Chancellor Steve Ballard plans to focus his attention on internal university issues during the first three to four months of his tenure. His tenure as ECU Chancellor began May 31.

Ballard met with the ECU Board of Trustees at a retreat in Raleigh last month, listed five priorities that will command his attention. All are equally important, he said:

- Leadership. A number of positions have interim appointments, or are vacant. Ballard said it is important to define a job correctly before attempting to fill it. He expects most positions will take at least six to nine months to fill. “I’m not just going to fill the position,” he said. “I’m going to get the right person.”
- Ballard’s “starting assumption” on any position is that the university will conduct a national search. “That doesn’t exclude internal candidates,” he said.
- Strategic planning. While the university’s plan has a lot of good points, it needs more coherence and a bolder vision, he said.
- Financial management. A strong financial management plan, he said, would embrace enrollment management — “not just how many students, but what quality” — and whether the university has the resources to provide for them. Such a plan “will be a central part of our future.”
- Research. Ballard intends to organize a research task force that would, among other things, address measurable performance goals for the research enterprise. “It is a need that we have,” he said, and “one of President (Molly Corbett) Broad’s priorities for ECU.” “We can do this if we just make it a priority.”
- Program priorities. The university has a lot of work to do to make sure that it has the resources it needs to be excellent in areas such as health care and economic development, Ballard said.

Dr. Frederick Niswander, assistant dean for graduate programs in the College of Business and chair of the faculty at East Carolina University, has been named dean of the College of Business.

Niswander, who joined the ECU faculty in 1993, is an award-winning teacher and widely cited scholar in accounting. Before beginning his academic career, he was a successful financial officer in the private sector.

Dr. James LeRoy Smith, interim vice chancellor for academic affairs, said, “Rick Niswander is the ideal person to lead the College of Business. Our national search attracted a number of highly qualified individuals, but there is no question that the best candidate was already here at ECU.

“Rick is an accomplished teacher and researcher, an eloquent communicator and an innovative administrator. I am confident that he will be an outstanding dean and I am delighted to announce his appointment.”

Chancellor Steve Ballard said, “Dr. Niswander is a proven leader with great integrity and commitment. There is no question that he will make a difference at ECU.”

Niswander said, “I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as dean of the College of Business. In my 11 years at ECU, I have been continually impressed by the quality of the faculty, staff and students in the college, and I have seen the college grow in size and stature. I am convinced that the College’s best days lie ahead, and I am excited to be able to share in that future.”

Because of his new position, Niswander stepped down as chair of the ECU Faculty Senate. Catherine Rigby, vice chair, will serve as the board’s chair.

Niswander holds a Ph.D. in accounting from Texas A&M University and a B.B.A. from Idaho State University. He has been a CPA for 21 years and is certified in Arizona and North Carolina. He is the author or co-author of three books and 11 articles in scholarly journals. He has received the Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award, the School of Business Commerce Club Teaching Excellence Award and the accounting department’s Ruth B. Jones Excellence in Teaching Award. He currently serves as the treasurer of the North Carolina Association of CPAs, an 11,000-member statewide CPA organization.

ECU’s Hal Daniel (Biology) studies all 100 species of cicadas, including the 17-year insects garnering much media attention this year. (Photo by Erica Plouffe)

Bugged About Cicadas

By Nancy McGillicuddy

The rhythmic buzzing of the cicada is well underway in eastern North Carolina, but the hum is not that of the 17-year insect, which is raking in media attention all over the east coast.

“It’s real unfortunate. They will be right up just north of here,” said Hal Daniel, an anthropologist and professor of biology at East Carolina University.

17-Year Insects Bypass East Carolina

Periodical cicadas emerge fully-grown after spending years underground. Broods emerge in 17-year or 13-year cycles. In Greenville and other areas in or near the coastal plains the 17-year cicadas — or the Magicicada Brood X — are not present because of a lack of the hardwood trees the insect prefers, Daniel said.

“There are no huge forests of deciduous trees,” he said. “And they like oak.”

Daniel refers to the 17-year cycle as a predator trick. “The cats eat them. The
Theatre Productions Highlight ‘American Summer’

By Jeffrey Woodruff

What three things define America better than baseball, country & western music, and rock & roll? Summer 2004 will mark an exciting time for all three in McGinnis Theatre. Three of the best known and most loved musicals celebrating our national pastime and our musical roots will be brought to the stage in this celebration of America.

This summer, the ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre will be casting, directing, building scenery, and sewing costumes for Damn Yankees (June 22-26), Always ... Patsy Cline (July 6-10), and Smokey Joe’s Café (July 20-24). Tickets are now on sale for these performances in the McGinnis Theatre on the ECU campus.

The season starts off by taking you out to the ball game. Amid the popcorn and cracker jacks of the pennant race, the New York Yankees are facing the Washington Senators. The hapless Senators have a die-hard fan in Joe Boyd. In the baseball deal of the century, Joe agrees to sell his soul to the Devil for a chance to lead his favorite team to victory. The deal is struck and Joe begins to lead the Senators, however, it is not long before he starts having second thoughts. Joe begins frantically looking for an escape clause. But, if he gets out of his deal with the Devil, what’s going to happen to the hard fan in Joe Boyd? In the baseball world, Joe is funny, nostalgic, and always ... Patsy Cline. But Always . . . Patsy Cline is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died at age 30 in a plane crash. This is an intimate look at the woman behind the legend, an insider’s story as only a true friend could tell it.

The musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes dozens of Patsy’s unforgettable hits such as “Crazy,” “I Fall to Pieces,” “Walking After Midnight.” Smokey Joe’s Café completes the summer series. It all started when two unassuming kids from New York wrote the seven words that started a revolution in popular music: “You ain’t nothin’ but a hound dog.” Mike Leiber’s and Jerry Stoller’s love of boogie-woogie and the blues sent them on a hound dog. Mike Leiber’s and Stoller, is a musical revue of the more than 40 hits by this duo whom many others. Their hits included Kansas City, Spanish Harlem, On Broadway, There Goes My Baby, Love Potion No. 9, Jail House Rock, Yakety Yak, Little Egypt, Ruby Baby, Charlie Brown, and (of course), Hound Dog.

For five days, McGinnis Theatre will be the launching pad back to America in the ‘50s, ‘60s, and ‘70s. To the birth of rock ‘n roll before the mega-stadium concerts, before MTV, and before gazillion dollar record deals. Smokey Joe’s Café, the Songs of Leiber and Stoller, is a musical revue of the more than 40 hits by this duo whom Cousin Brucie called “The Rogers and Hammerstein of rock ‘n roll.”

Performances are Tuesday through Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Tickets are $15-$30 and may be purchased at the ECU School of Theatre and Dance Box Office in Messick, the Central Ticket Office in Mendenhall, and online at www.ecuarts.com. Purchases may also be made by calling 232-6295, 328-4788, or 1-800-ECU-ARTS.

The ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre is produced by the School of Theatre and Dance, College of Fine Arts and Communication, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

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Summer Theatre Participants from ECU

ECU faculty/staff working diligently in the production of the Summer Theatre performances include John Shearin, producing artistic director; Ken White, production manager and lighting designer; Robert C. Alpers, scenic designer; Jeffery Phipps, costume designer; Jen Parker, assistant scenic designer and paint charge; Donald Biehn, actor, Damn Yankees; Robert Caprio, director; Tommi Overcash Galaska, choreographer/director; Gregory Funaro, actor, Damn Yankees; Natalie Stewart, actor, Damn Yankees; Michael Tahaney, actor, Damn Yankees and Smokey Joe’s Café; Dayton Vesper, accompanist; Rhonda Riley, vocal coach; Scott Carter, conductor; and Carroll Dashiell Jr., drums, Smokey Joe’s Café.

Next, we travel south to Winchester, Virginia and meet Patsy Cline. One of the first true cross-over artists with hits on both the country and pop charts, Patsy Cline recorded songs by virtually every major songwriter of her day including Neil Sedaka, Cole Porter, Bill Monroe, Hank Williams, and Willie Nelson.

We’ll follow her meteoric career and catch an intimate look at the woman behind the legend. With more than two dozen songs in the show, this is a moving tribute to one of America’s most beloved musical artists.

A fan letter to Patsy started a friendship that lasted until Patsy’s death in 1963. The play’s title refers to the manner in which Cline would close each of her letters: “Love always ... Patsy Cline.” But Always . . . Patsy Cline is more than a tribute to the legendary country singer who died at age 30 in a plane crash. This is an intimate look at the woman behind the legend, an insider’s story as only a true friend could tell it.

The musical play, complete with down home country humor, true emotion and even some audience participation, includes dozens of Patsy’s unforgettable hits such as “Crazy,” “I Fall to Pieces,” “Sweet Dreams,” and “Walking After Midnight.” Smokey Joe’s Café completes the summer series. It all started when two unassuming kids from New York wrote the seven words that started a revolution in popular music: “You ain’t nothin’ but a hound dog.” Mike Leiber’s and Jerry Stoller’s love of boogie-woogie and the blues sent them on a musical journey whose paths crossed with the Coasters, the Drifters, Elvis Presley, and many, many others. Their hits included Kansas City, Spanish Harlem, On Broadway, There Goes My Baby, Love Potion No. 9, Jail House Rock, Yakety Yak, Little Egypt, Ruby Baby, Charlie Brown, and (of course), Hound Dog.

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ECU Dancers Perform at National Competition

Four ECU dance majors studying under the direction of Patricia Weeks, professor in the School of Theatre and Dance, advanced to the American College Dance Festival Association’s (ACDFA) national competition held June 1-3. “The American College Dance Festival Association is the primary regional and national venue for presenting university dance,” Weeks said. “To be selected for the regional gala is quite an honor, but to be selected for the national gala is highly coveted recognition.” The students, coached by Weeks, achieved outstanding results at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Festival of the American College Dance Festival Association (ACDFA), held at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., March 10-13. Out of 49 pieces from 28 colleges and universities, ten were selected for the regional festival’s culminating Gala Performance. Out of those ten, five pieces were chosen for the ACDFA National Festival, where three concerts were performed.

Horizons Targets At-Risk Children

The Horizons summer program, offered through ECU’s Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies, aims to improve the lives of at-risk children with a mix of recreation and reflection. This year, the Pitt and Greene County departments of mental health have contracted ECU to provide the daylong treatment program, enabling 24 children to participate in recreational and educational activities on campus. Entering its third year, the program has evolved from targeting high school aged children to a younger audience. In the Z. Smith Reynolds outreach, children from Pitt County attended East Carolina University’s Reach Up Program.

Reach Up Helps Minority Students

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation awarded scholarships to 26 Pitt County middle school students to attend East Carolina University’s Reach Up Program. Now entering its second year, the nonresidential enrichment series launched by the College of Education is designed to help African American students improve their math and science skills. Beginning on June 15, participants engage in activities that illustrate the relationships between daily life experiences and science. Activities include hands-on experimentation, demonstrations, presentations and test preparation. Each participant is led by a trained facilitator and is designed to encourage the middle school students’ math and science interests and foster self-confidence in their individual skills.

Rhea Miles, director of the Reach Up program, hopes that the program will encourage these students to pursue careers in the field of science. “Many of these children would not have a lesson at the end,” Skalko said. “Each activity is designed to engage in activities that illustrate the relationships between daily life experiences and science. Activities include hands-on experimentation, demonstrations, presentations and test preparation. Each participant is led by a trained facilitator and is designed to encourage the middle school students’ math and science interests and foster self-confidence in their individual skills.”

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Hecimovich Finds Local Links To Slave Woman’s Manuscript

An ECU English professor’s quest to research local connections to a fugitive slave will be assisted by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Gregg Hecimovich received the endowment’s $5,000 “We the People” stipend to study Hannah Crafts and her connections to North Carolina. Crafts, likely a slave who lived in the 1850s, is believed to be the first African American woman to have written a novel.

Hecimovich, who has taught Victorian literature at ECU since 2002, said he looks forward to making a contribution to the study of Hannah Crafts and her work.

“If my project bears the fruit that I think it promises to bear, Hannah Crafts and North Carolina will make a lasting contribution to African American history, American history, North Carolina history, and the history of the novel,” Hecimovich said.

Crafts’ story received international attention when Harvard scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. bought her manuscript at an auction and published The Bonds- woman's Narrative in 2002. Since Gates’ discovery, scholars such as Hecimovich have been scouring Crafts’ manuscript trying to authenticate her identity. Prominent in her text is the John Hill Wheeler family, which owned slaves in Bertie County in 19th Century North Carolina. For his research and book project, Hecimovich plans to research the Kate Wheeler Cooper Collection housed at ECU’s Joyner Library. In addition to the materials available in Joyner Library’s Special Collections room, Hecimovich will also consider the literary influences that helped to shape Crafts’ work, from Charlotte Bronte to Charles Dickens.

Hecimovich was one of 16 scholars in the nation to receive the NEH “We the People” stipend. The National Endowment for the Humanities is an independent grant-making agency of the U.S. Government, which supports research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities.

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Patients Find Friendship, Compassion with Schadler

In coordination with the Recognition and Rewards Committee of the ECU Chancellor's Staff Senate, the Pieces of Eight series honoring exceptional ECU staff recognizes Linda Schadler.

By Judy Currin

Linda Schadler’s connections with her patients at the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center (LWJCC) go beyond her clinical tasks. “When you have a patient come in once or twice a week over a period of two or three years, you learn things that are going on in their lives and they learn things going on in yours,” Schadler said. “It doesn’t take long for the relationship to shift from patient/healthcare worker to genuine friendship. You connect with their fears, frustrations and hopes.”

A lab assistant in the Department of Adult Hematology/Oncology, Schadler prepared phlebotomies—collection of blood—a procedural use in early cancer detection and later to monitor cell counts in patients undergoing radiation or chemotherapy.

Schadler said she is humbled and inspired by the bravery exhibited by so many of her patients. “I have a very dear lady right now who is a very brave woman against cancer,” she said. “The 58-year-old patient has battled ovarian cancer for 11 years. She just keeps fighting.”

Schadler’s compassion carries her beyond the doors of the Cancer Center into the community, where she and other volunteers from the department conduct outreach clinics for cancer screening. “I’m the type of person who likes the hands-on approach of working at a screening, talking to the patient and reassuring them when they are frightened,” Schadler said. “And let them know that the screenings are preventive medicine and that at some point we might eliminate advanced stages of the disease through early detection.”

Schadler serves on the planning committee for this year’s October Cancer Survivorship Day, a daylong reunion for patients, families and caregivers sponsored annually by the Center. This year’s reunion will be held on the Lake. “We hope to involve individuals from the community to assist with music, art and craft activities.” Dr. Mary J. Raab, clinical professor and cancer survivor, will serve as keynote speaker.

Schadler also participates in outreach efforts to promote the center’s annual Reach For Hope Gala, serving as chair of the fund raising committee this year. Funds raised help support the center’s outreach programs and special events like Survivor’s Day and Camp Dove.

Schadler has participated for six years with the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life event. For Life. She said the money raised during April’s Relay event will fund research and the organization’s “Road to Recovery” program, which provides transportation for patient treatments. The American Cancer Society named Schadler Volunteer of the Year in 2000 and 2004.

“Opportunities for service in this community are plentiful,” Schadler said.

Presentations at New Directions 2004, Blueridge Community College in Flat Rock, N.C.: by J. Barry DuVall and Matthew Powell (Distributed Education Center for Wireless and Mobile Computing). “Using Breakthrough Technology for Snatch and Go Mobile Learning,” (http://www.cwmc.ecu.edu/BreakthroughMobile.ppt); and by DuVall, Powell and Chris Weaver (Instructional Technology). “New Online Instructional Chat Tools for Distance Learning,” http://www.cwmc.ecu.edu/CHATflat.ppt. Also, DuVall, Powell and Darryl Davis (Academic Affairs) presented “Distance Learning and Mobility: Tools for Improving Interaction and Building Community in Distance Learning,” at the Wireless Community and Mobile User Conference at California State University, Monterey, Calif. At the same conference, DuVall and Powell presented “Field Applications of Breakthrough Technology for Wireless and Mobile Learning.”

Presentation by student Michael Carveau on a scholar in training award. His research was co-authored by Jeff Kovaes and Mark Evans (Medicine). “Correlations between cyclin B1 expression, p21, and mitotic delay: Time/dose sequeleae,” at the 51st Annual Meeting of the Radiation Research Society. St. Louis, Mo.

Presentation by Jason Dennis (Volunteer Center), a workshop on grant writing at the North Carolina Interfaith Disaster Relief’s annual training retreat in Greenville: Dennis, Jessica Gagne, and Shawn Moore (Volunteer Center) attended the 30th Annual North Carolina Association of Volunteer Administration Conference in Winston-Salem, where Dennis and Gagne presented a workshop entitled, “Service-Learning: A Campus and Community Connection at East Carolina University.” Also, Moore and Gagne presented the 2nd Annual Community Service and Service-Learning Directors Conference sponsored by the North Carolina Campus Compact, held in Asheboro.

Invited presentation by David Gabbard (Education) as featured lecturer at an international conference on Michel Foucault and Social Control at the University de Montpellier, “No ‘Copper Tops’ Left Behind: Focault. The Matrix, and the Future of Compulsory Schooling.”

Presentation by Joy Stapleton (Education) with Human Ecology faculty Sharon Ballard and Elizabeth Carroll, a workshop on student perceptions of course web sites and ways for K-12 teachers to incorporate web sites into their teaching, at the 15th Annual Southeastern Regional Technology and Teaching Conference in Greenville.

Presentations by Art faculty at the North Carolina Art Education Association Conference in Denver, Colo. by Mark Malley, two presentations on Pre-Service Art Education Teacher Visual Epistemology Assumptions; and by Cynthia Bickley-Green, “Art and Art Education in Belize.”


Invited presentation by Joyce Reed (Criminal Justice), “Russian-American Exchanges: Transcending Stereotypes,” at an American studies conference at Umdt State University in Izhevsk, Russia. Reed also participated in roundtable discussions on topics related to collaborative exchanges. She remained at Umdt through the end of May to teach a master’s level law class.


Presentation by Dave Edgell (Center for Tourism), as keynote speaker for the Southeast Tourism Society’s 2004 Spring Meeting in Memphis, Tenn. Edgell spoke at the North American International Trader Corridor Partnership in Kansas City, Mo., where he served on the panel, “International Tourism: Marketing and Exporting for Canada, the United States and Mexico” and at the 10th North American Summit of Mayors on “Status of International Tourism in North America Today.”

Presentation by Margaret Bauer (English) as chair of a panel on “The Literature of Ethnic North Carolina: Selections from the Special Feature section of the 2004 North Carolina Literary Review,” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Antonio, Texas.

Presentation by Jim Holte (English), “A Clutch of Vampires: An Examination of Contemporary Dracula Texts,” at the International Conference on College Composition and Communication in Chapel Hill. As part of the panel, E. Thomson Shields (English) presented “North Carolina’s Multicultural Beginnings in History and Lore.”

Presentation by English faculty Resa Crane Bizzarro, Phil Adams, and Pat Bizzarro, “Representations of Writing Across the Curriculum: Foreshadowing a New Era in Composition Instruction,” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in San Antonio, Texas.

Presentation by Sherry Southard (English), a one-hour synchronous online discussion of the posted paper, “Accessibility Issues in Web Design: Technological and User Considerations,” and at the 10th Annual Business, Christine Bates, a one-hour synchronous online discussion of their postcard, “Using Web-based Resources in Literature Courses.”
ECU Researchers Go Wireless Against West Nile

By Erica Plouffe

East Carolina University researchers hope wireless computers will soon streamline the identification and tracking of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile virus.

The innovation, a combination of wireless Personal Digital Assistants and wearable computers, is a result of a partnership between ECU and the U.S. Army’s Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.

The goal of the project is to evaluate how wireless technology could speed the identification of mosquito species their habitats from the field, thus helping to track and combat the spread of West Nile Virus and other mosquito-borne illnesses.

A pilot study of the new identification system will begin in North Carolina this fall.

In the past, identifying a collection of mosquitoes could take days as only certified technicians and researchers could perform the identification of species, said ECU environmental health professor Alice Anderson.

“You wouldn’t have complete answers unless you called an expert who collected the mosquitoes, identified them and submitted them to a laboratory for virus testing,” said Anderson, who has studied mosquitoes in North Carolina for the past 20 years. Digitized images of mosquitoes on a data card would enable researchers to identify a mosquito by comparing a collected specimen with the digital mosquito image on file.

“We want to bring this skill and technology to more people, which will help public health to collect more information. The more data we can collect on the disease, the more expensive and effective preventing it is going to be,” she said.

J. Barry DuVall, Director of ECU’s Center for Wireless and Mobile Computing, conduct a field test using mobile computers to track and identify species of mosquitoes. (Contributed photo)

Jeremy Davis (left) and James Blalock (right), research associates at ECU’s Center for Wireless and Mobile Computing, conduct a field test using mobile computers to track and identify species of mosquitoes. (Contributed photo)

Agromedicine Institute Partners with BIO Uruguay

By Nancy McGillicuddy

The N.C. Agromedicine Institute at East Carolina University last month established an institutional relationship with BIO Uruguay, a research and training institute in rural Uruguay.

The newly formed partnership creates inroads into one of the most pristine and unvisited areas of South America, enabling students and professors from ECU, North Carolina State and N.C.A&T State University to study and conduct research at BIO Uruguay.

Specializing in agro-ecology and organic farming, the South American institute will tailor a variety of study programs to the interests and needs of each researcher and student.

Potential research topics are student-driven and wide ranging, including organic farming, agro-ecology, sociology, anthropology, photography and Spanish language.

“This institutional relationship represents opportunity, one more place to study and conduct research,” said John Sabella, the interim director of the N.C. Agromedicine Institute.

BIO Uruguay is a non-profit institute that collaborates with universities in Uruguay and throughout the world. The Agromedicine Institute, located in Greenville, aims to improve health and safety in agriculture, forestry and fishing through research, education and outreach.

The partnership between the two institutions stems from a memorandum of understanding, signed by UNC President Molly Broad and President Jorge Batlle of Uruguay, in 1999. The document confirms an interest in an international partnership between Uruguay and the University of North Carolina system. The promotion of international relations is one of six strategic directions adopted by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors in 2002.

In May, Dr. Alda Rodriguez, co-founder and director for Research and Training at BIO Uruguay, met with East Carolina University officials and students and other members of the UNC system to discuss details of an exchange program.

John Sabella, interim director of the N.C. Agromedicine Institute (left), and Alda Rodriguez, the co-founder and director for Research and Training at BIO Uruguay, met with ECU officials and students and other members of the UNC system in May to discuss details of an exchange program. (Photo by Nancy McGillicuddy)
Food Literacy Partners Make Lifelong Commitment

By Nancy McGillicuddy

Dismayed by a trend towards bad nutrition in her own family and community, East Carolina University art professor Alice Arnold wondered how to help.

The solution emerged through Food Literacy Partners, a free, 20-hour course funded through a grant from the Pitt Memorial Hospital Foundation. The program focuses on food and nutritional well being of people in eastern North Carolina. Topics include weight management, dietary supplements and information about diseases often associated with obesity, such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes.

“There are a lot of people walking around with a piece missing,” Arnold said. “And that piece is nutrition.”

Like Arnold, many volunteers take the class because they are interested in helping those around them. Class participants are required to volunteer at least 20 hours of nutritional information service to the community in locations such as school classrooms, cafeterias, farmer’s markets, church or service club meetings.

For most participants, however, the requirement represents a small slice of the efforts they make to inform their friends, family and the community about nutrition. Armed with the knowledge gleaned from the class, they have the proper tools to spread the right information about this growing problem.

Sally Lawrence, an English professor who took the course this spring, uses her newly reinforced nutritional knowledge in the classroom to help students with their health as well as with some of the nutrition projects she assigns to students in her science-writing course. Lawrence said portion size is a subject that gets reinforcement in her class.

“Students were shocked by how much sugar there is in a 20-ounce bottle of soda,” she said.

Dance professor Dawn Clark, who also took the spring course, regularly sees malnutrition in her students in the School of Theatre and Dance.

“With dancers, underweight and under-nutrition are some of the most prominent concerns,” Clark said. “And of course that affects their overall performance.”

Clark said the class has allowed her to grow as a nutrition advocate. “If nutrition questions come up, I feel informed.”

Robin High, nutrition director for Campus Dining Services, said the volunteers are an important link in strengthening nutritional health.

“It’s going to take a community to change these issues,” she said.

“It’s not just the responsibility of the school. It’s not just the responsibility of the parents or the restaurants. It’s the whole community.”

For information, contact Jacqueline Duffy (744-1388 or duffyj@mail.ecu.edu).

NewsMakers

Darrell Ross (Criminal Justice) on WNCT-TV morning news in April, discussing overcrowding in state and federal prisons as part of the station’s investigative series on crime and punishment.

Charlie Sang (Medicine) on WNCT-TV news, on life-saving heart surgery for Ugandan children at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, May 3.

Kathryn Kolasa (Medicine), on WTIN-TV news, discussing low-carb diets, May 6.

Kenneth Macdonald and James Peden (Medicine) on WCTI-TV news, on gastric bypass surgery, May 10.

Charles Phillips (Medicine) on WTIN-TV news, on children, recess and skin cancer, May 10.

W. Randolph Chitwood (Medicine) on WTIN-TV news, on the Eastern Carolina Cardiovascular Institute, May 10.

Chitwood and Walter Porres (Medicine) appeared on N.C. Now on UNC-TV May 18 and 19, discussing Chitwood receiving the O. Max Gardner Award from the UNC Board of Governors.

Dean Patton (Medicine) on WTIN-TV news, on heat-related illness, May 11.

Linda Keen (Communication) on WNCT-TV news and WNCT-TV online about the effects of violent media, particularly video games, discussing children’s aggressive behavior, May 18.

Yvonne Posey (Medicine) on WNCT-TV news, on home medical testing kits, May 20.

Dave Edgell (Center for Tourism) was interviewed in the June 2004 issue of Southern Living, in an article on revitalizing downtown Greenville.

Appointments/Elections

Dorothy Muller (Academic Affairs) was elected vice president and president-elect of the national Deans and Directors of University Colleges and Undergraduate Studies at the organization’s spring meeting in Philadelphia. The organization is composed of administrators devoted to academic programs and initiatives supporting outstanding undergraduate education.

Cynthia Bickley-Green (Art Education) was appointed to the Research Committee for the National Art Education Association State Delegates’ Assembly. As president of the N.C. Art Education Association, Bickley-Green was the state delegate for the assembly.

Joyce Reed (Criminal Justice Studies) was elected president of the N.C. Chapter of the Fulbright Alumni Association for 2004-2005.

Dave Edgell (Center for Tourism) was named coordinating editor for the Anthology of Carolina Folk Music.

Sylvia Escott-Stump (Nutrition and Hospitality Management) was elected treasurer, 2004 – 2006, for the North Carolina Dietetic Association (NCDIA).

Dori Finley (Nutrition and Hospitality Management) is NCDA co-president and delegate to the American Dietetic Association House of Delegates.

Frederick Dean Niswander (Business) was named coordinating editor for the American Dietetic Association House of Delegates.

Myra Brown (Allied Health) was awarded the Marybeth Hurst Award at the annual meeting of the N.C. Health Information Management Association.

The award recognizes contribution to the profession through dependable and consistent performances.

Facilities Services Supervisors’ Awards for Excellence 2004 recipients in the category of devotion to duty are Wayland Adams (Building Services and Facilities Service Center), Randy Bridge (Grounds Services), and Del Kingsland (Utilities Services). Awarded in the category of human relations was James D. Lewis (Health Sciences Campus).

Two oil paintings by Mark Malley (Art) were accepted into the national juried art show, “SCHWA” at Emerge Gallery.

Priti Desai (Child Development and Family Relations) received a community service award from the Upakar organization, created to assist and recognize Indian Americans in the accomplishment of educational, artistic or athletic goals.

Desai donated the award amount of $1,000 to a children’s hospital in Vadodara, India, where she hopes to initiate a child life program this summer.

Desai also facilitated a networking discussion about the roles of child life specialists on Operation Smile Medical Missions, which aim to repair facial deformities for children born with cleft lip/palate, at the Child Life Council’s 22nd Annual Conference on Professional Issues in Seattle, Wash.

The Bachelor in Social Work Student Association bestowed its first professor of the year designation to Lessie Bass (Social Work).

Charles Lyons (International Programs) and David Harrison (Social Work) traveled to Lithuania to sign a bilateral exchange agreement with the Law University of Lithuania. Open to all ECU and LTU students, the agreement allows students to pay tuition and receive credit at their home university while studying as non-degree students at the university in the host country.

Vital Records

BORNE to Laura Mircicche and Gary Weissman (English), a son, Giovanni, April 21.

BORNE to Douglas Smith (Joyner Library), a daughter, Hannah Grace, May 6.
Grant Funds Chemist’s Work

An ECU chemist received a $35,000 grant to research how proteins bind, with some help from an undergraduate assistant and a nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy.

Kwang Hun Lim, a professor in the Department of Chemistry, was among 51 scientists from across the nation who received the Cotrell College Science Awards from the Research Corporation. The corporation awards more than $1.8 million annually to support research in astronomy, chemistry and physics at institutions that predominantly serve undergraduates.

ECU sophomore Jake Vestal, a chemistry, biochemistry and physics major, has worked with Lim on this project since the fall semester. He prepares and cleans protein samples for the NMR spectroscopy. The half-million dollar instrument, housed in ECU’s chemistry department in the new Science and Technology building, enables Lim to investigate how proteins can sense their environment.

Disability Fair Draws Crowds

The Willis Building teemed with activity May 27 as vendors and visitors alike discovered each other at the region’s first Disability Fair.

From recreational activities to transportation opportunities, participants were able to see what services are available to people across Pitt County, said Liz Johnson, ECU’s director for the Department of Disability Support Services, who helped to organize the event.

“It’s a great opportunity to step out, to reach out to the community and showcase the resources we have,” she said.

Along with ECU, Pitt County Committee for the Employment of People with Disabilities, Support Team for Active Recreation (STAR), the Regional Rehabilitation Center, the Greenville Area Transit Bus System and the Pitt Area Transit System sponsored the event.

Among the vendors was Tara Jeffs, who directs the Irene Smith Howell Assistive Technology Laboratory at ECU’s College of Education. Jeffs works with teachers and parents to find the tools that best suit students with disabilities. Noting that quite a few fair attendants were service providers as well as recipients, Jeffs said that she was also able to provide information about the department’s growing academic programs that offer a certificate in assistive technology.

“Truly it is a networking opportunity,” Jeffs said.

Other groups, including ARISE, provided a list of recreational activities, ranging from wheelchair basketball to a winter ski clinic planned for this fall. Voter registration was available as well as companies that fit prosthetics or train seeing eye dogs.

The fair was a launching point for a yearlong Americans with Disabilities Act compliance survey of the region’s buildings. The four areas the groups will survey include: buildings in the medical field, those in education, retail buildings and government buildings (including libraries, courthouses and parks.).

Walking an eye toward campus, Johnson said ECU is making great progress in having many of its buildings fully accessible.

“I think we’re doing a very good job. When you have older buildings, you have to remove barriers in a progressive way,” she said. “Like with Austin and Rawl, for example, before the elevators were installed, we had to call the registrar to move a scheduled class if there was a student in a wheelchair in it.”

The grant, which will be formally awarded in September, provides stipends for both Lim and Vestal and funds a centrifuge and special chemicals needed to use the NMR spectroscopy.

Lim, who completed his post-doctoral studies at University of California at Berkeley in 2003 before coming to ECU, also conducts research on the so-called “misfolding” of proteins suspected of playing a role in the development of Mad Cow and Alzheimer’s diseases.

Lim said he was pleased to receive the award, but added that the true success of the project will come through in the results he hopes to produce.

Wireless Technology for West Nile

The research team will present their findings to the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research and the U.S. Army Walter Reed Biosystems Unit, at the Smithsonian Institution in July. While the first effort with these computers will identify and track mosquito species in North Carolina, researchers envision this low-cost solution will be used to regions plagued by other mosquito-borne illnesses, such as South Asia or Africa.

“If we are able to identify mosquitoes and their habitats, it will help all public health professionals to be much more effective in controlling mosquito-borne diseases. If our multimedia wireless approach works out, we can use it worldwide and help millions of people who are affected by malaria, yellow fever, or dengue,” Anderson said.

DaVall anticipates the technology could someday be used for a range of projects in different fields of work or study.

On a battlefield, a handheld computer could serve as a language tutor or a quick response manual for someone who needs medical care. Here in North Carolina, mobile devices could be used by school children and senior citizens to identify hazards in our environment,” he said.

“Much can be done with appropriate applications of affordable technology.”

Horizons Targets At-Risk Children

In how recreation activity programming can assist youth in overcoming their challenging situations. The project involves both undergraduate and graduate students as well as youth participating in five local non-profit agencies.

Project goals were to teach outcome-based programming skills to the undergraduates, to teach program evaluation skills to the graduate students, to enhance the services of participating youth agencies, and to empower youth with skills that will help them grow into successful adults.

The Quickening: An Exhibition by Graduat- e Students, Gray Gallery (through June 29).

Fifty Years Ago: Brown vs. The Board of Education; Veronice Joyner Langford North Carolina Collection, Joyner Library (through July).
Cicadas Skip ECU

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birds eat them. Only the strongest survive. That’s what’s happening now all over the east coast," he said.

The cicada invasion is waning as the early summer begins and the Brood Xers go underground for another 17 years. But in late May and early June the cicadas are in their peak in Virginia and Maryland. They’ll go as far as Indiana and west to Tennessee, but eastern North Carolina won’t get a visit. It’s to the relief of many who need not worry about the thick-bodied, green and black creatures screeching into cars, houses and hair. But for some, like Daniel, the absence of the cicada in the east is a shame both for his intellectual curiosity and his culinary tastes. In addition to studying the insect’s mating behavior, he is also an avid proponent of cicada consumption.

Packed with protein and nutrients, cicadas and other insects are regularly consumed in many cultures throughout the world. Entomophagy, Daniel said, is one way to help feed the populations.

Chancellor Steven Ballard talks with Sonia Chin, a program assistant in the Physics Department, during a chat session held at the Wright Place June 9. First in a series of campus chats, the informal sessions allow ECU faculty, staff and students to meet the Chancellor. Additional sessions are scheduled for 9 a.m. on June 17, in Brody 2W40; July 7, at Marie’s Place in Minges; and July 21, at Pirate Market in Jones. (Photo by Nancy McGillicuddy)

Lee Develops ECU Day Care Center Proposal

By Erica Plouffe

For the past year or so, Nan Lee has heard it from all corners of the East Carolina University: bring a childcare center to campus.

Lee, a lecturer in the College of Human Ecology and former director of the university’s Child Development Laboratory, is crafting a proposal for a 126-slot center that she plans to present to university officials this summer.

“There is overwhelming support for a full day child care facility for faculty and staff. It’s known to be a powerful recruitment tool for faculty and staff and also a retention tool,” Lee said.

The proposal is in its final stages and Lee expects to submit the report this summer to Carla Hughes, dean of the College of Human Ecology, and Marilyn Sherer, dean of the College of Education. The deans will then decide what to do with the proposal and whether to present it to other school officials.

“It is up to ECU administrators to decide to move forward with it,” Lee said.

Lee’s effort is the latest incarnation of what has been a stated campus need for at least a decade. In 1994, the Committee on the Status of Women conducted a survey about the perceived need for a campus childcare facility and received a favorable response. In 2000, under the direction of former Vice Chancellor Richard Brown, efforts were made to look into the feasibility of opening such a facility. This fall, Hughes asked Lee to revisit the issue and make happen a high quality childcare facility for faculty, students and staff.

The current proposal includes a so-called “five star” facility for 126 children ages 0-5, with after school and summer-time opportunities for school-aged children, Lee said. Ideally, she said, it would be located somewhere between the main campus and the medical school. If funding were to materialize, Lee said, it could be in place for the start of the fall 2005 semester. The state offers a rating system for all childcare facilities in the state, with one star being the lowest and five stars being the best. State data from 2003 show only 10 percent of Pitt County’s childcare facilities were awarded a four or five star rating.

In addition to a favorable reaction from both the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association, Lee said she has heard, anecdotally and otherwise, that a childcare facility could only be a positive move for East Carolina University.

The results of a non-scientific survey she conducted via email in January show that almost 95 percent of 329 respondents believed it to be important that ECU offer a high-quality child care facility to faculty staff and students.

“I still get emails, every so often, from people who want an update, who want to get their child’s name on the list,” Lee said. “There certainly is an interest.”

Currently, ECU’s childcare offerings include the Childhood Development lab, housed in the College of Human Ecology, with space for only 32 children. The center often receives calls, from staff, students and faculty, whether there are any openings at the center.

As with the Childhood Development Lab, Lee expects a proposed center would have a strong service-learning component. ECU students from the College of Human Ecology and the College of Education now earn clinical hours and service learning credits by working in the development lab.

“There are so many students who need high quality service-learning facilities,” she said. “There are units all over campus who send students to the child development lab.”

Lee said she hopes funding for the proposed project could be in place for the 2005 academic year, whether through public funds or private donations. “People want this so much,” she said.

Cicada Stir Fry

2 dozen medium to large cicadas, wings removed
2 tablespoons sesame oil
1 garlic clove, chopped
1 teaspoon fresh ginger, grated
1 teaspoon tamarind or soy sauce
1/2 tablespoon chili oil (optional)
1 tablespoon sweet sherry
Assorted fresh chopped vegetables (snow peas, broccoli, bok choy, onions, carrots, water chestnuts)

Heat sesame oil in very hot wok, add garlic, ginger and then veggies. Cook over high heat for a few minutes. Add the cicadas and remaining ingredients. Cook a few more minutes, gently stirring. Serve on brown rice.

Niswander Named

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organization, and was awarded the outstanding educator award in North Carolina.

He will succeed Dr. Ernie Uhr, who is retiring after 21 years as dean of the College of Business. Niswander’s appointment is effective July 1, 2004.

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