

Farmland

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"I took an economics course with Mathews, and she e-mailed me the next semester and asked if I would like to work on the project," said Kaitlyn Dorsky, senior art history student. "She explained a little about what I'd be doing and it sounded like a great job."

The students were hired through the Career Center, according to Mathews.

"There were job postings, and certainly we circulated those postings through faculty and through the Career Center," Mathews said. "Students from across the campus had the opportunity to respond, which is why we had a nice group of students from all over campus so it wasn't focused on one department."

She said she developed the idea for the project while working on another research study.

"What I do as a researcher is I try to put prices on things you can't buy in the grocery store," she said. "Some of my previous projects were along the Blue Ridge Parkway looking at the value people have for scenic beauty and, as part of that project, it is very clear that farmland plays an important role in providing scenic beauty."

Before proceeding with the project, Mathews said she spent a few years thinking about the landscape and why people treasure the area.

"The idea for the project really was to inventory all of the things that people value about farmland, not just local food and scenic beauty, but go and directly ask people all the things they value," Mathews said.

Working on the project was a great experience, Dorsky said.

"I learned a lot about conducting research and the scope of things that can be done even within the realm of economics," she said. "I learned a lot about culture. I got to go see some of the places they were describing and witness how much meaning people see in these places."

The importance of the project is multifaceted, Mathews said.

"(The project) is important for policy makers because it helps them understand the values that their citizens have for things like open space and local food production, which could help them make better policies," she said.

The project is also important because farmers can see how valued their efforts are, Mathews said.

"The farmers engage in their business because it's their business, but they may not recognize the many ways their activities influence the community," she said. "Our project's results helped them to understand that."

Working on a faculty research project can be a rewarding experience, Dorsky said.

"I learned how important certain areas are to local citizens simply because of their cultural or visual significance," she said. "I also learned how much work goes into these types of projects."

University reports six suspected swine flu cases on campus

Student Health Services Director Jay Cutspec said Monday that four students and two staff members sought treatment in the past two weeks for suspected cases of the H1N1 virus.

Three of the students live off campus and one lives in a residence hall.

Cutspec declined to identify the dorm, but said all six patients were encouraged to maintain proper hygiene and return to their normal schedules only after they are healthy.

"We encourage them to go home and self-isolate in their room until their fever breaks," he said.

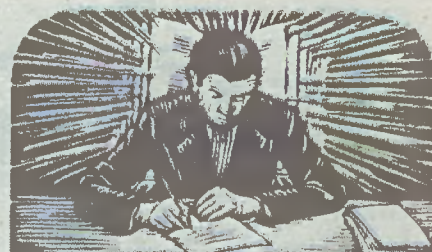
The Centers for Disease Control no longer confirms cases of the virus except in extreme circumstances, Cutspec said, so there is no definite way to know if symptoms are a result of seasonal flu or the H1N1 virus.

"The only thing we can really honestly say is that they have flu-like symptoms," Cutspec said.

Following a directive from the CDC, Cutspec said none of the cases are being treated with Tamiflu. Two cases of Tamiflu-resistant virus appeared recently in Hendersonville, and the government is requesting the drug only be used in extreme cases.

No family members or friends of the patients have come down with H1N1 symptoms, Cutspec said.

-J.W.



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Obama

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dent. Both former President Reagan and President George W. Bush made speeches to students."

BCS also explained that they were following the recommendation of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction.

They leave it up to individual schools and teachers as to whether the address and related instructional materials fit into their plans as an optional instructional enrichment activity.

President Reagan delivered a speech to children about encouraging them to stay in school in November 1988, as did President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

"Why not have the president of the United States give kids a speech to push them to stay in school and share an upbeat message? I am amazed that sometimes we get lost in a 24-hour news network and thinking that there is some plot against our kids, or school system, where quite honestly this was just an upbeat message to stay in school, and I think every kid should hear it," Young said.

The following is an excerpt from the speech: "We can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents and the best schools in the world, and none of it will matter unless all of you fulfill your responsibilities. Unless you show up to those schools, pay attention to those teachers, listen to your parents, grandparents and other adults and put in the hard work it takes to succeed," Obama said.

After reading the speech, one parent reversed their original opinion to the BCS. "Having had an opportunity to read the president's address, I now publicly retract my opposition to the delivery of this speech to school children. It is well-written and, I have no doubt, was well-delivered. It will likely inspire some children to succeed. I see no overt political messages here. I believe the speech was a positive thing for the children. They all need to respect our president, and I think his message was very hopeful and encouraging."