Budget Cuts Examined
By John Durham

Officials at East Carolina University are assessing ways to deal with a 2 percent reduction in the university’s state appropriations, which was announced in September by the Office of State Budget and Management.

The latest reduction, a one-time decrease, amounts to about $5 million. It comes on top of a $2 million permanent cut enacted by the General Assembly during the summer in the state budget bill.

Kevin Seitz, vice chancellor for administration and finance at ECU, said, “Given the current economic conditions, we had anticipated this mandatory reduction. We appreciate the state’s continuing support of the university and we will carefully implement these requirements.”

Seitz said the university will look at several cost-cutting measures, including a temporary freeze in non-faculty hiring, eliminating non-essential travel and curtailing optional spending. “If we have a contractual obligation, such as a lease, we will spend money for that, but we might delay buying a new truck or piece of equipment,” he said. Because the budget cut is non-recurring, the university will not be forced to lay off employees as it implements reductions, Seitz said.

The university’s annual budget totals more than $650 million. Of that, about $250 million is state appropriations.

Goal Set for State Giving
By Erica Plouffe Lazure

As it enters its 23rd year, a goal of $235,000 has been set for East Carolina University’s share of the annual State Employees Combined Campaign.

With roughly 900 community organizations and charities to choose from, the annual fundraiser provides ECU employees an opportunity to donate to causes and programs that matches their beliefs and interests through Oct. 31.

“The combination of our individual efforts makes a big difference for our communities,” ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said. “ECU has the opportunity, once again, to emphasize leadership and compassion for our neighbors.”

In 2007, ECU employees

continued on page 12

ECU Hosts Second Life in Virtual World
By Christine Neff

East Carolina University

Virtual visitors examine coursework posted by ECU interior design students in a Second Life classroom on East Carolina University’s 3-D virtual reality campus. In addition to classrooms, the virtual reality campus includes realistic representations of campus locations such as the clock tower, the cupola and the Wright Building. Visitors may use avatars - lifelike representations of people - to walk around and interact on the campus. (Photo by Joy Holster)

continued on page 10

East Carolina University
Living on the Hill: Family Arrangement in Jones Hall

By Jeannine Manning Hutson

Like many young married couples, April and Dave Barnes live in an apartment with their two young children while saving money to buy a house.

What makes their living arrangement a little different is their apartment is surrounded by 346 East Carolina University students in Jones Residence Hall on College Hill, which is home to six residence halls.

For April Barnes, it’s just a natural fit, she said. “We just hear the white noise outside. We have trouble sleeping when the students are gone and it’s too quiet,” Barnes said.

As the residence hall coordinator for Jones, Barnes supervises the 11 student resident advisers in Jones and four at North Campus Crossing, a private apartment complex where ECU students are being housed temporarily this semester. She is also responsible for the overall administrative and programming aspects of the residence hall.

“Waz” Miller, director of residence life for Campus Living, said that Barnes has “a warm and approachable demeanor and the students seem to gravitate toward her. She takes a real interest in her staff from their academics to their roles on her team,” Miller added, “She is very committed to her job and very organized. She likes to see the bright side of things, works hard and likes to have fun. I think her organizational skills help her to balance her work and family life.”

This is Barnes’ second year living in Jones; she and her husband also lived in Green Residence Hall for two years.

“My poor husband,” she said laughing, “was outnumbered one to 420 females.”

For Barnes and her family, the non-traditional housing arrangement has been a yard – a yard that’s not shared by hundreds of college students. All residence halls on the Hill are all freshmen who are athletes or are studying music or engineering.

Barnes praised the students for their behavior around her girls. “They all know I have kids and they are respectful of that and watch their language.”

She laughed and said some nights it takes 30 minutes to get into their apartment because her girls are quite popular with their fellow Jones residents. “My favorite is when the big football players get down on the girls’ level to say, ‘Hey Jamar.’ They saw him as one of their dorm friends,” she said.

“One of the rewards of being surrounded by college students is the built-in-sitter factor. Students living in Jones Residence Hall Coordinator April Barnes interacts with her 2-year-old daughter Abbie at the family’s Jones Hall apartment.

David (left) and April Barnes (right) travel up the hill to Jones Residence Hall with their children Abbie (left) and Morgan. The family lives in the residence hall where April serves as residence hall coordinator. (Photos by Cliff Hollis)

Barnes and her husband, who is a native of Iowa, met at the University of North Dakota, where he was in the aviation program. He is now a pilot for U.S. Airways Express, based with a crew at Raleigh-Durham International airport.

Barnes earned her undergraduate degree in secondary education focusing on English in middle school and a master’s of education degree concentrating in leadership, both from the University of North Dakota. All residence hall coordinators at ECU have master’s degrees.

For Barnes and her family, the non-traditional housing arrangement has been win-win. “I love my job, and it’s a good way to pay off school and flight loans.”

While she loves being around the students, Barnes said it’s becoming time for her family to move to a house with a yard – a yard that’s not shared by hundreds of college students.

She wants to stay involved with students and is hoping for an assistant director role or position with off-campus living with on-campus office hours for the 2009-10 academic year.

“Elm Street Park is right next door, and the kids love when we go there. But it would be nice to have a backyard for them to play in,” she said.

Right now the girls’ bikes are stowed in the corner of Barnes’ office. Their apartment is filled with little girl puzzles and activity kits. The girls share one of the two bedrooms and have a play area off from the living/dining room area.

“One every five weeks, I’m the coordinator on duty for the residence halls on the Hill. That’s the one part of the job that’s hard, because if Dave’s out of town flying and I have to go out, then I have to call one of my R.A.s to come and sleep on my sofa,” she said.

One of the rewards of being surrounded by college students is the built-in-sitter factor. "The R.A.s and the residents are my favorite part of the job,” she said.
News in Brief

Former U.S. Comptroller General to Speak at ECU

The ECU College of Business will host the Hon. David M. Walker, former U.S. Comptroller General, as its fourth speaker in the Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series. Walker’s presentation, “Keeping America Great,” will be held at the Hilton Greenville, Nov. 5 at 3:30 p.m. U.S. Rep. Walter Jones is scheduled to attend and introduce the speaker. The event is free and open to the public. In March, Walker left his position as U.S. Comptroller General – where he served as the nation’s top auditor as well as head of the U.S. Government Accountability Office. He held both presidential appointments for 10 years. Walker is president and chief executive officer of the newly-established Peter G. Peterson Foundation. Frederick Niswander, dean of the College of Business, said, “Mr. Walker is a dynamic speaker with an important message for our country – we need to get our financial house in order. As one of the nation’s foremost financial authorities, his insight will be both enriching and enlightening.”

Eligible Faculty May Apply for Phased Retirement

Effective Sept. 1, applications are being accepted for participation by eligible faculty members in the ECU Phased Retirement Program. Letters were sent via campus mail Sept. 2 to faculty members who appear to meet eligibility criteria based on Human Resources records. Complete program information is available at http://www.ecu.edu/aas/AcadPersonnelForms.cfm. The following institutional officers are authorized to answer questions about the Phased Retirement Program: Lisa Sutton, assistant vice chancellor, Division of Health Sciences, Brody Medical Sciences Building, 4W-54C, 744-1910 or suttonl@ecu.edu; and Linda Ingalls, associate vice chancellor, Division of Academic and Student Affairs, Spillman 221, 328-5442 or ingallsl@ecu.edu.

Golden Living Center donates to Brody

Golden Living Centers has donated $110,801 to the Department of Family Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine to support the department’s nursing home teaching project. The department provides primary medical care for residents of the local Golden Living facility. Hal Garland, executive director of the center, presented the check Sept. 3 to Dr. Kenneth Steinweg, interim chairman of the Department of Family Medicine and director of the medical school’s geriatric division; Dr. Tae Joon Lee, medical director at Golden Living Center; and Maria Knupp, a family nurse practitioner in the ECU director of the medical school’s geriatric division; Dr. Tae Joon Lee, medical director at Golden Living Center; and Maria Knupp, a family nurse practitioner in the ECU geriatric division. The money will support instruction of family medicine residents and fellows in geriatrics and help pay for salaries and teaching materials. This year is the 27th the center has supported the teaching project.

Health Care Forum Set for Oct. 7

The 2008 Phi Kappa Phi Annual Forum, “Health Care: Public or Private Good?” will be held 8:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Oct. 7 at the Brody School of Medicine. Henry J. Aaron, senior fellow in economic studies at The Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C., will present, “Damnably Hard, Agonizingly Protracted, and Utterly Vital: Health Care Reform in the United States.” ECU Board of Trustee Chairman Robert Greecyn, president of N.C. Blue Cross and Blue Shield, will present the welcoming address and moderate a panel of experts including Pam Silverman, N.C. Institute of Medicine; Mark Hall, Wake Forest University; Charles Willson, ECU Department of Pediatrics; and ECU Board of Trustees member Joel Butler, University Health Systems of Eastern North Carolina. Attendees should register at http://ecuhec.ecu.edu.

ECU and Hilton Partner with ‘Jazz at Night’

The ECU School of Music Jazz Studies Program and the Hilton Greenville Hotel are partnering this fall to host the Jazz at Night series on six Fridays during 2008-2009. The first performance was held Sept. 12 for a standing-room-only crowd. Each event features performances by jazz studies students and faculty, as well as occasional guest artists. Carroll Dashiell, director of jazz studies, said the unique town-and-gown partnership will benefit the jazz studies program and students. “We are delighted to have a venue like the Hilton Greenville and this type of access for the community to the jazz program, and I know our students will enjoy the audience and the learning experience,” Dashiell said. The Hilton offers room packages, a cash appetizer and beverage service, and donates a percentage of restaurant purchases to the jazz studies program. Additional information is available at http://www.ecu.edu/news/poe/poehome.cfm.
Raab Brings Cancer Care Home to ECU Med School

By Doug Boyd

Her parents pioneered advanced cancer care in eastern North Carolina, and now Dr. Rachel Raab has come home to continue the tradition.

Raab is one of the newest faculty members in the division of hematology/oncology at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University. She’s following in the footsteps of her parents, Drs. Spencer and Mary Raab, who started the division at ECU’s new medical school in 1977.

“ar, her husband, Dr. Francois Archambault, an anesthesiologist, and their 16-month-old son, Julien, arrived in August after Raab completed a cancer fellowship in New York.

“It’s going well so far,” Raab said recently during a break between clinics. “It’s been a good transition and I’ve got a lot of support from the people in my department.”

Raab has an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., and a medical degree from ECU. She completed residency and fellowship training at Albert Einstein College of Medicine and Montefiore Medical Center in Bronx, N.Y.

Like her mother, Raab specializes in breast cancer. It is the second leading cause of cancer death in women after lung cancer, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The rate of breast cancer among women in North Carolina is approximately 110 to 119 cases for every 100,000 women, with African-American women more likely to die from the disease than other women.

“Even though we’ve come a long way since my parents moved here in the 1970s, there’s still a lot to be done for patients in this area,” Raab said. The opportunity to sub-specialize in breast cancer helped draw her to ECU. She also said Greenville is a growing city with the chance to be the leader in cancer care for a large portion of the state. Cancer center leaders believe she can be part of that plan.

“For the region, this is a homecoming to a community that raised her and is proud to have her return,” said Dr. Adam Asch, associate director of ECU’s Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center. “She brings to this job not only her experience as an oncologist, but she knows the region and cared enough to return with her husband.”

Her mother is revered by many of her patients, and a portrait of Raab’s father, who died of cancer in 1993, hangs in the cancer center. Raab teared up a bit as she remembered him.

“I really can’t even imagine what it was like in 1977,” she said. “I think they realized what the need was here for cancer services. They had a vision.”

Fresh, New Choices Featured in Renovated Dining Hall

By Christine Neff

Salmon fillets cooked in a smoker. “Sizzling salads” topped with pan-seared beef or chicken. Pizza slices served hot from the oven.

It may sound more like fine dining than on-campus cuisine, but these menu items and more can now be found at East Carolina University’s newly renovated Todd Dining Hall.

“We’re very excited about these changes,” Joyce Sealey, food service director at ECU, said. “This new model completely changes the common perceptions about dining hall food.”

Extensive renovations have given the cafeteria on College Hill a lively, market-style atmosphere where food preparation takes center stage.

Seven show kitchens offer home-style meals, grilled sandwiches and entrees, a self-serve produce market, pizza and pasta, homemade desserts and a variety of beverages. Vegetarian fare is available at every meal, and healthy options are promoted throughout the facility.

“Universities around the country have embraced the Fresh Food Company concept that focuses on serving fresh, locally-grown foods and making preparation more visible to the customers,” Sealey said.

Todd Hall goes a step further by employing high-end cooking tools, such as a new pizza deck oven and a smokehouse that cooks up traditional eastern North Carolina favorites.

Other additions include high seating around the deli counter, television screens, multiple beverage stations, even a marble slab in the dessert station to mix toppings into ice cream.

One traditional cafeteria item has been taken out of all the dining halls on campus, including Todd. ECU’s Dining Services introduced trayless dining this semester as a way to curb food and water waste.

Diners no longer use trays to transport their food to the table, though some trays remain available to people with physical or medical challenges.

A pilot of the policy held last year at ECU showed that more than 2,000
Nursing Receives Top Award

By Crystal Baity

East Carolina University’s College of Nursing has been designated a Center of Excellence by the National League for Nursing.

Acting Dean Sylvia Brown accepted the award for the college Sept. 20 during the National League for Nursing’s Education Summit in San Antonio, Texas.

ECU was one of six schools to receive the designation for 2008-2011. The University of North Carolina at Greensboro also received distinction.

The ECU College of Nursing was lauded for creating environments that promote student learning and professional development, one of several criteria used to evaluate candidates.

“In everything we do, through all interactions with patients and in our endeavors to contribute to health care quality, East Carolina University College of Nursing seeks to exceed expectations and achieve excellence not just for the accolade of a job well done, but because the health of our constituents depends on our steadfast dedication to excellence,” said Brown.

Isaacson to Deliver Lecture

By Christine Nef

Walter Isaacson, president and CEO of the Aspen Institute and former CEO of CNN, will deliver the Premier Lecture in the 2008-2009 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences’ Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Isaacson will speak on “Creative Leaders Who Have Shaped Our World,” in Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m., on Oct. 8.

Isaacson began his career in journalism at The Sunday Times of London. He joined TIME magazine in 1978 and became managing editor in 1994. He served as chairman and CEO of CNN in 2001, and now leads the Aspen Institute, an international nonprofit organization dedicated to fostering open-minded dialogue. In December 2007, President George W. Bush appointed him to chair the U.S. – Palestinian Public Partnership, which seeks to create economic and educational opportunities in the Palestinian territories.

Isaacson also serves as the co-chair of the U.S. – Vietnamese Dialogue on Agent Orange.

He has authored several books, including “Einstein: His Life and Universe,” “Benjamin Franklin: an American Life,” and “Kissinger: A Biography.” The Premier Lecture is sponsored by the David Julian and Virginia Mendenhall Student Center.

Tickets are free for the ECU community and $10 for the public at ECU’s Central Ticket Office, 328-4788. For additional information, visit http://www.ecu.edu/vojages.

Protein Could Lead To New Blood Pressure Treatment

By Doug Boyd

Funded by a $1.6 million grant, an East Carolina University researcher is studying a protein that might hold a key to reducing high blood pressure and improving kidney function in people with kidney disease.

Dr. Yan-Hua Chen, an associate professor of anatomy and cell biology at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has received the five-year grant from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute, part of the National Institutes of Health, to study the function of claudin-7, a protein that makes up part of the barrier that controls the flow of molecules between cells.

Chen’s preliminary research has shown that claudin-7 interacts with an enzyme called WNK4 kinase and forms a pathway for chloride ions to enter the bloodstream. Interaction of claudin-7 with a mutated version of WNK-4 may lead to high blood pressure.

Understanding the role of claudin-7 in these intercellular barriers and pathways could lead to medicines that could help people with high blood pressure as well as kidney disease, Chen said. It could also help people whose blood pressure is too low.

“We need to find out the mechanism of this claudin-7 in the control of ionic balance in the body,” Chen said.

“The next five years will be very exciting for us.”

Chen began her research with grants last year from the ECU Division of Research and Graduate Studies and the N.C. Biotechnology Center, which allowed her to collect necessary data to revise and resubmit her federal grant request.

Chen is working with fellow ECU scientists Dr. Qun Lu of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology and Dr. Abdel Abdel-Rahman of the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology on the claudin-7 study. In another study involving the protein, she is working with Dr. Kathryn Verbanac, a scientist in the ECU Department of Surgery, to discover how claudin-7 might suppress tumors in lung.

The study is funded by a $143,271 grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences of NIH.

ECU Senators Walk for Heart

American Heart Association. The disease is prevalent in this part of the country.

ECU employees can sign up to walk or contribute funds to the cause by visiting the web site, http://heartwalk.kintera.org/af/home/default.asp?ievent=258306. Daughtry will also take checks made out to the American Heart Association.

The event raises awareness about the Staff Senate while fulfilling its mission of serving the community, Daughtry said. “It helps ECU, and it helps our community,” she said.

The Staff Senate, which represents all university employees except faculty members, meets monthly. The next meeting will be held Oct. 16, at 2:30 p.m., in Mendenhall Student Center.

For more information, contact Paula Daughtry by phone, 744-2266, or e-mail, daughtryp@ecu.edu.

Publications


Article by Rachel L. Roper (Microbiology and Immunology) with co-authors, “Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Vaccine Efficacy in Ferrets: Whole Killed Virus and Adenovirus vectored Vaccines,” in the Journal of General Virology.

Article by Communication faculty Santiago Shearan and Rebecca Dumlao, “A Cross-Cultural Comparison of Family Communication Patterns and Conflict Between Young Adults and Parents,” in the Journal of Family Communication.


Publication by Juan J. Daneri (Foreign Languages and Literatures), “Fernando de Alva Ixtlilxochitl in the Encyclopedia of Latin American History and Culture.”


Article by Robin Tutor (Agromedicine), Max Zarate (Health Education and Promotion) and Sharon Loury (Nursing), “Pesticide Exposure Surveillance and Prevention Skills of Staff in Eastern North Carolina Health Departments,” in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice.

Also by Loury with co-author, “Correlates of Alcohol and Tobacco Use Among Mexican Americans in Rural North Carolina,” in Family and Community Health.
Head down, earphones in, Joey Perry looked intently at the patch of green grass in front of him, carefully turning it a bright, East Carolina gold with the spray paint wand in his hand. “There’s not many people I trust to paint out here,” he said, smiling. “Out here” is the football field at East Carolina University’s Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Just two days before the Pirate’s first home game, the field looked picturesque – lush, dark green and newly painted with white yard lines.

For nine seasons, Perry, ECU’s sports turf manager, has maintained this field and all of the university’s outdoor athletic facilities with a sort of fatherly pride. “There’s not many people I trust to paint out here,” he said, smiling.

ECU sports turf manager Joel Perry and his team carefully paint the football field at ECU’s Dowdy-Ficklen stadium in preparation for the Pirates’ first home game on Sept. 9. Although it is a year-round job to keep the field in excellent condition, each home game paint job on the field can take as much as two days. Perry’s reward comes on game day, when thousands of fans crowd the stadium and enjoy the results of his efforts. (Photo by Marc J. Kawanishi)

Perry began taming turf as a young athlete. He started working on the recreation fields he played on to make a little money on the side. He went on to study parks recreation and tourism at North Carolina State University, and worked full time for the grounds crew while completing his degree. He came to ECU in August 2000 and, since then, has followed a rigorous routine to keep the fields in playing condition. It’s a year-round job with busy days for him and his staff of mostly part-time student workers.

Preparations for the new football season begin in the spring. “I try to push the Bermuda grass out here as hard as I can to get it ready for the season,” Perry said.

Bermuda grass grows well in Greenville’s transitional climate. Perry prefers a hybrid variety called Tifway 419 that holds up under the weight of football cleats, tackles and touchdowns. But even Bermuda grass needs rain, and this summer’s dry months proved challenging to the veteran groundskeeper. “When it comes down to it, you can put all the fertilizer on it you want. But if you don’t get that heavenly rain, you’re not going to get that dark green color,” he said.

Luckily, the rain did come, weeks before the Pirates’ first game in Greenville. Maintenance became a matter of mowing, but not with your everyday lawn mower. Perry’s machine cost more than $45,000. “This is like cutting your hair. You don’t want somebody cutting your hair with a propeller blade. You want somebody with sharp scissors,” he explained.

The two-day task of painting the football field’s yard and goal lines and the purple and gold pirate at the 50-yard line typically starts the Wednesday before a game. Perry said.

On Fridays, the opposing team has a chance to preview the field – no cleats allowed. Then, on game day, Perry is at the stadium by 7:30 a.m., doing last minute conditioning and putting out mats near the team benches to protect his grass. His crew also installs parking lot signs and trashcans for tailgaters.

Come game time, when 43,000 fans look intently at his football field, Perry’s gaze will be pointing the other way. He admits, he doesn’t get too excited when the team enters the stadium for the start of a new season. He’s more energized to see the fans.

“Sure, I want the team to win, and I want them to play good. But, I get more of a thrill when the people walk up in the stands and look down on the grass,” he said. “Every game is a point of pride. I want it to look as good as it can, every game.”
Marching Band Maintains the Game Day Beat

By Christine Neff

At the end of each halftime show – as the band plays its last note, the dance team and color guard strike a final pose and the twirler catches an airborne, flaming baton – East Carolina University’s Marching Pirates hear an awesome sound: the roar of 43,000 cheering fans.

At that moment, said Adam Agee, an ECU sophomore and assistant drum major, “You feel like a rock star.”

But getting to that point takes more grit than glamour. The group of talented students and staff that make up the marching band work hard, week after week, to entertain and motivate Pirates’ football fans.

Preparations start long before the first football game of the season. Christopher Knighten, band director, starts planning shows in the spring when the football schedule is announced.

“We’re at the point now, with this program, where we try not to repeat a show at a home game. This year we’re doing six different shows,” he said.

Knighten and his staff of graduate assistants and instructors pick the music and choreograph the drill (the formations the band creates on the field) based on how much time they have in between games to teach new material.

During a week-long camp in August, the band learned one halftime show, the pre-game show and some of the stand music. The other five shows are taught throughout the season.

Training more than 240 people at one time can be chaotic, so Knighten relies on students to teach each other.

Forty percent of the band members play a teaching role at practice, helping other students learn new drill. It provides good experience for those students seeking education degrees, who make up 60 percent of the program, Knighten said.

At a recent Monday afternoon practice, the band split into sections to rehearse music for a “Movie Themes” show, which features songs from “Back to the Future” and “The Magnificent Seven.”

“Trombones and tubas, don’t rush the rhythm. Hang back, and let it groove,” Jesse Rackley, teaching assistant, told his brass section.

Will Goodyear, percussion instructor, worked with a group of about 20 percussionists. “We have an enormous amount of material to learn,” he said. “We’re always learning new pieces of music for the halftime show and to play in the stands.”

Drum Major Tremayne Smith, an ECU junior who watched from the sidelines, said game day performance is always on his mind. “Whatever we get done at practice is put on the field, and on Saturday, at any given time, there are 43,000 people watching,” Smith said.

That prospect might strike fear in more timid hearts, but not in these performers.

Courtney Stearn, featured twirler, said she gets “an adrenaline rush” in front of the crowd.

“When the band plays that first note in the pre-game show and the crowd reacts, I have no choice but to respond to that. It’s a wonderful feeling,” she said.

Come game day, the band meets two hours before kick-off at a practice field on College Hill. It does a quick rehearsal and then parades, in uniform, to the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, stopping along the way to play for tailgaters.

After the pre-game show, which includes the playing of the national anthem, the band takes to the stands, playing music and starting cheers as the crowd joins in.

“We try to keep a lot of the college game environment going by playing between plays, particularly when the other team has the ball,” Knighten said. “It’s always an exciting time because we sit right in the middle of the student body, and there is a lot of energy on game day.”

Smith said the band plays an integral role in motivating the crowd, which in turn motivates the team.

“The band gets it going. If (our team) is down, and the band can get motivated, the crowd will get going and the team will get going,” he said.

This season, with a highly ranked football team to support, band members feel a heightened sense of excitement and responsibility in their role.

“Everybody in the band knows how important this season could be, not just for our football team but for our entire school,” Agee said.

He hopes the football team finishes the season without a loss. But, he added, “If they don’t win another game we’ll still be behind them.”
Faculty, Staff Can Get Fit at Student Recreation Center

By Christine Neff

Laughter came easy to participants in a free Laughter Yoga class hosted at the Student Recreation Center this September.

The class joined in as instructor Rhonda Locklair clapped her hands in rhythm, chanting aloud, “Very good, very good, yeah! Very good, very good, yeah!”

By the second “yeah,” students couldn’t help but smile, and the belly laughing soon followed.

Locklair admitted, the exercises may seem silly at first, but the activity has some serious health benefits. It can relieve stress, oxygenate the body and massage internal organs while providing a workout, she said.

“It’s the most fun, transformative exercise I’ve ever done,” Locklair said. “It’s truly a miracle worker.”

Laughter Yoga is just one of many ways East Carolina University’s Campus Recreation and Wellness Center (CRW) aims to keep students, faculty and staff fit.

“We’re not just about treadmills or weights, tracks or indoor pools. We’re about putting it all together for you,” said Sam Combs, assistant director of fitness.

“If you’re committed to becoming fitter,” Combs said, “it’s our job to help you do that, from traditional cardio and weightlifting exercises to personal training sessions, weekend kayaking trips to lunch-hour dance classes.

The facility has an indoor pool for lap swimming and recreational play, an outdoor pool, a weight and fitness area, an indoor track, multipurpose courts, a 27-foot climbing wall and more.

In addition, the center offers classes that incorporate elements of yoga, Pilates, fitness and dance. Members can learn Scottish Country Dancing, practice Hatha Yoga, even try out some ballroom dance moves.

Some of these programs are free to CRW members, while others have an additional fee. All programs are open to members and non-members.

The more adventure-minded can embark on backpacking, canoeing, kayaking, rock climbing and caving trips throughout the region.

Brad Beggs, director of the adventure program, said these trips fit all ability levels. “We can do really exciting, extreme stuff, or we can be out there enjoying the scenery and relaxing. It’s only a matter of how far you want to take it,” he said.

For a more social workout experience, ECU faculty and staff participate in intramural sports. About 25 different sports are played each year, including basketball, wiffleball, dodgeball and kickball.

“If you haven’t played kickball since you were 10 years old, you need to come out and try it. It will take you back,” said Kathryn Hunt, associate director of marketing for CRW.

New this semester, the center is encouraging regular physical activity through an online incentive program, “Pirates That Thrive.”


Prizes are awarded at the end of the six-week period to those participants that reach time goals.

ECU faculty and staff, and their family members, can purchase a yearlong membership for $264. A semester pass costs $110. Payroll deduction services are available. ECU employees who have never had a membership can use the facility, free, for one month.

For additional information about the Student Recreation Center classes, activities and memberships, visit http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/crw or call 328-6387.

One Way or Another: ECU Beats State

East Carolina University Pirates may have struggled with the North Carolina State University Wolfpack on the football field, but in the first-ever ECU vs. NCSU Blood Battle organized by the ECU Student Pirate Club and the American Red Cross, the Pirates scored a clear victory.

The event kicked off Sept. 16 with a donor challenge held at the NCSU campus. The next day, ECU students donated blood to show their support for the university, especially in light of the upcoming ECU-NCSU football contest on Sept. 20.

Hundreds of ECU donors waited in long lines at the Murphy Hill Suites coordinator, he is also beginning his fifth season as a volunteer coach for the Pitt-Greenville Soccer Association, a coaching organization, and has developed his own soccer education, acquiring four state youth licenses issued by the United States Soccer Federation. In six months, he plans on testing for the national “D” license. He’s joined the professional coaching organization, and has developed his own curriculum based on having fun. “Above all else,” Cole said, “Soccer is a game, and kids are kids and should have fun playing a game.”

His coaching philosophy mirrors the student development goals he puts forth as a hall coordinator. His focus is on skill development, not winning.

Cole’s approach to coaching is guided discovery. “The game (and life) is best learned and most owned by the players when they find their own answer to the challenges the game presents,” he said. His long-term goal is to “help in the development of creative, exciting, skilled and passionate soccer players, while positively influencing their overall development as people.”

“Norm’s optimism and patient manner assist him on the field as well as in the hall,” Miller said.

Having never worked with young children before, Cole has faced some care-taking challenges of his own. “He’s always tying shoes, helping them put on pinneys and even dealing with pony-tail issues.” (Pinneys are nylon vests used to divide one team into two for practice.)

Cole said he has made great friends through coaching. “It’s my way of making connections and friendships outside of my work. My soccer families have become an extended family,” he said.

Norm’s willingness to give of his time and talents is unparalleled,” Miller said. “He is a true credit to ECU and the Greenville community.”
By Christine Neff

Yelena Francis, a new Russian instructor at East Carolina University, hopes to give the ECU community an insider’s look at her native country through an exhibit on display now at Joyner Library.

“Russia – Ancient and Modern” takes a snapshot look at scenes in and around St. Petersburg, Russia. Francis solicited photographs from former classmates and students, friends and relatives for the display. “I told them about my idea, and they began to send me pictures. Finally, I was almost buried under them,” she said.

The small exhibit in the hallway past the library’s reference desk shows about 18 photographs of buildings, scenery and people.

The boyhood home of famed Russian writer Vladimir Nabokov is pictured, as well as the cabin that housed the family of poet Alexander Pushkin. A photograph of the Resurrection of Christ church in one of Russia’s oldest cities hangs above a picture of a park founded by Catherine the Great.

Francis chose pictures that would remind people of Russia’s rich cultural heritage and diverse population. “This is a mosaic that tells a little bit about mysterious Russia that is so far, so big and so different,” she said.

The display will be at the library throughout October.

Persons interested in Russian history and culture can also attend a movie night sponsored by the Department of Foreign Languages.

Russian films with English subtitles are shown on the first and third Wednesdays of the month in ECU’s Bate Building.

Yelena Francis, Russian instructor at ECU, stands in front of a display of photographs taken in her native country. (Photo by Christine Neff)
Second Life in Virtual World


Inhibition of Antigen Presentation, Role of A35,” at the 2008 International Conference on Television, Audio, and Video (TAV) in Münster, Germany.

John Hoppenthaler, a professor in the Department of English, was also featured on the March 2008 Web selection for Verse Daily; “College Composition and Communication in the Second Life in Virtual World,” at the 17th International Poxvirus Meeting in Grainau, Germany.

Some faculty members hold virtual office hours in Second Life. Others use it as a tool for professional development, attending conferences online and chatting with their counterparts at universities around the world.

Distance Education Coordinators at ECU’s Joyner and Laupus libraries have developed library resources in the Second Life campus. The virtual, three-floor library has a reference desk, instructional rooms and links to academic journals and other research resources available at the click of a mouse.

Yolanda Hollingsworth of Joyer Library called Second Life an “extra outreach” for both distance education and traditional students. “It provides another access point for existing material, which is always good to have,” she said.

Academic Outreach assists faculty in developing and hosting classes in virtual classrooms. Between 15 and 20 faculty in a variety of disciplines use the technology now, and many others have shown an interest, Collins said.

A Second Life task force established this summer at ECU has been looking at ways to incorporate the technology in the classroom.

The variety of resources and relative ease of the program makes the program accessible to students – even non-traditional ones, Collins said. “It’s not for everybody, but it is one of the pieces of technology we can give students to help them be successful.”

ECU will host a conference, “Real Education in a Virtual World: Using Online Virtual Environments for Teaching and Learning,” entirely in Second Life on Nov. 10 and 11. For information about the conference or to learn more about ECU’s virtual campus, contact Sharon Collins at 252-991-26.

The technology has been used primarily by distance education courses.

Elizabeth Hodge, an associate professor in the Department of Business and Information Technologies Education, has taught several courses within the virtual environment and received positive feedback from her students.

The program enhances group work and class discussions, and increases their connection to each other and the university, she has been told.

“A lot of students said, ‘It’s the first time I felt like a part of the university,’” Hodge said, adding that most of her distance education students will not sit on campus until the beginning of the next semester.

ECU faculty and staff are applying the technology in other ways, too.

ECU students designed a campus in Second Life that mimics the real thing. (Contributed photo)

Trustees Attend Groundbreaking

ECU Board of Trustees members Bruce N. Austin, Jr. of Manteo; Robert O. Hill, Jr. of Kingston; and David S. Brody of Kingston (left to right) talk during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Eastern Carolina Family Medicine Center. The groundbreaking was held Sept. 26, and the building should be completed by late 2010. The new center will be nearly triple the size of the current facility, which was built in 1977. (Photo by Cliff Hollis)

‘Voice of the Pirates’ to Ride for Nursing Scholarship

By Crystal Baity

Jeff Charles, the voice of the East Carolina University Pirates, will trade field side for the open road on Oct. 4 in a motorcycle ride to raise funds for a nursing scholarship.

The ride will benefit the Heather Anne Purtee Memorial Scholarship in the ECU College of Nursing. The scholarship is named for Debra and Jeff Charles’ daughter, who was killed in an automobile accident in December 1992. She was 19 and an ECU nursing student.

“The motorcycle ride is an opportunity to provide scholarship assistance to deserving ECU nursing students while honoring and preserving the memory of our daughter, Heather Anne Purtee,” Charles said.

“She loved nursing. It really was her dream.”

This is the fifth year that Charles has hosted the event, which previously raised funds for the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf in Wilson.

New Choices in Dining Hall

By Annalisa Traven

A new menu at Todd Dining Hall has added several options that university officials hope will encourage more students to choose healthier meals.

Some low-fat choices include salads and bagels with vegetables, fruits and hummus, as well as a selection of fresh-baked cookies and a small variety of traditional desserts.

The University Food Service, which runs the ECU dining halls, has also added new vendors and items to the cafeteria. The曝光度 sushi bar now offers a variety of sushi rolls and other types of seafood, and the grill will offer a new selection of grilled seafood and chicken.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 4, at J&K Harley Davidson in Winterville. No pre-registration is needed. The ride to Washington will begin at 10 a.m. A donation of $10 or more includes breakfast from Krispy Kreme, lunch from Domino’s Pizza andLogan’s Roadhouse and beverages from Pepsi. The ride returns to Greenville at about 12:30 p.m. at Ron Ayers Motorsports.

“The ride is open to everybody,” Charles said. “We have veteran riders and we have people just getting started. People sometimes bring their children.

Past riders have come from the local area as well as Raleigh, Elizabeth City and Lamberton, Charles said.

Charles is in his 21st year as the Voice of the Pirates and has been riding motorcycles about as long. “We look forward to having everybody come out,” he said.

To contribute, contact Mark Alexander, development officer in the College of Nursing, at 252-744-2238.
Volunteers packaged 250,000 meals for the world’s hungry at the Million Meals event held Aug. 23 at C.M. Eppes Middle School. The event was organized by ECU’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center. (Photo by Marc J. Kawanishi)

ECU Helps Fight Hunger

By Christine Neff

Recipe: One scoop of soy protein. One chicken-flavored vitamin tablet. A spoonful of dried vegetables and a cup of rice. Seal the ingredients in a plastic bug and box for transport. This simple process, repeated thousands upon thousands of times across the state Saturday, Aug. 23, as part of the University Million Meals Event, will feed one million of the world’s hungriest people.

More than 750 volunteers from East Carolina University, churches, civic groups and other organizations in Greenville came out to C.M. Eppes Middle School to package the meals.

Volunteers at the event, which was organized by ECU’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center, put together 250,000 meals during three, four-hour shifts.

Similar events took place at colleges throughout North Carolina. In total, volunteers packaged a record-breaking one million meals in a single day.

“What we’re doing here today is taking an initial step in ending world hunger,” said Rick Kearney of Stop Hunger Now, the Raleigh-based hunger relief organization that planned the event.

The meals were transported to some of the most destitute regions of El Salvador, Haiti and India, according to Stop Hunger Now.

Meals destined for El Salvador will feed students enrolled in schools and technical skills training. The packages provided to Haiti will aid victims of a food shortage caused by rising prices. And in India, the meals will feed people affected by a rodent outbreak that wiped out rice crops.

Before the first shift, Marilyn Sheeerer, ECU’s interim provost and vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, thanked and motivated the volunteers.

“Each meal helps a person,” she said.

“Go get them!”

Other participating colleges were NC State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Peace College, Meredith College, Saint Augustine’s College, Duke University and NC Central University.
During the annual King and Queen of the Halls event held on College Hill Sept. 18, students competed to win awards for their residence halls. They acquired points for spirit, participation and from games played at the event. White residence hall won the top “king” award for men, while Clement won the top women’s “queen” award. Above, Will McGlone from Scott Hall cools off with a slippery, soapy run down a Slip ‘N Slide. (Photos by Cliff Hollis)

International Faculty Population Grows

continued from page 3

number of international hires at ECU since she started working with the group in 1992. “When I first started, the east campus had very few departments that were hiring internationally,” she said. “That has changed within the last five years.” Now, she said, nearly all academic departments on campus have international members.

Just this semester, 32 non-immigrant, international scholars joined ECU’s faculty. Together with returning international faculty, a group more than 100-strong, they represent 30 different countries, from Bulgaria to Belize, Pakistan to the Philippines.

James Gehlhar, associate vice chancellor for International Affairs, expects this growth to continue as more foreigners complete doctoral degree programs. “As a research university, we really rely on international faculty,” he said. “They bring diversity to campus, and they bring skills we can’t always find in the U.S.”

They enrich the campus and greater community in other ways, too, he said. Their families diversify the Greenville area; their children attend area schools where they teach others about their culture. And, they enhance their academic departments’ research opportunities, Gehlhar said.

“Scholars like these inspire our faculty to collaborate on new projects and think about things in new ways,” he said. Michael Dingfelder, assistant professor of physics, knows the importance of collaboration. In his field, he said, research nearly always involves colleagues in other countries. “All collaboration is international now. It’s the only way to survive,” he said.

A native of Germany, Dingfelder came to ECU six years ago from Barcelona, Spain. Moving from a European city to rural North Carolina proved to be a “pretty big shock,” he said, but he has enjoyed his time here.

He is a member of the International Faculty and Staff Committee and helps students in the German and Spanish clubs with their language skills. And, he has found compatriots far from home: two of his colleagues have German wives.

Lakshmi Narasimhan, a new member of the computer science faculty, came to ECU from Australia for the research opportunities available in the United States. His field of software engineering “calls for diversity” among scholars, he said. “This field is applicable all over the world, in all types of ways. A rich diversity among researchers further promotes it,” he said.

Narasimhan said a diverse student population is beneficial, too. More than 200 international students attend ECU this semester. In one of Narasimhan’s recent classes, a student from Korea provided insight into a Korean-based cell phone technology. “The learning experience was enhanced for me, as well as my students,” Narasimhan said.

ECU will celebrate its international faculty, staff and students during International Education Week, Nov. 17 to 21. Activities include information sessions on study abroad and Fulbright scholar programs, activities for area elementary school teachers and social events.

‘ROVER’ Van

continued from page 3

operated by Paul Fletcher, a Brody School of Medicine professor and amateur radio operator with years of emergency response radio experience. It has broadcasting and receiving capabilities.

Donna Kain, RENCI’s Outreach Director and professor of English, has made connections with emergency managers across eastern North Carolina. Plans are under way to make the ROVER a part of the network of emergency response vehicles in the event of a catastrophe. For more information, visit www.ecu.edu/rencli or contact Michelle Covit at 252-737-1773.

ECU Goal Set

continued from page 1

contributed more than $218,000 to these causes. This year’s campaign co-chairs, Lathan Turner (East Campus) and Jeff Coghill (West Campus), are seeking nearly an 8 percent increase in giving from last year.

The charities range from health-related and service organizations to after school and social programs. Payment is available through payroll deduction, check, cash, credit card or PayPal.

The SECC is conducted every fall so that charitable contributions are solicited from state employees only once per year. The resource guide, which can be downloaded from http://www.ncsecf.org, provides information on eligible charities.

Cancer Care

continued from page 4

Raab remembered how one or both of her parents would be on call practically all day every day all those years. When out with her mother, they would run into patients her mother had helped or their family members.

“They were so appreciative of everything she had done for them,” Raab said. “I felt like she was really having an impact on people’s lives.”

In the brief time that she’s been at ECU, Raab has already seen patients her mom treated and who remembered the compassionate care they received.

Her mother, though retired from the ECU faculty, still sees patients at a Tarboro clinic.

“I think there is a need for both their services here, and also I think Rachel can contribute significantly to the care of patients in this region, especially breast cancer patients,” Dr. Mary Raab said of her daughter and son-in-law. She said she tried to stay neutral in their decision about where to practice, but is thrilled they choose Greenville.

“I think her father – it would really warm his heart,” Raab said. “I feel like she’s really dedicated to the cause. I’m very proud of her.”