THE DAILY CLIPS

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Ballard visits Kansas State

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard gave a presentation Thursday at Kansas State University, where he is a finalist in the school's search for a new president.

Ballard has not commented on his status as a finalist for the position, but he participated in a candidate open forum at the Manhattan, Kan., university.

The forum was broadcast on the Kansas State website Thursday afternoon.

Ballard is one of three finalists for the post at Kansas State, where President Jon Wefald is set to retire at the end of the 2008-09 academic year after 23 years. Ballard traveled with his wife, Nancy, to Manhattan this week to meet with campus and community groups.

Before coming to ECU in 2004, Ballard served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City from 2001-04. Before that, he was vice provost for research and dean of the graduate college at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Along with Ballard, Kirk H. Schulz, vice president for research and economic development at Mississippi State University, and a third unidentified person are being considered for the position.

Kansas State will reveal more about the third finalist as the time approaches for his

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or her visit to the campus, according to its Web site.

Kansas State has an official enrollment of 23,520 students for the 2008–09 school year, compared to ECU’s enrollment of 27,947 students.

The school has 60 academic departments in nine colleges and offers nearly 100 master’s degree programs and nearly 50 doctoral programs. ECU offers 69 masters degrees, 41 certificates, and 18 doctoral programs.

Kansas State’s sports teams are called the Wildcats and are in the NCAA’s Division I and the Big 12 Conference.

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PirateFest seeks to solidify identity

BY MIKE GRIZZARD
The Daily Reflector

As PirateFest gears up for its third year in the heart of Pirate country, it still seeks to establish a solid identity. Organizers believe they edge closer every year.

PirateFest is a two-day community celebration weaving together what were three separate events — the Uptown Arts Festival, International Festival and Pigskin Pig-out — along with several more pirate-themed additions.

This year's festival is scheduled for April 17-18 with many of the activities along Evans Street from Fifth Street to the Town Common.

Denise Walsh, executive director of Uptown Greenville, said some who attend still don't relate all the events with PirateFest due to the longevity of the other events. The Pigskin Pig-Out, East Carolina University's annual spring football game festival, enters its 26th year. The International Festival has been running for 15 years.

"When you try to take and combine some really long-running festivals like the International Festival and the Pigskin Pig-Out, combining the old and new, there's still some confusion," Walsh said.

"... The idea that PirateFest started to create one big community event has been working. More people are becoming familiar with PirateFest; they look forward to it. They may not know exactly how it's made up, but they know it's taking place and that it's a fun event."

See BEAT, B3
BEAT
Continued from B1

All things pirate are quickly becoming a trademark, from Blackbeard's Marketplace, the Buccaneer Bash and the Little Pirates Pavilion to pirate performers groups like The Shadow Players. Walsh said interest from pirate groups has filtered in from as far north as Rhode Island and as far south as Florida.

"Gauging that, I think the word's getting out a little more," she said.

PirateFest also features three stages for live music. April 18 activities begin with a bagpipe-led Parade of Pirates to the International Festival site.

Walsh said one proposed addition this year is a cannon demonstration.

"We are talking with the appropriate people with the city," she said. "I think the Town Common would be a nice area for that to happen."

Few other changes are planned in an effort to create an identity, said Scott Senatore, co-chairman of the marketing committee and vice president of marketing and technology with Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.

"We're still trying to create habit and a sense of identity for the PirateFest so people can come back and kind of understand what's going on," Senatore said. "Our biggest challenge is trying to get people to understand that PirateFest is the big umbrella name or festival to all these sub-festivals that have been going on for years now."

U.S. Cellular once again has signed on as the major sponsor and has provided additional funding for lamppost banners. PCS Phosphate is on board this year as an Emerald Level sponsor ($5,000) and will set up a fossil dig at the Town Common.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available, and vendor applications will be accepted through March 6. Last year, PirateFest had more than 140 vendors and about 15,000 people in attendance with an estimated economic impact of $800,000.

"Right now we're kind of building on the last two years, the success that we've had," Walsh said. "... We anticipate bigger crowds — we hope. It's going to be another great event as long as we can get that weather to cooperate."

Business bits

- Tabourn Financial Services, owned by Scottie Tabourn, has opened at 703-A S.E. Greenville Blvd. Tabourn specializes in tax services, church and residential loans. Call 364-2699.
- Two forums to discuss the regional economy are scheduled for next week. A State of the Region report presented by chambers of commerce of North Carolina's Eastern Region will be held Monday from 9-11:45 a.m. at Lenoir Community College's Waller Auditorium. On Tuesday, ECU College of Business dean Rick Niswander will be the featured speaker at the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce's Power Luncheon at Brook Valley Country Club. The monthly luncheon was rescheduled from last Tuesday due to snow.
- The Martin County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual banquet Thursday at the Sen. Bob Martin Eastern Agricultural Center. The Legacy Award, Volunteerism Award and Outstanding Business Person of the Year Award will be presented. Dan Gerlach, president of the Golden LEAF Foundation, will be the featured speaker.

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Chamber honors Vaughn, Garner

David Vaughn was named the 2008 Citizen of the Year, and Les Garner received the second Legends Award given by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce.

BY MIKE GRIZZARD
The Daily Reflector

Giving to the community they call home brings tremendous joy to David Vaughn and Les Garner.

Thursday night, they changed roles and received.

Vaughn, owner of David Vaughn Construction, was named the 2008 Citizen of the Year, and Garner received the second Legends Award given by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce at its annual gala at Rock Springs Center.

"I'm just glad to go in as the same time as you," Vaughn told the 89-year-old Garner.

Each man was lauded for compassion and willingness to make a positive impact in the lives of others.

"I think that's the ultimate goal for each and everyone of us," Vaughn said.

Each man has left his mark on Pitt County. Among Vaughn's contributions are spearheading funding and construction of the Sarah Vaughn Field of Dreams and the All-Children Playground at Elm Street Park, building a playground at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, involvement in a toy drive for the pediatric cancer patients, raising funds for the softball program at Pitt Community College and "significant" contributions to the PCC Futures capital campaign and Beau's Buddies Cancer Fund.

The Sarah Vaughn field is named for Vaughn's daughter, who was born five weeks early at a little more than 3 pounds and had a host of health issues.

Former Mayor Don Parrott, See CHAMBER, B3
last year’s award winner, said Vaughn prefers to stay out of the limelight “but his deeds are so great that he cannot go unnoticed.”

Vaughn has received numerous other awards. He was recognized at the annual conference of the North Carolina Recreation and Park Association with the association’s 2008 Special Citation Award, and received the Greenville Hot Stove League’s George E. Williams outstanding individual contributor award in 2007.

He said the latest award is special because of the group of winners he joins.

“For my name to be in the same sentence, the same paragraph, the same book as some of these people is truly amazing to me,” Vaughn said.

“There are so many people in Pitt County that deserve this award. ... There are hundreds of people that have been part of certain projects that deserve the recognition as much as I do.”

Garner, a former Greenville mayor who is known as “Mr. Kiwanis,” was named Citizen of the Year in 1975.

He joins Walter Williams as the only winners of the Legends Award, presented to a person with exemplary contributions for long periods of time and whose service “has been so significant in civic, economic, political, educational and/or religious activities that the history of Pitt County could not be written without their inclusion.”

“This caps the stack,” Garner said of the many honors he’s received. “The idea of being a legend is fantastic to me.”

Garner, the son of a sharecropper, came to Greenville from Newport in 1952 after his father lost his farm during the Depression. After his father died, much of his family returned to Newport, but he stayed and graduated from Greenville High School in 1937.

He served in the military and ran a wholesale business for nearly 40 years before retiring in 1990. His volunteer service includes the Salvation Army, grand master of the Masons, president of the Pirate Club and involvement in the Boy Scouts and Boys & Girls Clubs.

He’s also been a master fundraiser.

“If he’s ever tried to sell you anything for any of the fundraisers he’s chaired or been involved in, you probably couldn’t say no,” Chamber of Commerce Chairman Rick Croskery said.

His passion has been Kiwanis since his induction in 1968. He has been a Kiwanian of the Year (1971), organized and served as charter president of University City Kiwanis (1972), and held positions of lieutenant governor (1974-75) and governor of the Carolinas District. He chartered 13 clubs as lieutenant governor, 13 more as governor and had a hand in organizing more than 50 clubs overall.

“I love Greenville and Pitt County,” he said, “I hope to be around for a while longer. I hope as long as I live I’ll be able to keep on contributing. To me this is a great honor,” Garner said.

“I love Greenville, I love Pitt County. ... Greenville and Pitt County has meant so much to me. I’ve been blessed by the Lord and all the people that I know.”

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Concert raises money for cancer research, center

By Kelley Kirk-Swindell
The Daily Reflector

Friday, January 23, 2009

Interested in some great music as well as doing some good for the community?

Then consider attending the sixth annual Symphony of Hope at Reimage Church at 7:30 p.m. today. The concert is a mix of professional and amateur musicians all playing in honor of someone they know who has been stricken by cancer.

It is a free event, but donations will be accepted for the American Cancer Society and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center.

More than 70 musicians gathered for a three-hour rehearsal Jan. 11 at Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church. They are all donating their time and musical talent.

"Everybody is playing without pay," said the concert's conductor Larry Spell. "Once we've covered our expenses — basically renting the church — everything goes to the American Cancer Society and Leo Jenkins Cancer Center."

This is Spell's first year conducting the concert, but he did make a guest appearance last year.

He's participating in honor of his grandfather, Herb Fairbanks, who died of lung cancer more than 20 years ago.

While most of the musicians are local, some will travel from Rocky Mount, Fayetteville, New Bern and Beaufort County to participate.

The concept for the concert began humbly; a conversation between two local musicians, Dee Braxton Pelligrino and Jim Kittrell.

Their mothers were good friends and both had suffered from breast cancer.

Braxton Pelligrino and Kittrell wanted to do something that honored their mothers. The Symphony of Hope was the way to do that.

Initially is was a small group of string musicians, but as the word got out, the number of musicians grew as well as audience attendance.

"It has become this event that raises thousands of dollars each year," Spell said.

The first concert included favorite pictures of loved one displayed in a video montage. This is a tradition that continues this year.

"It's a video tribute and will include those who have also supported the Symphony of Hope," Spell said.

In previous years, a choir has accompanied the symphony, but this year there will be two vocal soloists, Eric Whaley and Carolyn Myers.

Nicole Pruitt Rawley will also perform as a violin soloist. She has a master's degree in music performance from East Carolina University.

Spell and Rawley work together with the Pitt Community College Symphony. Rawley is the concert master and Spell is the conductor.

"It's a good variety of music, popular pieces as well as more traditional classical pieces. It's a good mix," Spell said.

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East Carolina students take the 'plunge'

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Screams of joy rang out across the East Carolina University campus Thursday night as hundreds of students took a winter plunge into icy waters.

More than 500 students braved 30-plus degree weather to splash into a pool with water temperatures around 50 degrees for the annual Polar Bear Plunge.

Now in its 13th year, the plunge entices students to jump into the outdoor pool at the ECU Student Recreation Center for rewards of T-shirts and other prizes.

"It was colder than I thought it would be," said Josh Wall, a sophomore exercise physiology major from Knightdale. "But once you get out, you warm up pretty quickly."

Wall said he would do it again next year.

Caroline Carroll, a junior political science major, is an old pro at jumping into the chilly pool. She did it last year with her Alpha Phi sorority sisters.

"I just thought it would be fun to come out and do it with my friends and get a T-shirt," she said while standing in line to make the jump.

Josh Cornwell, a junior marketing major, was very relaxed: "It is just something to do on a Thursday night," he said.

Cornwell, who made the jump two years ago, said he was surprised at the turnout.

"This is not what I expected," he said. "I did not expect to see this many people jumping into a cold pool."

Nance Mize, director of campus recreation and wellness at ECU, said the residence halls offered prizes to the dorms that could get the most students in the pool.

At 7 p.m. there was a line stretching into the recreation center with dozens still coming in to sign up.

"This is a great way to celebrate the opening of the student recreation center," Mize said.

The first jump was held in 1997, when the center opened, with only 35 jumpers.

"It just keeps growing and growing," Mize said. The first 500 jumpers received a T-shirt and were entered into a drawing for prizes, including the grand prize of a $250 Best Buy gift certificate.

Students also enjoyed refreshments after making the jump. Campus Recreation & Wellness, Campus Living & Dining and University Unions sponsored the event.

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Forum discusses reclaiming life's final chapter

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, January 22, 2009

Raising public awareness about policy issues that affect end-of-life care was the focal point of a community panel discussion Thursday at the Willis Building.

As part of a week dedicated to reclaiming the final chapter of life, panel members encouraged a continuous dialogue between policy makers and consumers while initiating an effort to prioritize any policy changes. The panel consisted of several local leaders in this arena, including state Rep. Marian McLawhorn, D-Pitt, Annette Eubanks, Regional Nursing Home ombudsman and Judy Brunger, director of the Carolinas' Center for Hospice and End-of-Life Care.

To open the forum, a video was shown to explain that most people will be caregivers or receive end-of-life care themselves. Also, the baby boomer generation is quickly approaching the age when this care is most needed, meaning it needs to get the attention it deserves.

Brunger said hospice — a special type of care designed for comfort and support during a patient's final days of life — is the gold standard. However, she said only 25,000 of North Carolinians who died in 2007, or roughly 33 percent, received hospice care.

"These are issues facing all of us with end-of-life care," Brunger said. "Many will die in hospitals or nursing homes, surrounded by strangers. They will die voiceless and vulnerable."

Although some may be reluctant to hold this conversation, Brunger said people must face their mortality and make plans now for their end-of-life care.

McLawhorn noted how gathering the attention and funds needed to battle this problem can be hard, especially in the wake of an economic recession. Regardless, she said constituents should contact their state representatives about any specific issues being discussed in the legislature.

"We have a serious shortage of funds," McLawhorn said, referring to the upcoming legislative session. "That isn't new, but it will cover everything we are trying to do. I will tell you, this lawmaker heard what she needed to hear."

Following Brunger and McLawhorn, Eubanks discussed the lack of resources that affect local nursing homes. She said these facilities are short-staffed, underpaid and overworked.

Also speaking at the forum, Charley Tyre represented University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina Inpatient Hospice and Kristen L. Burroughs provided a legal standpoint as an elderlaw attorney. Paul Tschetter, professor emeritus of sociology at East Carolina University, moderated the event.

Deidre Scherer, the renowned fabric and thread artist who's work is being displayed at the Greenville Museum of Art, attended the event. The opening reception of her exhibit was canceled Tuesday because of the snowstorm, but has been rescheduled for tonight.

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Ballard with K-State today

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Thursday, January 22, 2009

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard is scheduled to make a presentation today at Kansas State University, where he is a finalist in the school’s search for a new president.

Ballard will participate in the candidate open forum at 4:30 p.m. at the university’s Forum Hall in Manhattan, Kansas. The forum is scheduled for a live Webcast on the Kansas State Web site.

He is one of three finalists for the post. He and his wife, Nancy, traveled to Manhattan this week to meet with campus and community groups.

Ballard, who was in Greensboro for an ECU Board of Trustees retreat Friday, has not commented on his status as a finalist for the position.

Before coming to ECU in 2004, Ballard served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City from 2001-04. Before that, he was vice provost for research and dean of the graduate college at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio.

Kansas State President Jon Wefald is set to retire at the end of the 2008-09 academic year after 23 years.

Along with Ballard, Kirk H. Schulz, vice president for research and economic development at Mississippi State University, and a third unnamed person are being considered for the position.

Kansas State will reveal more about the third finalist as the time approaches for his or her visit to the campus, according to its Web site.

Kansas State has an official enrollment of 23,520 students for the 2008-09 school year, compared to ECU’s enrollment of 27,947 students.

The school has 60 academic departments in nine colleges and offers nearly 100 master’s degree programs and nearly 50 doctoral programs. ECU offers 69 masters degrees, 41 certificates, and 18 doctoral programs.

Kansas State’s sports teams are called the Wildcats and participate in the NCAA’s Division I and the Big 12 Conference.
ECU student arrested in snowball fight

Posted: Today at 11:21 a.m.
Updated: 3 minutes ago

Campus police arrested an East Carolina University student following a snowball fight involving more than 200 students, officials said.

Freshman Steven Rashad Bass threw a chunk of ice at a campus police officer, ECU spokesman John Durham said. He was charged with assault on a public official and resisting arrest.

A video posted on YouTube.com shows an officer chasing a student across campus, tackling him and restraining him on the snowy ground.

It was unclear whether Bass faces any school disciplinary action.

Pepper spray was used to disperse several students that approached officers after Bass was arrested, Durham said. No injuries were reported.

An estimated 200 to 250 students participated in the snowball fight, and campus police were called to the area three times to control the activity, Durham said.

Some students were packing oranges and pieces of ice in snow and throwing them, he said. Some threw snowballs at passing cars or opened car doors and threw snowballs at occupants inside, he said.

ECU hasn't issued any statements to students about the incident and doesn't plan to review the officers' response to it, he said.

"Students should have known better," Durham said, adding that officials felt the police action was justified.

Reporter: Christi Lowe
Web Editor: Matthew Burns

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2nd KSU candidate coming

Sarah Nightingale
snightingale@themercry.com

The second of three candidates being interviewed to replace Jon Wefald as president of Kansas State University will be in Manhattan Thursday and Friday.

The interviewee, Steve Ballard, has been the chancellor of East Carolina University since 2004. He previously served as the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, and on the faculty of the University of Maine and the University of Oklahoma.

Ballard and his wife, Nancy, will meet with various groups on campus and in Manhattan. He is also scheduled to present in a public forum from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Thursday at K-State Student Union's Forum Hall.

Read the rest of this article in Wednesday's paper...
Second presidential candidate visits K-State

Steve Ballard, the second K-State presidential finalist, discussed his experience in education and what he would do for the university if he was named the university's 13th president during an open forum Thursday at the K-State Student Union.

Ballard, who is currently the chancellor at East Carolina University, spoke for about 30 minutes before answering questions from the audience and from K-State-Salina via teleconference.

In his speech, Ballard outlined the six trends he said worry him and most administrators at public universities: global interdependence, cost of competition, public cynicism and mistrust of universities, losing a university's identity, measuring the university's impact and increasing mandates for safety and security.

"Kansas State is absolutely well prepared to deal with these trends and is already responding in many of the ways that, I think, are most appropriate," Ballard said.

Ballard also detailed the three methods he finds most effective to confront these trends. The first way, he said, is to have self-definition by having a clear vision for the university. Secondly, a university needs financial sustainability, something Ballard said he admires about K-State. The candidate said responsibility among leadership is the third way for universities to respond to new trends.

Ballard fielded a dozen questions from professors, alumni, administrators and other officials from the university. No students participated in the question and answer session.

He answered questions dealing with on-campus childcare, the role of student media, emphasis on international business and entrepreneurship, international students and changing needs for a traditional library.

Tim Lindemuth, editor of the K-Stater magazine, asked Ballard what role he thought athletics should play at a school like K-State, evoking one of Ballard's more candid answers.

"One of the trends that I should have mentioned at the beginning is the athletic arms race," he said. "It ought to alarm us all."

Ballard, who played baseball at Arizona and earned his doctorate at the Ohio State University, which has the largest athletic budget in the country, said he recognizes that every university has a need for competitive athletics, but thinks academic success is more important.

When asked to define the brand of K-State in one word, Ballard simply answered: "Spirit."

"I think that his answers really spoke to a lot of the things people care about at K-State; we care a lot about being a student-centered institution," said Lydia Peele, student body president and member of the presidential search committee.

Nelson Galle, chair of the search committee, said he thought Ballard's experience as a chancellor makes him a viable candidate.
"We have three excellent candidates that are visiting campus," Galle said. "I was very impressed with Dr. Ballard. He's got the right kind of experience, the leadership experience and the energy to be a top candidate to be president of Kansas State University."

Kirk Schulz was the first finalist selected by the presidential search committee and spoke at an open forum Jan. 16 in the Union. Schulz is currently the vice president for research and economic development at Mississippi State University.

The search committee is scheduled to announce the third and final presidential candidate today at 8 a.m. The candidate will participate in a similar open forum Monday.

The search committee will present the finalists to the Kansas Board of Regents, which will then make the final selection of the next president. Galle said the Board would make its decision by mid-February.