Two new members have been elected to the East Carolina University Board of Trustees by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors. Danny Scott, a marketing executive with Monsanto in St. Louis, and Steve Jones, an executive with RBC Bank in Raleigh, are scheduled to join the ECU board at its meeting on July 23. Their appointments are provisional until they file forms required by the North Carolina State Ethics Commission.

Scott, who holds a degree in business administration from ECU, joined Monsanto this year after serving as vice president for diversity for Anheuser-Busch Companies. Jones, market president for the Carolinas and Virginia for RBC, is a 1991 graduate of ECU. He currently serves as chair of the university Board of Visitors.

Also joining the board in July will be Brad Congleton, the newly elected president of the Student Government Association, who serves ex-officio. He is a sports management major and has served the last year as vice president of the Student Senate.

The ECU community has welcomed a new and improved landmark on campus following the March 26 dedication of the new Trustees Fountain in Wright Circle. The original fountain, dedicated in 1932 to honor ECU’s first president, Robert H. Wright, was dismantled due to damage in 2007.

A focal point of campus returned to prominence during East Carolina University’s Founders Day celebration March 26.

The Trustees Fountain in Wright Circle, formerly the location of the Wright Fountain, was dedicated before a crowd of ECU trustees, alumni, faculty members, staff and supporters.

“This is a wonderful tribute to anyone who has ever served as a trustee,” said Bob Greycyn, chair of the board. “This will be a place where people can come together and talk about the world.”

Wright Fountain, a campus icon for more than 70 years, had to be dismantled in early 2007 due to structural damages. The original fountain was built in 1932 to honor Robert H. Wright, the first president of East Carolina. In 1951, the fountain was rededicated to honor Martin L. Wright, director of the Department of Social Science who served as chair of the campus beautification committee for 15 years.

In addition to being rebuilt, the new fountain has been renamed in honor of ECU trustees. A plaque that stands nearby names the 202 current and former trustees, recognizing “their years of dedicated service to East Carolina University.”

Work began on the $1.18 million project in September 2008. Kevin Kane of Davis Kane Architects in Raleigh designed the project. Mark Blackman from RN Rouse in Goldsboro served as contractor. ECU project managers were Nick McKinley and Robert Still, and ECU employees, John Gill, Devin Livi and the grounds department performed landscape design and installation.
Jarvis Medal Presented at Founders Day Convocation

By Christine Neff

E ast Carolina University honored the first female recipient of the Thomas Jordan Jarvis Medal, the university’s highest service award, at its March 26 Founders Day celebration.

Janice Hardison Faulkner, a distinguished public servant and former university faculty member and administrator, received the medal during the Centennial Convocation. A native of Martin County, Faulkner earned her bachelor’s degree in 1953 and a master’s in English in 1956 at ECU. After post-graduate work at the famous Bread孚 School of English in Vermont, she joined the East Carolina faculty. After a notable tenure at ECU, Faulkner became a well-known and highly respected participant in state politics and government. She served as former North Carolina secretary of revenue, secretary of state and commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles. Her hands-on leadership turned these agencies into a model for quality management in state government.

Faulkner was the first chair of the university’s Board of Visitors, a member of the Board of the ECU Foundation, a recipient of the Distinguished Alumni award and received an honorary doctorate from ECU in 1997. She currently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

In accepting her award, Faulkner said her service to ECU fulfilled the vision set out by East Carolina’s founders.

“Our founding fathers 100 years ago captured a vision of doing something great and wonderful and good for the people of Eastern North Carolina. I think I stand here today as a representative of the fact that the vision they captured has indeed become a dream realized for hundreds of us here, and I am proud to have made that journey,” she said.

The Jarvis Medal, which is awarded by the Board of Trustees, recognizes extraordinary service to the university or society. Previous recipients are Governor Thomas Jordan Jarvis, who is considered the father of ECU; Robert Wright, the university’s first president, former Chancellor Leo Jenkins; former U.S. Sen. Robert Morgan; and Dr. Andrew Best, a Greenville pediatrician who also served on the university’s faculty.

ECU also recognized winners of the 2009 Centennial Awards for Excellence and inductees to the Servire Society, which honors faculty, staff and students who contributed 100 or more hours of volunteer service to the community in the previous year.

Excellence awards were presented to individuals in the following categories:

• Service: Dr. Lee West (Brody School of Medicine); Jane Manning (Business Services Office); Ruth Clifton (Dowdly Student Stores).

• Leadership: Mark Weitzel (Business); Carolyn Erwin (ECU Physicians); Maurice York (Joiner Library).

• Ambition: Dr. Jayne Geissler (Academic Advising and Support Center); Members of the Emergency Communications Assessment Team: Lucia Brannon, Charles Peele and Brad Ritchie (Student Affairs); Erica Plouffe Lazure, Christine Neff and Jeannine Manning Hutson (News Services); Rita Bilbro, Rob Hudson, Billy Long and Petra Rouse (Information Technology & Computing Services and Health Sciences Campus Communications); Maj. Frank Knight (ECU Police); Mary Schiller (Administration and Finance); Paul Carson (Campus Operations).

Sixty-three faculty and staff members and 45 students were inducted into the Servire Society.

Faculty and staff first-year inductees are as follows: Harry Adams, Robin Armstrong, Margaret Ard-Caddigan, William Brgee, Christine Bosick, Elizabeth Carroll, William Clark, Kathleen Cox, Tarrick Cox, Leslie Craigie, Jessica Davenport, Tammy Ellis, Charles Gee, Sandra Hickey, Mary Jackson, Angela Lamson, Mandee Lancaster, Marylee Lannan, Charles Lesko Jr., Susan McCammon, Barbara Memory, Scott Methe, Shawn Moore, Nick Pantelidis, Roman Pawlak, Mary Pollock, Roytesa Savage, N. Yaprk Savut, Kirk St. Amant, Ashley Suggs, Rebecca Sweet, Linda Teel, Robert Thompson, Latan Turner, Lynn Tuthill, Katherine Warsco, Beverly Wright and Robert Zinko.

Faculty and staff members who earned Servire Society induction for a second year are as follows:

continued on page 3

Perdue Visit Kicks Off State’s Fight against Chronic Disease

By Doug Boyd

Gov. Beverly Perdue announced a new statewide initiative to fight chronic disease at East Carolina University on Friday, April 3.

The North Carolina Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease is a collective of health organizations, health advocates, faith organizations, business leaders and community leaders committed to educating the public and policy-makers about the causes and effects of chronic disease and its role in health care reform.

The state group is part of a larger national coalition.

North Carolina has a stroke death rate 25 percent higher than the national average for whites and one-third higher for blacks, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The percentage of adults with diabetes has doubled to 9 percent in the past 15 years.

Twenty-nine percent of N.C. adults have a blood pressure of 140 over 90, and 40 percent have high blood cholesterol.

Chronic disease problems are generally worse in eastern North Carolina. I don’t like the data that says we’re the ... most chronically ill place in America,” Perdue said. “There are no easy solutions. You know that and I know that. We’ve got to stop a killer. Actually, it’s a gang of killers: heart disease, cancer, diabetes.”

Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine, co-chairs the state partnership along with Theda Monet, executive director of the Old North State Medical Society.

Cunningham, who practiced in rural Bertie County before joining the ECU faculty in the early 1980s, talked about the disproportionate toll chronic disease takes on minorities. He said minorities have mortality rates 35 percent greater for diabetes, 12 percent higher for stroke and 10 percent higher for cancer.

“Bertie County is the poster child for me, the canary in the coal mine if you will,” he said. “We’re beginning to make some progress on racial disparities in the region, but we’re not there yet. When the statistics improve in Bertie County, we can be assured we’ve made a difference.”

Cancer, heart disease, asthma, obesity and other chronic diseases claim 1.7 million American lives yearly and cost more than $1.5 trillion, according to the CDC.

Even top political figures are not immune to chronic disease. “I’m walking around with high blood pressure. I think it’s politically induced, not medically induced,” Perdue quipped.

Information about the partnership is at http://www.fightchronicdisease.org.

Gov. Beverly Perdue and Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine, are part of a state partnership to fight chronic disease. Perdue traveled to ECU April 3 to announce the new partnership. Cunningham is co-chair of the state group. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)
Horns Named to Permanent Position as Vice Chancellor

By Doug Boyd

Dr. Phyllis N. Horns has been named vice chancellor for health sciences at East Carolina University on a permanent basis after serving more than two years in an interim role.

The ECU board of trustees approved Chancellor Steve Ballard’s appointment of Horns as vice chancellor at its April 17 meeting.

Horns has been at ECU as a faculty member since 1990, when she returned to her alma mater to become dean of nursing. She also served as interim dean of the Brody School of Medicine at ECU from 2006-2008 and as an interim vice chancellor for health sciences from 2001 to 2002.

Applications, Scores Increase

By Christine Neff

The number and caliber of students applying to East Carolina University continues to increase, Jadi Bailey, senior executive director of Enrollment Management, told ECU’s Board of Trustees April 17.

ECU received 18,712 applications for the incoming freshman class, an increase of nearly 20 percent from 2008, Bailey said.

In addition, academic credentials for admitted applicants improved. The average freshman applicant admitted to ECU in 2009 has a high school grade point average of 3.227, which is .063 points higher than the average GPA in 2008, and an SAT score in critical reading and mathematics of 1077, a full 27 points above the average score in 2008.

Bailey said she is proud of the way ECU has increased academic standards while growing its enrollment.

“We have not moved away from increased standards,” she said. “We have held the line academically.”

Projections show that the incoming freshman class could be as large as 4,438 students with 21 percent of them coming from out-of-state. However, the economic downturn may affect the final number, Bailey said.

“Given the economic situation, we believe our freshman class will be around 4,300 students,” she said. ECU enrolled more than 4,500 freshmen students in fall 2008.

To prepare for the influx of students as Scott Residence Hall goes off line for renovations, the Board of Trustees approved a request from Campus Living to lease off-campus apartments for up to 500 students. The estimated cost is $100,000 for the fall semester, with funds coming from the Campus Living housing account.

In other news:

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New Student Orientation Adopts ‘Flashy’ Update

By Christine Neff

Orientation materials at East Carolina University are getting a little flashier – and a lot lighter – this summer, as new students forgo the traditional paper handouts for a computer flash drive linked to university information.

Instead of carting around a bag of brochures, flyers, handouts, pamphlets, books, and other items during their orientation stay, new students will be fitted with a 2G flash drive, specially loaded with ECU materials.

Karen Smith, associate director of the First Year Center at ECU, said the switch to flash drives came about for several reasons: to save paper, to keep academic departments from spending more on printed items, and to please incoming students who are accustomed to the technology.

“The cool thing about the flash drive is that it will be linked to web sites. As the web site changes, the information available on the flash drive will change,” Smith said. “In that way, hopefully, this is something the students can hold on to and use for their full four years here.”

The flash drives will have a key chain on one end to promote portability, and extra storage space so students can save documents and class projects to the hard drive. ECU will purchase 5,000 flash drives from an outside vendor (bids were still out as of April 15), and funds will come from Orientation and Student Affairs to cover the expense, Smith said.

The University Media Center worked with Smith to develop the computer materials. “We put together a design that is very ECU-like,” Smith said. When students plug the flash drive into a computer, they can log on to an interactive, Pirate-themed treasure map, highlighting various schools, colleges, offices and campus resources.

Students can access links to Web sites, PDFs and other online resources, including orientation presentations and the now only-online university course catalogs. More information will be made available to students via the flash drive than has been physically distributed in the past, Smith said.

This summer’s orientation will not be completely paperless, however. Students will still receive a couple of paper handouts, and parent materials will continue to be printed.

“This year is a transition year,” Smith said. “We’ll see how it works, and we’ll be asking parents at orientation how they would have liked to have received information, either on a flash drive or in handouts. In the future, we might make it an option for parents to get a flash drive.”

Students will provide feedback for the pilot program, and, in the fall, the First Year Center plans to follow-up to see if and how students are continuing to use their orientation flash drives.

Smith said members of the 2009 Orientation Coordinating Committee are excited by the initiative and hopeful for good results. “It’s a pilot project, so we know there will be some things to work out, but we think we’re putting together a nice product,” she said.

New student orientation begins June 15 and continues through July 21 with eight sessions for new first-year students, two sessions for transfer students and two summer school sessions. For more information, contact Karen Smith at 328-4173, smithka@ecu.edu.

Sustainability Efforts Ongoing

By Dee Harper

Maybe you’ve noticed them: the oddly cute electric hybrid GEM trucks quietly zooming about campus grounds, the recycling containers at special events like Barefoot on the Mall, or dark-colored vending machines due to disconnected energy-eating lamps. It’s all part of ECU’s commitment to environmental sustainability.

The initiatives are part of a “team effort between the Office of Facilities Management and the Office of Environmental Health and Safety,” said Bill Bagnell, vice chancellor of Campus Operations. Bagnell has partnered with Bill Koch, associate vice chancellor for Environmental Health, Safety, Parking and Transportation. The two are working to identify areas where ECU can increase sustainability in response to the UNC Tomorrow Commission’s system-wide push for environmental sustainability.

While the issue is a recent hot topic, Bagnell noted that ECU efforts in sustainability have been ongoing for several years. Bagnell, Koch and their staff are enthusiastic about the progress.

“The grounds crew recently installed three 5,000-gallon cisterns to collect rainwater for irrigation purposes,” Bagnell said. The installations are at the First Year Center in Oak Park. Ill. Jayne Geissler is director of Academic Advising and Support Center at ECU. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

Top Ten for Graduates in Family Medicine

By Doug Boyd

The Brody School of Medicine is one of the top 10 medical schools in the country for sending graduates into family medicine, according to the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Representatives of the Brody School of Medicine and the other schools are being recognized May 1 at the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine meeting in Denver.

This is the third consecutive year ECU has been ranked in the top 10. “This award is recognition of the Brody School of Medicine’s support and commitment for the training of family physicians,” said Dr. Kenneth Steinweg, interim chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Brody.

“It reflects a school-wide effort beginning with the admissions process and extending through the clinical years. Family physicians are in huge demand throughout our region and state, and we are working hard to meet that need.”

Based on a three-year average for the period ending last October, 15.8 percent of the school’s graduates have entered an accredited family medicine residency program.

In March, 21 percent of Brody’s graduating students matched with family medicine residency programs during the school’s annual Match Day. Ten of those 13 graduates will remain in North Carolina for their residency training.

The AAFP is a national medical association representing more than 94,000 family physicians, family practice residents and medical students interested in family medicine. Family physicians are medical specialists trained in the diagnosis and treatment of the majority of medical problems. Family physicians care for people of all ages and both sexes.

Consistently At the Top

By Doug Boyd

The Brody School of Medicine is ranked among the top medical schools in the country that emphasize primary care, according to the annual listing of the top graduate schools by U.S. News & World Report magazine.

ECU is 28th overall among primary care schools this year. In the rural medicine subcategory, the school ranks seventh. ECU also sent the seventh-highest percentage of its graduates, 53.3 percent, into primary care residencies between 2006 and 2008.

U.S. News defines primary care as family medicine, pediatrics and internal medicine.

The U.S. News rankings of U.S. professional and graduate schools was available on newsstands April 28. In medicine, the magazine considered the 126 accredited U.S. medical schools and 20 schools of osteopathic medicine.

This year, the University of Washington again was rated the top primary care school. Harvard University ranked first among medical schools that emphasize research. Rankings for primary care schools are based on a weighted average of seven indicators, four of them common for research- and primary care-focused schools. The primary care model also considered the number of graduates entering primary care residencies.

High Ranking From U.S. News

By Doug Boyd

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Recognized for Leadership

By Doug Boyd

Dr. Lesly Mega, a longtime professor of psychiatric medicine at East Carolina University, has received the inaugural Brody Women Faculty Advocacy Award.

The award was announced April 23 at a Brody School of Medicine faculty meeting and April 28 at the annual Women in Medicine Conference at the Brody Medical Sciences Building.

Mega, who joined the faculty in 1982, specializes in child and adolescent psychiatry. She is nationally recognized as a leader in the professional development of women physicians and medical students.

She founded the local branch of the American Medical Women’s Association, established and chaired the Women in Medicine Committee at ECU and helped create the National Center of Excellence in Leadership in Academic Medicine at ECU. She also co-founded the Pitt County Domestic violence program and served on its board for many years.

Mega was named a “local legend” by the National Library of Medicine in 2007 for her work in psychiatric medicine and her advocacy for women in medicine and was a recipient of American Medical Women’s Association’s highest honor, the Bertha VanHoose Award, for her exceptional leadership and service.

She is past president of the North Carolina Psychiatric Association, women liaison officer to the Association of American Medical Colleges and a vice chair of diversity at the medical school.

The Brody Women Faculty Advocacy Award was established in 2008 and recognizes those who have demonstrated leadership in promoting, encouraging or implementing policies to facilitate the professional development of women faculty and/or students.

New ECU Trustees Named

continued from page 1

president of the SGA.

The Board of Governors has reappointed Trustees Joel Butler of Greenville and Mark Tipton of Raleigh to new terms on the ECU board. Butler, chair of the board’s Audit Committee, is chief external affairs officer at University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina and president of the UHS and Pitt Memorial Hospital foundations.

Tipton, a member of the board’s Facilities and Resources Committee, is chief executive officer of Whistler Investment Group, a real estate development firm.

Robert V. Lucas of Selma has been appointed to a second term on the ECU board by Gov. Beverly Perdue, Lucas, founder of the Lucas, Denning and Ellerbe law firm, is a former president of the SGA.

He is chair of the board’s University Affairs Committee.

The student member of the board serves a one-year term; all other members are named for four-year terms.

Center Amps Up Efforts As Grads Face Tough Job Market

By Christine Neff

Jim McAtee, interim director of the ECU Career Center, has a message for graduates looking for employment in today’s daunting economy: “You can be successful in this market,” he said. “You just have to plan for it.”

Strategic planning in the job search has become more important than ever, as students look for work at a time when job openings have decreased and unemployment rates have risen, McAtee said.

“What students are starting to realize is that their competition is no longer a person sitting next to them in class, or a person graduating from another college. Their competition, in some cases, is going to be people who have 5 to 10 years of experience on them,” McAtee said.

It’s not an ideal situation for new graduates, but McAtee maintains that, with the right preparation, ECU students can be successful.

“Are they going to get the job they always dreamed of right out of college? Maybe not. Maybe they need to cast a wider net. But the goal is to get the experience, and move into a better position when the economy turns around,” he said.

The Career Center can play an important role in helping students land that all-important first job. A component of the Division of Academic and Student Affairs, the Career Center helps students and alumni throughout their career search.

Staff organize career fairs, host one-on-one coaching sessions with students, provide mock interview training through the HIRED program, maintain an online job bank and other resources.

Last academic year, the Career Center served 15,284 students. Six months after graduation, a survey of graduates showed that 86.7 percent of survey participants had gained employment.

“The economy has changed the way the Career Center has done business in recent months,” the questions have definitely changed,” McAtee said. “I used to hear, ‘How should I write my resume?’ Now I’m getting questions like, ‘How am I going to get the $90 million previously raised during a “quiet phase” of the campaign.

“IT is safe to say that we have crossed $131 million,” Dowdy said, which brings the campaign ever closer to its financial target of $200 million by Dec. 31, 2012. However, the economic downturn has affected the pace of giving, especially since February 2009. Dowdy said the campaign has seen a slowdown in donations to the annual fund. Some donors are waiting for the economy to recover before making large three- to five-year financial commitments.

Still, large donations continue to continue on page 11

New ECU Think Tank Gives Researchers Forum for Ideas

By Doug Boyd

Organizers of a new research endeavor at East Carolina University hope to engage faculty, staff and students in the process of conceptualizing, developing and improving novel and innovative research ideas.

As the name implies, the Heart and Metabolic Institutes Research Think Tank will focus on the health of the cardiovascular system and issues surrounding obesity, diabetes and other metabolic conditions.

Leaders hope the think tank will spur creative discussions in other fields, too.

“It is the idea that comes from one person and then another person and then another person that is important,” said Dr. Jose Caro, an endocrinologist, professor of medicine and director of the ECU Metabolic Institute, at the first meeting of the group March 19.

The think tank is good for science, good for patients and a good investment for the university, said Caro, who led the creation of the think tank and directs it along with Dr. Wayne Cascio, a cardiologist, professor of cardiovascular sciences and director of research at the East Carolina Heart Institute, and Dr. Darrell Neuffer, professor of physiology and associate director of the metabolic institute.

Approximately 200 faculty, staff and students attended that first meeting and heard Dr. Chris Mansfield, director of the ECU Center for Health Services Research and Development, discuss the major health challenges facing eastern North Carolina, including health disparities between whites and minorities.

In subsequent discussions, ECU faculty Drs. Samil Sharma, David Collier, and Darrell Neuffer and George Howard of the University of Alabama - Birmingham have spoken about sleep apnea, obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Neuffer and Cascio also serve as moderators for the discussions.

Cascio said similar groups exist at other universities, but not with the same goal of presenting concepts in early development, soliciting expert opinions and constructive criticism, and stimulating collaboration.

“Researchers all too often operate in a vacuum with little interaction on campus,” Cascio said. “We continue on page 11

Support Grows for Second Century Campaign at ECU

By Christine Neff

Despite facing challenges in a troubled economy, a loyal Pirate nation continues to support East Carolina University’s Second Century Campaign, now entering the second year of its public phase.

Deycie Dowdy, vice chancellor for University Advancement, has been “pleasantly surprised” by fundraising efforts over the last six months. “We have seen the best in people in how they respond during this time,” he said.

Dowdy called March 2008 to March 2009 a “record year.” The campaign raised $41 million in that time, adding to the $90 million previously raised during a “quiet phase” of the campaign.

“It is safe to say that we have crossed $131 million,” Dowdy said, which brings the campaign ever closer to its financial target of $200 million by Dec. 31, 2012. However, the economic downturn has affected the pace of giving, especially since February 2009. Dowdy said the campaign has seen a slowdown in donations to the annual fund. Some donors are waiting for the economy to recover before making large three- to five-year financial commitments.

Still, large donations continue to continue on page 11

East Carolina University
Fire, Rescue Work Lends Balance to Week for Pantelidis

By Judy Currin

Nick Pantelidis is good at solving problems.

At work, he draws on technical skills as a systems analyst with ECU’s Department of Information Technology and Computer Services. He helps provide storage solutions, like PirateDrive, for the campus community.

In his leisure time, Pantelidis solves problems of a different nature. He is a state-certified instructor and fire chief at Eastern Pines Fire-Rescue.

“The physical challenges of my volunteer efforts with EPFR offer balance to the professional challenges of my ECU workweek,” Pantelidis said. “I’ve never had a computer catch fire, but I have revived a few.”

Pantelidis began his service with EPFR in 1994, and shortly thereafter began training as an emergency medical technician.

“One would think that responding to fire and EMS calls is about the abso-

late absence of thinking in IT,” he said. “But really it’s not. Problem solving or finding the best solution to reach a shared goal is fairly universal, whether the goal is answering the IT needs of the university or treating a patient at the scene of a car accident.”

Pantelidis’ rose through the ranks of Eastern Pines EMS becoming captain in 2006 after the retirement of their long-serving commanding officer. “It was an honor to serve,” he said. Eventually he had to resign as EMS captain to focus on the completion of my master’s degree.”

Today, he maintains his EMT-Intermediate certificate by working on an EP-EMS ambulance part-time. “During this time I also began to serve as assistant fire chief at EPFR,” Pantelidis said. This past December the fire chief resigned due to added responsibilities at his full-time job. Pantelidis is now the residing fire chief for EPFR, logging numerous on-call hours per week for fire duty and spending additional time on training and administrative duties.

He is also president of the EPFR Foundation, a non-profit fundraising organization that operates to provide volunteers and staff with specialized equipment, advanced training and other purchases that fall outside the scope of the normal operating budgets of the department.

Pantelidis loves every busy minute. He is not only the third individual since the formation of EPFR (1957) and Eastern Pines EMS (1982) to serve as both fire chief and EMS captain.

Pantelidis was inducted into ECU’s Servire Society, which honors faculty, staff and students who contribute 100 or more hours of volunteer service to the community, during the March 26 Founders Day celebration on campus. He is married to Amanda Pantelidis, also an ECU alumna, business officer for University Advancement, Servire Society member, finance officer and fire photographer for EPFR.

Nick’s mother, Veronica, a professor in the College of Education, has been an ECU faculty member for 32 years. Originally from Greece, his father, Nicolaos Sr., spent several years at sea fol-

lowed by 30 years as a restaurateur, retir-

ing in 1999. Nick credits his parents for instilling in him the value of service to others, the importance of a good education and an appreciation for a fine meal.

“We all admire Nick’s dedication to service both here at ECU and in his com-

munity,” said Brem Zimmer, systems specialist with ITCS. “Nick sets a great example for other employees in the organiza-

Biofeedback Clinic Celebrates New Site With Open House

By Christine Neff

The therapies used and studied by East Carolina University’s Psychophysiology Lab and Biofeedback Clinic may be unconventional, but their benefits have been undeniable to clients they have touched.

Take Sgt. Christopher Soldano, a USMC Wounded Warrior who came back from combat in a state he described as a “cognitive mess.” Through biofeedback, virtual reality training and the use of the online virtual world, Second Life, he has experienced much improvement in his speech and other cognitive skills.

“By coming here and doing a lot of different therapies, along with the medi-

cation therapy I’ve been learning…it has enabled me to do things I didn’t think I could ever be able to do again,” Soldano said.

Soldano shared his thoughts at a grand opening of the lab and clinic held in the Carol G. Belk Building March 19. Visitors toured the lab where graduate students and faculty members lead studies and work with a variety of clients, from Marines wounded in battle to children with behavioral health issues.

Carmen Russoniello, director of ECU’s Psychophysiology Lab and Biofeedback Clinic, spoke of the humble origins of the program and its first locations in Minges and a small room in Christen-

bury.

“It wasn’t really the building that mattered,” he said. “It was the people and the dream.”

That dream drove the program to its current facility in Belk Building and led to successful research projects that deal with a range of topics, including post-traumatic stress disorder as experienced by children after Hurricane Floyd, stress as a cause of error in physicians, the effect of stress on metabolism in children and the ability of video games to improve mood and concentration.

The program is perhaps most proud of its work with Wounded Warriors.

The Wounded Warrior program pro-

vides assistance to injured service person-

nel and their families until they can return to duty, be medically discharged or

adjust to civilian life. ECU’s pro-

gram helps Marines meet that last goal by teaching them how to appropriately process prior traumatic experiences and rebuild positive relationship skills.

Matthew Fish, program coordinator, described the first tenuous meeting of the Wounded Warriors and the graduate stu-

dent researchers they work with.

“The only thing the Marines were told was, ‘Report to the government van and go to East Carolina. You’ll be part of a research project,’” Fish said. “You can kind of imagine how that first interaction went.”

Since then, the relationship has come a long way.

The Marines meet twice a week for individual sessions and circuit training to learn how to control symptoms of post-traumatic stress syndrome or regain skills lost to injuries.

Biofeedback, the real-time record-

ing and playback of the human body’s physiological response signals, together with the psychological interpretation of those responses, is a unique intervention that allows the patient to see the connec-

tion between mind and body. Biofeedback training teaches the patient to decrease stress activation within themselves. Tools such as virtual reality training, video games and computer programs help put this in practice.

Fish speaks highly of the Wounded Warriors in the program. “The guys we work with have golden hearts,” he said. “They train hard. They train like Marines. They never give up, and they’re always there when we need them.”

Steve Duncan, assistant vice chan-

cellor for military programs, takes pride in the ways ECU is helping the military, and hopes to see more programs evolve.

“East Carolina is positioned to work with the military to solve the problems and help the community that helps us,” he said. “We owe them a debt of gratitude.”

Ron Newton, assistant vice chancellor, Administration and Finance, tries out the virtual reality training at the Biofeedback Lab in Belk Building during the lab’s grand opening. Behind him is Steve Duncan, assistant vice chancellor, Military Programs. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)
ECU Restaurateur Hopes to Restart Eatery after Fire

By Doug Boyd

Phone calls before dawn rarely bring good news. This one awakened Lou and Monica Cavalieri around 5 a.m. on Jan. 17.

Their Scotland Neck restaurant, Luigi’s, was on fire.

Cavalieri recalled thinking the fire might not be that bad. “We had two birthday parties that night,” he said. “I thought we’d just clean up and get busy because we had a lot to do that day. When we got there, flames were shooting out of the front.”

Just like that, the eatery the pair had sweated over and entertained in since 2001 was gone. Apparently, faulty wiring on the second floor of the 1882 building caused the fire. It was old wiring but had passed all inspections. Another possible cause was Monica’s laptop computer, which might have had a battery that was under recall for getting too hot and possibly causing fires.

Cavalieri is a laboratory technician in the dermatology clinic at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. A 19-year medical school employee, he assists dermatologists with a type of microsurgery called Mohs surgery and prepares the tissue they remove to check for skin cancer.

A popular restaurant in the small town of Scotland Neck, Luigi’s went up in flames Jan. 17. (Contributed photo)

A typical day for him was to get up around 6 a.m. or so, put in an eight-hour day at Brody, head home to Bethel where his wife would pick him up and drive the pair to Scotland Neck. Cavalieri would try to catch a short nap along the way to the restaurant. There, they would work until 9 p.m. or so, then head home and to bed around 11.

It made for long days, but the Cavalieris seem like the perfect pair to own a restaurant. Lou has recipes from his Sicilian mother. Monica has recipes from her St. Louis childhood along with experience from managing three pizza chain stores. After being held up at gunpoint three times, she was ready for quieter surroundings. A friend called them about his restaurant in Scotland Neck that he wanted to sell. It was just right. On Valentine’s Day, they bought it.

“They asked what I got my wife for Valentine’s Day, and I said I bought her a restaurant,” Cavalieri said. “She said it was the most expensive gift and gave a lot of headaches, but it was rewarding.”

They went to work on the building and the menu. “Everything Italian was my side of the menu,” Cavalieri said. “Everything else was hers. It was a good combo.”

The restaurant found a following in Scotland Neck, a no-stoplight town along U.S. 258 in Halifax County. Once a bustling center of commerce in the north-eastern part of the state, most folks now know the town mainly for its parking in the center of Main Street. Hunters and anglers know the area well, though, and come from near and far to fish the Roanoke River and hunt whitetail deer, turkey, bear and other game.

“The hunters used to come in and eat because we had a good menu, good selection,” Cavalieri said. The fare ranged from cheesesteaks with old-fashioned crinkle-cut french fries to pizza, lasagna and Friday-night seafood specials.

By on a cold night, all that ended, along with records, furnishings and equipment – and an old American flag the couple found when they were fixing up the building. It was apparently hand-made and flew outside the building during its department store days. The couple framed it and hung it in the dining room.

“That was the first thing I went in to get, but it was destroyed,” Cavalieri said. In addition to their building being gone, smoke and water damage affected neighboring buildings. A total of four structures are now torn down, leaving a gaping hole along a Main Street the Cavalieris and others were working hard to renovate.

“We were pretty proud of the building,” Cavalieri said. “It was the only building downtown that had all the original second-floor windows.”

Scotland Neck resident Miriam James, her husband, family and friends ate at Luigi’s about twice a week for more than seven years.

“I think we’re starved now that it’s not there anymore,” said James, billing manager at the East Carolina Heart Institute.

“That was where we could go, relax and enjoy a good dinner. Everybody there knew everybody else.”

The Cavalieris are looking at a couple of locations in Scotland Neck to reopen in six months or so. They had insurance, but not enough, Cavalieri said. Friends and relatives are trying to help get the couple back in business. Monica Cavalieri’s sister came down from Massachusetts and hosted a spaghetti dinner Feb. 20 that raised nearly $4,000. Another friend had a fish fry that raised $3,000.

Those who’ve helped out include a number of ECU employees.

“Everybody just came together. They want us back so bad,” Cavalieri said. “We get calls about daily from customers wanting to know when we’re coming back.”

‘TomtheJazzman’ Donates Album Collection to Library

By Dawn Wainwright

For thousands of jazz fans in eastern North Carolina, he’s known as “TomtheJazzman.”

For more than 23 years, Tom Mallison of Greenville has made a weekly trip to WTEB studios, the flagship station of Public Radio East in New Bern, to spend five hours sharing the music that is his passion to listeners as “TomtheJazzman.” His broadcast offers a cornucopia of jazz styles interspersed with wit and wisdom garnered from more than 40 years in broadcasting.

Recently, Mallison donated to ECU’s Joyner Library thousands of LP jazz recordings accumulated during his life-long endeavor, which began at the age of 12. The recordings span a wide variety of sub-genres of jazz, including ragtime, Dixieland, bebop and fusion.

Many unique recordings have been used to create the “TomtheJazzman Collection” housed in ECU’s Music Library. Known as “TomtheJazzman,” Tom Mallison has donated his extensive collection of jazz recordings to Joyner Library. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

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Faculty Perform on ECU-TV

Greenville cable viewers have access to a new music performance television program featuring faculty and students from the School of Music at East Carolina University.

“The faculty at the ECU School of Music includes world-class performers – truly unique in venues all over the world – and this program gives music aficionados in our region the opportunity to see and hear these gifted musicians play in the comfort of the viewer’s living room,” Buddo said.

“And while it is impressive and fun to watch the student performances, it is important to remember that performance is part of the curriculum for many of these young men and women.”

Harley Dartt, assistant director at the School of Music and one of the show’s executive producers, said the format is designed for education as well as pleasure viewing.

“The various musical pieces are introduced and explained by the performers and faculty before each piece is performed, giving the audience unique insight into what they will hear,” Dartt said.

“The taping format allows for multiple camera angles and very close shots of performers and instruments.”

The April show features Henry Doskey, pianist and chairman of the key-board department, performing an all-Chopin program. Future shows will include a variety of performances including large ensemble vocal, percussion and steel drum, solo tuba and performances on historic instruments.

In addition to public broadcast, the school will use the recorded programs for student recruitment and classroom education.


Published by Mary K. Cruizer (Rehabilitation Studies) with co-author, “Broadening the Counselor’s View of Addictions,” in the Rehabilitation Counselors and Educators Journal.


Article by Sharon M. Ballard (Child Development and Family Relations) and Kevin H. Gross (Center for Faculty Excellence), “Exploring Parental Perspectives on Parent-Child Sexual Communication,” in the American Journal of Sexuality Education.

Article by Kathryn Verbanac and Zandra Cheng (Surgery) with co-authors from Anne Arundel Medical Center, “Prognostic Implications of Isolated Tumor Cells and Micrometastases in Sentinel Nodes of Patients with Invasive Breast Cancer: 10-year Analysis of Patients Enrolled in Sentinel Nodes of Patients with Invasive Breast Cancer.”

Fees went up for student, vendor and retired faculty permits as well.

• Faculty/Staff A Zone, increased by $12 to $84.
• Faculty/Staff B Zone, increased by $12 to $156.
• Faculty Performance Parking, increased by $12 to $156.
• Reserved permits, increased by $24 to $312.
• Parking passes for a planned expansion of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The expansion will add 7,000 new seats to the stadium’s east end zone.

Applications, Scores Increase

• Faculty Perform on ECU-TV

By Christine Neff

A symposium held April 2 during East Carolina University’s Research and Creative Achievement Week celebrated the synergy between scholarship and teaching and honored 11 winners of the Scholar-Teacher Award.

Winners were faculty members Peter Standish (Foreign Languages and Literatures), Bob Edwards (Sociology), Monica Strauss Hough (Communication Sciences and Disorders), Nancy Stephenson (Undergraduate Nursing Science), David Knox (Sociology), Archana Hegde (Child Development and Family Relations), Elizabeth Hodge (Business and Information Technologies Education), James Kuhlmeyer (Accounting), Tarek Abdel-Salam (Engineering), Craig Becker (Health Education and Promotion) and Christine Lettang Zoller (School of Art and Design).

“These faculty members are being recognized for, not only being good teachers, but having the capacity to integrate their research in the classroom and student experience,” said Ron Newton, co-chair of the event and assistant vice chancellor, Administration and Finance.

Other events during Research Week included more than 300 poster and oral presentations, performances by students in the performing arts and lectures by distinguished ECU research faculty, guests and alumni.

Scholar-Teachers Recognized

continued from page 3

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Article by Sibylle Kranz (Nutrition and Dietetics), with co-authors, “Food group consumption levels in a sample of low-income children vary by body weight status,” in the Journal of the American Dietetic Association; and, with co-author, “Preliminary study of active compared with passive imputing of missing body mass index values among non-Hispanic white youths,” in the American Journal of Clinical Nutrition.

Article by Beth Vele (Occupational Therapy) with Maria A. Clay and Heidi A. Lane (Clinical Skills Assessment), “Hands on Learning: The Use of Simulated Clients in Intervention Cases,” in the Journal of Allied Health.

Article by Beth D. Keiper (Medicine) with ECU graduate student Vincent Contreras and Melissa Henderson, undergraduate Elizabeth Cronland, and co-authors, “A germ line-specific isofrom of eIF4E (eIF-1) is required for efficient translation of stored mRNA and maturation of both oocytes and sperm,” in the Journal of Cell Science.

Essay by Roger Schlobin (History), “Collins Agostoni, or ‘Why Did Both rush to the Liff in a New Light: Essays on the George MacDonald Fantasy Novel.”

Novel by Liza Wieland (English), “A Watch of Nightingales.”

Article by Anna Froula (English), “In Between and Elsewhere: Liminality in the God of Small Things,” in “Globalizing Dissent: Essays on Arundhati Roy.”


James M. Kohlmeyer, associate professor of accounting, discusses how he involves students in his research during the Scholar-Teacher Awards Symposium April 2. Kohlmeyer was one of 11 ECU faculty members to receive the award this year. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)
By Peggy Novotny

For the past three years, Rebecca Sweet, associate professor of interior design, has poured every spare moment into developing and managing the non-profit volunteer organization, Rebuilding Together Pitt County, NC, an affiliate of national Rebuilding Together. Her efforts culminate each year on one day, a scheduled Saturday workday when skilled and unskilled laborers come together to make a difference in the community.

This year, the workers came on April 4. Sweet, the organization’s president, joined volunteers including Judy Sigauw, dean of the College of Human Ecology, Katherine Waresco, chair of the Department of Interior Design and Merchandising; Bob Chin, professor of technology systems; and students from Sweet and Chin’s classes, in renovating three homes in the west Greenville community.

The work was a labor of love mixed with perseverance for Sweet, Chin, other RTPC board members and contractors who volunteered their time and talents. The renovation projects came together only after sleepless nights, nail biting, a million e-mails and phone calls, fundraisers and a score of Friday afternoon board meetings at the offices of Elaine Anderson, board member and owner of Century 21 The Realty Group.

“The most gratifying part of Rebuilding Together is getting to know the home owners, hearing their life stories, and helping them with repairs that seem overwhelming to them but can be remedied relatively quickly when people jump in to help,” said Sweet.

“Two of the three homes this year needed big jobs like roofing, reattaching flooring systems, window installation, and electrical work. We feel so fortunate to have the help of local contractors like Gary Jackson, owner of GJN Home Improvements, who donated skilled labor to help make the homes warm, safe and dry for families in our community in need of help.”

Like all home renovation projects, timing is everything. For Sweet and other board members, all of the challenges set in as they schedule projects with skilled labor in a way that takes advantage of unskilled laborers to complete the work on one annual work day. This coordination is coupled with scheduling delivery of building products, landscaping materials, dumpsters and even small prefabricated storage buildings that same day.

In the case of Baby Taylor’s home on Ward Street, RTPC Work Day 2009 was a balancing act. An elderly matriarch of a large family and retired caterer for Pitt Community College’s child development center, Taylor was in great need of storage for the vast collection of cookware she still uses in catering weddings. Taylor’s son and grandsons joined volunteers in removing the rusty shed in her back yard to make way for a new storage shed donated by Salt Wood Products of Greenville.

The shed was delivered shortly after the demolition.

“Fundraising is also a big part of the board’s work,” Sweet said. “Finding grants in the current economic climate is not easy.” This year, however, RTPC received $10,000 from Lowe’s and Sears Holdings that made the work possible. “Volunteers from Lowe’s and St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Greenville also pitched in with ECU and PCC faculty and student volunteers on the Work Day,” she said.

“They were great; it seemed like everyone was smiling all day long.”

The North Carolina Dietetic Association honored several ECU faculty members and students from ECU’s Department of Nutrition and Dietetics during an annual meeting held March 9. Sylvia Escott-Stump, director of ECU’s dietetic program, was named member of the year, the highest honor bestowed on individual contributions to the field of dietetics and the professional association. Melani Duffrin (Child Development and Family Relations) was named outstanding dietetics educator and Virginia Carraway-Stange, FoodMASTER coordinator, was named regional recognized young dietetic of the year. Sara McLeod and Sara Overholt were recognized as outstanding students. McLeod won the undergraduate research competition and ECU graduate student Alexis Briley was awarded a $1,600 scholarship.


Joseph C. Good (Clinical Education) was awarded the devotion to duty plaque by the N.C. Counseling Association at their annual convention in Charlotte.
Series Expands Pay Options

Chef Earns Recognition

ECU Chef Paul Cyr, culinary director for ARAMARK and ECU Campus Dining, earned the gold medal at the Southeast Regional ARAMARK Culinary Excellence competition at UNC – Chapel Hill in March.

Cyr competed with seven talented ARAMARK chefs from the Southeast region. Each chef was given a mystery basket with a box of black bass, pork tenderloin, lamb chops, polenta, dried figs, Swiss chard and bacon.

The chefs were then asked to create an entree, side and dessert with only one hour to prep and three hours to cook.

Cyr will join Chef Mike Obrochta of UNC-Wilmington and Chef Jeff Arthur of the Citadel to make up the Southeast Regional team that will compete at the ARAMARK Culinary Excellence National Challenge, to be held in Boston on June 27.

Earth Day on Campus

By Christine Neff

Small gestures can lead to big changes, at least that’s the hope of East Carolina University faculty members, staff and students who participated in Earth Day activities April 22.

Both Joyner Library and the International Affairs program sponsored tree plantings on campus in honor of the nation’s 39th annual Earth Day celebration.

Larry Boyer, dean of Academic Library and Learning Resources, called the effort a “great way” for Joyner Library to get involved. “This library is about more than books. It’s about community,” he said, before cutting the ribbon on a live oak tree near the Langford-Joyner clock tower.

The tree planting was organized by Joyner Library’s Green Task Force, a group of employees dedicated to researching and implementing sustainable environmental practices in the university library environment. Matt Reynolds, public services librarian at Joyner, said the group, which formed in July 2008, has published newsletters, hosted speakers and is conducting a “green audit” of library services.

They also started a “green weed” program to divest the library of books no longer of use in an environmentally friendly way.

Though these actions may be small, they make a difference and may inspire others to follow the lead, Reynolds said. “We see the library as the intellectual heart of campus, so it makes sense for us to start conserva- tion efforts here,” he said.

Joyner Library employees continued Earth Day activities by picking up trash along Cotanche Street between 5th and 10th streets. The Support Staff Assembly at Joyner Library has adopted the roadway, and volunteers clean it of debris once a semester.

Tracie Hampton, a conservation technician at Joyner Library, said, “It’s a nice activity. We like keeping our corner of the world tidy.”

The International Affairs program planted two live oaks donated by ECU faculty members and stu- dents who wanted to offset their carbon footprints from international travels.

Four individuals donated to the program, which is new this year and unique among universities.

“We’re trying to educate our study abroad students more about the environment and the effects of their travels,” said Brandi Dudley, assistant director for Education Abroad.

Before ECU students travel abroad, they are told about sustainable travel practices, such as eating local foods and buying souvenirs made by local people. “Today’s students are more concerned about sustainability,” Dudley said.

Presentations

Presentations by Sylbyle Kranz (Nutrition and Diet) – “The association between early childhood dietary intake patterns and the risk of obesity,” at the UNC – Chapel Hill Center for Excellence in Pediatric Nutrition, UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health in Chapel Hill.


Presentation by Charles Fantazier (Foreign Languages and Literatures), “Marullo’s Chaste Muse,” at the annual meeting of the Renaissance Society of America in Los Angeles.

Presentation by John H.P. Williams (International Studies at the North Carolina Association of International Educators Annual Conference at UNC – Greensboro: with Andre Gregory (International Studies and Adult Education) – a panel entitled, “The Economic Impact of International Students: North Carolina and the Rest of the U.S.”; and with Brandi Dudley (International Affairs) and Katherine Bannock (Office of Sustainable Tourism), a panel entitled “Greening International Programs: Incorporating Environmental and Socio-Cultural Sustainability into Study Abroad.”

Presentations and activities by David Long (History), at the 10th Annual Longwood Uni- versity Civil War Symposium, and as leader of a group to Gettysburg. The group spent several days walking the battlefield, hearing expert com- mentary about what took place, and visiting the new museums in Gettysburg and Harrisburg, and the new Cyclorama at Gettysburg National Military Battlefield.

Presentation by James McKernan (Education), “A critique of instructional objectives,” at the 61st Annual Meeting of the Southeast Philoso- phy of Education Society at Auburn University, Alabama.

Presentation by Sarah Williams and Sue Steinweg (Education), “Use of Tablet PCs in Teacher Education and K-12 Settings,” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference in Charleston, S.C.

Steinweg also presented, “Using Open Source Software for Community Support for Rural Special Educa- tors,” at the American Council on Rural Special Education Conference in Denver, Colo.

Presentation by Sandra W. Harvey (Education), “Let’s Talk – Developing Teacher Leaders,” at ECU College of Education Clinical Teacher’s Conference.

Presentation by Education faculty Terry Atkin- son, Johanna Faulconer, Robyn Griffith, Melissa Matusevich and Elizabeth Swaggerty, “Practicing what we preach: Using writer’s workshop as a model for academic writing,” at the National Reading Conference 58th Annual Meeting in Orlando, Florida.


Presentations by Technology Systems faculty at the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute conference in Charleston, S.C.: by Samir Y. Khoury and Leslie R. Pagliari, “Practical Examples of Supply Chain Applications Using a Distribution Laboratory”; and by Khoury, “Telecommuting’s Effects on the Employee, the Work Group, the Organization, and Society.”

Presentation by Technology Systems faculty David Batts, a paper co-authored by Sandy Friend and Carolyn Dunn, “Using Distance Education for Cost Effective Delivery,” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education International Conference in Charleston, S.C.

Presentation by Joseph Campbell (English) as chair of a panel, “Bisous in the Band: Academia and the Hallowed Walls of Performativity,” at the Southern Humanities Council panel in Durham. The panel included: “‘Telling the ‘Ass-Splitting Truth’: Queer Poetry in the Classroom.”
Students enjoyed a beautiful spring day for ECU’s annual Barefoot on the Mall festival April 23. Presented by the Student Activities Board, the annual event celebrates the close of the spring semester with dancers, live music, free food, activities and giveaways. Above, a step team performer demonstrates his moves. This year’s theme was “30 Years and Still Kickin’ It Barefoot.” (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

**TUESDAY**

ECU LeThetain Summer Theatre. Musical: Big River, McGinnis. Through June 20 at 8 p.m., and at 2 p.m. on June 21, June 23 through 26 at 8 p.m., and on June 27 at 2 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

First summer session classes begin.

**MONDAY**

Memorial Day Holiday – no classes

**THURSDAY**

The Cybernetics Working Group meeting, School of Art and Design, Jenkins 1303, 2–4 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

SEANC District 65 Third Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament, Ayden Golf and Country Club, 1 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

First summer session classes end.

**EXHIBITIONS**


A.R. Ammons’ Poetry and Art: A Documentary Exhibit, Joyner Library Special Collections, through June 30.

**JUNE**

**SATURDAY**

2

Gardeners for Hope Sale, American Cancer Society’s McConnell-Haibow Hope Lodge, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**MONDAY**

4

The U.S. Economy and the Global Economic Crisis: Implications for Eastern N.C., by James W. Klockey (Business), Rivers West, 7 p.m.

We Shall Remain series, “Geronimo,” Administrative Conference Room 2409, Joyner Library, 9 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

7

Spring semester exams close, 4:30 p.m.

Pirate Career Call – Development Opportunities, Teleconference, noon.

**FRIDAY**

8

Commencement, Dowdy-Flicker Stadium, 6 p.m.

**MONDAY**

11

We Shall Remain series, “Wounded Knee.” Administrative Conference Room 2409, Joyner Library, 9 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

16

ECU/Loesin Summer Theatre. Musical: Big River, McGinnis. Through June 20 at 8 p.m., and at 2 p.m. on June 21, June 23 through 26 at 8 p.m., and on June 27 at 2 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

First summer session classes begin.

**MONDAY**

25

Memorial Day Holiday – no classes

**THURSDAY**

28

The Cybernetics Working Group meeting, School of Art and Design, Jenkins 1303, 2–4 p.m.

**TUESDAY**

23

First summer session classes end.

**Support Grows for Second Century Campaign**

To Address Grads continued from page 1

for spring graduation, according to the ECU registrar’s office. That number represents approximately 2,325 undergraduates, more than 1,000 graduate/professional students and 65 medical students. hurdle and departments and colleges will hold individual recognition events on May 9.

(See listing below left or visit www.ecu.edu/commencement/college_school.cfm.)

In ROTC, the Common Scholarship Program is a distinguished graduate, North was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Today, North commands more than 350 aircraft and 24,000 active-duty and civilian personnel in the eastern United States. He is also responsible for the operational readiness of 189th Air Force-gained National Guard and Air Force Reserve units comprising the Air Reserve Component.

**Center Amps Up continued from page 5**

I going to be competitive in this job market when I just saw my parent get laid off?”

McAtee and his staff have been providing encouragement for students seeking employment during these tough times. They guide students to pockets of the economy that continue to hire, including government agencies, technology and healthcare, and stress the importance of soft skills, such as work ethic and communication.

“The bottom line is that we want to let our students know that we are here to help them, that they need not be discouraged and that we will do whatever we can to make a good situation out of a really tight economic situation,” McAtee said.

Though he recommends students start the process early in their academic career, McAtee said it’s not too late for Spring 2009 graduates to seek help. Students can schedule an appointment with a career coach by calling 328-6050.

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(See listing below left or visit www.ecu.edu/commencement/college_school.cfm.)

In ROTC, the Common Scholarship Program is a distinguished graduate, North was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Today, North commands more than 350 aircraft and 24,000 active-duty and civilian personnel in the eastern United States. He is also responsible for the operational readiness of 189th Air Force-gained National Guard and Air Force Reserve units comprising the Air Reserve Component.

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Sustainability Efforts Ongoing

Continued from page 4

Energy efficiency and cost savings are behind the conversion of old fluorescent tubes to electronic T-8 lights and the conversion of standard bulbs to LED bulbs in building exit signs. Bagnell said they are reviewing the possibility of LED lighting in all outside lights across campus, leading to longer bulb life and reduced energy consumption.

ECU also has a program to reduce energy use in high peak periods and save money.

“Our sustainability program is young by some standards, but we’re looking within our own resources to find ways to be environmentally friendly and to save energy,” Bagnell said. He added that ECU’s Student Government Association is creating a formal group to promote student involvement in sustainability efforts.

Bagnell has encouraged his staff to seek accreditation in LEED, the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Green Building Rating System, which establishes standards for environmentally sustainable construction. One staffer is already accredited and six others are working toward that goal.

“The biggest opportunity is in master planning, where sustainability is a core effort designed to bring new buildings up to standard moving forward,” Bagnell said.

ECU is making strides toward environmental sustainability, with many behind the scenes initiatives moving the university forward in that area. A list of sustainability efforts for 2008-2009 is available at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/ oehs/envgmt/sustainability.cfm.

Think Tank is Forum for Ideas

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believing strongly that we can leverage the immense fund of knowledge and expertise to stimulate enthusiasm for research and improve the quality of the science.”

He and Caro hope the group will lead to better preparation and submission of research grant applications to the National Institutes of Health. In 2008, North Carolina received $919 million from the National Institutes of Health, sixth best in the country. ECU received less than $10 million.

Organizers chose cardiovascular disease and metabolism as focal points because these conditions are widespread in eastern North Carolina and adversely affect the health, productivity and economy of the region and because metabolic disorders are risk factors for the development and progression of cardiovascular disease and worsen prognosis.

Caro and Cascio welcome participation from researchers who might not have any obvious connection to heart or metabolic disease and hope research groups will form in other disciplines, such as cancer.

“We are interested in faculty presenting new ideas and a willingness to get immediate critique from their colleagues,” Cascio said.

The success of the (think tank) will be enhanced when faculty with expertise in other areas find an unanticipated connection to their area of interest and expertise. It is through such connections that novelty and innovation will be stimulated.”

Pirate Tutoring Center Offers Help for All Students

By Antwan Staley

ECU students who struggle with grades or just need help making the adjustment from high school to college can find assistance at the Pirate Tutoring Center, where their peers volunteer to provide tutoring services.

Elizabeth M. Hand-Coghill, associate director of the center, said the center offers guidance in developing effective study skills, utilizing campus resources, understanding academic records, and even explaining a bad semester to parents.

“Most students didn’t learn good study skills in high school,” Coghill said. “The things that they did in high school aren’t going to work on a college level.”

“High school students are used to getting progress reports, so they know where they stand in the middle of a semester. In college it isn’t like that,” she said.

The tutoring center teaches students to use the resources they have to enjoy a better academic life at ECU. “You wouldn’t believe the number of students who don’t use the study guides and PowerPoints that professors give them. At the Pirate Tutoring Center, we teach them how to write notes and how to study for tests using these resources,” Coghill said.

Not all who come to the center for help are failing. Some students come for help to get A’s and B’s, because they are in competitive programs that require a high GPA. Nursing, for example, requires a 3.0 GPA and students in that program come in for help in keeping up their averages.

The center welcomes students who are struggling with just one class or those who just need to ask a question. “We want all students to feel that the center is a place they can find help,” Coghill said.

Students who need advice on how to explain bad grades to parents often come away from the center with much more than that.

“We teach them to take responsibility for their bad semester, but we also have them map out a plan that they can give to their parents, indicating what went wrong and what they are going to do better next semester.” To this effort, Coghill applies her own experience from having two children. “It doesn’t change what happened, but at least students have a plan to show their parents what will happen next,” Coghill said.

Tutors are ECU students who volunteer at least twice a month and get credit for their volunteer hours. Potential tutors go through an extensive application process.

They must have a minimum GPA of 3.0, a grade of A or B in the course they tutor, and three ECU faculty references.

This year, the center had 96 tutors, and 60 percent of them averaged 3.5 or better in their coursework.

Services are provided to students free of charge, one of few such programs in North Carolina. “Students at other universities are charged hundreds of dollars for tutoring services and I didn’t believe that was right,” Coghill said.

The only other free tutoring center among the state’s universities is at UNC – Chapel Hill.

Coghill was an academic advisor at ECU before she got involved with the Pirate Tutoring Center, which she considered an opportunity to help students achieve their goals while helping graduation rates improve at ECU.

“I liked being an academic advisor, but I missed the one-on-one interaction with students. When I saw the chance to get this program running, I wanted to do it. And I am glad I did because I love what I do,” she said.

Created in February 2008, the center operates out of Joyner Library on Tuesday and Wednesday. Operating hours are from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.