SACS, NCAA Visits Set This Month
By John Durham

University officials are completing preparations for the joint campus visits this month of accreditation teams from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Collegiate Athletic Association. SACS and the NCAA require member institutions to undertake every 10 years self-studies focused on past performance and future improvements and to host campus visits by reaffirmation teams composed of representatives from other universities.

The visiting teams will be in Greenville March 24-27. Most of the rooms at Mendenhall Student Center have been reserved for their use during their visit. Their schedule officially opens with a banquet at 6 p.m. March 24 at the Club Level of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. The NCAA exit report is scheduled for 8 a.m. on March 27 in Spilman, and the SACS exit report is set for 10 a.m. March 27 at Mendenhall.

The SACS team, which will be headed by Dr. Laura Lindsay, professor of mass communication at Louisiana State University, has two components: a compliance team, which will assess how well ECU fulfills SACS requirements, and a consulting team, which will offer guidance on achieving the university’s strategic focus.

That focus revolves around the role of an emerging doctoral institution and how the university can achieve higher quality at the same time that enrollment growth.

The six member NCAA team is composed of representatives from other Universities and includes members from Kansas State and the University of Utah, and is chaired by Dr. J. Bernard Machen, president of the University of Utah.

Their schedule officially opens with a breakfast and itinerary at 7:30 a.m. March 24 in Spilman followed by a tour of campus at 9:30 a.m. March 25 at Mendenhall Student Center.

The 17-member SACS delegation includes members from Baylor University, the University of Georgia, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Texas at Austin, the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Georgia Tech, Arizona State University, the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Arizona State University, the University of Utah, and East Tennessee State University.

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SACS self-study. Dr. James LeRoy Smith, chair of the faculty, is the director of the SACS self-study. Dr. James LeRoy Smith, professor of philosophy and executive assistant to the chancellor, heads the SACS self-study.

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Crisis Spurs
Challenge
Academic

By Peter J. Restivo

Does history repeat itself?

I often wonder about this because most Americans no longer read. watch PBS or the Discovery Channel, or listen to National Public Radio - an observation confirmed by virtually every pulse-taking media survey group from the Times-Mirror Center for People and the Press to "TV Guide." If one doesn't read or regularly access quality information sources offering historical perspective on the news - what many now term "civic journalism" - all current events are first-hand events. We lean little from the past and make the same mistakes.

In an era of intense focus of national resources and consumer dollars on media - radio, television, motion pictures, cable, and developing technologies - two facts become clear. First, most Americans no longer read, watch television, or listen to radio. Second, media conceptualizers, producers and distributors of our generation, people such as myself, are in large measure responsible for what we created artistically. We are developers, not educators.

Many Americans are apt to spend eight hours a day with the "tube" and a mere two minutes with books. Television, according to Peter Restivo, is the problem and the symptoms and address them without marginalizing instruction or instructor/student synergism.

It is quite effectively argued that the way to teach now and in the future is through electronic media. Video, cable, Internet, multimedia, PCs. I suggest it may be a way to teach, but it is not the way to learn. Leading the discussion is technology - hardware and software, developers, not educators.

Education takes place in three places: home, school, and life. Let's take attendance. Home - Absent, School - Absent, Life - On a Coke break.

Peter Restivo is a visiting lecturer in communications and broadcasting. He has been a senior producer of ABC-TV's Good Morning America and is a four-time Emmy Award winner for his work with the ABC network. He was also the founder and executive producer of PM Magazine for Fox's New York flagship station. His TV Baseball Cards series for Hispanic television has been widely syndicated. He publishes a monthly newsletter, Television/Radio Newsletter, and writes extensively for free-lance clients. He has been an instructor at New York Institute of Technology, Hofstra University and Marymount University. Before joining ECU, he was the Cree-Walker Distinguished Professor of Communications at Augusta College.
Janette Fishell (Music) performed recent recitals at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church’s Sundays at Figg series in Greenville, the First Methodist Church of Wilson, and with the New Carolina Sinhonia in Wight Auditorium.

Henry Doskey (Music) recently held a weeklong residency at the Indiana University School of Music. He gave lessons to seventeen of the school’s top piano students, held a masterclass, and performed an all-Franz Liszt recital.

Scott Eagle (Art) was a guest speaker at the Shipstreaming in the Arts Conference, Feb. 22 - 24, at LaGrange College in Lagrange, Ga. He gave a slide lecture, participated in a panel discussion, and exhibited thirty-two pieces of art at the college’s Lamar Dodd Art Center. In addition, his artwork was selected for the cover of The City of Saints and Madmen, a new novel by Jeff VanderMeers.


Christopher Ulffers (Music) performed in several recent concerts. He appeared with the Chamber Orchestra of the Triangle in Durham and with the Tar River Orchestra in Rocky Mount. He performed at the Chamber Music Society of Wilmington, at the Friends of the School of Music concert at Bald Head Island, at the American Music Festival in Morehead City, Music concert at Bald Head Island, at the Chamber Music Society of North Carolina Technology Development Authority, the N.C. Biotechnology Center and East Carolina University.

Presentation, “Teaching with Technology” at the National Association of Emerging Medical Physicians in Greenville.

Performance, Robert L. Hanse (Music) conducted The Eastern Symphony Orchestra in Tchaikovsky’s The Nutcracker, for a performance by the North Carolina Academy of Dance Arts in Greenville.

Presentation, “Teaching with Technology” at the National Association of Emerging Medical Physicians in Greenville.

David Rosales (Art) included the “Trail Signs” group at the Meredith Museum of Art, Meridian, Miss., Feb. 9 - Mar. 9; the 21st Annual Competitive Exhibition at the Kinston Art Center through April 8.

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NewsMakers

Henry Ferrell (History) on WNCN-TV News on Feb. 18, to discuss perceptions students have about American presidents.

Calvin Mercer (Religion) was interviewed on WITN-TV by Linda Shore on the origin of Valentine’s Day and the mythological background of Cupid.

Reginald Watson (English) hosted three fall episodes of Minority Voices on Cable 7. The Wednesday evening program discusses community events.

John Rose (Medicine) was interviewed in the Daily Reflector, Feb. 4, for an article about the cardiac outpatient unit expansion at the Heart Center.

Service, Honors and Professional Activities

Housekeeping Perfect Attendance Awards for 2001 have been presented to Thad Barnes, Jesse Daniels, Dennis Harris, Richard Highsmith, Jerry Parker, Timothy Wynn (Night Academicians), David Lee Barnes, Maggie Staton (Residence Halls), Johnny Barnhill, Al Flood, Milton Joyner (Medicine) and Beverly Tyson (Student Recreation Center).
Climate Change Cited As Threat to Aquatic Health

By George Threewitts

Global climate change poses a serious threat to lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands throughout the United States, according to a new report, co-authored by East Carolina University biologist Mark Brinson, for the Pew Center on Global Change.

The temperature increases and variations in weather patterns projected for the next 100 years will result in changes in the geographic distribution of freshwater fish, interfere with the reproduction of many aquatic species, reduce water quality, and impose added stresses on wetlands and other sensitive aquatic ecosystems.

The climate changes, according to Brinson, are expected to alter the character of lakes, streams, and wetlands. Some of the functions at risk are fisheries, drinking water, irrigation, and recreational opportunities.

The report written by Brinson, N. Lenny Poff of Colorado State University, and John W. Day Jr. of Louisiana State University is entitled "Aquatic Ecosystems and Climate Change: Potential Impacts on Inland Freshwater and Coastal Wetland Ecosystems in the United States." The report draws on a variety of sources to summarize researchers' current understanding of the potential impacts of climate change on U.S. aquatic ecosystems. Among the report's key conclusions:

- Increases in water temperatures as a result of climate change will alter the geographic distribution of aquatic plant and animal species. The severity of these impacts may be limited if species can migrate to new areas as climate changes. However, the ability of species to migrate may be compromised by human activities that block migration corridors, potentially causing reductions in biodiversity.

- Changes in precipitation will alter river and stream flows affecting ecosystem productivity and reducing water quality. Populations of aquatic organisms are sensitive to the effects of floods, droughts, and extreme weather events, which are likely to increase as a result of climate change.

- Climate change is likely to further stress sensitive freshwater and coastal wetlands. Wetlands throughout the United States already are adversely affected by a variety of human impacts. Climate change will add to the existing stresses on these fragile ecosystems in a variety of ways-most notably by causing global sea levels to rise and inundate coastal wetlands. Rising global temperatures also will cause the wetland areas of Alaska and Canada to release additional carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

WATER CONCERNS - Mark Brinson (Biology) teamed with other scientists for a report on the problems associated with global climate change. Brinson's research shows that increases in temperature over the next 100 years can transform the character of lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Aquatic ecosystems have a limited ability to adapt to climate change. Governments, communities, businesses, and individual citizens can take a number of steps to reduce the likelihood of significant impacts to these systems while improving their ability to adapt to climate change. These include: maintaining riparian forests; reducing pollution from a variety of sources; restoring damaged ecosystems; minimizing groundwater withdrawal; and strategically placing new reservoirs to minimize their ecological impacts.

The Pew Center was established in 1998 by the Pew Charitable Trusts, one of the country's largest philanthropies and an associated with global climate change. Brinson's research shows that increases in temperature over the next 100 years can transform the character of lakes, streams, rivers and wetlands.