

Sustainability major created

Begins at Durham Tech in August

BY FLORENCE BRYAN
STAFF WRITER

When he drives up the hill on his way to teach class at the Durham Technical Community College campus in Hillsborough, the first thing Christian Stalberg notices are the solar panels — a symbol of the school's dedication to sustainability.

"That shows a strong commitment," he said.

On Wednesday nights, Stalberg teaches a course on efficient energy use as part of the college's sustainability technologies program, which started last fall.

The program is only open to trained electricians — but this August, anyone will be able to apply for the new renewable energy diploma, which can be completed in five semesters.

In response to the wide range of people interested, Durham Tech will offer the new program for individuals without previous electrical training, said Carlo Robustelli, the director of Durham Tech's Orange County operations.

Admissions for the new program will begin in a few weeks, he said.

"We've had an incredible outpouring of folks interested in participating," Robustelli said.

The interest in the program may be a response to the increasing job opportunities in the sustainable energy industry, said Greg Mimmack, director of both programs.

The sustainability program's 18 students take classes focused primarily in solar panel installation and energy auditing. Specifically, they learn about energy-saving techniques, like insulation and solar-heated water.

Most of Stalberg's students are hoping to receive higher wages, start a business or expand their current business upon completion of the three-semester certificate program.

"They're enthusiastic, and they see the big picture and know that they're getting an education in a field that there's going to be great demand for people with knowledge and expertise in this area," Stalberg said.

Most of the program's teachers are local professionals in the sustainable energy field. Stalberg works as an energy consultant for Natural Intelligence, a company that certifies buildings as energy-efficient.

Since the program is still in its early stages, Stalberg said he has

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CHRISTIAN STALBERG, TEACHER

designed his own curriculum.

"Based on my background and my own training in the energy field, I drew on that when determining what I thought was important," he said.

Durham Tech received a \$250,000 grant from Duke Energy to outfit the campus with technology, including a solar installation lab.

The school is one of several community colleges in North Carolina with new programs in sustainable technology.

"Everybody in the state is sort of starting fresh this year," Mimmack said.

The college also partnered with energy firms in the state, including Strata Solar and Southern Energy Management, which will provide suggestions for curriculum and hands-on experience for students in the renewable energy program.

"One of the things that community colleges have, Durham Tech especially, is strong relationships with local industries," Robustelli said.

He said he hopes this collaboration will result in better training and better-paying jobs for students.

"What we try to do is really provide the educational opportunities that will help people find meaningful employment."

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

National and World News



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Anti-government protesters seize first major city in Western Libya

CAIRO (MCT) — Anti-government protesters claimed control of their first major city in Libya's far west Wednesday, a significant expansion of their popular uprising a day after embattled strongman Moammar Gadhafi vowed to defend his regime "to the last drop of blood."

Gunfire echoed intermittently in the capital, Tripoli, and residents said police in some neighborhoods had abandoned their posts. Pro-government militias were roaming through residential streets and shooting from Land Cruisers, they said.

"We don't know who is in charge," Najah Kablan, a teacher, said by telephone. "It is very frightening."

The renewed violence came as opposition forces reportedly seized

control of Misurata, about 75 miles west of Tripoli. Witnesses said that crowds were honking horns and waving flags from the monarchy that Gadhafi overthrew in a military coup in 1969.

Protesters already have seized seaports and other cities in Libya's eastern half, but the apparent fall of Misurata in the west suggests the rebellion is now flourishing in a region where Gadhafi traditionally has maintained strong tribal support.

Two Libyan air force pilots parachuted from their Russian-made Sukhoi fighter jet and let it crash rather than carry out orders to bomb opposition-held Benghazi, Libya's second-largest city, the website Quryna reported, citing an unidentified officer in the air force control room.

New Zealand rescuers continue search

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (MCT) — Workers continued to sift through the rubble for survivors of Tuesday's 6.3-magnitude earthquake here, but officials said hopes had dimmed that those buried would be found alive.

Despite that gloomy assessment, volunteers pulled two people from the ruins of one building Wednesday after hearing the cries of a woman in the wreckage.

The official death toll remained at 75, with scores missing.

As Christchurch settled in for another uneasy night, family members of the missing waited

for word under a steady drizzle and cold temperatures.

Police imposed a 6:30 p.m. curfew in the city center as rescue teams continued their search, and violators faced arrest.

On Wednesday, international flights returned to Christchurch, but more people scrambled to get out of the city than in, with dozens camped out at the airport waiting for flights.

Many tourists traveled without luggage or even passports, after they fled hotel rooms without any belongings.

At Canterbury Television, where 200 people worked, searchers at 1 a.m. Thursday brought in floodlights and a digger to sift through the still-smoking ruins.

Space shuttle to launch final flight

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Mission managers today gave space shuttle Discovery a go for Thursday's planned launch on STS-133.

The 39th flight of the orbiter is set to lift off from Kennedy Space Center at 4:50 p.m. EST. This is the final flight of Discovery, the oldest of the three remaining ships in the space shuttle fleet.

There's an 80 percent chance of good weather and no significant technical hurdles in the way. The countdown clock is in the middle of a 13-plus-hour hold at T-11 hours that will begin again just after midnight Thursday.

N.C. State gets new touch wall in library

Technology will help group work

BY EMILY BOOKER
STAFF WRITER

A new "multi-touch" wall at N.C. State University will allow students and faculty to channel their inner Anderson Cooper by allowing its users to manipulate data and graphics.

The Perceptive Pixel wall, a \$100,000 piece of equipment, is 92 inches across diagonally and was recently installed in the D.H. Hill Library on NCSU's campus.

David Woodbury, the learning commons librarian at NCSU, oversaw the installation of the touch screen and will monitor its use.

"The advantage is that you can take the things you can do on an iPad and turn it into a whole wall," Woodbury said. "A lot of collaborative and presentation work and exploring graphics can be done in a very different way than just a static, flat screen."

Woodbury said the wall is an experiment in display technology, which will be the focus of a new library opening on the campus next year.

The touch-screen will be available to all students but will be particularly useful to students working on design projects or group work, he said.

The Perceptive Pixel wall was paid for by a federal grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services that was administered by the State Library of North Carolina. The university applied for the grant and received \$100,000.

Chad Haeefe, emerging technologies librarian for UNC Libraries, said that although the libraries have introduced technology such as a new mobile-accessible website and overhead scanners, technology such as the Perceptive Pixel wall would not be as useful at UNC.

"State and UNC have different institutional priorities," Haeefe said. "They have a big computer science program, so it makes perfect sense for them to have one of these walls."

But some students said they wish to see more media usage on campus.

"SMART boards would be really useful in study rooms for group work," said Anna Abate, a freshman history major at UNC. "There isn't a good way to largely display material."

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

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Opening Day!
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SOFTBALL v. Georgetown 6p
MEN'S LAX v. Navy 7:30p
Chance to win \$50 to Lacrosse.com!

SATURDAY, FEB. 26
BASEBALL v. Seton Hall 2p
SOFTBALL v. FIU 3p & St. Josephs 5p

SUNDAY, FEB. 27
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BASEBALL v. Seton Hall 1pm
MEN'S BBALL v. Maryland 7:45pm

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