

CHRISTMAS WORLDWIDE pg. 7

Different traditions make for unique holiday.

PIRATES GEAR UP FOR TCU pg. 11

ECU will face the Tomlinson Horned Toads in Mobile.

TODAY'S WEATHER

Sunny, high of 52 and a low of 32

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1999

30 days to go until 2000

NEWS BRIEFS**Exams**

Fall semester exams begin on Friday, Dec. 10 and continue through Dec. 18.

Graduation

ECU will recognize its 1999 fall graduates at two commencement ceremonies at 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

The first ceremony will be for graduate and undergraduate degree candidates in the Schools of Allied Health Sciences, Business, Health and Human Performance, Human Environmental Sciences, Industry and Technology, Nursing and Social Work.

The second program will honor degree candidates from the College of Arts and Sciences and the Schools of Art, Education and Music.

Willie Martin, a Du Pont Co. executive and secretary of the ECU Board of Trustees, will be the featured speaker. About 2,000 students are completing their degrees this semester.

Many of the schools and departments will hold recognition ceremonies Friday for their 1999 fall graduates.

Blood drive

The Red Cross will conduct a blood drive from noon until 6 p.m. tomorrow in Mendenhall Student Center.

Motivational speaker

Les Brown, an award-winning motivational speaker, will offer his ideas about how to "Live Your Dream!" at 9:30 a.m. today in Wright Auditorium. Brown is the author of "Live Your Dreams" and the former host of a nationally syndicated television talk show.

Lady Pirates

The women's basketball team will play Ohio at 2 p.m. Saturday in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum.

Board of Trustees going-ons

The ECU Board of Trustees will hold a special conference call meeting at 11 a.m. today and will follow the meeting with a major announcement at the School of Medicine.

The announcement will be made at 11:30 a.m. in Room 2W50 of the Brody (School of Medicine) Building at a news conference. Contact: John Durham, ECU News Bureau, at 328-6481 or Tom Fortner, Medical Center News and Information, 816-2481.

The Board of Trustees will meet at 11 a.m. Friday in Room 244 of Mendenhall Student Center. This is a regular meeting of the board.

Concert

The Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble will hold its Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. tomorrow in the Fletcher Recital Hall. The public is invited.

ONLINE SURVEY**Do you feel the Chancellor's tuition increase proposal is fair?**

Vote online at tec.ecu.edu

The results of last week's question:
Do you feel safe on campus?

32% YES 67% NO

Original fee requests reinstatedTerra Steinbeiser
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR
Angela Harne
STAFF WRITER

This year marks the first time Chancellor Richard Eakin has disagreed with the SGA recommendations for increasing student fees. Eakin attended the SGA meeting Monday night to answer questions and explain his proposal to increase tuition.

On Nov. 23, the SGA held their annual meeting to make recommendations for increasing student fees for the 2000-01 school year. Usually, these recommendations are taken into consideration by the administration and Board of Trustees when they make their own recommendations to the Board of Governors of the UNC system.

This year, however, Eakin overrode SGA approvals and has decided to recommend the requested amounts to both the athletic and technology departments. The athletic department requested a \$15 increase and SGA approved \$10. The technology department requested a \$5 increase, but SGA only granted \$3.

"This is the first time I have ever disagreed with the SGA approved fee increases," Eakin said. "I usually openly accept them."

Richard Brown, vice chancellor of administration and finance, cited several reasons why the increase is needed.

"I believe we have never had

a campus initiated tuition increase," Brown said. "The main reason we need to raise tuition and fees is to remain competitive with our peer institutions, especially in terms of faculty salaries, library resources and increased

financial assistance to needy students."

ECU is the fifth public university in the UNC system whose BOT approved plans to increase tuition. Students at UNC-Chapel Hill, NCSU, UNC-Wilmington

and UNC-Charlotte all may be digging a little deeper in their pockets to pay for school next year if the General Assembly approves the increases.

This recent wave of campus-initiated tuition hikes may due

Chancellor Eakin speaks to the SGA legislature Monday night about his proposed tuition and student fee increases. (photo by Garrett McMillian)

ECU awarded grant from National Science Foundation

mance Backbone Network Service (vBNS).

This service is 10 times faster than current systems, and will also allow scientists and engineers to work together and share powerful computing and information sources.

This grant will allow ECU to join 163 other universities who are members of the University Corporation for Advanced Internet Development (UCAID).

These universities, including University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State University, Duke University and Wake Forest University, are connected to a nationwide high-

speed research network system called "Internet2."

Dr. Jeffrey Huskamp, associate vice chancellor and the chief information technology officer said that this grant was approved, in part, to provide ECU's showcase of research applications. This includes biotechnology and physics experimentation in violin acoustics and diagnosis through telemedicine. This is all through the highest level of access to the campus network and the Internet.

Other applications that will benefit from access to this super-fast network service include, computational chemistry, virtual

reality, agromedicine, digital libraries, art and data analysis. Ultimately, all users that are on campus will have access to this high-performance system.

This high-speed network is a five year project that was begun in 1995. This \$50 million effort was supported by the federal government and the president's Next Generation Internet initiative. MCI Telecommunications Corporation is collaborating in this project.

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Alternative Spring Break program returning to ECU**Participants volunteer over vacation**Amanda Bennett
STAFF WRITER

Alternative Spring Break (ASB) is a program that gives students the opportunity to volunteer and perform different types of community service during a week when other students are enjoying a break from classes.

ASB places groups of college students in cities across the nation to do community service and touch the lives of those who have nothing.

"The purpose of Alternative Spring Break is to give students the chance to volunteer during their spring break, get them to interact with people they might

not otherwise come in contact with and to educate them on different issues in society," said Jeff Novak, director of ASB.

Last year, 13 students and two advisors from ECU dedicated their spring break to volunteering in Atlanta, Ga. During the week the students traveled to five different community organizations in the Atlanta area.

The group visited places such as the Atlanta Union Mission, which is a homeless shelter for men, the Atlanta Community Food Bank and the Atlanta Children's Shelter.

"ASB changes how you look at the world," said Amanda Henley, a participant in ASB. "You see that the people you are helping are no different from yourself and that it could happen to anybody ... you realize that if it were you, you'd want to help too."

Beside the experience they

gained volunteering, some of last year's ASB participants formed lasting friendships with others in the group.

"We not only got to help others, but our group also bonded," said Erin O'Boyle. "The trip as a whole is a learning experience. You learn from other volunteers, the people you come in contact with and others in your group."

Although most of the trip is spent working at different sites, students also have time to relax and have fun. Participants last year visited the CNN Center, Centennial Park and Six Flags Over Georgia.

This year, two trips are being planned for Alternative Spring Break. The organization will be returning to Atlanta and an additional city, Washington, D.C., is being added. The cost of the trip is \$100, however, several fund raisers will be held to minimize cost.

Applications will be available at the end of January for those interested in going on the trip. Participants will be asked to sign a contract stating they will remain substance free and that they will demonstrate respect for all participants.

An interest meeting will be held at the beginning of next semester. All ECU students are eligible to go, and last year's participants encourage everyone to attend.

"It's the toughest week you'll ever love," Novak said.

Anyone interested in dedicating their spring break to volunteering should e-mail Jeff Novak at novakj@mail.ecu.edu or call 328-6052.

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in part to the implementation of the Tuition Policy Task Force Report. According to Jeff Nieman, the UNC Association of Student Governments' president and ex officio member of the Board of Governors, the BOG adopted a special report in 1998 that gives them a more active role in deciding tuition. Under exceptional circumstances, a university's BOT can vote to recommend a tuition increase.

"The problem is, 'exceptional circumstances' are hard to define," Nieman said.

The BOT's recommendations are forwarded to UNC President Molly Broad, who reviews them and makes her revisions and recommendations to the BOG at their December meeting. In turn, the BOG also makes revisions and submits their recommendations to the General Assembly, who has the ultimate say in the price of tuition.

"We're on new ground here, but if you use last year as a precedent, the GA followed the recommendations of the BOG exactly," Nieman said.

Eakin explained his approval of the athletic department's fee increase by saying that by the 2001-02 season, all sports will be part of the All-Conference USA (NCAA).

"With the move into NCAA, new expenses and payments are in play," Eakin said.

According to Eakin, ECU took a \$900,000 loan to move into the NCAA, and the fee increase will help pay it back.

He said that NCAA and CBS have made a deal to broadcast

See **EAKIN**, page 5**Holiday drive benefits flood victims****Items being collected until Thursday**Maura Buck
STAFF WRITER

The holiday season is upon us again, and with it comes the need for donated goods to distribute to those less fortunate. The Fifth Annual ECU Holiday Drive is in full swing thanks to the Business Services Department.

With 35 collection boxes around campus, items such as new toys, used clothing, food and even linens are in high demand. This year, benefits will go to the families of ECU staff members who lost everything in the aftermath of Hurricane Floyd.

In addition, items such as baby supplies and clothing will go to the Department of Social Services for distribution, as well as to the Children's Protective Services to fulfill wish lists from individuals and families.

Leslie Craigie, director of marketing for business services and head of the Holiday Drive Committee, believes that the project is a campus-wide effort.

"It allows everyone the opportunity to participate and spread some holiday cheer throughout the community," she said. "It is a chance for the university to give back to the citizens of Greenville."

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