**BOG Approves Name Changes**

**By Crystal Bailey**

The UNC Board of Governors on Oct. 12 approved a request to change the name of the School of Allied Health Sciences and School of Nursing to the College of Allied Health Sciences and College of Nursing.

Several years ago, the ECU Division of Academic Affairs designated that the schools within that division be recognized as colleges. At the time, no change in status was requested for the schools within the Division of Health Sciences. Recently, the faculty of the schools recommended that their status be changed from school to college.

The College of Allied Health Sciences was established in 1967 as the Life Sciences and Community Health Institute. It is the largest provider of allied health professionals to the state with an enrollment of more than 700 students, of which 61 percent are at the master’s and doctoral levels.

The College of Nursing was established in 1959 and has an enrollment of 1,047 students in baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral nursing programs. ECU is the largest producer of new nursing graduates in the state and offers the only certified nurse midwife program and masters of science in nursing alternate entry program in the state.

**Forum Explores Survey Results**

**By Erica Plouffe Lazure**

A forum to discuss the results of a campus safety student survey at East Carolina University will be held at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 12, at ECU’s Willis Building.

The hour-long event, “ECUnity Safety Forum,” will offer students and the community a chance to talk with ECU and community administrators, and public safety and transit officials, about efforts made to increase campus safety since the April 2007 survey. They will also discuss the findings of the Oct. 1 campus safety walk. A reception with refreshments will follow.

Michelle Lieberman, director of ECU’s Center for Off-Campus and Community Living, said the 3,917 survey respondents who enjoyed racing in his leisure time. Malley has nurtured a love for speed since attending his first race in 1957. He practices his craft on weekends and during the summer.

**Speed Part of the Palette for Art Professor**

**By Doug Boyd**

Crawling around on gravel and asphalt adjusting shock absorbers and clutch linkages, then putting on an insulated firesuit and full-face helmet may not seem like the ideal way to spend a hot September Saturday. But for Mark Malley, the best way to describe it was almost a cliché.

“It’s a gas.”

That’s how Malley summed up driving his 28-year-old race car with a group of other men and women who

are, for the most part, just out there for the fun and friendship.

Malley, an assistant professor of art at East Carolina University, was racing his 1979 PRS RH01 Formula Ford in the Sportscar Vintage Racing Association’s Fall Festival Sept. 29 at Virginia International Raceway. Malley is an assistant professor in ECU’s School of Art and Design,

who enjoys racing in his leisure time. Malley has nurtured a love for speed since attending his first race in 1957. He practices his craft on weekends and during the summer.

(Photos by Doug Boyd)
By Jeannine Manning Hutson

In September, a “dry run” of a pandemic flu outbreak was held as a tabletop exercise at East Carolina University. Students were leaving campuses in droves after frantic calls from their parents; Student Health Services was seeing as many patients as possible every day; classes had to be canceled.

And then things really got bad. Participating were the university’s pandemic response group and executive group (Crisis Communication Team) along with members of the Pitt County Health Department and the N.C. Regional Public Health Regional Surveillance Team (PHRST).

At the end of the event, Bill Koch and Tom Pohlman of ECU’s Environmental Health and Safety Office said that they thought it went well, but it showed there was still work to be done.

“These tabletop drills are important because every time we conduct one, we find additional areas of the plan that need a little more attention,” Pohlman said.

“Everyone needs to be aware that this is a situation that could happen and needs to be prepared both at work and at home,” he said.

Next on the agenda, Pohlman said, will be addressing those issues that were identified during the tabletop exercise and “looking at critical departments to make sure they are developing their own continuity operations plan.”

The following questions and responses address the issues associated with a potential pandemic outbreak.

Q: What is ECU doing to prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak?

ECU has appointed a pandemic flu steering group and a larger response group from key departments. These groups are outlining the policies and procedures the university needs to plan for and respond to a pandemic flu event.

These plans and policies are based on guidelines provided by World Health Organization (WHO), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and University of North Carolina – General Administration (UNC-GA).

As part of this planning, each department in the university is required to complete its own Pandemic Flu Continuity of Operations Plan (at http://www.ecu.edu/ehs/hips/PandemicFlu/BCP2007.doc) to help prepare it for such an event.

The key is for everyone to develop a plan that allows for social distancing while still providing the essential functions of the university.

The pandemic response group and the university executive group (Crisis Communication Team) completed a tabletop exercise with members of the Pitt County Health Department and the N.C. Regional Public Health Regional Surveillance Team (PHRST). More information will be distributed to help educate the campus community.

Q: What are the chances that the U.S. might have a pandemic flu outbreak?

A: History has shown that an average of three influenza pandemics affect the world each century. We cannot predict what years these might occur but can definitely say that we can expect to be affected by a pandemic sometime in the near to fairly near future.

Q: What should students, staff and faculty do to prepare?

There are two areas of preparation: personal preparations and business continuity preparations.

Personal preparations include:

• Learning about seasonal and pandemic flu
• Getting an annual flu shot
• Gathering a two-week supply of non-perishable food and medications
• Making alternate plans for day care should public day care facilities be directed to close
• Make plans to continue your children’s education from home with books and activities as your child’s teacher advises.
• Learn to cough/sneeze in your sleeve or tissue (http://www.coughsneeze.com/media.html)
• Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water or sanitizing gel
• Stock up on cold and flu medications
• Stay at home if you are sick to prevent the spread of the flu.

Business continuity preparations include:

• Insuring your class objectives can be completed using Blackboard
• Insuring your personal computer can connect with the university systems that you need to complete course work or work from home
• Know what work you can complete from home and prepare supplies/ references as needed.

Q: If a pandemic flu outbreak occurs in the U.S., will ECU automatically close? How will that decision be made and who makes that decision?

A: When a pandemic flu occurs, WHO and the CDC will be watching the spread of the illness with the hope of containing and stopping the spread. If this is not possible and the illness reaches the U.S., ECU will close when ordered to close by the governor, the UNC General Administration, or the Pitt County health director. The chancellor also has authority to close the university to encourage social distancing, if he feels it is in the best interest of the students’ and staff’s health and safety. The university is coordinating this effort with NCSU and other UNC institutions.

Q: If ECU closes during the academic year, will courses be completed online?

A: ECU does have plans to complete as many courses online as possible through Blackboard. This is why it is highly recommended that all faculty and students ensure they are able to connect to ECU Blackboard from home to continue course work. Some courses may be taught by online video presentation. Some may use e-mail or other means.

Q: If ECU closes for students, who still reports for work?

A: There are some departments and employees who are “critical” to the operation of the university even if it is closed.

Each division should decide which departments and/or functions are “critical” for the continuation of the university.

Critical operations may include clinics, security, information technology, utilities, and some other support functions. Divisions and departments should identify critical functions, assign employees to maintain those functions, and cross train at least two additional employees to provide back-up should the primary staff be unable to perform their duties.

Q: What are other UNC-system schools doing to prepare?

A: Every institution in the UNC system is doing the same planning and preparations as ECU; however, each is identifying their own unique issues and addressing them to meet their own needs. There have been system-wide meetings and the effort is being coordinated.

Q: What if Pitt County Schools close because of pandemic flu and I have to stay home with my young children? Can I telecommute?

A: Telework agreements and assignments should be arranged between the employees and their supervisors prior to a pandemic flu closure. Human Resources has an agreement document available and is working on a policy to insure fairness.

Q: What are some of the best ways people can protect themselves from the flu?

A: The best protection from seasonal flu is to get a flu shot early in the season. You can also protect yourself through frequent hand washing, proper cough/sneeze etiquette and through social distancing (avoiding crowds and crowded places like stores, buses, planes, schools, daycare). At work we can maintain social distancing by keeping at least 6 feet away. People can protect themselves from the flu by:

• Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water or sanitizing gel
• Stay at home if you are sick to prevent the spread of the flu.

Annual flu shots provide some protection from potential pandemic flu.

Q: If a pandemic influenza outbreak occurs in the U.S., how long might it last?

A: CDC is advising to prepare for a six- to eight-week surge in flu cases. They also believe that these surges may come in several waves. This means that there may be a six- to eight-week period of flu which tapers off for several months before the next six to eight weeks of flu begins.
ECU’s high-tech coastal systems research facility, RENCI/CCSIM @ ECU, will host an Open House from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Rivers Building. Faculty, staff and students looking to create broader impacts of their research and outreach through cutting edge technology such as the VeWall and the new technology and media equipped RENCI Rover van are invited to attend.

ECU’s Renaissance Computing Institute Center for Coastal Systems Informatics and Modeling – RENCI/CCSIM – comes to ECU as part of a $1.7 million grant from the Chapel Hill-based Renaissance Computing Institute.

“The mission of RENCI/CCSIM at ECU is to support research, outreach, and education that improve our understanding of the interaction between physical and biological processes and human activities in North Carolina’s Coastal Region,” said director Jamie Brown Kruse.

“We hope the Open House and Workshop is an opportunity for ECU faculty and students to visit the facilities, see the tools in action, and discuss ways that they can partner with the Center to enhance research projects and educational initiatives.”

At the event, Kruse will discuss graduate student-researcher fellowship opportunities with the center and support for educational initiatives developed by faculty for the 2008/2009 academic year. A schedule of Open House events is below:

- 2 p.m., 3 p.m.: Information Session about RENCI/CCSIM with Jamie Brown Kruse in Rivers Bldg., 105
- 2:30 p.m., 3:30 p.m.: Tour the facilities (RENCI Rover van, videoconference room, etc.) with Donna Kain, outreach director and English professor, Rivers Building West
- 3 p.m., 4 p.m.: Visit Visualization Wall (a 20-foot by six-foot high-res projection screen with 3-D capability) with Tom Allen, director of technology and education programs, BSOM, Regional Rehabilitation Center, PCMH and other disciplines at ECU

For information, contact Donna Kain at kain@ecu.edu or 737-1710; or visit www.ecu.edu/reneci.
Sears Researches Psychological Care for Heart Patients

By Jeannine Manning Hutson

A nationally recognized leader in the psychological care of patients with implantable cardiac devices has joined the faculty of East Carolina University. Dr. Sam Sears is director of health psychology and also holds an appointment to the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences at the Brody School of Medicine.

Sears and his research will be featured during a PBS medical special, “From Victim to Survivor: Journeys of Hope.” Sears received five teacher of the year awards from students in his department. “This university has the potential to grow, and the East Carolina Heart Institute is a fantastic opportunity,” said Sears, who will oversee the development of the doctoral program in health psychology. “That bridge between the medical school and the university was the deal maker for me. The collaborative research opportunities are exciting.”

Sears’ research focuses on implantable cardioverter defibrillators (ICDs), which are used by cardiologists to treat patients with potentially life-threatening irregular heart rhythms. “Cardiac patients like this are constantly being consumed with fear and worry about their devices,” he said. “This technology is fantastic. The downside is part of the overall comprehensive care of the patient—behavioral and psychological needs. That’s the kind of care we want to provide at the East Carolina Heart Institute,” he said. “It’s a modern-day challenge,” he said. “The progress of biotechnology produces psycho-social demands on the family. We can treat distress only after the cardiac arrest is treated.”

“Cardiac patients like this are courageous. They have to go beyond their anxiety and have a little more swagger in their step. They have to live with this technology their whole life. Not been there done that, but living it every day,” Sears said.

A significant percentage of implant recipients are at risk for developing psychological problems based on their history or their experience when the devices shock their heart into normal rhythm, Sears said. “It’s a modern-day challenge,” he said. “With the patients that have high levels of anxiety about receiving a significant shock, 750 volts, to restore a normal cardiac rhythm.”

Sears researches and treats patients who become consumed with fear and worry about their devices. “This technology is fantastic. The downside is part of the overall comprehensive care of the patient—behavioral and psychological needs. That’s the kind of care we want to provide at the East Carolina Heart Institute,” he said. “It’s a modern-day challenge,” he said. “With the patients that have high levels of anxiety about receiving a significant shock, 750 volts, to restore a normal cardiac rhythm.”

Sears and his research associates, Stiller found that patients who reported high levels of optimism long-term showed significantly better functioning in general health, mental health, physical limitations and perception of illness than recipients with low levels of optimism. Sears said psychological care is needed along with medical care as recipients of ICDs work to return to their day-to-day activities after surviving a heart attack. “ICD patients and families can present with many different types of worries including, but not limited to, ICD shock, device malfunction, device recall, fears of pain or embarrassment or even fears of death. Some concerns can be addressed in a cardiology clinic, while others need to be referred for more extensive psychosocial treatment,” he said.

His most recent research on the effectiveness of an ICD shock and stress management program was published in the July 2007 edition of “Pacing and Clinical Electrophysiology.” It was the first study to examine a psychosocial intervention in shocked ICD patients using both biological and psychological markers of anxiety, he said.

At ECU, Sears will collaborate with Dr. Mariavittoria Pitzalis, professor of internal medicine and medical director of the heart failure program at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Her expertise is in heart failure and cardiac electrophysiology. She is internationally recognized for her work in cardiac resynchronization, a way to better organize the contraction of the heart so that it is stronger, Cascio said.

Sears’ interest in his research field began 12 years ago when he was a junior faculty member in the clinical health psychology and performed evaluations of cardiac transplant candidates. “At that time, a sizable minority of patients began presenting with ICDs that tended to have a lot of fear related to shock exposure. In fact, exposure to multiple shocks often triggered an acute need for consideration of all treatment options, including termination.”

“The patients and their families were terrified of the shock experience. Their anxieties seemed somewhat reasonable for the situation but still problematic,” he said. Observations in those patients led to reviewing case studies and further investigations. “And it’s kept us busy ever since,” he said. He has published more than 75 articles in medical literature on the psychological aspects of cardiology and co-authored with Dr. Wayne Sotile, “You Can Make a Difference: Brief Psychologica ICD Patients and Families.”

Stiller Studies Plant, Animal DNA Links

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

It’s not just that John Stiller wants people to know that plants and animals are more genetically linked than they believed to be in the past.

Stiller, an ECU biology professor, wants his findings to illustrate that the larger concern he has about the methods biologists are using to track and classify genetic material and the trees that order and organize them. “Plants and animals share molecular, biochemical, and genomic-level features that suggest a relatively close relationship between the two groups,” Stiller said.

He and his research associates, Stiller found that in his analysis at least five key areas in which the function of plant cells and animal cells were far more similar than those of fungi. It has been a long-held belief that fungi and animals are more closely related; Stiller’s study now suggests that plants are closer to animals than previously thought. “In both green plants and animals, cell cycles are controlled by master switches,” he said. “These function, and malfunction, similarly in both groups.”

Other similarities in plants and animals include: overall content of protein families and domains; cancerous cells that divide rapidly if left unchecked; pathways for sensing external stimuli; and unique enzymes that process RNA so that it functions properly.

The links Stiller highlights between the plant and animal kingdoms are contained in genetic material that many biologists have long disregarded as anomalies in the data. But, said Stiller, it was in these anomalies that he discovered the similarities among the plant and animal kingdoms.

Stiller says he doesn’t have a problem with naming and ordering the biological world; he sees it as a most useful tool for education and research. But he does believe that the system used to classify it must be both as accurate and precise as possible, even if the sequencing takes and poses conflicts in the data. “What is so powerful and appealing about these trees is they absolutely get a clear answer,” Stiller said. “Naming groups is a powerful tool; it goes back to Aristotle and Linnaeus. People always have been very concerned with how nature is ordered.”

Stiller is hopeful that his findings will encourage those who develop the trees of life using DNA sequencing methods to not disregard the conflicts, and rather, embrace them to get the most accurate picture of the natural world. “I think we should suspend belief in the dogma of the tree and look where these [organisms] really fit in, to see if there is a unifying message,” he said.

“I’m in favor of a global signal. Let us emphasize the conflicts in the data, not ignore them. They may be telling us more than we think.”

Gala to Benefit Cancer Center

The 11th annual Reach for Gala to benefit the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center will be Nov. 9, from 6 to 10 p.m. at Rock Springs. Tickets are $100 each and $200 a couple. Drawings will be held for $1,000, $500 and a 1.65-carat diamond pendant.

Tickets for the drawings are $10 each, five for $40 and 15 for $100. Winners do not need to be at the gala. For tickets, contact Fredia Butts, 744-2534.
Pakistani Scholar Visits ECU

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

A Pakistani scholar and lawyer will spend a week visiting East Carolina University on a Fulbright grant designed to promote Americans’ understanding of Islam and modern Muslim societies.

M. Aslam Khaki will spend four weeks in eastern North Carolina, delivering lectures, consulting with educators, and participating in cross-cultural discussions on the basic tenets of Islam and the role of religion in the culture and politics of Muslim societies.

ECU’s departments of geography and international studies are co-hosting the scholar.

Khaki’s keynote address on Islam, Contemporary Politics and Human Rights was held Oct. 25 at ECU’s Willis Building. He will also discuss “Interfaith Alliance – Muslim-Christian-Jewish Relations” at 7 p.m., Oct. 29 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church.

Accompanying Khaki is Yasmin Haider who is a lawyer of the Federal Shariat Court in Islamabad, Haider, whose practice focuses on domestic violence and the legal rights of women in Islam, will present a public lecture at ECU at 7 p.m., Nov. 5, at the Jenkins Fine Arts Auditorium. A lecture open to women only, of all faiths, will be held at 10:30 a.m., at the Islamic Center (14th and Evans Streets, Greenville), Nov. 3.

“We are delighted to host Dr. Khaki and Ms. Haider,” said Holly Hakpe, ECU professor of geography.

“Our visit presents a wonderful educational opportunity, and we are pleased that response from ECU and the broader community has been overwhelmingly positive. This Fulbright program is quite competitive, and ECU is fortunate to have received the award of a visiting specialist.”

Khaki holds degrees in education and Islamic law from Punjab University and the International Islamic University Pakistan.

He works both at the Federal Shariat Court in Islamabad and teaches at various universities in Pakistan. He is the author of several books, including “Human Rights: Issues and Religion” (Pakistan, 2005) and “Readings in Human Rights,” published by Ford and Fereich Nauman Stifting (Germany, 2002).

In addition to geography and international studies departments, other local hosts include: ECU’s Office of International Affairs, the Honors and EC Scholars Programs, and the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Also, Pitt County Schools, the Rotary Club, the World Affairs Council, “The Daily Reflector,” the Islamic Center, and the Inter-faith Alliance.

NCLR Founders Honored at Literary Homecoming

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

The founders of the “North Carolina Literary Review” were honored Sept. 28 at East Carolina University’s J.Y. Joyner Library with the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration.

Alex Albright, ECU professor of creative writing, Eva Roberts, professor emeritus of graphic design, and W. Keats Sparrow, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, were recognized for their lifetime of giving by students.

The award was presented at ECU’s Speed Part of the Palette

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Before heading to VIR, Malley traveled to Pennsylvania to pick up his engine from a shop there. After reinstalling the engine, his car had transmission problems. Malley couldn’t use all his gears on VIR’s long straightaways, hurting his lap times.

While he never solved the gearbox troubles, he still managed to finish third in his class.

Competitor and friend Mark Harner, who races a Brabham BT-21 formula car, was parked next to Malley in the paddock area at VIR. “You get hooked,” Harmer said of vintage racing. “Once you start, it’s like a drug. You get to come down here, spend a lot of money and make a lot of friends.”

Malley sees similarities between racing and art. Many people look at race cars, some with sharp angles, others with flowing curves, most all with sparkling paint and polished mechanics, and see works of art. The euphoria and reward one feels after taking crates of parts and assembling them into a working machine compares to the thrill of finishing a painting, Malley said. The hand-eye coordination and mental visualization required to put brush to canvas is similar to the skills needed to project oneself through a series of tight turns and down a fast straightaway, he said.

In addition, he said, the necessary attention to detail, commitment and repetition are similar to teaching.

“Teaching is a craft, like driving a racecar is a craft,” he said. “The car’s really a metaphor for my alter ego, if you will, or spirit.”

Nursing Fund Helps Students

By Crystal Bailty

A new fund established by the East Carolina University School of Nursing and ECU Medical and Health Sciences Foundation will help nursing students with financial crises.

Acting Dean Sylvia Brown recently started the Dean’s Gift by donating $10 in the name of each first semester nursing student to establish an emergency needs fund in the school. The goal is two-fold. Grants will be available to assist students during times of financial hardship, while the school develops a philanthropic environment to introduce and encourage a lifetime of giving by students. With 130 new nursing students this fall, the fund totals $1,300.

“This is an innovative way to meet an immediate emergency need while looking ahead to create a sustainable trend of giving back among our graduates,” Brown said. “We will develop student loyalty to this fund through transparency and frequent updates to the students regarding the types of emergencies that are funded. When they graduate in two years, they will want to contribute in order to offset emergency needs encountered by future students.”

Erika W. Best, president of the East Carolina Association of Nursing Students, said the fund is greatly needed because nursing students, besides typical costs for books and student fees, also pay for uniforms, stethoscopes and other fees and transportation to and from clinical sites. When a financial emergency arises, it quickly can become a crisis and interfere with learning.

“This fund is the nursing school’s way of reaching their hand out to a broader community has been overwhelm-

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**Faison Inspires through Dedication, Independence**

**In coordination with the Recognition and Rewards Committee of the ECU Staff Senate, the Pieces of Eight series honoring exceptional ECU staff recognizes Mary Faison.**

**By Judy Currin**

Mary Faison didn’t pay much attention to the headaches that plagued her during her junior year at North Carolina AT&T State University in Greensboro.

Majoring in social work, she carried a typically heavy workload, attended classes, completed homework and required reading, which often kept her up until the wee hours of the morning.

“I attributed the headaches to keeping late hours and just being tired,” said Faison, now an administrative medical transcriptionist in pediatrics for the Brody School of Medicine.

“Until the morning I woke up without my eyesight.”

Pseudotumor Cerebri was the diagnosis. Faison explained the condition more simply. “Intracranial pressure severed my optic nerve,” she said.

Unable to continue her studies, Faison enrolled in the School for the Blind located in Butner. “It was the first step in preparing me for adjusting to a sightless world,” Faison said.

The first order of business was to learn ‘cane travel.’ She was required to map out routes on a raised map of Durham, pick a point and travel it successfully the next day using the techniques she had been taught. While the instructor was always near, Faison said he never said a word in reference to keeping her safe.

Faison applied these valuable travel skills when she moved to Pitt County to be closer to her family and enrolled at Pitt Community College. “I learned the entire campus and was able to travel independently from class to class successfully making it on time always,” she said.

While attending the School for the Blind, Faison also learned listening skills. “I had to develop different ways of always being aware of my surroundings by sound,” she said. “Once this was developed it became second hand and even more skills, such as my sense of smell, came into play.” She learned to read Braille and to type on a Selectra II typewriter.

“My mother and I prayed that God would open the door for me for this job,” Faison said. “He did. That was 23 years ago.”

Using honed travel skills proved helpful in learning how to get around Brody. But the most helpful information came from one of her former bosses at Brody.

“He provided me with a mental picture of the building when he described it as a square doughnut,” Faison said.

Students Share Vision of Mattamuskeet Renovation

**By Erica Plouffe Lazure**

The vision of interior design students from East Carolina University for Lake Mattamuskeet could become part of the long-term plan to renovate the wildlife refuge’s historic pump house into an environmental learning center.

All semester long, the students worked in teams to create four scenarios that incorporated principles of conservation, education, and historic preservation for the site of the state’s largest lake and seasonal home for migratory birds. They presented their schematic designs for the learning center to state recreation and preservation officials at the Greenville Hilton Oct. 8.

“Having a balance between nature and design and historic preservation is important,” said Jackie Slevinsky, one of 18 senior interior design students.

Hunt McKinnon, professor of interior design in ECU’s College of Human Ecology, said that the aim of the program’s capstone course is for students to learn how to move beyond academic concepts and to work with actual clients to address and solve real problems. In previous years, students in the course have designed spaces for Bath High School, the Ectrarium, and various locations on the ECU campus.

“Our job is to train the students to replicate actual practice,” he said. “Too often student work goes in a closet and they never see it again.”

The Oct. 8 presentation was delivered to Gordon Myers, deputy director of N.C. Wildlife, and Reid Thomas, a preservation specialist from the N.C. Historic Preservation Office, as well as marine biologist Roger Rulifson from ECU and Mack Simpson, formerly of ECU’s Regional Development Services.

In addition to providing an educational resource areas designed to inform the public about the history of Lake Mattamuskeet, the students had ideas to create overnight facilities for Boy Scouts and other groups, to integrate solar and wind power technology, to offer elevated bookshelves on wheels in the event of flooding, the use of “gray water” technology for the septic system.

“We hope all these things combined can create an experience for visitors that they won’t find anywhere else,” ECU student Meghan Anders said. McKinnon said that the students will return to their groups and continue to tailor their schematic designs for future presentations and meetings with the resident and constituent groups in Hyde County, where Lake Mattamuskeet is located.

She began her career using an electric typewriter with a standard keyboard, a Brailler dictionary and a Dictaphone.

“Looking back on those early days, the work was taxing because I had to stop and re-wind the tape recorder again and again to make sure I didn’t miss anything,” Faison said.

Within a year, she received her first computer utilizing a synthesized speech system. And while this program provided voice output of the material displayed on the computer screen, Faison said the voice was so synthesized it was hard to understand. Today she uses Centrivity EMR, an electronic medical record system that enables care physicians and clinical staff to document patient encounters, streamline clinical workflow, and securely exchange clinical data with other providers, patients and information systems.

“Mary is a dedicated employee who never allows her disability to hinder her attitude or her drive to succeed,” said supervisor Kim Scarborough. “I am in awe of her independence.”

Faison is a member and regular attendee of New Jerusalem Holy Church where she sings in the choir. “Keeping busy keeps me happy,” Faison said.

And while she has no children of her own, Faison didn’t hesitate to step up to support and encourage her nephew, Christopher, when he lost his mother two years ago.

“I just tried to keep him focused and in school,” Faison said. Christopher recently graduated from AT&T State University and is interviewing this month with Lockheed Martin.

“Mary is especially loved by her family,” Scarborough said. “After working with her for several years it’s easy to see why. She inspires me daily.”

**Students from ECU’s interior design program present their schematic design proposals for Lake Mattamuskeet’s Environmental Learning Center Oct. 8. (Photo by Erica Plouffe Lazure)**
Challenges Highlighted in Campus Climate Surveys

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

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Susan Rankin told ECU faculty, students and staff who came to the Campus Climate Survey meetings Sept. 19-20 that she wanted them to leave the forums feeling uncomfortable. She wanted the campus commu-

ity to think about how their own words and actions affect others in their respec-
tive environments. She wanted people to begin to remedy that by talking to one another.

And she wanted to use the climate survey data to help create a more com-
fortable environment for ECU's students, faculty and staff and to address percep-
tions and realities about diversity, workplace climate, and safety.

"How can you come here and work together when you don’t know about each other?" said Rankin, hired by ECU to conduct the climate survey in spring 2007. "Be open to learning about each other. Begin by talking to each other."

Rankin told the participants of the six town hall meeting sessions that she wants everyone to be part of the solu-
tion in addressing and embracing ECU’s diverse campus.

"None of us can solve the problems for the entire campus," Rankin said. "But each of us can look in our own offices and see how we treat people around us."

The survey, which was completed by 3,237 people, suggests that ECU faces several challenges in connection with diversity issues that parallel ones iden-
tified in higher education institutions across the nation.

Those problems include concerns about class, status and privilege among staff employees; concerns about race and gender discrimination especially among students; concerns about "invisi-

bility" among people of faiths other than Christian, as well as for people who are gay, lesbian, or transgender; the perception among respondents regarding ECU’s efforts toward creating equity and com-

munity on campus.

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Forum Explores Survey Results

responses she received from students last semester demonstrate a keen concern for safety on both campuses and in the surrounding neighborhood. She hopes the forum will help let students know that ECU has heard their concerns and has made efforts to respond to them.

“Too often, survey responses get put on shelves; no one knows what happens to them,” Lieberman said Oct. 22, at the start of the two ECU Unity Safety Forums. “We want students to know their concerns have been heard and responded to.”

The aim of the survey was to determine what student perceptions were about campus safety; how they make themselves safe; and what they know about ECU’s campus safety resources, such as ECU’s Transit and Safe Ride; ECU Student Patrol; and parking services.

Officials have responded in writing to the students’ concerns.

Marilyn Sheerer, ECU interim provost and vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, said the results provided campus safety officials, police, and the surrounding community members with a good direction for its future programs and offerings.

“Please be assured that there is a decided emphasis being placed on safety and security on the ECU campus. Numerous strategy meetings are being held; police visibility has been increased; text messaging is available; planning around emergency response is ongoing; and off-campus services are being increased,” Sheerer said.

Other initiatives include new lights on campus; student parking allowed at 3 p.m. on the main campus; new police hires; and a change of uniform for parking monitors.

ECU’s Dean of Students is working closely with the ECU Police and staff. Each class is filled to capacity in classroom buildings and parking lots.

Survey Results Across Campus

Following are highlights from responses to the campus safety survey:

Administration
- ECU Police Department is promoting more police visibility, more interaction between the police and students, and more police involvement in education and training.
- ECU’s director of Student Legal Services is available to students.
- ECU is working to revise its crime Alerts, and to provide better follow-up regarding suspects who have been apprehended.
- ECU’s Dean of Students is working to address the issue of students with severe mental health issues.

ECU Police Department:
- ECU Police Department has 17 officers trained for bicycle patrol with 11 officers currently riding.
- ECU Police has increased its number of officers by five since June, and are in the process of hiring six more officers for new positions, to total 62 officers once the hiring is complete.
- ECU Police has 30 student patrol officers.
- ECU Police offers the campus community a “ride-along” program to increase understanding of the duties of the officers.
- ECU Police has increased visibility in classroom buildings and parking lots.
- The department offers self-defense courses monthly to students, faculty and staff. Each class is filled to capacity at 25 maximum students.

Facilities:
- A new pedestrian walkway from Jones Residence Hall to College Hill Drive is nearing completion.
- Lighting has been added to targeted areas on both campuses.
- ECU Transit Service:
  - Pirate Express provides safe, late-night bus transportation to the downtown area Thursday through Saturday evenings. Most ECU buses used for late-night service are equipped with surveillance cameras.
  - Major bus stops are located near high-traffic areas and include lights and blue light phones.
  - Safe Ride, a point to point van service, is operated nightly during the academic year for students, faculty and staff both on and off campus within the transit system service area. Police escorts are available (328-6787).

Parking & Transportation:
- Parking and Transportation Services staff have switched to a different uniform style to avoid confusion with ECU Police officers.
- Parking and Transportation Services has begun working more closely with the ECU Police.
- Parking and Transportation Services has opened many parking lots to all ECU parking permit holders at 3 p.m., to provide closer proximity parking for night classes.

Other initiatives:
- Video cameras: There are 291 video cameras on campus and another 154 cameras are planned.
- Key Card Access: Campus living is evaluating card entry door access systems for 2008-09.
- LCD Screens: Plans are in the works to have a centrally managed digital sign system.
- Text Messaging capabilities for ECU students introduced this fall, coming for faculty and staff.
- Voice-Over IP: ITCS is testing a Public Announce module.

Hogan Awarded Photo Grant

ECU photography professor Annie Hogan was awarded a grant from the Australia Council for the Arts to photograph historic plantation houses throughout several southern states. Hogan will use a pinhole camera made from a tiny box – technology used during the Civil War period – to capture the feel of dwellings during that era.

“The plantation house raises numerous issues so crucial to understanding the past and present,” Hogan said. “The plantation house in its grand, Georgian architecture depicts symmetry and beauty, yet the institution of slavery is one of intimacy/distance and freedom/confine ment,” Hogan said.

Hogan completed her undergradua te study at Queensland College of Art at Griffith University in Brisbane, Australia. She earned her M.F.A. from the School of Art Institute of Chicago.

She joined ECU’s School of Art and Design in 2006.

ECU’s High Bay Laboratory Dedicated in Oct. 6 Ceremony

East Carolina University
Breast Cancer Survival Improves with Self-Exam

By Doug Boyd

Breast cancer patients in eastern North Carolina frequently find their tumors themselves, and those tumors, often discovered later than they would be through mammograms, are larger and more difficult to treat, according to studies at East Carolina University.

A team led by Dr. Andrea Rosenberg, a resident physician at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, analyzed the medical records of more than 1,500 women diagnosed with breast cancer at ECU between 1999 and 2004 and found that 12 percent of them had tumors at least 5 centimeters in diameter. One-fifth of black women had tumors that size, compared to less than 9 percent of white women. Those lacking health insurance or on Medicaid were also more likely to have larger tumors.

A tumor 5 centimeters or more in diameter would be at least a stage 2 cancer, Rosenberg said. Cancer is classified in four stages, and stage 2 cancer is advanced and may affect lymph nodes but has not yet spread to other parts of the body. Rosenberg added that catching a cancer before stage 3 can make a significant difference in treatment and quality of life for patients.

The five-year breast cancer survival rate ranges from 98 percent for stage 1 cancers to approximately 16 percent for stage 4 cancers, according to Rosenberg. Therefore, a patient is more likely to be cured or have prolonged survival if she presents with a smaller tumor.

Rosenberg also said her research points to a need for a better understanding of the cultural explanations for why larger tumors are more often found among black women than white women.

In a separate study, Rosenberg found that three-quarters of breast cancers were discovered by women examining themselves. That figure included women who had regular mammography.

In the Spotlight

Nursing Fund To Help Students

continued from page 5

student in need and pulling them up," said Best, 24, of Goldsboro.

“Some students are fortunate to have additional help from family to offset these expenses, but others are self-sufficient and must take care of these on their own.”

“Our course load makes it difficult to hold a job outside of school. For those students who have no other option, this is an increased burden.”

The fund will be greatly beneficial to those students that are working hard for their success and need a helping hand.”

Appointments/Elections

Lou Anna Hardee (Education) was installed as president of the Optimist Club of Greenville.

NewsMakers

Jalil Roshandel (Political Science) was interviewed with Radio Farda (a version of Radio Liberty in Europe) for broadcasts in Iran and other Farsi-speaking countries, regarding Iranian nuclear controversies, Sept. 12. Roshandel also interviewed with SBS Radio in Australia on Middle East and Iran issues, Sept. 22.

John Stillier (Biology) on the Discovery Channel’s Discovery News Web site, regarding the similarities between plants and animals, Sept. 12.

Keith Ramsey (Medicine) on WITN-TV news on three cases of staph infection in Beaufort County schools, Sept. 20.

Peter L. Francia (Political Science) was quoted Sept. 28 in the “Las Vegas Sun” and Sept. 29 in the “Christian Science Monitor” on organized labor’s role in the 2008 presidential election. Francia was quoted in the “Charlotte Observer,” Oct. 1 on John Edwards’ choice to accept public financing for his Democratic presidential primary bid.

Suzanne Orr (Health Education) in “The Daily Reflector” on her research regarding connections between pregnancy-related anxiety and unexpected preterm births, Oct. 7.


Service, Honors and Professional Activities

Nancy House (Art Education) was selected as the North Carolina Higher Education Art Educator of the Year for 2007-08 by the N.C. Art Education Association. She has served as a regional representative, secretary, and treasurer for the association, as well as a provider of a variety of state conference workshops on studio art, African Art and material culture criticism. House was instrumental in creating the NCAEA “Journal of Visual Culture,” which recently celebrated its second publication. House is active in the National Art Education Association and the College Art Association. Her work has been published in “Art Education,” “School Arts,” and “NAEA Newsletter.”

Karen S. Voytecki (Education) received the Kiwanian of the Year award from the Kiwanian Club of Pitt County Professionals. She was honored for activities which included work with the Aktion Club of Kiwanis composed of adults with special needs, Challenger Little League and TOPSoccer for special needs children.

Eight employees and faculty members at the Brody School of Medicine recently received Spotlight on Service Awards. Recipients are Carolyn Dehmon, group practice administration; Stephen “Joey” Dorriety, patient-access services; David Fairbrother, a pediatric cardiologist; Toni Gaines, housekeeping; Paul Garcia, assistant professor of psychiatry medicine; Edna Merritt, a physician extender; Markveia Smith, obstetrics and gynecology patient-access services; and Aretha Williams, vascular surgery patient-access services.
Tourism Policy Topic of Book

East Carolina University tourism experts co-authored a textbook designed for students and strategists of tourism and tourism policy.


The book examines the future of tourism policy development and present conceptual tools to equip students and professionals to make their own contributions to future policies, said Edgell.

Nurse Faculty Inducted into National Education Academy

By Crystal Baitly

East Carolina University School of Nursing faculty members Martha Raile Alligood and Frances R. Eason have been inducted as fellows in the Academy of Nursing Education by the National League for Nursing.

Alligood and Eason were among 41 fellows from 33 schools of nursing across the country inducted Sept. 29 as part of the NLN annual education summit in Phoenix.

Selected by the NLN Board of Governors, the oversight body for the academy, fellows were chosen for their sustained and significant contributions to the field of nursing education, said NLN Board President Toni Bargagliotti.

“We are proud of the visionary leadership these fellows represent. They serve as important role models to anyone aspiring to make a difference in nursing education, and ultimately to the delivery of health care in the United States,” she said.

Alligood, professor and director of the doctoral program in the ECU School of Nursing, joined the faculty in 2004. She was elected earlier this year to the governing board of the Southern Nursing Research Society and received the society’s Leadership in Nursing Research Award in 2006. Alligood’s research has focused on theories of adult human development and nursing empathy. She also has co-edited two nursing theory textbooks that have been printed in nine languages including English.

Eason is an ECU alumna and joined the faculty in 1976. She is project director of ECU’s new Nursing Education Educator Development program which is designed to assist faculty in schools of nursing meet N.C. Board of Nursing education requirements. Piloted at ECU, it is now offered statewide through distance education. Eason is also an expert in National Council Licensure Examination design and preparation.

Inductees were lauded for innovative work, service to the academy and their contributions to the field of nursing education. Eason was also cited for her commitment to nursing education students as well as for teaching and research.

McKernan Book Calls For ‘Creative’ Curriculum

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

A new approach to curriculum development that promotes creativity and research-based problem solving is outlined in a new book written by an East Carolina University professor of education.


“Curriculum and Imagination” provides a rational and logical alternative for all educators who plan curricula but do not wish to be held captive by a mechanistic ‘ends-means’ notion of educational planning,” said McKernan, who teaches in the College of Education’s Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

“Too often we decide in advance what our students are supposed to learn,” he said. “But a student who is being creative will come up with unexpected outcomes. Instruction can play a role in that. Pure education is an induction into knowledge; it’s an inquiry.”

The book, intended to be a text for education students as well as for teachers, gives an alternate theory for student learning that avoids the teach-to-the-test paradigm and promotes critical thinking. “I argue that this is a radical, but more intelligent educational approach, to curriculum planning.”

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The demands for measuring student performance and requiring uniform standards in public schools, he said, leaves teachers with very little academic freedom, he said.

“What we need is a judgment model versus a ‘marker’ model. Teachers should be more like evaluators, but the state has taken away that responsibility.

Teachers can engage in what McKernan calls “action research” to help address the concerns that surface in classrooms and school social environments.

“The teacher should be an action researcher of the curriculum’s effects,” McKernan said. Teachers should attempt to identify problems in their classrooms and conduct research as a means of solving them. “I argue that this is a radical, but more intelligent educational approach, to curriculum planning.”

VASCULAR SCREENING: Pamela Joyner of the division of vascular surgery at the Brody School of Medicine checks Bobby Carlyle of Dover for peripheral arterial disease during a Sept. 18 screening event where 103 people were checked for vascular diseases. Peripheral arterial disease is among the leading causes of death in the U.S., yet generally goes unnoticed until a catastrophic event occurs, such as a stroke or aneurysm rupture. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)
ECU’s ‘First-Ever’ HumorFest Examines Humor as Art

By Erica Plouffe Lazure

Q: What do a Romanian public radio poet, a Jewish cowboy, a Southern Lady novelist have in common? They are the keynote speakers for the East Carolina University’s HumorFest, Nov. 1 through Nov. 3. Author and N.C. native Jill McCorkle, poet Andrei Codrescu, and rock-n-roller Texas novelist Kinky Friedman will speak at ECU as part of the HumorFest-invites. Codrescu and dancier Claire Porter will present “Stretching Muscles and Words” at 7:15 p.m., Nov. 1. Friedman will talk satire and jungle at 8 p.m., Nov. 2. A luncheon with McCorkle is set for 12:30 p.m., Nov. 3.

“Humor as an art form rarely attracts the serious attention it deserves,” said Tom Douglass, an ECU professor of English who is co-chairing the event. “The East Carolina HumorFest intends to correct this omission and provide performers, scholars, and students an opportunity to enjoy humor in all of its forms.”

More than a dozen panels with scholars from five countries will present papers humor and all its forms including: taboo and Southern literature, political satire, medieval and renaissance humor, satire in popular culture, humor and healing, among others. Joke tellers, punsters, instigators, musicians, improv masters, impersonators, dancers, jesters, actors, village idi-ots and storytellers – who also happen to be ECU students – will participate in “Joke-Offs” planned during the weekend. A campus-wide cream pie-toss will wrap up events Saturday, Nov. 3.

Tickets for HumorFest are available at the ECU Box Office at 1-800-ECU-ARTS or 328-4788, or by visiting http://www.ecu.edu/humor. Individual tick-ets for each event are $15 in advance/$20 at the door. Full conference access is free for ECU students, $25 for students of other campuses, $80 for all others (includes a ticket to each keynote event). Collections for the first-ever National Registry of Laughter have already begun. Those interested in becoming part of the growing body of laughs are asked to e-mail a five to 20-second MP3 recording of laughter to ecuhumorfest@ecu.edu. Provide the NAME of the laugher, the DATE laughed, and the LOCATION. Visit: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/humor-laugh-page.cfm to listen in on a few good laughs.

The registry will be a human record of vocal joy,” Douglass said. “The best presence we have in the world is a good laugh. You know you’re present when you’re laughing.”

The HumorFest is a partnership of ECU’s English department, Thomas Har-riot College of Arts and Sciences and the Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach. Visit http://www.ecu.edu/humor for more information.

Campus Calendar

OCTOBER

SATURDAY 27
Homecoming Weekend
ECU Pirate football, vs. University of Alabama – Birmingham, Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Greenville, 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY 29
“Truth and Reconciliation - A Strategy for Healing,” Cynthia Brown, Hendrix Theatre, 10 a.m. to noon.

NOVEMBER

THURSDAY 1
Lecture by Traianos Gagatsis, “Sense of Space and Place in 6th Century Jordan,” Flanagan 265, 7 p.m.

HumorFest, Mendenhall Student Center, through Nov. 3. “Stretching Muscles and Words,” by Andrei Codrescu and Claire Porter, Hendrix Theatre, 7:15 p.m.

ECU Opera Theatre, “Sweeney Todd, The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,” A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, Thursday and Friday at 7 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 3 at 2 p.m.

FRIDAY 2
Kinky Friedman, Wright Auditorium, 8 p.m., part of ECU’s HumorFest.

Engineering and Technology Day, sponsored by the N.C. Eastern Region Economic Development Commission, Science & Tech. Bldg., 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

SATURDAY 3
Luncheon with N.C. author Jill McCorkle, Mendenhall Student Center, 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m., part of ECU’s HumorFest.

ECU Pirate football, vs. Marshall University, Huntington, W.Va., 4:30 p.m.

THURSDAY 22
Thanksgiving holiday (through Nov. 23)

SATURDAY 24
ECU Pirate football, vs. Tulane, Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, 1 p.m.

MONDAY 26
“Dr. Joseph Goldberger and Pellagra: His Life and Legacy,” with Paul Strausbaugh, Laupus Library in the Health Sciences Library, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY 28
Lecture by S. Thomas Parker, “A Possible Early Christian Church at Aqaba on the Red Sea in Jordan,” Flanagan 265, 7 p.m.

Exhibitions


Work by ceramicist James Kleug, Mendenhall Student Center (Nov. 5 – Nov. 30).

Lensless Photography, Camera Obscura, Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Gallery, Nov. 5 - 28.

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**New ECU Physicians Program Puts ‘Patients First’**

By Doug Boyd

ECU Physicians is shooting for a better experience in all aspects of patient interaction with staff and health care providers through a new program called “Patients First.”

Officials began working on Patients First during the summer. Results have appeared in the form of the new medical practice sites at Moye Medical Center; a new tagline for ECU Physicians, “Smart medicine”; new advertisements; a new ECU Physicians Web site; and more.

In November, patients will be able to give their opinions through a new survey.

“The reason our clinical services exist is to take care of patients,” said Dr. Nicholas Benson, vice dean of the Brody School of Medicine and acting medical director of ECU Physicians. “Unless we consistently put patient needs first with every patient every time, we’re not doing a good job providing that care,” Benson said. Likewise, he added, if customer service attributes are lacking in clinical areas, “then we’re missing the mark in educating medical students and residents as well.”

ECU Physicians is making major investments and improvements, many aimed at the goals of Patients First, said Christopher Collins, interim executive director of ECU Physicians and a consultant with ECG Management Consultants.

Examples are new medical and information technologies, new methods of scheduling appointments to allow patients to see physicians when it is convenient for the patients, new ways to receive feedback from patients such as dedicated phone lines, and new educational and marketing materials.

“Overall, this campaign is to raise awareness and make a public pledge that the faculty and staff of ECU Physicians has and always will keep patients first in everything we do every day,” Collins said.

Patients First is a result of the business turnaround effort that began in August 2006. In the spring, ECG Management Consultants recommended developing a customer-service campaign and establishing a group to look at ways to monitor and improve operations and raise awareness of ECU Physicians.

“There consistently receive high marks for our quality of care,” Collins said. “This effort is to ensure that we match this across the entire clinical enterprise.” In addition, some clinical areas might implement “advanced access,” a form of scheduling where some slots are for same-day appointments while others are for advance appointments.

When patients have complaints, they may call clinic patient care, leave a voice mail, which sometimes is more comfortable, Collins said, or they can press a number and be routed to a live person around the clock. All issues will be tracked through a new patient feedback system to ensure follow-up occurs on every item, big or small, Collins said.

As part of launching Patients First, approximately 730 clinical and support staff members recently attended a half-day customer service session at the Greenville Convention Center led by The Studer Group, a national firm specializing in health care customer service.

“It gave me a fresh perspective on my job in the health care industry,” Chris- tina Moser, nurse manager for the ECU plastic surgery practice, said, “I try not to think about can, and that seminar provided new tech- niques on how to do that.”

While ECU does not schedule seminars in the past, Benson said Patients First is broader and “involves every aspect of clinical operations.” Also, plans are to reward units that perform well on a satisfaction survey. Collins said. Benson and Collins are leading the effort under the direction of the ECU Physicians board. A committee of department administr- ators and representatives from group practice administration and patient-access services is also working on the effort.

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**Cooking with Class**

East Carolina University’s Executive Chef Felix Fernandez demonstrates how to cook a variety of apples during the Cooking with Class event held Sept. 27 at Sweetheart’s in Todd Dining Hall. With a primary focus on fall vegetables, Fernandez also showed the class how to cook and use a spaghetti squash. Janie Eubanks, nutrition director of campus dining, discussed the nutritional benefits of adding fall vegetables to the diet. Participants at Cooking with Class events pay $5 for materials and lunch. (Photo by Jeannine Manning Hudson)

**Honor Given to NCLR Founders**

Association to house NCLR at ECU.

He also thanked Roberts for her ideas to incorporate in the journal a strong visual and artistic presence. “Eva truly opened my eyes to seeing, not just magazines, but the world,” he said.

Sparrow said that the high standards Albright set in the beginning continue today under the leadership of Bauer and English professor Lorraine Robinson. He said he knew that Albright would not fail him.

“Albright is a big distinction between getting a journal approved for ECU and making it a product that would reflect well upon ECU,” Sparrow said.

“I wanted to make sure I was getting the journal into the best hands possible. Anything [Albright] does, he does it superbly.”

This year being ECU’s Centennial, the NCLR has a focus on ECU writers and artists. Bauer remarked that it was most fitting that the individuals honored with the Roberts Award are from ECU.

The award was named for Mr. and Mrs. B.W. Roberts of Durham, in honor of their gift to Joyner Library of the Roberts Collection of North Carolina Literature.

**Now Open at Moye Medical**

ECU Physicians’ new general internal medicine outpatient practice site is now open on the second floor of Moye Medical Center. The practice is at 521 Moye Blvd. ECU Physicians’ cardiology and pulmonary and critical care medicine practices are on the first floor. The new practice site will improve efficiency, comfort and convenience for patients, said Dr. Paul Bolin, interim chairman of the Department of Internal Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine. ECU Physicians is the group practice of the medical school.

General internal medicine outpatients have previously been seen at the Brody Outpatient Center Medical Pavilion Suite 6.

The new building has 28 exam rooms on the 14,121-square-foot second floor. General internal medicine has also added acupuncture and stress tests. Follow-up appointments have been lengthened to allow patients to have more time with their health care providers. The practice is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. To contact ECU Physicians’ general internal medicine practice, call 744-3229.

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*East Carolina University*