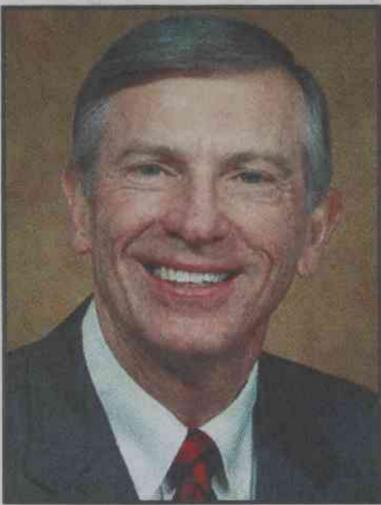


New leader emerges among UNC system



By Jamel Downing

A new era will begin for the University of North Carolina system when Thomas W. Ross, former President of Davidson College, replaces Erskine Bowles as president in January 2011. Bowles, who served as president for four years, will retire December 2010. According to the UNC Board of Governors, Ross is a passionate North Carolinian who is a good pick for the position.

What does this mean for the 17-campus of the system and specifically Historically Black College Universities? Elizabeth City State University Chancellor, Willie J. Gilchrist, feels confident that Ross will bring dedication and compassion during his tenure. "I'm looking forward for him to take command. He is bringing appreciation from a citizenship aspect, and has spent significant time in North Carolina," said Gilchrist. Gilchrist said he feels that

Ross will thrive as president of the UNC system. "Ross is bringing in experience----he knows the system," Gilchrist said.

Ross, a native of North Carolina, graduated with honors from the University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School Of Law, and taught at the university's School of Government. During his time at Davidson, the highly selective college graduated 23 Rhodes Scholars. In addition, the school established The Davidson Trust, which replaced loans with grants in all financial aid packages----giving students the opportunity to graduate debt-free.

Hannah D. Gage, Chairman of the UNC Board of Governors, has high expectations for Ross. "Tom Ross's thoughtful leadership, his proven integrity, his deep understanding of North Carolina, and his lifelong commitment to improving the lives of people in every corner of our state make him the perfect choice

to lead the University in the years ahead," said Gage.

Gilchrist says that when students are given an opportunity, they will excel. Ross is in charge of all policies, recommendations, and requests to the NC General Assembly and the governor. He is charged with nominating chancellors for each of the UNC system's campuses and recommending tuition increases to the board based on campus proposals.

Britney Jenkins, senior at ECSU, would like to see more funds for out-of-state students. She hopes Ross will improve the System's financial operation. "There should be more grants and scholarships awarded to out of state students so that they're able to complete all four years of enrollment without financial problems," said Jenkins. If Ross creates programs equivalent to the Davidson Trust during his term as president, students will benefit.

Cont. on 6D

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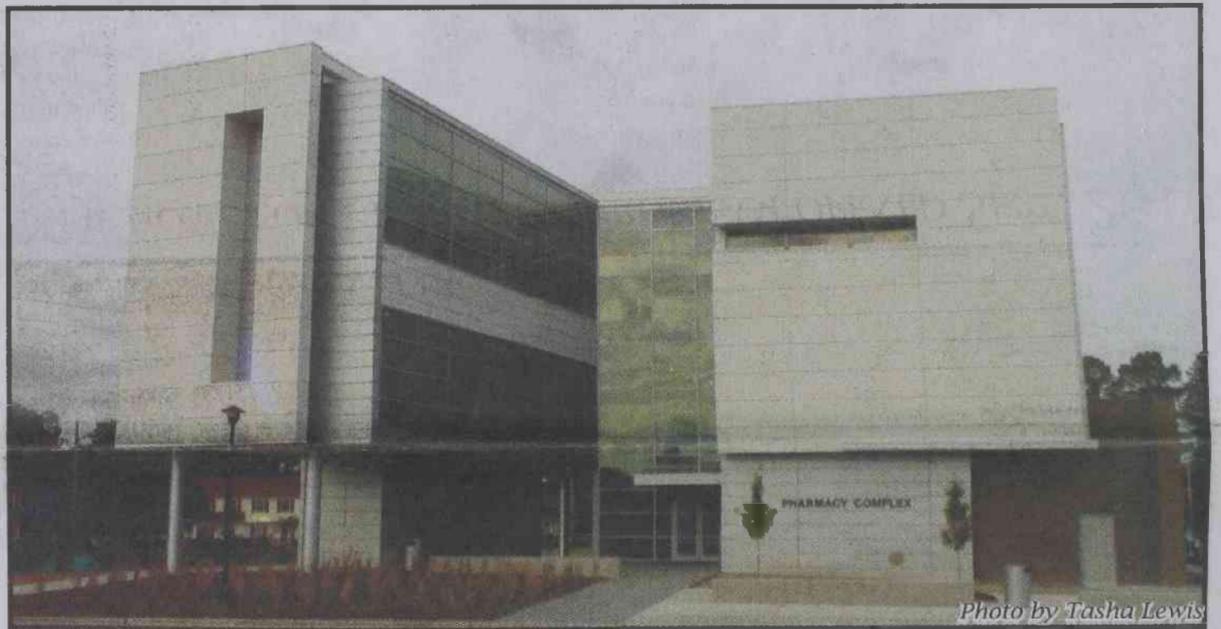


Photo by Tasha Lewis

NEW HOME FOR PHARMACY PROGRAM OPENED SEPT. 2010

By Yolanda Clark

The new \$28 million, 52,000 square foot Pharmacy Complex ribbon cutting ceremony was held on September 17, 2010. Elizabeth City State University partners with the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Eshelman School of Pharmacy to correct the shortage of pharmacists in northeastern North Carolina. The goal of the program is to produce pharmacists who reflect the area's diverse African-American and Latino populations. Throughout the program students are virtually instructed by professors from the UNC Eshelman School whose lectures are transmitted in real-time through interactive video conferencing to classrooms in the new pharmacy complex.

Students complete three years of classroom instruction, then a yearlong series of four to five-week clerkships under the supervision of established and licensed pharmacists. The clerkship rotations are done in a variety of settings: Hospitals, clinics and agencies. The goal is to give students a broad practical experience in pharmacy. Students who graduate from the program earn a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy. Dr. Latasha Weeks, director of the pharmacy complex, said there is a special designation that it is done in partnership with ECSU. 23 students have graduated from the program—13 in 2009 and ten in 2010.

The three story building is made of steel and glass; it houses

classrooms, laboratories, and offices. The first floor is occupied by the university's Drug Information Center and undergraduate labs. The second and third floors are primarily used for classrooms, intravenous simulation, compounding labs and faculty research labs. The capacity of this building will allow the enrollment to almost triple at the ECSU branch of the pharmacy program. There are currently 41 students enrolled in the four-year, Doctor of Pharmacy program.

The Pharmacy Complex is an asset to our campus, community and UNC system. It provides students with the essentials needed to become pharmacists that may change and save lives.

IS THERE A "CLEARED" PATH TO FINANCIAL AID?

By Stephanie Reynolds

It's no secret that a college degree is one of the most expensive things many people pay for. However, some students at ECSU have come to dread returning to school in the fall, not because they aren't eager to learn, but because of financial obligations to the university or to federal or private lenders.

For college students, going back to school isn't just about getting new clothes and trying to find the right dorm furniture. It's about submitting paperwork, meeting deadlines and following up with all the right people to make sure that their education is getting paid for. At ECSU, the first few days of school are all about getting "cleared," getting

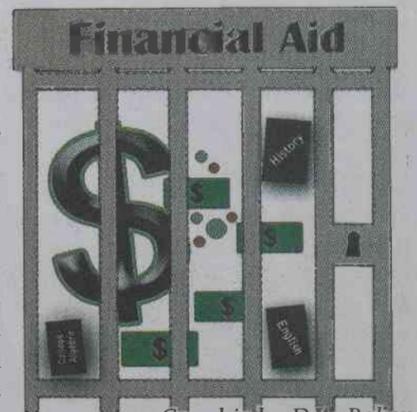
one stamp on a piece of paper that says classes are paid for, or that you have made arrangements to pay at a later date. If students aren't cleared, they cannot receive textbooks for their classes, and they are eventually dropped from the attendance rosters and have to re-register in order to continue with the semester.

One senior at ECSU had a particularly drawn out experience with the Financial Aid office. She said that after filing her Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in January, she began calling the office of Financial Aid over the summer to make sure that she would be cleared when she arrived in August. She said that she left dozens of messages and that she never received a call back. When she arrived in August,

she found that there was a lot of paperwork that had to be corrected, submitted, verified, resubmitted, and processed. The office of Financial Aid and Scholarships was contacted for a response or interview, with no reply.

The office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is the last place many students want to find themselves during the first week or so of school, mainly because it's usually an all-day event. The process of signing in, and then waiting hours and hours for their names to be called to speak with an advisor, is tiring and frustrating. For this reason, many students go several weeks into the semester without getting cleared simply because there isn't enough time to meet the needs of all the students.

There isn't much that



Graphic by D.A. Baker

students can do about the staffing situation in the Financial Aid office; however, there are some steps that can be taken to make the Financial Aid advisors' jobs a little easier. There are close to 4,000 students at ECSU, and not nearly as many people to handle all the work that comes along with them.