The Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce has recognized two citizens for their contributions to the community.

Daneel le Roux, chief executive officer of the Eastern Carolina Vocational Center in Greenville, was named the 2010 Citizen of the Year, and Janice Faulkner, former N.C. Secretary of State and retired English professor at East Carolina University, received the Legends Award for 2010. The chamber honored le Roux and Faulkner at its annual dinner Thursday night at Rock Springs Center.

“I always admired the people who got this award before me,” le Roux said. “And now to be named among these great people is wonderful.”

Le Roux was on a cruise in the Bahamas with his wife when he received word he was named Citizen of the Year, having booked the trip before he knew he was even nominated. Though he regretted being unable to attend the ceremony, le Roux wrote an acceptance speech, saying, “from the bottom of my heart I express my profound appreciation for the honor you bestowed on me tonight.”

Born in South Africa, le Roux came to the United States in 1947 to finish high school. After college, missionary work and teaching positions, he came to Pitt County in 1965 to be near his wife's family. He worked as a writer for Encyclopedia Britannica and at Beaufort Community College. He became president of ECVC in 1982 — his title changed to CEO about a year ago.

Le Roux introduced an entrepreneurial philosophy to ECVC that before had struggled to survive on grants. ECVC is a private, not-for-profit corporation that provides training and employment to people with disabilities.

“Of the awards I've gotten, this is the most culminating, the one of which I am most proud and for which I am most grateful,” le Roux said. “I really credit the people I've worked with and the citizens here. Their help inspired me. They really won this award.”

Faulkner is a native of Martin County and graduated from what was East Carolina Teachers College before going on to a career in civics and politics.

“It (the award) came out of the blue,” Faulkner said. “I'm really honored.”
Faulkner retired about 10 years ago as the commissioner of the state Department of Motor Vehicles. Prior to that, she served as the secretary of revenue at the request of Gov. Jim Hunt and later was appointed to serve as secretary of state to finish a vacant term before Elaine Marshall was elected. She also was the first female executive director of the N.C. Democratic Party.

“I've had wonderful opportunities to do exciting things, and I hope useful things, all without going far from home,” Faulkner said. “I've always begun every position with a bit of self-doubt, but every success builds confidence. You use what you know and fill the gaps. And you put really good people around you, they are the secret to success.”

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**NCSU to cut degree programs**

BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer
RALEIGH N.C. State University leaders announced a major reorganization Tuesday that will eliminate some degree programs and merge departments and possibly entire schools.

Chancellor Randy Woodson said NCSU faces a cut of up to $80 million from its annual state budget allocation beginning with the next fiscal year. That loss is almost certainly permanent, and so large that the only way to prevent damage to the university's mission is to rethink its entire structure rather than simply telling every department to cut, Woodson said.

"The intent is to minimize the impact of the cut," he said. "Frankly, one fear is that if we don't do this, it will be death by a thousand cuts."

If NCSU leaders don't protect core strengths of the university such as engineering and science, Woodson said, it can't perform the role that the state expects of it.

He added that with such a massive cut, layoffs are inevitable. In turn, that will mean larger class sizes, fewer sections and more difficulty for students getting the classes they need to graduate on time.

NCSU has the largest enrollment of any university in the state and, along with UNC-Chapel Hill, is regarded as one of the flagships of the 16-campus state system.

A proposed tuition increase would help, Woodson said, but not nearly enough to prevent the need to restructure and to have layoffs. And any tuition increase would come on top of a $750 hike last year, which partly offset another budget cut from the state - the fourth in a row.

"This is a national discussion, and I believe we're all looking at a recalculated norm - and that norm is lower state budgets," Woodson said. "I don't think anyone sees a dramatic recovery for state budgets anytime soon."
Plan isn't settled
It's unclear which programs, departments and schools will be affected, but NCSU's reorganization will move quickly. Woodson said he has appointed Provost Warwick Arden and Vice Chancellor Charles Leffler to develop a plan by March 15. Changes outlined in the plan would begin June 1. The new budget year begins July 1.

"That's not to say that in March we'll have all the answers, but we'll definitely have a plan of areas to consolidate that we can begin implementing," Woodson said.

Among other things, Arden and Leffler will look at all courses and academic degree programs with low enrollment and under-subscribed majors for possible elimination or consolidation.

Woodson also said he will be looking at ways to merge parts of the administration. The reorganization is expected to include consolidation of business offices that are spread in departments all over campus into a few "regional" offices in strategic locations to handle functions such as human resources, purchasing, travel, grants and contract administration.

No figures yet
The state legislature hasn't yet begun work on the budget, so it's also unclear just how deep the cuts from the state will be. Still, the reduction is certain to be so substantial that there is no doubt the reorganization will be needed, Woodson said.

The entire UNC system is scrambling to plan for cuts of up to 15 percent in its budget allocation from the state.

NCSU's review of its organization will parallel another involving the entire system. System President Tom Ross recently enlisted former UNC-Charlotte Chancellor James Woodward to identify academic duplication across the system that could be cut.

Woodward, who last year finished up as interim NCSU chancellor before Woodson was hired, has become the system's go-to man for major short-term assignments.
Woodson said NCSU started its effort before hearing about the systemwide initiative but that it would coordinate with the system.

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Currently at NCSU
Figures as of fall 2010
34,376 students
8,009 faculty and staff
272 degrees offered, including 106 bachelor's, 104 master's, 61 doctoral, 1 veterinary medicine
65 academic departments
10 colleges
Friends hold vigil for Clayton senior

CLAYTON—Friends and family on Sunday grieved for Kyle Edward Kozlowski, the Clayton High School senior who died after his truck ran off the road.

“He shouldn’t be remembered as just another name in the news,” said Phillip Worrell, 18, who was a friend of Kozlowski’s. “He was someone who could always make us laugh because he was always joking and always happy.”

Kozlowski, 18, died late Friday night after his 1976 Ford F-100 Ranger truck zigzagged several times across Loop Road near Covered Bridge Road about 11 p.m.

The truck flipped several times and ended up in a ditch, against several trees, off the right road shoulder, state troopers said.

Kozlowski was ejected and fatally injured. The truck was traveling about 70 mph, and Kozlowski was not wearing a seat belt, troopers reported.

Worrell said he was the first on the scene of the crash.

He and Kozlowski had been hanging out all day and were on their way to a friend’s house when Kozlowski passed him on the road, Worrell said Sunday.

“We was going pretty fast,” Worrell said. “I didn’t see [the crash] happen, but the wheels of his were still spinning when I pulled up.”

Worrell and other friends planned Sunday’s candlelight vigil in the Clayton High parking lot. They hoped the event would help people remember Kozlowski for his bright, positive personality rather than his fatal wreck.

Worrell said he and Kozlowski had planned on being roommates during their freshman year this fall at East Carolina University.

Instead, Worrell was among the 300 friends and family members at the memorial to honor his fallen friend. “We just wanted him to be remembered in the right way,” Worrell said.

A memorial service will be held Thursday at 4 p.m. at The Clayton Center, 111 E. Second Street.

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Another N.C. A&T official fired over sickle cell death

Wednesday, January 19, 2011
(Updated 10:11 am)

By Gerald Witt, Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — N.C. A&T on Tuesday fired Associate Athletics Director Merlene Aitken and suspended chief athletics trainer Roland Lovelace with pay in more fallout from the investigation into the death of student Jospin “Andre” Milandu at a track and field tryout in August.

University officials also confirmed that A&T is negotiating a financial settlement with the family of Milandu, who died of sickle cell trait.

The personnel moves come after the discovery this month of an Aug. 17 e-mail from Lovelace in which he asked coaches not to test tryouts for sickle cell trait to save money.

The e-mail was sent two days before Milandu died. An NCAA rule requires sickle cell trait testing.

Aitken was copied on the e-mail but university officials did not find it in an initial investigation into Milandu’s Aug. 19 death.

“At no point did anyone reveal knowledge of the existence of the e-mail,” Nicole Pride, associate vice chancellor for university relations, wrote in a response to questions from the News & Record.

Interim Athletics Director Earl Hilton III said by phone Tuesday that Aitken’s “discontinuation of employment was effective as of this afternoon.”

A&T did not release any other details of Aitken’s firing or Lovelace’s suspension. Aitken’s firing leaves a key role open in the athletics department. After its first investigation into Milandu’s death, the school fired Athletics Director Wheeler Brown and Darryl Hills, NCAA compliance director, in October.

After Hills left, Aitken took over the duties of NCAA compliance in addition to her job as a liaison for students in the athletics department.

“I know that we’ll be in conversation with HR (human resources), to be expeditious and ethical,” Hilton said about filling Aitken’s position. “We’ve got to have (NCAA) compliance in place right now.”
Meanwhile, Pride said that A&T is working with the Milandu family on a possible settlement.

But the family could still sue, said Frank Johns, the family’s attorney.

“I’m not hopeful that some resolution without litigation can occur with the university,” he said Tuesday. He said there could be a civil lawsuit charging negligence.

“There are other options against individuals that we would carefully weigh and consider in filing broader-based action,” Johns said.

Johns said A&T officials visited the family after Milandu’s death and asked them to agree to a $10,000 settlement in an accidental death of their son.

“It seems that A&T State University is one of the universities in the system that is not participating as a good community citizen,” Johns said.

“And its (A&T’s) effort in defense of its position will be to defend at every turn,” he said. “And the truth is that it’s defenseless.”

Pride said that the $10,000 is in an accidental death insurance policy covering each student.

Johns said the family didn’t take the policy. “It wasn’t an accident,” he said.

On Aug. 17, Lovelace sent the e-mail about the sickle cell trait test to nine coaches and Aitken.

When asked, school officials offered little other information about why it took months for the Aug. 17 e-mail to surface. The e-mail was confirmed through a Jan. 6 public records request from the News & Record.

The school also provided Tuesday a copy of an e-mail from Benicia Cleveland, director of sports medicine at the time, that she sent in June to tell coaches about an upcoming NCAA rule change requiring tests for sickle cell trait.

Cleveland is now an assistant athletics trainer at Winston-Salem State.

Some coaches who received the Aug. 17 e-mail from Lovelace also received Cleveland’s earlier e-mail.

“Based on the June 10 e-mail, the athletics department should have known,” Pride wrote.

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'Baited' bicycles catch college campus thieves

By Jamie Self - THE (Rock Hill, S.C.) HERLAD

ROCK HILL, S.C. –"Bike Baiting," a new and affordable initiative at Winthrop University, is staving off campus bike thefts and leading to arrests. So far, the program has led to five arrests, Winthrop Police Chief Frank Zebedis said.

Police started attaching GPS devices to three "bait" bikes in September 2010, placing the bait bikes among students' bikes around campus, some locked, some left unsecured - as college students often leave them, Zebedis said.

Once a thief takes the GPS-equipped bike beyond a certain range, the GPS device begins tracking the bike, sending its location to police, who begin their pursuit.

Before baiting, bikes were more difficult to recover. In 2009, 20 bikes were stolen, and police recovered one bike and made one arrest.

Throughout 2010, 16 bikes were stolen, including the eight bait bikes. Since September, police have recovered all the stolen bait bikes.

Police twice recovered the bikes without a suspect, who likely saw police responding, dumped the bike, and ran off, Zebedis said.

In each arrest, the suspects were adults, which came as a surprise, Zebedis said.

"I really anticipated that juveniles would have been on these bikes."

At less than $1,500, including materials and monitoring, the program has been a success, he said.

Versatile technology
Zebedis wouldn't describe the GPS units except to say they are difficult to locate on the bike.

They also can be placed on other items targeted by thieves.

Campus police said they have no intention to expand the bike bait program. Making the community aware of the program will help deter bike thieves, he said.

"You don't know if you're getting a bait bike or if you're getting someone else's bike," he said.

Winthrop looked to the University of Wisconsin-Madison when creating its program.

The UW-Madison Police Department began its program in May 2008. More than 100 bicycle thefts were reported on campus from January 2007 to May 2008, and only one arrest was made during that time, according to information on its website.

By the end of 2008, police had made 28 arrests on 85 stolen bikes. In 2009, reports of stolen bikes dropped to 55, and police made nine arrests, said UW-Madison Police Sgt. Aaron Chapin. He said the decline is due to a growing awareness of bike baiting.

There are other benefits, too, Chapin said, including identifying people who are "on campus to steal stuff." Bike thieves aren't usually limited to stealing bikes, he said.

Campus bike baiting programs also helps police educate students on preventing bike theft. Police urge students to register their bikes with campus police and choose larger, U-bolt locks over cable and chain locks, which can be cut easily.

"Crime is an opportunity," Zebedis said. "We can't control the individual's mindset or means, but we can take away the individual's opportunity."

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First two years of college wasted?

Report: Little learning done by many students

By Mary Beth Marklein
USA TODAY

Nearly half of the nation's undergraduates show almost no gains in learning in their first two years of college, in large part because colleges don't make academics a priority, a new report shows.

Instructors tend to be more focused on their own faculty research than teaching younger students, who in turn are more tuned in to their social lives, according to the report, based on a book titled Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses. Findings are based on transcripts and surveys of more than 3,000 full-time traditional-age students on 29 campuses nationwide, along with their results on the Collegiate Learning Assessment, a standardized test that gauges students' critical thinking, analytic reasoning and writing skills.

After two years in college, 45% of students showed no significant gains in learning; after four years, 36% showed little change.

Students also spent 50% less time studying compared with students a few decades ago, the research shows.

“These are really kind of shocking, disturbing numbers,” says New York University professor Richard Arum, lead author of the book, published by the University of Chicago Press.

He noted that students in the study, on average, earned a 3.2 grade-point average. “Students are able to navigate through the system quite well with little effort,” Arum said.

The Department of Education and Congress in recent years have looked for ways to hold colleges and universities accountable for student learning, but researchers say that federal intervention would be counterproductive.

“We can hope that the (new research) encourages rather than discourages college faculty to learn more about what works in terms of fostering higher levels of student learning,” said George Kuh, of the Center for Postsecondary Research at Indiana University.

Charles Blatch, director of the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium, used by 130 private colleges to improve education quality, said he thinks colleges are aware of the shortcomings but are trying to improve.

“I wouldn't want to create the impression that schools are blind to this,” he said.

Other details in the research:

- 35% of students report spending five or fewer hours per week studying alone. Yet, despite an “ever-growing emphasis” on study groups and collaborative projects, students who study in groups tend to have lower gains in learning.

- 50% said they never took a class in a typical semester where they wrote more than 20 pages; 32% never took a course in a typical semester where they read more than 40 pages per week.