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GREENSBORO -- Retirees are moving to North Carolina in droves, but not to the Triad, said Wake Forest University professor Charles Longino Jr.

This means that the region is missing out on the majority of the more than \$1 billion of net income each year coming with those migrants who are 60 or older.

"They all go to the same place," Longino said Wednesday evening during a talk at UNCG.

Longino has been studying demographic trends for four decades and released preliminary findings Wednesday of a demographic study he plans to complete in June.

The top places for retirees and their cash: the Durham-Wake area, the Mecklenburg region, and coastal cities.

The reasons people choose those areas include access to housing and cultural amenities, such as university libraries and outdoor activities. He characterized health care as a peripheral concern.

Guilford County drew about 4 percent of the migrants coming to the state from 1995 to 2000.

The counties receiving the wealthiest migrants are Chatham and Orange.

In the four decades the study examined, the state has moved up the ladder as a retiree destination, from 27th in 1960 to fifth in 2000, Longino said.

The reason for the change is that migration has been increasingly tied to lifestyle during the past four decades. As a result, Southern states and others with warmer climes, such as Arizona, have benefited.

Overall, though, "the big migration pattern is moving to the state next door," Longino said.

Familiarity with the region and proximity to family drive that trend, he said.

While North Carolina is the fifth-most-popular destination for out-of-state retirees as of 2000, the new residents do not make that big of a dent in the older population of the state.

New retiree migrants made up 6 percent of the 60-and-older population in 2000, compared with 20 percent in Nevada and 15 percent in Arizona.

The reason is that people who live here stay here at a much higher rate than people in other states, Longino said.

Part of the reason is financial, he said.

North Carolina has many poor people -- and poverty contributes to people staying in one place, he said.

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