THE DAILY CLIPS

January 14, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion
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The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
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The Wall Street Journal
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The Fayetteville Observer
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ECU seeks alumni for interviews

Project will document the stories of first-generation graduates of the university.

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University's J.Y. Joyner Library is working with the campus Centennial Task Force to prepare an oral history of first-generation graduates of the university.

Interviewers plan to conduct 20 alumni interviews during the spring and summer. Individuals interested in participating are asked to send a brief statement about their experiences to the special collections office.

The people will be selected from the following time periods: pre-1945, 1946-1965, 1966-1985; 1986-2005. An effort will be made to select interviewees who represent the spectrum of students on campus during each time period. Trained interviewers will ask alumni to discuss their family background, home community, college experience and the impact their education has had on their lives.

The interviews will be made available for scholarly research at Joyner Library's Special Collections Department and through the Web site of the University Archives, and a public program will be held in 2009 to showcase the results of the project. The interviewees will be asked to sign a release form so that their stories will be accessible to the public.

Interest alumni, people who were the first in their family to graduate from college, can send their statement to Maury York, Assistant Director for Special Collections, J.Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, N.C. 27858-4553 by April 1. E-mail messages may be directed to yorkm@ecu.edu (please use "Centennial Oral History Project" in the subject line). Personal contact information should be included. Persons selected to participate in the project will be notified soon after April 1. For more information, contact York at 328-0352.

Professors study 911 law

For nearly a decade, researchers at the College of Business have been studying how telecommunications technology in North Carolina affects 911 emergency calls.

So when the new state law designed to upgrade and streamline E-911 services took effect Jan. 1, they were paying close attention. The law aims to have every county in the state meet minimum coverage standards for cell phone and other technological services through a special 911 Board. A 70-cent fee for all cell, landline and Internet phone users will be used to create a special E-911 fund.

See ECU, B3

Seeman, working with College of Business finance colleague James Holloway and management information systems colleague Maggie O'Hara, as well as former ECU master's of business administration student Arno Forst, studies E-911 in the United States as well as the models used throughout the European Union.

While the European Union has a single standard for cellular service the United States' Federal Communications Commission allows for competition.

Seeman said the result is many states have problems with 911 coverage.

The new North Carolina law will enable a statewide 911 Board to distribute the money to communities with the specific goal of upgrading technology to ensure consistent response to 911 calls.

Seeman plans to continue to work with Holloway and O'Hara to determine if the new law will improve emergency responses communication.

The want to develop a research division within the College of business to study information management and telecommunications.

"The bottom line is, if people have an emergency and they need to be located, no matter how they try to communicate, we need to meet their expectations," Seeman said.

"If you call 911 from a cell phone, will they find you? If you text message them, will they find you?"
Public Forum

Single-payer health care system better

The Jan. 9 front-page article regarding the ECU-Cigna deal should be an eye-opener for certain folks, i.e. 5,400 local people who view ECU physicians as their doctors. Until the deal was reached, Cigna was to cut ECU Physicians out of its network, meaning that persons with Cigna insurance would have to pay increased out-of-pocket expenses to continue seeing their doctors.

Does this sound familiar? President Bush would have us believe that any move from private insurance to public insurance would be a disaster — socialized medicine. Why, shucks, if we had socialized medicine, the government could tell us what doctors we could and could not see. And we sure as heck don't want to go there.

Wait a minute: Wasn't Cigna telling its insured customers what doctors they could see? Cigna, Blue Cross, Aetna, et al. call it a physician network. I don't know about you, but that network stuff sure smells a lot like what Bush is calling socialized medicine.

There is an alternative to this private insurance fiasco. It's called the single-payer system. With this system, which has nothing to do with socialized medicine, patients will be able to see the physician of his or her choice. There will be no networks and no anxiety on the part of patients worrying if their doctor's fees will be covered.

Under the single-payer system, every inhabitant of this country will be covered, so there will be no concerns about having insurance claims denied. Best of all, this health care system can all be accomplished at a fraction of the cost of our current medical system.

Had enough? So have I. That's why I am a member of Physicians for a National Health Program, an organization of more than 14,000 American physicians advocating a single-payer system. Get more information at the Physicians for a National Health Program Web site.

PAUL COOK
Greenville
Kristina L.B. Hobbs


A memorial service will be conducted today at 4 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel. Burial will be private.

Kristina was a graduate of J.H. Rose High School and East Carolina University, where she earned a BA in Business Administration with a concentration in accounting.

She was employed with East Carolina University, and attended Covenant United Methodist Church. Kristina was an accomplished artist, but the center of her life was her daughter, Sophie.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Hoyt Rushing Bryan and Margaret Arlene Gentry Bryan, and Paul B. and Catherine B. Dawson.

She is survived by her daughter, Sophie Evelynn Hobbs; parents, Wayne and Lynn Bryan, of Greenville; brother, Robbie Bryan and wife, Michelle, and their son, Connor of Grimesland; sister, Holly M. Bryan and husband, Kendall D. Powell, of Durham; in-laws, Larry and Susan Hobbs, of Wilmington, and many loving aunts, uncles, and cousins.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Sophie F. Hobbs Education Fund, The East Carolina Bank, Attn: Laura Narron, 3001 Red Banks Road, Greenville, NC 27858 or the Family Violence Program of Pitt Co., 823 S. Evans St., Greenville, NC 27858.

Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory.
Incident highlights seriousness of issue

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

The murder-suicide of Winterville residents Kristina and Michael Hobbs on Wednesday morning was something their neighbors have said they never saw coming. Officials investigating the deaths said family members mentioned the couple was experiencing problems, though no legal action was ever taken.

Across the U.S. countless men and women experience domestic violence each year. Unfortunately, the most extreme cases end in death.

“We're not fortune tellers,” said Diana Lucas, executive director of Pitt County's Family Violence Program. “We can’t look and see this is going to happen or it’s not going to happen. … This case in particular shows that domestic violence happens to all types of people.”

Lucas has spent two decades as a domestic violence victim's advocate in Greenville and though predictions aren't her forte, she's familiar with patterns. She explained that most often homicides occur after the victim announces his or her plan to leave, taking over the one thing an abuser seeks: control.

“You’ve got to be cautious in relationships,” she stressed, and warns men and women to look out for partners who seek to alienate

See VIOLENCE, A11

WHAT IS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE?

Domestic violence encompasses both emotional and physical abuse. Emotional Abuse could include:

- Constant criticism
- Ignoring feelings and needs
- Calling names
- Isolation from friends and family
- Accusations of “sleeping around”
- Threatening you or your family
- Living in fear

Common physical abuses include:

- Slapping
- Pushing or shoving
- Hair pulling and biting
- Choking
- Punching and kicking
- Unwanted sexual acts
- Being locked out of the house
- Having a weapon used against you

Numbers for Greenville in 2007:

1,085 service calls for domestic violence
98 arrests were made at those calls
34 Domestic violence order violations

Source: Greenville Police Department

ONLINE: Read this story online to download a questionnaire that may help you or a loved one identify a domestic violence situation.
VIOLENCE  
Continued from A1

them from friends and loved ones, refuse them responsibilities or intimidate them verbally or physically.

In the meantime, those friends and loved ones may feel powerless when they fear someone they know is being abused. They can really only talk to them and offer support, Lucas said, urge them to seek help and realize that the decision to leave a partner is not theirs to make.

“The victim is the best person to determine the level of danger,” she added.

The Hobbs case is one of the ultimate domestic violence. Lucas expressed concern over the future of their young daughter, as domestic abuse is a generational trend. More often than not, she said, the children develop into either abusers or victims themselves.

“They’ve been emotionally abused just by being there,” she said of children in violent families. “Those children are in much need of immediate counseling and intervention.”

Whether there are children to protect or only yourself, Lucas emphasized that abuse is a crime, and there are people across Pitt County offering aid to victims.

“If a stranger beats you up, they’re going to jail,” Lucas concluded. “Just because you married him shouldn’t make it any different.”

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at k kennedy@coxnc.com or 329-9566.

HOW TO HELP A FRIEND

Below is a list of tips on how to help a victim:

**DO** listen to what they have to say.
**DO** tell them you’re concerned for their safety.
**DO** provide them with information about domestic violence outreach.
**DO** let them know it’s not their fault.
**DO** remind them you’re there for support and encourage them to seek help.
**DO** call the police if lives are endangered.
**DON’T** judge the victim.
**DON’T** try to tell them what to do.
**DON’T** talk badly about the abuser because they may stay together.
**DON’T** isolate them if they don’t leave or return to the abuser.
**DON’T** intervene in an incident.

Source: (for above box)
Family Violence Program Inc.
of Pitt County
Victims' advocate is the steadying force when a violent crime occurs.

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

A call was received at the Pitt County Sheriff's Office on Wednesday morning. The dispatcher's words, "possible homicide," mobilized detectives and crime scene investigators, normal procedure for a violent crime.

In the buzz of activity at the Huff Drive crime scene, few people noticed a diminutive and demure woman who stepped under the barricade tape into the middle of life's darker side. This was nothing new to Rosemary Haddock.

After she was briefed on the bare facts, Haddock went to work but not collecting evidence or interviewing potential witnesses. Her job was the enviable task of caring for the people left behind. Haddock is a victims' advocate in law enforcement for the sheriff, there as a first responder on the Major Crimes Division team under Chief Investigator Lee Moore.

Haddock joined sheriff's investigators at the Woodruff home of Michael and Kristina Hobbs on Wednesday morning. Investigators determined that Michael Hobbs shot and killed his wife before turning the gun on himself.

First steps

When she steps into a situation, Haddock first listens very carefully to the investigators and tries to determine the demeanor of the victims and all of the people involved at the scene.

"Victims don't always understand everything we tell them because they are in shock or grieving. I'm a stranger walking into their lives and they don't know if they can trust me, so I have to establish a rapport with them," Haddock said.

That is an important time, she said, because she is genuinely interested in what happens to crime victims.

"This is not 'Court TV'; it's real life," Haddock said.

"I help them understand what the legal system is, who will be in their lives and who they can expect to contact them," Haddock said.

She also refers victims to different agencies and organizations that can help them with issues related to the specific crimes they encounter, such as the Family Violence Program and others within the Pitt County Department of Social Services.

When children are involved, there are special services offered, such as the Tender Evaluation Diagnostic Intervention, also called TEDI Bear, Advocacy Center.

The task of providing service to people in such difficult circumstances can seem impossible at times, but for Haddock the key is close vigilance and continual follow-up care.

"I'm there from the beginning to the very end of the process, including the court system if there is need for that," Haddock said.

Career in caring

Haddock is the current president of the N.C. Victim Advocates in Law Enforcement Association. She received a paralegal degree from Pitt Community College and serves on the college's paralegal advisory board. She also received a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from North Carolina Wesleyan University and has taken master's level courses in criminal justice at East Carolina University.

Haddock also attends yearly in-service training through the sheriff's office and networks with other advocates.

"We talk about how to handle stress, what we have to do to stay healthy and alert and where we can go for help when we need it," Haddock said.

The victims advocate office started as a grant position at the Pitt County Sheriff's Office in 1986. Haddock has been with the office since 1988.

Before that, she worked as an administrative assistant at Lenoir Community College.

Leigh Place is the other member of the victims advocate team for Pitt County. She takes the straightforward approach to helping victims.

"I find that most victims want to speak to someone who understands what's happened to them. Most of them are ready to talk and want information about what will happen next, including the court process," Place said.

She gets great pleasure and satisfaction from her work, she said, and appreciates the thanks that victims give her.

"That makes it all worthwhile," Place said.

Nobody thinks about the possibility of needing Haddock's services, but then one day some do. When that happens, Haddock and Place assure them they will be there for them, no matter how desperate they feel about their circumstances at the moment.

"There are legal and medical needs they might have, and even compensation services they might be entitled to, and we want them to feel comfortable about having their needs met. We are very lucky in Pitt County to have so many services available to victims. At one time or another they will need them," Haddock said.

Michael Abramowitz can be contacted at mabramowitz@coxnc.com and 329-9571.
Search continues for SECU robber

The Daily Reflector

The Greenville Police Department is continuing its search for the man who robbed a State Employees Credit Union office Friday.

The incident at the credit union's office on 2211 Hemby Lane happened shortly before 11:30 a.m., according to a department news release.

The suspect, described as a male, 5 feet, 7 inches tall and 180 pounds, wearing a red and white scarf over his face, produced a handgun and demanded money, police said.

The suspect fled the scene with an undetermined amount of money in a vehicle described as a white Lexus sedan.

There were between 15 and 20 employees at the site and several customers in the lobby at the time of the robbery, according to Jim Blaine, credit union president and CEO.

The staff was frightened but acted according to company policy when they complied with the robber's demands, Blaine said.

No employees or customers were harmed during the robbery. The bank was closed for an investigation, procedures were reassessed and business then resumed, Blaine said.

"Most financial institutions experience this two or three times a year. It's part of our business. Money is replaceable and our instructions to our employees are always to do as they are asked and get (the robbers) out as quickly as possible," Blaine said.

Local, state and federal law enforcement agencies will pursue the suspects because it is a state financial institution and the money is federally insured, Blaine said.
Gun bought two days before murder-suicide

By Michael Abramowicz
The Daily Reflector

A Winterville man who killed his wife and himself purchased the handgun he used two days before the deaths, officials confirmed.

A receipt from Greenville Sporting Center on 10th Street determined Michael Hobbs bought the .38-caliber revolver on Monday, said Lee Moore, chief of investigations at the Pitt County Sheriff’s Office.

The revolver was found in Hobbs’ right hand on Wednesday and was the only firearm found in the home, officials said.

An autopsy concluded Hobbs, 36, and his wife, Kristina Bryan Hobbs, 34, both died from single, .38-caliber gunshot wounds to the head, Moore said Friday.

The incident occurred Wednesday morning at the couple’s home at 619 Huff Drive, Winterville. Their 6-year-old daughter was at Creekside Elementary School and now is in the custody of family members.

Deputies received information that Hobbs recently had sought psychiatric care, Moore said, but an investigation likely won’t go further into what may have motivated his actions.

The bodies were discovered by Kristina Hobbs’ mother. Deputies were called to the house at about 9:50 a.m.

An obituary for Kristina Hobbs said she was a graduate of J.H. Rose High School and East Carolina University and attended Covenant United Methodist Church.

It said she was an accomplished artist and that her family.

Susan Joyner, a social worker for the state, has 6-year-old and 18-year-old daughters. The younger girl goes to school with and plays with the Hobbs’ daughter.

“When I was there Saturday, Mike had cooked a roast in the crockpot, a normal life thing, and here we are four days later. This is crazy. Their life appeared normal from the outside,” she said.

Michael seemed sad that day, Joyner said, “And I could kick myself 100 times over for not asking ‘What’s up?’

“It’s very sad to think that little girl woke up (the next) morning without a mom and dad,” she said.

Michael Abramowicz can be contacted at 329-9571 and mabramowitz@coxnc.com.

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"Their life appeared normal from the outside."

Susan Joyner
neighbor

Michael Hobbs and his wife, Kristina. Our condolences extend to family, friends and acquaintances. Mike was employed with our firm for two years and appeared to be very dedicated to his family,” Simon said in a written statement Friday. Grief counselors are being provided to employees there, Simon added.

The couple was married in May 1999 in Greenville. They moved into their Huff Drive residence in October 2002.

Neighbors in the Woodridge subdivision neighborhood where the couple lived said Hobbs seemed to dote on his family.

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Continued from A1

daughter was the center of her life. Her family members declined to comment on Friday.

She was an accountant in the cashier’s office at East Carolina University. The office was busy Friday with students back for the first day of the spring semester. One of her coworkers said the staff was managing as well as they could be expected under the circumstances.

Michael Hobbs was born in Stoddard, Mo., according to the couple’s marriage certificate, and his parents live in Texas. He was an accountant with Herman Simon Accountants on Charles Boulevard.

The offices were closed Thursday and Friday in observance.
“We, as many others, were surprised and shocked this week at the tragedy involving their family. 

Michael Abramowitz can be contacted at 329-9571 and mabramowitz@coxnc.com.
Carolina North would get law school

UNC-CH plans opening by 2010-11 academic year

BY MEILING AROUNNARATH STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — Building a law school on the Carolina North campus is now a top priority for UNC-Chapel Hill.

At a meeting Sunday of the Chapel Hill Town Council, UNC-CH Chancellor James Moeser, board of trustees members Roger Perry and Bob Winston, and Carolina North Executive Director Jack Evans, Moeser said the university is planning to open a 200,000-square-foot law school by the 2010-11 academic year.

Carolina North — where the university plans to develop a research, corporate and residential campus — covers almost 1,000 acres and is two miles north of the main campus.

"We want to expand the [law school] enrollment. We need more faculty offices," Moeser said. "We have a [current] building that’s filled with asbestos that requires abatement."

He said the university will need $30 million in planning funds for the new law school, which will include costs for the infrastructure.

Renovating or expanding the current building would cost the university $85 million to $90 million, Moeser said, and take five to seven years to complete.

"For us, this is a no-brainer," he said, adding that a new building would not disrupt classes at the existing building. "For us, it’s enormously practical."

On Sunday, university officials said they plan to develop 85 acres of the Carolina North site within the first 15 years.

The campus will eventually be a center for university research programs, start-up businesses, a public school, housing, retail and recreation facilities. It will also house some of the university’s graduate school programs.

Carolina North has been in the works for about 12 years. The university began looking at uses for the Horace Williams tract in the mid-1990s.

The first building, an Innovation Center business incubator, is to be built by a private developer who will collect rent from tenants. The concept plan for that building will go before the town council later this month.

The first phase of the development will be centered where the Horace Williams Airport runway now sits, off Municipal Drive and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The UNC-CH medical school’s air operations are now based at the Horace Williams Airport. But medical flights make up fewer than one in four flights, records show. The airport is used primarily by private pilots.

The university is planning to move its medical air operations to Raleigh-Durham International Airport. The board of trustees plans to vote in two weeks to approve a lease with RDU for a medical hangar there, at an estimated cost of around $3 million. The vote is set to then go before the UNC Board of Governors in March.

Town and university leaders also discussed the new public transit system that could transport the faculty, staff and students between Carolina North and the main campus.

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New counsel for UNC

The UNC system has a new top lawyer: Laura Bernstein Luger, who has been an attorney with Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice. Luger was announced Friday as vice president for legal affairs and general counsel of the University of North Carolina system. She starts the job Feb. 1 at an annual salary of $225,000.

Luger succeeds Leslie Winner,
S
urgeon/writer Richard Selzer tells us we should learn to enjoy brief illnesses like colds and flu because they provide us with a rare opportunity to check out. The flu is hard to enjoy, but if the TV is on the classics channel, and if you keep falling asleep and waking up during key scenes of different films, when you’re healthy again, reflecting on the absurdity of these jumpcuts, and maybe trying to get the experience into a poem, then it becomes enjoyable, if not funny. Ah, hindsight!

Shivering, you drag yourself, as if gun-shot, to the living room, to the old movie channel, to a Bogart festival, your mind fogged over (like the street on the screen)
edging toward feverish sleep when Bogey snarls

by Bedoya's machete, all that gold dust blown away
with the whole bloody day, everything gone—gone black
as your living room windows—those previews of The Big Sleep.

Peter Makuck’s fifth collection of poems is “Off-Season in the Promised Land.” Founder and editor of Tar River Poetry from 1978 to 2006, he is Distinguished Professor Emeritus at East Carolina University. His work has appeared in The Hudson Review, Poetry and The Nation. He is teaching poetry at N.C. State University.
Jones' feats at UNC upheld

Officials call those victories genuine

By Anne Blythe
Staff Writer

As Marion Jones gets ready to go to federal prison, memorabilia from the life of the fallen track superstar have already been locked away at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the alma mater of the woman once touted as the world's fastest.

But just as swiftly as North Carolina athletics officials showed away photographs of Jones reveling on the Olympic stage, the coaches and administrators resolved to stand by her college achievements in basketball and track.

"We focused on the time she was with us and how she had represented the university in such a positive way and made significant contributions," said Dick Baddour, UNC-CH athletic director. "We felt like she was deserving of the recognition she achieved here. ... I feel disappointment for her and the sport and the university as well. It's extremely difficult and disappointing."

Her No. 20 basketball jersey hangs from the Carmichael Auditorium rafters in recognition of the contributions she made to the 1994 NCAA championship team.

There will be no erasing of records still standing from her days as a lightning-quick basketball point guard or as a college long-jumper or sprinter.

"None of that is under question," said Steve Kirschner, UNC-CH director of athletic communications. "We're not going to change that."

Worldwide fame came after college for Jones, during her professional track career. So did the problems.

In the fall, UNC-CH athletics officials wrestled with the question of how to be fair to the memory of Jones. She had sent Coach Sylvia Hatchell and some of her former teammates letters informing them she planned to

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Jones
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plead guilty in October to lying to federal investigators about her steroid use.

That admission forced her to return the five medals she took home in 2000 from the Sydney Olympics.

Jones, whose radiant smile and sculpted muscles once made her an advertising darling for Nike and other corporate sponsors, was sentenced on Friday to six months in prison for lying to federal agents. On three occasions, prosecutors said, Jones lied to agents about her use of performance-enhancing drugs and her connections to a check fraud scheme.

For sports fans and UNC-CH alumni who bleed Tar Heel blue,

Cont...
the Jones case has been complicated.

Travis Tygart, who received a philosophy degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1993, is the chief executive officer for the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, the organization responsible for testing athletes.

"This case from day one has been the hardest case I've ever dealt with," Tygart said after the Jones' sentencing. "Carolina is about integrity; it's about ethics. When someone who went there wins, we want to celebrate their accomplishments. At the same time, we can't stand for their cheating."

Tygart added, "Fortunately, none of this has been shown to have happened while she was at Carolina. The school has to deal with the history of it, and hopefully they will do it in a respectful way."

At the sentencing hearing Friday in White Plains, N.Y., the judge brushed back pleas from Jones' attorneys for no prison time.

U.S. District Judge Kenneth M. Karas said he hoped to send a strong message to athletes at a time when baseball, track and field, cycling and other sports struggle under a pall cast over them by the prevalent use of performance-enhancing drugs and steroids.

Jones' fall might serve as a cautionary tale for other athletes, but her ability to avoid testing positive for doping also spoke to how vulnerable the sport remains to sophisticated cheaters. It wasn't until Jones became embroiled in a criminal case involving check fraud that prosecutors gained the leverage to force her to admit her steroid use.

"For the world anti-doping agency and the world anti-doping movement this should be an uncomfortable case," said David Wallechinsky, an Olympic historian. "She didn't get caught by testing, she passed all those tests in Sydney. She got caught for lying under oath."

In the days after the sentencing, some questioned whether the judge had been too tough, given Jones' tumultuous tumble from the top and her tearful pleas to not be separated from her two boys, including the infant son she's still nursing.

"I'd rather people spend more time giving heat to the people in the White House," said Jeff Gorski, a former North Carolina javelin coach who lives in Chapel Hill. "If they want to prosecute somebody who lied under oath, I'd rather they spend more time pros-

ecuting Dick Cheney and others in the White House who lied. I couldn't care less about what happened with Marion Jones."

Ed Clark, a UNC-Chapel Hill alum who has spent time in the collegiate and professional world of track and field, said he thought Jones could rise to the top again.

"She has a chance to redeem herself," Clark said. "She's paying for what she did, she's going to go to jail. I think Carolina should invite her back to talk about her experience. She could solidify her legacy by talking honestly and openly about what she did wrong."

Baddour, the UNC-Chapel Hill athletic director, said over the years he had noticed that some of the most powerful speakers with cautionary tales for college athletes were the people who had been addicted to alcohol, drugs or gambling.

"My sense is, there's a lot to be learned from her experience," Baddour said.

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UNC details Davis’ contract

School restructures payment schedule

By Robbi Pickeral
Staff Writer

Chapel Hill — North Carolina football coach Butch Davis’ announced $291,000 raise, along with a one-year contract extension, appears to negate some of his financial incentive to stay at UNC for the long term.

In the new deal, the university will pay Davis money that under the old deal would have only been paid to him after five years on the job. It amounts to more than half of the annual raise — $157,000 per year. The deal was signed by Davis on Wednesday and released Friday.

When the raise was first announced in November, it came as Davis’ name was circulating as a possible target for the head coaching job at Arkansas, his alma mater. Davis says he’s at UNC for the long term. He led the Tar Heels to a 4-8 finish this past season, his first at UNC.

Davis will average $2.2 million per season for the entire seven-year deal.

Under the old contract, $120,000 per year was to be paid into a deferred compensation account for the first five seasons, then $300,000 in each of the next two. Now, he’s getting a special bonus for every year he stays, instead of lump sums if he stays five, then seven, seasons.

The new deal amounts to a $200,000 per year increase in his pay if he stays for the entire length of the contract.

His annual pay increase is closer to $300,000 in the early years.

“The difference is, the retention bonus that was in the old contract was accumulated and paid out in intervals,” athletic director Dick Baddour said. “So what we did is decided to pay that on an annual basis if he’s here through June 30 of every year.”

If Davis chooses to leave UNC without cause and takes another coaching position, he will still owe the school a penalty ranging from $2 million in the first year down to $700,000 by the final year of his contract. His new contract runs through Jan. 15, 2015.

The only other change to his deal: If the Tar Heels are invited to participate in an ACC first- or second-choice non-BCS bowl game, Davis will receive a bonus of two months base pay instead of one. That matches what the university basketball coaches are getting.

“This [extension] was of paramount importance for stability in this program that has not enjoyed that over the years, and we absolutely believe we have the right fit,” Baddour said.

The new deal had sparked some controversy in the university community, including criticism of the amounts Davis will be paid.

Baddour and university trustees say they are keeping up with the market in a competitive field.

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Colleges
Admissions requirements on the rise in UNC system

FROM STAFF REPORTS

WINSTON-SALEM – Starting in the fall of 2009, students admitted to the UNC system will have to show a minimum of 2.0 high school grade point average and at least 700 on the SAT or 15 on the ACT. Minimum admissions requirements were approved Friday by the UNC Board of Governors at a meeting in Winston-Salem.

By 2011, the requirements will rise to a 2.3 GPA, 750 SAT or 16 ACT. By 2013, they will be a 2.5 GPA and 800 SAT or 17 ACT.

UNC officials say new standards would affect mainly six campuses: Elizabeth City State, Fayetteville State, N.C. A&T State, N.C. Central and Winston-Salem State universities, and UNC-Pembroke. Each of the schools was founded to serve minority students.

Even with the higher standards, chancellors at the UNC campuses will be allowed to have exceptions to the policy of up to 1 percent of applicants.