, choir-building, and teaching through my rose-colored glasses. As a student and a teacher, I’ve discovered that it becomes more socially acceptable for one to show enthusiasm for a subject if his or her teacher has first demonstrated passion, curiosity, and joy in it. And, in my opinion, the fields of teaching and music-making must be engaged with contagious passion and joy. I would like to think that my teaching is characterized by passion, joy, the exuberant pursuit of excellence, and honest self-evaluation. But this is more than the result of a carefully conceived teaching philosophy. My way of life is generally defined by a passion for what I am doing professionally and artistically, a need to share that passion, and a sincere desire to improve.
Wells Elected CASE Chair

Scott Snowden Wells, director of development for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at East Carolina University, has been elected chair of District III for the Council of Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). CASE District III, composed of nine states - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia, has more than 540 member institutions, and over 4,200 professional members. Wells' term as chair is for 2005 through 2007, and she is the first person from East Carolina University to serve in this position.

CASE is the largest international association of educational institutions, with more than 3,200 four-year college and university, two-year technical and community college, independent elementary and secondary school, system office, affiliated foundation, and alumni association members around the world. Representing these institutions are more than 40,000 advancement professionals in the disciplines of alumni relations, communications and marketing, advancement services, and development. CASE helps its members build stronger relationships with their alumni and donors, raise funds for campus projects, produce recruitment materials, market their institutions to prospective students, diversify the profession, and foster public support of education. CASE also offers a variety of advancement products and services, provides standards and an ethical framework for the profession, and works with other organizations to respond to public issues of concern, while promoting the importance of education worldwide.

Marilyn Sheerer, interim vice chancellor for university advancement, said, "We are proud to have Scott serve in this role for District III. Her work with CASE will allow us to have a direct link to that organization and, thus, access to best practices in the field." Wells, a Greenville native, holds two degrees from East Carolina University, a BS in English in 1975, and a MAED in Education in 1986. She joined ECU as the assistant director of alumni relations in 1987, and has served as the Harriot College director of development since 1998.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATION: Phil Hodges, CEO and President of Metrics Incorporated and an ECU alumnus, presented a donation of $7,120 to Professor Chia-yu Li for the scholarship that bears his name. The donation was a combined effort from the Metrics' management, Metrics employees who are ECU chemistry alumni, and board members. The Chia-yu Li Scholarship was established by friends, students and colleagues of Li in recognition of his dedication, devotion and service to the department of chemistry and to the university. Li has been a faculty member since 1972. He served as chairman of the chemistry department for 18 years. (Contributed photo)
SRAPAS Management Shifted

The operation of the university’s flagship performing arts series will move to the College of Fine Arts and Communication beginning this semester.

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series, along with the Arts Smart and Family Fare series, have all previously been part of the Division of Student Life. The college will oversee the planning, booking, and budgeting of the 2006-2007 season, which is expected to be announced in April 2006.

Jeffery Elwell, dean and professor in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, will serve as producer of the series. He will work with the board of the series’ patrons organization; manage the budget; oversee marketing; and scout, negotiate, and book talent for the series.

Michael Crane, director of communications for the college, will assist as the director of marketing.

“I’m looking forward to working with the Friends board and putting together a great 2006-2007 season,” Elwell said. “This series is an important part of the university and the community, and a good fit with our college.”

This season the series offers nine events, including Unforgettable: The Nat King Cole Story in February, and the Russian National Ballet’s production of Petipa’s La Bayadere in March.

“I look forward to getting input from other community members, students, and East Carolina University faculty and staff,” Elwell said. “I am delighted that the college has been entrusted with this cultural jewel. My goal is to provide great artistic experiences for our students, our employees, and the eastern North Carolina community.”

Series to Address Global Issues

The Great Decisions Program series at East Carolina University will include lectures and discussions on various topics, including human rights, terrorism, the United Nations and global health pandemics.

The 2006 program, slated to start in January, is offered to anyone interested in exploring and learning about these topics. The series, which started in 1954, is the flagship program of the Foreign Policy Association, a non-partisan, non-governmental organization.

Each week a different expert will discuss a topic related to the United States and its role in the world. Topics are: “The U.S. and Iran,” “Brazilians,” “Human Rights in the Age of Terrorism,” “United Nations Reform,” “Global Health Pandemics and Security,” “Turkey,” “Energy Resources,” and “China and India: Partners or Competitors?”

The cost of the full series is $59 for early registration. The price includes a briefing book from the Foreign Policy Association. Full-time students and teachers may attend free of charge and have the option to pay $20 for the book. There is a $15 charge for individual sessions.

For additional information, visit http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/cpe/great_decisions.cfm or call Rick Kilroy in ECU’s Department of Political Science at (252) 328-2349 or kilroyr@mail.ecu.edu.

For information on obtaining continuing education units, contact Jef- fery Alejandro at (252) 328-6143 or alejandroj@ecu.edu. For information about obtaining teacher renewal credits, contact Tony Drale at (252) 328-1023 or dralea@mail.ecu.edu.

Oakley Examines NC Tribes

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

Until last month, little had been published about the history of the Native American tribes in eastern North Carolina. In his new book, Keeping the Circle: American Indian Identity in Eastern North Carolina, 1885-2004 (University of Nebraska Press), ECU history professor Christopher Arris Oakley examines this segment of the region’s population and the efforts they have made to maintain their distinctive identity.

“I became intrigued how the Indian community in eastern North Carolina has maintained its identity, especially since the Jim Crow era,” he said. “I found that they employed several strategies during the past 100 years and those strategies have changed over time.”

Drawing from a range of research material, including interviews, news clippings, state and federal archives, and personal papers, Oakley found that segregated churches and schools in the 1900s initially provided a means for Native Americans to maintain their cultural identity, while economic and social conditions have continued on page 12

Wilburn Lends a Hand to Mississippi Katrina Victims

By Jennifer Robinson

East Carolina University’s Small Business and Technology Development Center Director, Carolyn Wilburn, recently returned to eastern North Carolina after a two-week stay in Gulfport, Mississippi where she assisted business owners filing for federal assistance after hurricane Katrina.

Along with about 30 other SBTDC volunteers from around the country, seven of which were from North Carolina, Wilburn traveled to Gulfport expecting the demeanor of people to be somber. What she said she did not expect was the physical devastation wrought by Katrina.

“Sections of Gulfport looked like a tent city,” said Wilburn. “Everywhere you looked there were tents. Entire families are still living in tents outside their homes. For some, that plot of land is all they have left, and they do not want to leave it. It is heartbreaking knowing that people are living in such a state; however, they continue to remain very hopeful to return to normal soon.”

SBTDC volunteers worked through the Small Business Development Center at the University of Southern Mississippi in Gulfport and had an office at a local hospital which was closed for reconstruc-
tion prior to the storm.

Throughout her two-week stay, Wilburn aided approximately 20 to 25 people in filing federal assistance for their homes and businesses. Many people would not know how to apply for federal assistance without the help of the SBTDC because it requires an enormous amount of paperwork, she said, recalling her experiences in eastern North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

“Not only were we there to help as professional business counselors, we also served somewhat as personal counselors,” said Wilburn. “We listened to their stories about what they had been through. This was an important part of understanding both their personal and professional loss.”

The city of Gulfport experienced 30- to 40-foot storm surges, spreading as much as six miles inland. Flooding homes and businesses. Some structures still have standing sections, but many others have nothing left at all.

“I was here in 1999 when hurricane Floyd hit, so I knew what these people had been going through,” said Wilburn. “I took many months for eastern North Carolina to recover from the effects of the flooding as a result of Floyd. That made me more emotionally attached to the disaster in Gulfport. I was glad to be able to return the favor after the help our area received six years ago from people across the country.”

When New Orleans is considered safe to enter, SBTDC volunteers will probably be sent in to do the same type of work they did in Gulfport, helping busi-
ness owners and the community reestab-
lish itself.

Wilburn has been with the SBTDC since its inception in November 1985, serving most of her 20 years as a business counselor. She was named director of the Eastern Region SBTDC earlier this year.

The SBTDC focuses on management counseling, addressing issues including financing, marketing, human resources, operations, business planning, and feasibility assessment for small and mid-sized businesses.

Their purpose is to help businesses grow and to expand economic develop-
ment in the region. The ECU office serves the following 12 counties: Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Martin, Pamlico, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson.

The SBTDC is part of ECU’s Regional Development Services. RDS is one of the university’s gateways through which its outreach and applied research resources are made available.

By the use of its resources and expertise of ECU faculty and students, RDS creates opportunities for the com-
munity to address concerns in eastern North Carolina.

Oakley

Wilburn

ECU professor Chris Oakley’s book, Keeping the Circle, was welcomed in song at ECU on Nov. 16. (Photo by Erica Plouffe Lazure)
Unique Program Trains in Matters of the Heart

By Crystal Baity

East Carolina University has developed the only post-graduate residency in cardiology for physician assistants in the country.

The goal is to place specially trained physician assistants in rural areas supervised by cardiologists who likely will be practicing in another town. The need is acute in eastern North Carolina, which has high rates of heart disease, said Dr. Wayne Cascio, cardiology division chief and professor of medicine in the Brody School of Medicine at ECU.

Cascio and Larry Dennis, chair of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies in the School of Allied Health Sciences, collaborated on the development of the two-year program that functions like a cardiology fellowship.

Physician assistants have delegated authority to practice medicine and prescribe medication under the supervision of a physician. “Every physician assistant who practices in the state must be licensed by the North Carolina Medical Board,” Dennis said.

“A.P.A. can run a clinic in Ayden, for instance. Physicians don’t have to be on site. The physician-physician assistant team concept is the essence of what we do.”

Cascio estimates an additional 30 cardiovascular health care providers are needed in the North Carolina counties east of I-95 alone. “We need practitioners to keep people from getting cardiovascular disease and, if they get sick, we need practitioners to treat them.”

At the same time, fewer physicians are training in cardiology. Across the country, there was a 13 percent decline in the number of cardiologists in training between 1994 and 2002. Fewer heart specialists combined with an increasing older population creates an additional burden. Each year, 700 to 800 cardiologists enter the workforce; only about 580 pass their boards. Significantly more leave the profession, Cascio said.

“We’re losing more than we’re generating and the consequence is that we have a real demand on cardiologists,” he said. As a result, cardiologists are sought after, demand high salaries and tend to locate in urban areas.

“You might have an easier time getting a board-certified cardiologist to Greenville but in the outlying areas it is almost impossible.” Specially-trained physician assistants can fill the void, Cascio said, much like family nurse practitioners and other health professionals practicing in rural areas.

In the program, P.A. residents will focus on primary prevention in heart and vascular disease, treating high cholesterol and checking risk factors. They also will monitor patients who already have disease including hypertension, diabetes, congenital heart disease or abnormal heart rhythms and vascular disease. They will learn to assess risks and perform limited clinical diagnostics such as treadmill testing and echocardiograms, Cascio said.

“Dennis’ role has included helping develop the program concept, defining licensure requirements and providing general advice and direction. Cascio has developed the curriculum. At press time, students were being recruited to start the program in July 2006.”

The incentive for a P.A. would be having specialized training and additional certification. The other advantage too is if someone is interested in cardiology and internal medicine and is interested in staying in the area, you’ve got a ready-made job,” Dennis said.

During residency, students will be employed by Pitt County Memorial Hospital, a strong supporter of the program.

Scott Jones, senior vice president of operations at CMH, said the hospital is excited to be a part of the innovative program. “Part of our mission is to improve the health status of residents in eastern North Carolina and this is a very effective way of doing that,” Jones said.

ECU’s program is unique because many of the post-graduate residencies available to physician assistants are in surgery, Dennis said.

Residency training for physician assistants is not required by any state. Training usually occurs on the job including the training required for graduation, Dennis said.

In recent years, ECU’s P.A. program has transitioned from a bachelor’s to a master’s degree. The coursework has increased from 80 to 99 hours and the department has added eight courses.

It is the only P.A. program in the UNC system. The others are at Duke University, which founded the first P.A. program in the United States in 1965, Wake Forest University and Methodist College.

ECU’s new post-graduate residence program for physician assistants is the only program of its type in the U.S. Its goal is to bring cardiovascular care to eastern North Carolina’s rural areas, like the cotton farm pictured above. (Illustration by Lisa Kuehnle, Photo by Cliff Hollis)

Grant Enables Biologist to Study Spiders, Millipedes

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

An ECU biologist has received three grants from the National Science Foundation to study millipedes and spiders.

Jason Bond, professor of biology at ECU, is documenting, studying and cataloging species from around the world in an effort to further what is known about these diverse, yet understudied, arthropods.

The first grant, called Partnership for Enhancing Expertise in Taxonomy (PEET), shared with Dr. Petra Sierwald at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago will enable Bond to enlist graduate and undergraduate students to research and update what is known about millipedes.

Millipedes, commonly referred to as thousand-leggers, are in fact leggy (not quite a thousand legs), long cylindrical creatures with a hardened protective exoskeleton. Bond said that only a fraction of an estimated 80,000 species of millipede are known and catalogued.

The research grant for $750,000 will formally begin Jan. 1.

“At its most basic level I am training students to classify and describe new species of millipedes,” Bond said of the PEET grant. “We always start by examining specimens from museum collections and then go out into the field to collect more.”

Students from Bond’s lab spend time in the collections at the Smithsonian, American Museum of Natural History, and the Field Museum of Natural History and do field work all over the world.

Bond has also received a second grant from the NSF, called Revisionary Syntheses in Systematics, in 2003. It has enabled him to study species of trapdoor spiders and contribute to the National Science Foundation’s Tree of Life project, which will eventually name and categorize 1.7 million animal species. Bond said he had identified 30 to 40 new species of the trapdoor spider during this time. Last year Bond and his students described new species of trapdoor spiders from California, North Carolina, and South Africa.

Bond collaborates with colleagues from around the country and world and serves as a co-investigator with scientists at museums of national history in Chicago, Washington D.C., and New York.

The biodiversity aspect of both projects is important, said Bond, because it equips scientists with information that will help them to better understand biodiversity and strategies for its preservation. In some cases, areas that had once been on record as a habitat for a millipede or spider species are now developed parcels of land.

“We’re just trying to document what is here now. There are species in museum collections that no longer exist in nature. There is a general attitude that if we save the habitats of large animals, we conserve the small animal’s habitat in the process,” Bond said. “That is not always the case because many millipedes and spiders, for example, have incredibly restricted distributions.”

In addition to collecting, cataloguing and describing millipede and spider species these myriapods and arachnids are also being surveyed through molecular, DNA approaches.

“We use DNA to examine evolutionary relationships at many levels in the history of life, from the relationships of families to species and populations,” Bond said.

“In particular, we’re very interested in the process of speciation,” Bond said.

Bond and other members of the Department of Biology in 2003 also received a third grant for $250,000 from the National Science Foundation for a scanning electron microscope. This scope enhances teaching and biodiversity studies at East Carolina University.
Galloway Shares Her Heart with Power of One

In coordination with the Recognition and Rewards Committee of the ECU Staff Senate, the Pieces of Eight series honoring exceptional ECU staff members recognizes Kay Galloway.

By Judy Currin

Kay Galloway knows firsthand that the Power of One Program does make a difference in a child’s life. The youth program, offered through Communities In Schools of Pitt County, links at risk children with an adult mentor.

Galloway, ECU’s Central Ticket Office manager, has been involved with the program for more than a year.

“When I found out about Power of One,” Galloway said, “I knew it was the perfect volunteer opportunity for me.”

Without children of her own, she used to spend time with her nieces and nephews, who have now grown up and moved away.

“I like having children in my life,” she said. This program allows me to spend time with a child and hopefully make a difference in her life.”

Jennifer Boyd, the director of Power of One, interviews interested volunteers. Volunteers and children who wish to participate in the program fill out paperwork that includes a section listing their particular interests. A training session is provided for the volunteers.

Kay Galloway (right), office manager in East Carolina University’s Central Ticket Office at Mendenhall Student Center, spends quality time as a mentor to help at-risk teenager Courtney, through the community-based Power of One Program. The program links local children with adult mentors. (Photo by Judy Currin)

“It gives you additional information about the program and prepares you for some of the issues you may face when working with an at-risk child,” she said. “The commitment you make is to spend at least two hours a week with the child.”

For more than a year, Galloway has mentored 14-year-old Courtney, an eighth grader with “an amazing spirit... We really have fun doing things together,” she said. “I’ve seen progress in her school work as well.”

Last year Galloway created an incentive program to help Courtney with issues she was struggling with in school. “I told her if she could maintain a certain behavior for a month, I would allow her to have a sleep-over at my house and invite some of her friends,” Galloway said. “She met the challenge.”

The time they spend together may involve baking cookies, working on a craft or taking in an age-appropriate free movie offered at Mendenhall. Last year one of the local dance studios donated hip-hop lessons for Courtney. Galloway provided transportation.

“The trips back and forth to her lessons gave me a chance to see her more often, even if it was for shorter periods of time,” she said.

Galloway said many of the children come from households with large families. “Sometimes they just want to hang out at home with you where it is quiet,” she said.

“There is a real need for mentors,” Galloway said. She said the program has 12 boys and two girls who would benefit from some positive attention from a role model, especially the males.

“Kay Galloway is one of our most valuable mentors,” Boyd said. “She has given Courtney more than just her time, she has shared her heart.”

According to Boyd, Courtney has “improved in school and in her attitude, as a direct result of Kay’s positive impact and consistent involvement. They are quite a team,” she said. Kay is only one person, Boyd said, but she has still “made an impact in many ways in Courtney’s present and future success.”

Book Arts Program Trains in Time-Honored Craft

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

In the age of automation, the idea of creating a hand-stitched, personally bound book might seem like a mere footpath on the information superhighway, but in the printmaking room at East Carolina University, about a dozen students, under the guidance of instructor Lisa Beth Robinson, have begun to understand the beauty of that footprint as they learn the centuries-old craft of book arts.

“Books will never go away. The paperless library is a myth,” Robinson said. “Books are intimate objects. Even though we carry around iPods, you can’t curl up in bed with a computer.”

So far, students in Book Arts I and II have learned kettle stitches, Coptic and torque binding, and have begun to appreciate the time and patience required to make books that meld the craftsman’s desire for precision with the artist’s eye for beauty.

Now entering its second semester, the Book Arts courses are the seed of what many in the School of Art and Design hope will develop into an interdisciplinary program that would attract artists, librarians and writers. With help from colleagues Michael Elshneck and Craig Malmrose and others, Robinson hopes to turn a few courses into an interdisciplinary program. Several ECU arts faculty offered a book-making course to arts educators this summer.

“ECU has an excellent art department and I think students from many disciplines, even English and library sciences, could benefit from this,” said Robinson, who teaches part-time, and also works as an administrative assistant for ECU’s publications office.

“In the book arts, the finished object is rarely just one medium. It could be, but it doesn’t have to be. We’ve been doing a lot of planning and we have a strong long-term vision for the program.”

Some students in other disciplines are already taking advantage of the Book Arts course offering. Charity Valentine is a graduate student in ECU’s photography department. For her final project, she has incorporated her own photographic prints with a set of twenty identical scarlet silk-bound books.

“Photography lends itself well to book arts,” Valentine said as she sewed waxed thread through the seam of one of her books. “I often come up with photo sequences and narratives, and they need a place to be put.”

Robinson said she has found many students tend to figure out what to fill the book with once its form takes shape.

“Everyone has a story; most people have many stories, but don’t think of it until they start to make a book,” she said.

Lisa Beth Robinson, East Carolina University book arts instructor, teaches the centuries-old craft in the printmaking room at the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. (Photos by Erica Plouffe Lazure)
Between the Beats: Knighten Completes Ironman

By Michael Crane

It was nearly midnight when Chris Knighten, director of the ECU Marching Pirates, crossed the last timing mat at Panama City Beach, Fla. To the crowd gathered, an announcer intoned: "Chris Knighten, you are an Ironman."

"My first thought was that I needed to sit down and have some pizza," the School of Music professor said. The Ironman Triathlon was created as a means to answer a question of athleticism among Navy SEALs: Are runners, bikers, or swimmers the fittest? The race was born in 1978 when 15 servicemen combined a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike and a complete marathon (26.2 miles).

"They didn’t know if that distance was humanly possible," says chemistry professor Bob Morrison, who has entered six Ironman competitions. With his "Ironfan" daughter, he frequently talks to civic groups about competing in the races. "It’s a life-changing experience. In the event itself you’re extended to your limits.”

Currently, there are 18 full-distance Ironman events worldwide, with more than 22,000 athletes expected to compete in 2005. Athletes have 17 hours to finish the races, which begin at 7 a.m.

"In the last 400 yards, all the tiredness goes away and it’s really a rush to run through that finishing chute," Knighten says.

The professor of conducting traces his journey from the opening of the Student Recreational Center seven years ago. “I had never exercised before, so I started on the treadmill,” Knighten says. "I had never exercised before, so I started on the treadmill," Knighten says. "In the last 400 yards, all the tiredness goes away and it’s really a rush to run through that finishing chute,” Knighten says.

"I can’t believe that in a few short years, you’ve run together, but with his schedule, he did who completes an Ironman,” says Anne Bogey, director of professional programs in the College of Business. “Especially considering his fall schedule.”

"The really amazing thing about Chris is that he did all this training by himself," Bogey says. "That’s seven or eight hour bike rides by yourself. There is a really big group in town that works out together, but with his schedule, he did this alone.” While training for Ironman-Hawaii in 1995, Morrison biked with Bruce Flye, ECU director of campus space planning. “That was very helpful,” Morrison said. Last year he trained alone. “I think it makes you tougher mentally. You have to develop your focus.”

Knighten had competed in running and shorter triathlons in the last few years, and started training especially for the Ironman in January. For five months he worked on strength training and building an aerobic base.

"It’s a huge goal, obviously,” Knighten says. "I’ve learned so much and gained so much by getting involved. I saw the benefits of exercise, so I decided to jump in and do a full distance event.”

In May he switched to distance training, with nine exercise sessions per week, each addressing the three disciplines. One short session addressed tech- nique; the others increased his stamina.

"Three weeks before the race you peak, you get to the point of diminishing returns, where you won’t gain fitness through exercise, you just make your body more tired." Knighten tapered his schedule, working out as frequently, but over shorter distances.

Knighten says his diet changed significantly. "It was essentially the anti-Akins diet, especially in the last few weeks of training with the distances.”

All 2,200 slots in the Ironman-Florida sold out within six hours last year. When Knighten nabbed his place, it was the beginning of a year of calculations and numbers. “It’s very calculated. You plan on the variables of training, the travel to get there, what you’ll wear, what will help you through the day.”

"A friend told me, there are two commitments regarding the Ironman. There’s the commitment that takes you through eight to ten months of training.

Tabrizi Debuts Virtual Reality-Based Course

By Nancy McGillicuddy

When Professor Moha Tabrizi tried on his new sensory suit in East Carolina University’s Technology Innovation Lab, he wasn’t looking to create a movie or video game for Nintendo or Xbox, although the technology is similar.

Instead, the ECU professor of computer science was tracking his motions in order to create a virtual version of himself for an online class that will debut on a pilot basis for the spring 2006 semester.

"We are not using this technology for its original use — movies and video or computer games,” Tabrizi said. "Rather, we are recreating the use of the technology for education.”

The technology aids an emerging medium known as Agent and Virtual Reality-based online course delivery system, which has also been applied to computer game and entertainment systems development. Tabrizi is using the technology to create a virtual classroom where students can view lectures online in an environment that mimics a face-to-face classroom setting.

The suit — made up of interacting black PVC piping, motion trackers, facial trackers and gloves — utilizes the same technology that movie and video game creators use to track the natural movement of characters such as athletes in order to create 3-D environments. The suit is worn to collect the necessary data, but not every time a lecture is presented. The recorded movements of the virtual professor are then re-created in the 3-D environment.

"It’s an interactive and multi-media-based approach similar to computer gaming instead of just reading online or viewing video,” Tabrizi said. The system fuses different technological elements, including a 3-D platform, a course management system, an electronic whiteboard and a slide presentation.

The professor appears as an animated character. Lectures can be archived for students to use later.

The growing trend toward online education is apparent at universities around the country, including ECU, which boasts about 4,500 distance education students. While the instruction is equivalent to a face-to-face class, Tabrizi notes a discrepancy between the two forms. The AVR is one of the first steps in yielding enhanced systems for delivery of online courses, Tabrizi said.

"In online education sometimes the student and the instruction connection is missing,” he said. “With this innovative technology, we aim to solve the environmental connection. We are trying to bring face-to-face interaction to online instruc- tion.”

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ECU professor Moha Tabrizi tries on a body motion capture device for the virtual professor program. (Photo by Nancy McGillicuddy)
Kean Leads County Caregivers in Healthy Harvest

By Barbara Bullington

They assembled in the kitchen and demonstration area, waiting to play with their food. Soon they would learn how to use bananas, peanut butter, raisins and other foodstuffs to construct edible caterpillars.

Those waiting were not children. They were adults. Nearly 40 full-grown participants gathered in Greenville’s Hope Lodge in November for Healthy Harvest, a training event for workers who provide childcare in home facilities and daycare centers.

The brainchild of Linda Kean, associate professor in ECU’s School of Communication, Healthy Harvest was aimed at reducing the potential for obesity and encouraging positive eating habits among the 2- to 5-year-old population in Pitt County. She developed the program as part of her collaboration with Pitt Partners for Health, a community partnership with representatives from local churches, businesses, community members and human service agencies.

Pitt Partners had received a Healthy Carolinians Partnership grant, which specifically required recipients to work with an academic expert. Serving as that expert, Kean developed communication plans to target at-risk or underserved Pitt County populations with motivating health messages. She developed campaign plans for four of five Pitt Partners for Health priority areas – nutrition and physical activity, heart disease, stroke and diabetes, substance abuse and older adult health.

Healthy Harvest was part of the nutrition and physical activity plan. The program worked with caregivers to encourage healthy eating among the children in their care. “We have a pretty significant problem in eastern North Carolina,” Kean said, adding that almost 20 percent of 2- to 4-year-olds in Pitt County are overweight.

Healthy Harvest participants received information about appropriate portion sizes. They also received take-home kits that would enable them to continue learning about, practicing and passing on the information they received about healthier eating. The kits contained information about My Pyramid – a children’s nutrition guide from the USDA – and related games, along with sets of measuring cups and spoons, ingredients for healthy snacks, and recipes for foods that children can participate in preparing.

While Pitt Partners for Health and Kean focused much of their efforts in the areas of nutrition and physical activities, much was accomplished as well in the heart disease area, through a campaign first developed by the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and the American Heart Association. That campaign was entitled, “Act in Time.” Materials regarding the early warning signs of heart attacks were sent to physicians to distribute to their patients and also to their families at annual health care events.

Participants in the Healthy Harvest training program for Pitt County child care workers learn to create healthy snacks for children in their care. Linda Kean of ECU’s School of Communication developed the program. (Contributed photo)

In the Spotlight

Appointments/Elections

Deirdre Magean (Research and Graduate Studies) was elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Council of Graduate Schools in Washington, D.C.

NewsMakers

Darla Liles (Medicine) in The Daily Reflector, on diet and exercise as a way to ward off cancer, Oct. 21.


Johnson also co-wrote an editorial on the Walk to Cure Diabetes, in The Daily Reflector, Nov. 5.

James Cummings (Medicine) on WCTI-TV news, on premature births, Nov. 15, and in The Daily Reflector, Nov. 17.

William Chapman and Kenneth MacDonald (Medicine), on WITN-TV news, discussing their hosting of a gastric-bypass surgery live on the Internet, Nov. 16.


Service, Honors and Professional Activities

Karen Dawkins (Education) received the Don Bailey College/University Distinguished Service Award from the North Carolina Science Teachers Association at its November meeting. The award, named for a long-time science educator at ECU, recognizes individuals for exceptional service to science education in North Carolina.

John Maiolo (Retired, Sociology) received the Alumni Achievement Award from Lycoming College, from which he graduated in 1960.

Karen Smith (Orientation) attended the National Orientation Directors Association Conference in Miami, Fla.

Mary Kirkpatrick (Nursing) has completed the program evaluator training in Phoenix, Arizona for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission. She will begin her duties in the spring, 2006.

Facilities Services Supervisors Awards for Excellence winners include Willie Stevens (Utilities Services) for human relations; and for devotion to duty, Chris Stallings (Automotive Services), Ron Newton (Grounds Services) and Griffin Avin (Facilities Maintenance).

Dawn Clark (Theatre and Dance) served on the accreditation team for UNC-Charlotte’s dance program.

Creative writing faculty from the Department of English raised $243 for the Southern Arts Federation’s Emergency Relief Fund and $35 for the American Red Cross with a Katrina Benefit Reading held Sept. 27. Readers were Christy Baker, Peter Makuck, Alex Albright, Bill Hallberg, Luke Whisnant, Julie Fay, Bob Siegel, and Pat Bizarre. The SAF fund supports artists and arts organizations affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Tribute Honors Wilentz

More than 100 colleagues and friends attended a special tribute held Nov. 14 in honor of ECU English professor Gay Wilentz (left), Michael Bassman (right), assistant vice chancellor and honors program director, co-founded ECU’s ethnic studies program with Wilentz in 1989. In the past 25 years at ECU, Wilentz has conducted numerous studies in Belize and has compiled the first anthology of literature by writers from Belize. In 2004, she received ECU’s lifetime achievement award for Research and Creative Activity. (Photo by Marc J. Kawanishi)
EC Scholars Tutor, Mentor in Belvoir’s Hispanic Community
By Vicki Luttrell

Thirty students from East Carolina University’s EC Scholar program have embarked on a project of learning about the Latino community by tutoring and mentoring kindergarten through second grade Hispanic children at Belvoir Elementary School.

The goal of this project is to provide educational experiences for emerging health care providers – the ECU Scholars – that promote and develop community and cultural awareness and understanding of the migrant Latino community, while providing valuable tutoring for the children, said Michael Bassman, EC Scholars program director.

The EC Scholars program began in the late 1990s and is a comprehensive, four-year educational experience including a competitive, merit-based academic scholarship. More than 90 percent of the students enrolled are pre-med and four are guaranteed admission to the Brody School of Medicine each year.

“Because many of the EC Scholars are pre-med program with significant advanced placement credit, they have bypassed many humanities and social science credits,” said Bassman. “In addition, many do not have the experience or exposure to rural communities, cultural and social diversity, and agricultural occupations. Given the recent influx of members of the Latino community there is a great need for future health-care professionals to develop a comprehensive cultural understanding of this community.”

Each year, an EC Scholar is paired with a student from Belvoir Elementary School for the duration of the ECU academic year and will be involved with visits to the families’ homes, a working farm, agricultural industrial sites, migrant health clinics, the Pitt County Memorial Hospital emergency room, and trips into the families’ communities.

According to one of the students participating in the project, Chris Munier, working one-on-one with the children and their parents is an opportunity to get a better understanding of how the world works. “I am experiencing different types of people with different situations and different cultures. It is an enriching, educational and stimulating process. Giving attention to people who need help is always positive,” he said.

In addition to the culturally diverse experience these students get in Greenville, they are also encouraged to study abroad as part of the EC Scholar program. While some have taken this opportunity, others from around the world have come to ECU to participate in this program.

This year, seven of the EC Scholars are from Finland, one is from Lithuania, and the rest are from North Carolina. The international students are part of a program that began this year, the International Student Scholars Program.

“While serving the developmental needs of the EC Scholars, this project also serves some critical educational needs of our Latino population by providing valuable tutoring and mentoring,” said Bassman. “We are working closely with teachers and the Belvoir Elementary School librarian to make sure the one-on-one help we are giving is making a difference. It is important we are involved in the community and this is one way the EC Scholars can give back.”

Students Visit Investor Guru
By Nancy McGillicuddy

A group of East Carolina University business students visited with legendary investor Warren Buffett in November during a trip set up through the College of Business. Sam Tibbs, an assistant professor in finance at ECU, coordinated the trip. The College of Business provided financial support of $250 per student to help defray costs.

The students toured Buffett’s operations, including the Nebraska Furniture Mart and Borsheim’s, in Omaha and met with Buffett for about three hours to discuss investing and his philosophies on life and business. The group then lunched at Buffett’s favorite steakhouse where he picked up the tab. The group also met with Wallace R. Weitz, another famous value investor and the founder of Weitz mutual funds, which manages more than $7 billion.

Buffett, 75, who was named the second wealthiest man in the United States, is the chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway.

Students said they were impressed by Buffett’s humble nature and his definition of success. Other students commented on one of Buffett’s common business philosophies — that all employees in a business should be treated with the same amount of respect regardless of their position.

“Mr. Buffett isn’t just the second richest man in the U.S. and the greatest investor of all time,” said ECU business student Frank Preto. “He is a great person, with a good heart. He actually cares about people. He showed me that having good ethics and treating everyone fairly would get you far in life.”

Rick Niswander, dean of the ECU College of Business, encouraged the students to follow Buffett’s example of hav- ing an extensive knowledge base. “Mr. Buffett is so broadly knowledgeable,” he said. “Not only about business, but about life. One of the keys to success in life is to be broad. I am firmly convinced that if you can stay broad and not narrow, you will be successful for the rest of your life.”

Niswander said the visit’s educational value was tremendous. “I do not have the words to express the importance and significance of this visit for our students, our college, and the university,” he said. “Buffett meets with fewer than 25 student groups from around the country including the likes of Stanford, Dartmouth, Chicago, Wharton, Iowa, and Tennessee. We are obviously among some elite company.”

Tibbs said the students were outstanding and that Buffett commented more than once on the quality of the questions asked by the students.

“It was a great trip and it even exceeded my expectations,” Tibbs said.
local faith based organizations to improve the knowledge of those at risk. Kean also wrote an overall guide to campaign planning intended to assist Pitt Partners with their future communication goals.

Grant activities were carried out from August through November. “We’ve started a couple of the balls rolling,” Kean said, noting that the organization can continue to use many of the suggestions and ideas, and aims for future grants to help carry them out.

Kean’s efforts for the organization spilled over into her work at ECU. “It gave me an opportunity to apply my research as well as what I teach in the classroom,” said Kean, who teaches public relations theory and public relations strategies courses. Her research is primarily focused on the development and evaluation of health communication campaigns.

Kean has gotten ECU students involved as well. Cherry Smith, an undergraduate public relations student from the School of Communication, and LaTangee Knight, who is working toward a master’s in health education and promotion, both assisted with the implementation of the communication plan strategies. The students were able to experience firsthand “what makes an effective campaign as applied to a real world situation,” Kean stated.

The project provided a good example, Kean said, of the type of public relations campaigns that might be completed by students who enroll in the School of Communication’s new master’s degree program, which has an emphasis on health communication. The program will begin offering courses in the fall of 2006. “The degree will allow (the students) to bridge two areas—communication and health,” noted Kean, adding that students might be taking part in very similar types of health-related campaigns within the community.

Kean found her role as a consultant for Pitt Partners Health fulfilling and has plans to continue providing ideas. For instance, she stated that events similar to the Healthy Harvest could potentially be held quarterly. The group also plans to conduct a monthly recipe contest for childcare providers who could submit their best healthy snack or meal recipe. Thus, day care providers across the county might soon be embarking on other creative ways to make healthy food fun as children benefit in more ways than they realize.

So far, a number of individuals and organizations have helped out or contributed to the Pitt Partners for Health campaigns. Smart Start, ChildLinks and the Department of Health were integrally involved in making the Healthy Harvest event a success, Kean said.

For more information about Pitt Partners for Health, visit their website at www.pittpartnersforhealth.org.

Information on the MA in Communication with an emphasis in health communication can be accessed at www.ecu.edu/comm/.

Faculty Shine at Conference

By Barbara Bullington

A record number of ECU School of Communication faculty made scholarly presentations at the annual National Communication Association Conference in Boston. The theme of the conference, held Nov. 17-20, was “The Health of the Disciplines.” The 11 professors who had papers accepted, won awards and/or were invited to make presentations were: Linda Kean, Laura C. Prividera, John Howard, Tim Hudson, Alison Miller, Rebecca Dumiao, Christine Russell, Linda Vangelis, Eric Shouse, Chuck Grant, Sachiyoh Shearman and Tami Tomaselto.

Some highlights of the event:
• Kean and Prividera won the top paper award for the African American and Culture division for, “Communicating about Race and Health: A Content Analysis of Print Advertisements in African American and General Readership Magazines.”
• Prividera won the top paper award for the Basic Course Division for, “Suppressing cultural sensitivity: The role of whiteness in instructors’ course content and pedagogical practices.”
• Dumiao presented a paper about first-year participation in the Communication Studies Concentration Group partnership. Her undergraduate media literacy students developed media products concerned with diversity in the media geared to local 

Kean Leads Healthy Harvest

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• Dumiao presented a paper about first-year participation in the Communication Studies Concentration Group partnership. Her undergraduate media literacy students developed media products concerned with diversity in the media geared to local middle school students and shared them at the Boys and Girls Club.

Kean and Prividera presented a competitive paper, “Masculinity, whiteness, and the warrior hero: Perpetuating the strategic rhetoric of nationalism.”

Grant presented a competitive paper, “Developing Interpersonal Relationships Between Certified Nursing Assistants and Residents in Long-term Care Facilities.”

In addition, Tomaselto presented, “Diffusing an early vision for the Internet via scholarly publication,” while Miller presented, “The Mirror of Society: Cultural Myths and Reality Televison.” Prividera participated in a roundtable discussion for the Women’s Caucus. The title was “Womenoring.” The SOC had a booth at the Graduate Program Fair and held a well-attended reception. During both, materials were distributed and numerous inquiries were answered about the SOC’s new master’s degree in communication studies.

Tim Hudson, director of the School of Communication, also attended the conference, bringing ECU participation this year to an even dozen.

“It was a pleasure and a source of pride to attend some of the ECU faculty presentations in Boston, and to witness firsthand what we in Greenville know so well—that this is a world class communication faculty,” Hudson said.

Jubran Wins Best in Show

Hanna Jubran, a sculpture professor at East Carolina University, was awarded best in show this month for his work, Mountain Landscape. Jubran won the Great Eastern Management Prize for Best in Show 2005-2006 from the ArtInPlace Foundation of Charlottesville, Va.

Landscapes are often depicted in two-dimensional formats, Jubran said, and he wanted to challenge himself to capture a landscape in a three-dimensional format.

The circle represents either the sun rising or setting, and the diagonal forms represent the clouds, mountains or the horizon, he said. “Although this sculpture is painted specific colors, its hues change depending on the time of day and season,” Jubran said. “They also change as you move around the sculpture and as its relation to the background shifts. Between nature and the sculpture I am condensing time and space.”

The painted steel sculpture, located on Emmet Street near Barracks Road in Charlottesville, will be on display through September 2006. Jubran shares the best in show title with another sculptor.

Presentations

Presentations by Xin-Hua Hu (Physics) with faculty from Medicine, G. Downie, C. Sibata, R. Allison, R. Cuence, and C. Childs, “Tumor ablation through self-expandable metal stent (SEMS) for airway neoplasm: The dosimetry and efficacy of photodynamic therapy,” at the 11th World Conference on Lung Cancer in Barcelona, Spain. By Hu and Jun Q. Lu (Physics) at the OSA Annual Meeting: with B. Yang and Kai Li (Technology Systems) and co-authors, “Imaging Based Tissue Optics: Parallel Monte Carlo Modeling and Phantom Measurements” and with co-authors, “Parallel FDTD Simulation of Light Scattering by Three-Dimensional B Cells at Different Phases of Cell Cycle.” By Hu and Lu with co-authors, “Numerical simulations of light scattering from blood cells using FDTD method,” for the NATA Advanced Research Workshop on Optics of Biological Particles in Novosibirsk, Russia.

Presentation by Ranjeet Agrawal (Technology Systems) with co-author, “Diagnosing Periodontal Disease Based on Non-Intrusively Obtained Data Using Artificial Neural Networks,” at the Artificial Neural Networks in Engineering conference in St. Louis, Mo. The paper can be found at http://web.uncc.edu/~ami/ami05/Final/monday/ica23.htm, and will be published in the conference proceedings.

Presentations by Sylvia Brown and Mary K. Kirkpatrick (Nursing), “Innovative Pedagogies for the Future Development of Nurse Educators,” at the 38th Biennial Convention of Sigma Theta Tau International, the international honor society for nursing. Kirkpatrick also served as moderator for a scientific session and presented, “Integrative-Complementary Care: Infusing Practice and Education.” The conference was held in Indianapolis, Ind.

Presentation by C.W. Sullivan III (English), “Cultural Worldview in the Reflexive Narrative Structure of the Four Branches of the Mahabhog,” at the annual meeting of the American Folklore Society in Atlanta, Ga.

New head basketball coach Ricky Stokes spurs the Pirates to an 86-75 win over North Carolina A & T during Stokes’s ECU coaching debut on Nov. 18. The win gave the ECU team a record of winning six straight regular season openers and five straight home openers. During the game, senior Corey Rouse set career-highs in both points and rebounds, finishing with 35 points and 17 boards. (Photo by Marc J. Kawanishi)

Between the Beats: Knighten Completes Ironman

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and the commitment you make that morning of the race—that you’ll finish.”

“All you have to do is make up your mind to do it, then start training,” Morrison said. “Then it forces you into a certain lifestyle.”

On the race date, Knighten woke at 4 a.m. He ate pancakes, bananas, Gatorade, water, and peanut butter, then went to the transition site by 5 a.m. to prepare for the event. “It’s weird to be up at that time of the day. Your gearbags are in place by Friday afternoon, your bike is at the site. Everything is done by dinner on Friday night so you can focus.”

At 7 a.m. Knighten crossed the first mat, his ankle-mounted timing chip recorded his first race step of the day. At the next crossing, he recorded a 1:20 hour swim, followed by a 6:35 hour bike, then a 7:20 hour run. “My goal was to finish by midnight. I thought it would take me 15.5 or 16 hours if all went really well. The swim went well, the biking went well, and until mile 18 in the run, I was on track to finish in 15 hours.”

Knighten had significant problems with blisters. The pads of his feet, corresponding to where his feet pressed against the pedals on his bike, were virtually missing. “I was walking a 25-minute mile in my last four miles,” he said. “My longest bike ride in training was 85 miles. That’s a significant leap to 112 miles in a race. That was part of the cause of it. When you have pain, you compensate, the more you compensate, the more pain you add elsewhere.”

“There’s a Debussy quote, ‘music is the stuff between the beats,’” recounted Knighten. “The numbers were time markers—crossing the mats—but most of the music of the day were the events, the stuff in between. That’s where the real effort happens.”

Knighten said a triathlon is a metaphor. “For most of the age groupers (non-professional competitors), the challenge is getting there and preparing their body for it. For me that race was symbolic of things I’ve been getting through personally, where I dare to endure pain to get through these things emotionally and physically.”

“People say they get into triathlons to test their limits. When you really push yourself to find that limit, you don’t get there because the limit changes—you push it back. I’ve found that to be true in my life as a classical musician too. Training reminds me very often about the importance of the process of teaching, rather than just trying to hit the milestones.”

Knighten said higher education is often gauged by milestones—exams, projects, and recitals. “The real growth happens in between.”

When Knighten finished the race, he perused the board ranking the Ironman finishers. “I was amazed at how dissimilar the times were. The person who was really great at the swim wasn’t great at the run. All of the ranking came down to the totals of the times across the mats, but when I look back at the experience, I can’t remember crossing some of the mats. But when people look at the times on the web, they’re looking at just the one step—crossing the mat,” he said. “That’s a pretty insignificant moment in the context of the day.”

In the week since the race, Knighten reported he’d eaten a lot of ‘junk:’ pizza and pop tarts. “After the stiffness comes out this week, I’ll continue to exercise.”

Only one week after completing Ironman, Knighten presented a lecture and concert at the North Carolina Music Educator’s Conference (NCMEA) in Winston-Salem. After addressing one piece from each era of band history, Knighten conducted the ECU Symphonic Band in performance of examples by North Carolina composers or pieces commissioned by North Carolina Bands. That Knighten was invited to present at the conference is a tribute to his conducting and scholarship.

The Ironman-Florida event will be broadcast on the Outdoor Life Network on December 12.
On Campus

In Memoriam

William David Bulloch, formerly an ECU distinguished visiting professor and teacher of physics, astronomy and math, died Oct. 28 in Raleigh.

Virtual Reality

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Tabrizi said he has found that students prefer to observe and hear the professor, ask questions and read materials with multimedia content.

“Despite recent efforts to integrate video-conferencing into existing online course delivery systems, they do not produce an environment resembling the face-to-face setting,” he said.

Moreover, he said, adding video to existing systems increases the network bandwidth considerably and reduces the capabilities of these systems in areas with slow network infrastructure.

Tabrizi said the Agent and Virtual Reality-based communication architecture was created to optimize bandwidth usage so that the project can deliver online education to underserved areas that do not have cable or broadband Internet access.

“This innovative technology is being created in such a way that the bandwidth requirement is reduced tremendously,” he said. “An interactive lecture with a full screen can be received in real time or archived, regardless of the type of network connection, including dial-up.”

Further applications of the AVR system include the training of workers in hazardous material handling environments, medical clinics and surgery.

“Our students participating in the development of this system will benefit significantly by gaining experience in software engineering, technology innovation, developing computer games and use of high tech equipment,” Tabrizi said.

Oakley Examines Eastern North Carolina Tribes

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inspired modern day Native Americans to protect and celebrate their identity primarily through the powwow.

“In the last 30 years, the powwow celebrations have been a combination of different tribal cultures,” he said. “The traditions are not necessarily indigenous to the region, and some of the traditions are from the West or the Plains culture. But the powwow is designed to promote internal unity and it serves as an assertion of culture to outsiders, even though it might play off of what people tend to think a ‘traditional’ Indian is.”

The isolated farming communities at the turn of the century had enabled Native Americans to maintain their identity from the black and white populations in eastern North Carolina. Segregated school systems and churches helped to maintain that identity, Oakley said.

As farming waned and industrialization grew after World War II, the communities became less isolated and their “Indian-ness” was challenged continually. After the Brown v. Board of Education ruling began to take effect, in the 1960s, Oakley saw that powwows and the naming of local tribes surfaced as another strategy to protect and celebrate their identity primarily through the powwow.

“Some have ancestral ties and some are new to tribal organizations,” he said. “Many of them are not descendents of a single origin, but rather from many origins.”

The tribes of eastern North Carolina, which include Lumbees, the Tuscaroras, the Waccamaw Sioux, the Oceanees, the Meherrins, the Haliwa-Saponis, and the Coharies, are not federally recognized, although some have state recognition and have sought to be recognized federally. The Cherokee of western North Carolina, said Oakley, are the only federally recognized tribe in the state. Keeping the Circle was welcomed Nov. 16 by several of ECU’s Native American student organizations, as well as the Leodonia Wright Cultural Center and the Office of Institutional Diversity.