THE DAILY CLIPS

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Dr. Cynthia Lynch has joined the faculty at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Lynch, a cancer specialist, is an assistant professor in the Division of Hematology/Oncology in the Department of Internal Medicine.

A Greenville native, she has a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pa., and a medical degree from MCP Hahnemann School of Medicine in Philadelphia. She completed residency training at Cleveland Clinic Florida in Weston, Fla., and a fellowship in hematology/oncology at ECU.

Lynch is board-certified in internal medicine, hematology and oncology. Her clinical interest is breast cancer.

Lynch sees patients at the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center under the auspices of ECU Physicians.
ECU student knifed downtown

The Daily Reflector

Sunday, January 25, 2009

An 18-year-old East Carolina University student had serious cuts but otherwise minor injuries after someone attacked him with a knife at the intersection of Fifth and Reade streets Saturday around 2 a.m., according to a Greenville Police Department report. He told police he did not know his attacker. The report indicated nothing was stolen from the victim.

Man assaulted and robbed

A 41-year-old man had minor injuries after someone struck him in the head and stole his bicycle and more than $60 in cash Saturday near the intersection of Hooker Road and Glendale Court, a police report stated.

Also reported to Greenville police:

Minor injuries were reported by a 21-year-old female who told police she was punched and strangled by her boyfriend before he stole her car Friday at an apartment in the 3100 block of Sherwin Drive. The car was later recovered and a suspect arrested, the report said.

Car break-ins reported

An $800 laptop, a $600 GPS system and $150 in cash were stolen Saturday from a vehicle parked in a lot outside North Campus Crossing, a police report said. The owner told police the car was locked, but there was no sign of forced entry.

Also reported to Greenville Police:

Someone shattered the rear window of a Ford Expedition parked outside Cedar Creek Apartments and stole a $1,000 combination DVD and CD player, and a $500 amplifier Friday.

Man arrested in teen's assault

A Bethel man was arrested Saturday and charged with assaulting his 19-year-old girlfriend earlier that day at his home in the 5800 block of N.C. 30 East, according to Pitt County Sheriff's Office reports. Raymond Jerry Payesko Jr., 21, was charged with assault on a female — a misdemeanor. She had no injuries, the report said.

Also reported to the Sheriff's Office:

A 68-year-old man was assaulted by a relative Saturday at his home in the 4100 block of Hollowell Road, near Robersonville. He was not hurt.
News magazine show takes viewers ‘Inside ECU’

ECU News Services

Greenville has a new way to learn the latest accomplishments of faculty, staff and students at East Carolina University.

“Inside ECU” is a 15-minute news magazine airing on Suddenlink Cable Channel 99, also known as ECU-TV.

The first episode is scheduled to air at 8 p.m. Monday, and new episodes will air at the same time on the last Monday of each month and be rebroadcast during the following weeks at various times.

The show’s host is Chris Stansbury, communications coordinator in the ECU College of Technology and Computer Science and an experienced broadcaster.

“This is a university-wide show with buy-in from both campuses, the academic deans and directors, the provost’s office and, of course, Chancellor Steve Ballard,” Stansbury said. “We have committee and sub-committee members from just about every unit at ECU submitting story ideas, setting up interviews and executing the project plan. This is a complete collaborative effort, and it’s wonderful to see this kind of interdisciplinary partnership.”

Stansbury, a 1993 ECU graduate, spent 11 years as an award-winning sports reporter for WNCT Channel 9 in Greenville and in Nashville, Tenn. He also hosts an ECU football postgame call-in show on WGBH-AM 1250.

Topics of the Monday’s show include an interview with Dr. Paul R.G. Cunningham, the new dean of the Brody School of Medicine and a look at the new community policing program with the ECU Police Department.

Future topics include heart research and care at ECU, Second Life, the virtual reality application being used at ECU, and the university’s economic development work in eastern North Carolina.

ECU to host Campus Safety Symposium

The chairman of the N.C. Attorney General’s Task Force on Campus Safety will deliver the keynote address for ECU’s third annual Campus Safety Symposium, set Thursday and Friday.

Bradley Wilson, chief operating officer for Blue Cross-Blue Shield of North Carolina and a member of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, will speak on the importance of campus safety.

Designed to attract school administrators from community colleges and universities across the region, the symposium will address the legal and safety challenges faced by academic institutions, crisis communications and strategies for safer campuses, according to Peter Romary, director of ECU’s Student Legal Services.

Last year, the event drew more than 200 participants from across the state. The two-day conference will be held at the Greenville Hilton, and costs $100 for participants.

“We believe that this year’s symposium, like those before it, will make our campuses, students, faculty, staff and external stakeholders safer,” Romary said.

During the second day of the program, Dr. Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance at ECU, will lead a panel discussion on “Safety Issues and Services for Returning Veterans.” Panelists will be Rep. Grier Martin, N.C. House District 34; Carmen Russoniello, an ECU faculty member who has studied the physical and mental challenges for military personnel returning from deployment; Col. David Allen, U.S. Army Reserves, associate vice chancellor for military education, Fayetteville State University; and Dr. Steven Duncan, ECU director of military programs.

Other speakers include: Dave Rainer, associate vice chancellor for Environmental Health and Public Safety at N.C. State University; Scott Ballard, director of emergency services for the N.C. Community College System; ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard; Dr.
Marilyn Sheerer, ECU provost, and Robert V. Lucas, ECU Board of Trustees member.

More details and registration information can be found at: http://www.ecu.edu/universityunions/safetysymposium/

**BSH donates 'green' appliances to ECU model kitchen**

The BSH Home Appliance Corporation has donated state-of-the-art kitchen appliances to the ECU Department of Interior Design and Merchandising to assist the department in the installation of a green, universal design kitchen model that will help interior design students become familiar with the latest trends in residential design.

The new appliances, including a Bosch induction cooktop, canopy oven hood, refrigerator, freezer, convection microwave oven and dishwasher, are Energy Star-rated. BSH is the world’s third largest leading manufacturer of high-end appliances and sells under the Bosch, Siemens, Thermador and Gaggenau brand in the U.S.

“We are delighted that BSH made this investment in educating the next generation of interior designers. Residential design today is about sustainability, universal access, and efficiency,” said Yapprak Savut, interior design professor.

The donation was facilitated by Chuck Dale, human resources manager, and Lindsay Eng, industrial designer, at the BSH Home Appliance Corporation manufacturing plant in New Bern.

“We at BSH have had a relationship with ECU for some time and have been the recipient of many excellent students and graduates,” said Dale. “In return, we feel that by providing the College of Human Ecology with the finest appliances available in the market, we are able to partner with students and provide a standard for future design concepts.”

ECU hopes to begin construction of the model kitchen in summer 2009. Amy Spruill of Greenville, a 2008 graduate who specialized in kitchen and bath design, designed the green, universal design kitchen in 2006. Spruill won honors for her research at the College of Human Ecology’s Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Forum.

BSH Home Appliance Corporation also donated a 500 Nexxt Plus Deluxe washer/dryer set to the ECU Department of Hospitality Management.

**Upcoming ECU events:**

- **Today** — Concert: “Reflections on 9/11,” composed and performed by Karen Walwyn, concert pianist, along with other selections, 7 p.m. Fletcher Recital Hall. Free.
- **Monday** — Lecture: Dr. James Lind and the Story of Scurvy, 4:30 p.m., Evelyn Fike Laupus Gallery, Laupus Library. Presented by Dr. Charles M. Phillips, associate professor of internal medicine, Brody School of Medicine. Free.
- **Tuesday** — ECU Voyages of Discovery: Sallie Southall Cotton lecture, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Wright Auditorium. Eugenie Scott will speak on “Darwin’s Legacy in Science and Society.” Free for ECU faculty, staff and students; $10 for the public. Tickets: 328-4788.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Year of the ox: Area Chinese celebrate new year

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, January 25, 2009

The Murphy Center at East Carolina University was decked out in shades of red, the traditional Chinese color of prosperity and good luck, as hundreds of Chinese-Americans joined Americans of many cultures Saturday evening to celebrate the Chinese New Year.

The actual new year begins today, but Saturday's early kickoff of the 15-day celebration gave more families a chance to come together.

Xiaoming Zeng, assistant professor of health information management at East Carolina and principal of the Greenville Chinese School, explained the importance of the event for Chinese-Americans.

"It doesn't matter how far apart family members are, they are supposed to get together during the New Year festival to give thanks and prepare together for the coming year," Zeng said.

2009 is the year of the ox, which represents prosperity and a bright future.

The New Year holiday, also known as the Spring Festival, is the most important in Chinese culture, said Zeng.

"China has always been predominantly an agricultural society, whose traditional calendar is based on the lunar cycle, so this celebration accommodates aspects of the western New Year and Thanksgiving themes," Zeng said.

Celebration traditions include fireworks, banquets, honoring family elders and artistic performances, Zeng said.

Traditional Chinese performances by students and faculty of the Greenville Chinese School included several dances and dramatic readings in Chinese, choral songs, an aria from a Chinese opera and gymnastics by an 8-year-old Chinese-American girl.

Many superstitions, traditions and myths were woven into the fabric of the New Year celebration and its theme of prosperity, said Zeng.

"We like to eat bean sprouts because the yellow stalk looks like gold. So we place the sprouts on a long stick, and if you eat it, you will get gold next year," he said.

Another traditional superstition revolves around the number eight, connected to the Chinese pronunciation of the number — "baa." In the original Cantonese provincial dialect, the pronunciation is very similar to the word for prosperity — "faa." Zeng said.

The color red is also associated with prosperity, as could be seen by the predominance of the color in most of the clothing, decorations and party favors seen at the festival.

"From tonight's turnout, you can see how crucially important it is to Chinese-Americans to celebrate their cultural roots," Zeng said.

He talked about the challenges and benefits of assimilation and tradition.

"Greenville does not have a very large Chinese community, but the retention of language and cultural heritage is good for people and for the larger society. It's good for all kids to know where they and their parents come from," Zeng said.
"The Chinese have contributed much to the American culture, with our cuisine, our work ethic and education values, respect for senior family members and our need to gather together as family and friends. All Americans can value from the contribution of these values," Zeng said.

Dr. T.K. Li, 74, is a cancer research professor at ECU. He came to the U.S. in 1980 and moved to Greenville in 1985 when the radiation oncology department was first established. His research focuses on the protective qualities of ginseng against cancer.

T.K. Li is an active member of The Memorial Baptist Church congregation and an active participant in the American way of life. Li said he is also proud of his Chinese-American community.

"We have watched the Chinese community grow to about 500 in Greenville and I'm happy to see that," he said.

He focused on the New Year celebration as an illustration of the way things change when geography shifts.

"To be honest, this is the biggest day in Chinese culture, but Chinese-Americans don't celebrate it the way they do in China. It is added to the list of American celebrations that Chinese-Americans observe here. But it is nice to see them come and try to keep the traditional Chinese cultural traits," T.K. Li said.

"The Chinese people are thousands of years old. Now we have come to America to seek the American dream, and our children are sandwiched between the two cultures. It's hard for them to adjust. They live in a confusing mixture of cultures. It's also hard for parents to teach their youngsters the traditional values and culture of China. But we don't want them to forget their roots, so celebrations like this are important," T.K. Li said.

Qingwen Zhou, 16, said he still thinks of himself more as Chinese than American.

"As a Chinese, I should feel very strongly about my culture. Life is still the same for me, but I have a lot of pride as a Chinese person," Zhou said.

Yongqing Li, an associate professor at ECU, was pleased to see the large turnout at the Murphy Center.

"This is the first time we have gathered so many together in Greenville to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The festival makes me feel like I am home in China," he said.

He was also glad to see so many non-Chinese there.

"Chinese culture has always been attractive to the American people," he said.

Phillip Hou, owner of the China Ten Restaurant, contributed many Chinese dishes to the long buffet table from which guests were served after the performances.

Raised in India and America, he considers himself more a part of the larger culture of America than of China. His wife, Lien, however, saw the value of Chinese tradition and culture as part of their children's lives.

"They are born in America, and we are Asian-Americans, proud to be Americans. But we have pride in our cultural heritage and want our children to feel this as well," she said.

On this night of celebration and pride for the Greenville Chinese community, everyone, Chinese and otherwise, shared the pride and the cultural delights. Now it's on to a year of prosperity and good luck for all, they predicted with hope.

That outlook — and the overflowing banquet table — drew a positive response from everyone at the festival.

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Greenville Council carries '08 goals into new year

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Greenville City Council members reaffirmed their commitment to priorities mapped out last January in an annual council retreat Saturday, however, a weakened U.S. economy hovered over the brainstorming session.

The purpose of the all-day planning session held at the Bradford Creek Golf Course Clubhouse was to set goals, objectives and items ready for action. The sitting council selected 10 priority goals last January, and chose unanimously to continue pursuing that set through 2009. Councilman Bryant Kittrell immediately suggested they should include a clause indicating their concern for financial constraints.

"The city council is aware we're in a global economic crisis," he said. "There's no question that economic issues are affecting everybody from the top down. We're not out there on a spending spree, or going to raise taxes."

City Manager Wayne Bowers told the council that the city is "certainly in uncertain times" during an economic update that started the day.

East Carolina University professor Sharon Knight facilitated the discussion between council members and helped them craft the statement that would run alongside the priority list.

"Due to current economic conditions, the city council indicates an awareness of budgetary constraints that impact the goals," it read.

The council spent the next several hours outlining the specifics of how they want to shape various areas of life in Greenville.

To achieve the top priority of three council members and Mayor Pat Dunn — promoting a safe community — discussion centered around keeping children from skipping school and creating somewhere for suspended students to go. Councilwoman Rose Glover suggested they meet with the Pitt County Board of Education to ask about these policies. Mayor Pro-Tem Mildred Council said a county-wide summit led by Greenville officials might be more effective.

Councilman Calvin Mercer said his constituents would like to see the council explore enhancing 9-1-1 response times. All calls are currently routed to a central county call center and then re-routed to the Greenville Police Department or the Pitt County Sheriff's Office if law enforcement attention is required. The center dispatches fire-rescue services.

"The system could be better," Police Chief William Anderson said.

Anderson also said his department needs to expand its crime analysis abilities through technology and increased staffing, and suggested holding a crime summit that would be open to the public. The council decided both were good objectives. Dunn later added that the city must be prepared to provide timely and effective fire-rescue service to all areas of the community in the event of any disaster.

In order to promote and strengthen economic opportunities, Kittrell and Councilman Max Joyner Jr. said the council must develop a stronger partnership with the Pitt County Economic Development Commission. Council said she believes not enough is being done to market the city, and that it is often overshadowed by ECU. She denoted economic development as her top priority this year.

Mercer and Councilman Larry Spell both selected neighborhood sustainability as their number one goal. Mercer said they must create a project schedule for greenways. Joyner said the council should review and
evaluate how garbage and trash are collected. Many citizens aren't aware of city regulations and oftentimes trash remains and is strewn down the block when people relocate, he said.

After lunch, and as members progressed down the list of goals, there were shorter discussions on each priority. Accomplished goals were also omitted along the way.

An Amtrak passenger train stop in Greenville or, at the least, a shuttle that runs to the Rocky Mount and Wilson stations was proposed by Mercer and Kittrell under transportation goals. The latter also said city staff will update the land use plan, and Joyner said they should review and update the manual of standard design to keep ahead of anticipated growth.

Spell said the city should advocate for the construction and participation of a performing arts center that ECU hopes to design. Joyner added the White's Theater project to cultural and recreational goals by exploring sources of private sector support that may be available.

A system of notifying neighborhoods of group home requests will be instituted after many of Mercer's constituents expressed their frustration at a town hall meeting more than one week ago. The Human Relations Council will be asked to create a dialogue with interfaith organizations, also at Mercer's request, enhancing recognitions of community diversity. Furthermore, the council should work toward or continue partnerships with United Health Systems of Eastern Carolina and the North Carolina League of Municipalities, Kittrell and Council suggested.

Discussion of environmental goals rounded out the top 10 list and the afternoon's debates. The council decided to create a climate protection plan that includes energy reduction goals, to explore developing a minimum energy efficiency codes and to collaborate with the Greenville Utilities Commission to educate the community about energy efficiency. Involving all citizens in recycling was another added goal, as was investigating noise, vibrations and fumes affecting neighborhoods around the airport.

"I thought there was a good participation from all the members of the council," said Dunn of this year's planning session. "A good spirit."

The mayor acknowledged that though these goals won't all be accomplished within 2009, it's still important to keep an eye on the future.

"It gives us a direction and gives us something you can work toward and plan for," she said, "I think they're some good goals."

top priorities

1. Promote a safe community
2. Promote and strengthen economic development opportunities
3. Promote sustainability and livability of both old and new neighborhoods
4. Develop transportation initiatives
5. Keep planning ahead of anticipated growth
6. Enhance cultural and recreational opportunities
7. Enhance understanding and increase broader citizen participation in city government
8. Enhance diversity
9. Promote effective partnerships
10. Promote sound environmental policies

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Pirates honor Wolfpack coach

By Jim Gentry
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, January 24, 2009

East Carolina’s tribute to Kay Yow didn’t end with a moment of silence before its women’s basketball game against UAB on Saturday.

To honor the longtime N.C. State basketball coach who passed away Saturday morning after a long battle with breast cancer, the members of the ECU women’s basketball team donned pink shoelaces in her memory.

“We wanted to show our love and respect for her,” ECU senior guard LaCoya Terry said about Yow, a 1964 graduate of East Carolina. “She did a lot for women’s basketball. It really got us to where we are today.”

ECU point guard Jasmine Young echoed her teammate’s remarks and said she vividly remembers getting to meet the Hall of Fame coach when the Wolfpack visited Minges Coliseum last season.

“It was great to meet a coach like that,” Young said. “She’s a legend. Her legacy will live on. I think the team was emotional this morning when we found out, but I think it kind of motivated us.”

ECU women’s coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener recalled sharing several conversations with Yow when the two would meet while recruiting during the summer.

“She really was a great person and she was a great ambassador for women’s basketball,” Baldwin-Tener said. “Just the last couple of years signified what she was like — she was a fighter. She was a great person and it’s a really sad day.”

Jimmy Bass, ECU’s senior associate athletics director for external operations, got to know Yow while he spent two different stints working at N.C. State (1981-86 and 1994-2005). Bass worked with the Wolfpack Club and the alumni association during that time.

“I consider her a jewel, just a tremendous human being,” said Bass, who graduated from N.C. State in 1978. “And as great a coach as she was, she was an even better human being. She was one of those people that was a great competitor, but everybody liked her — opposing coaches, opposing players. Everyone got along with her.

“She’s going to be sorely, sorely missed.”

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The loss of a legend

By AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

Saturday, January 24, 2009

RALEIGH — North Carolina State’s Kay Yow, the Hall of Fame women’s basketball coach who won more than 700 games while earning fans with her decades-long fight against breast cancer, died Saturday. She was 66.

Yow, first diagnosed with the disease in 1987, died in the morning at WakeMed Cary Hospital after being admitted last week, university spokeswoman Annabelle Myers said.

“Everyone who had the privilege of knowing Kay Yow has a heavy heart today,” N.C. State athletic director Lee Fowler said in a statement. “She faced every opponent, whether on the basketball court or in a hospital room, with dignity and grace. She will be greatly missed.”

The Wolfpack’s game at Wake Forest on Monday was postponed to Feb. 10. Its next game will be Thursday at home against Boston College. Plans for a memorial service were incomplete.

Yow had a record of 737-344 in 38 years — 34 years with the Wolfpack — in a career filled with milestones. She coached the U.S. Olympic team to a gold medal in 1988, won four Atlantic Coast Conference tournament championships, earned 20 NCAA tournament bids and reached the Final Four in 1998.

She also was inducted into the Naismith Hall of Fame in 2002, while the school dedicated “Kay Yow Court” in Reynolds Coliseum in 2007.

But for many fans, Yow was best defined by her unwavering resolve while fighting cancer, from raising awareness and money for research to staying with her team through the debilitating effects of the disease and chemotherapy treatments.

She served on the board of the V Foundation for Cancer Research, which was founded by ESPN and her friend and colleague, former N.C. State men’s coach Jim Valvano, who died of cancer in 1993.

“Kay taught us all to live life with passion and to never give up,” said fellow board member George Bodenheimer, president of ESPN and ABC Sports. He said the network would remain committed to a research fund established in Yow’s name.

“Kay was passionate about life and coaching. She was a giver and she gave so much to every life she touched,” Tennessee coach Pat Summitt said in a statement. “She made a difference in the lives of so many people, not just the life lessons she shared with her student-athletes at Elon or North Carolina State.”

There were moments of silence to honor Yow before several basketball games Saturday, including before the N.C. State-Boston College men’s game in Boston. Duke — one of N.C. State’s closest ACC rivals — also honored Yow before the men’s game against Maryland.

“God bless Kay,” Blue Devils men’s coach Mike Krzyzewski said to end his postgame news conference. “A fighter until the end.”

In her final months, Yow was on hormonal therapy as the cancer spread to her liver and bone. But she never flinched or complained, relying on her faith as the disease progressed. She commonly noted there were other patients with “harder battles than I’m fighting” and said it was inspiring for her to stay with her team.

“We’re all faced with a lot of tough issues that we’re dealing with,” she said in a 2006 interview. “We know we need to just come to the court and let that be our catharsis in a way. You can’t bring it on the court with you, but we can all just think of basketball as an escape for a few hours.”
Yow announced earlier this month that she would not return to the team this season after she missed four games because of what was described as an extremely low energy level.

The team visited Yow in the hospital before leaving Wednesday for a game at Miami. Associate head coach Stephanie Glance — who led the team in Yow’s absences — met with the team Saturday morning to inform them Yow had died, Myers said.

Dr. Mark Graham, Yow’s longtime oncologist, remembered how Yow always took time to talk to other patients when she came in for treatments in recent years.

“She could have tried to come into the clinic and be completely anonymous,” he said. “She just wanted to be another patient. She was very open to sharing her experiences with others and being encouraging to others.”

Yow’s fight was never more public than when she took a 16-game leave to focus on her treatments during the 2006-07 season. After her return, her inspired Wolfpack won 12 of its final 15 games with wins against highly ranked rivals Duke and North Carolina in a run that attracted plenty of fans wearing pink — the color of breast-cancer awareness. Her players also wore pink shoelaces.

Yow always found ways to keep coaching even as she fought the disease. She spent most of games during that emotional 2007 run sitting on the bench while Glance stood to shout instructions at players or help a weakened Yow to her feet.

“She’s the Iron Woman, with the Lord’s help,” Glance said.

Born March 14, 1942, Sandra Kay Yow originally took up coaching to secure a job teaching high school English at Allen Jay High School in High Point in the 1960s. Her boss, along with the boys’ coach, agreed to help her plan practices and to sit on the bench with her during games. Midway through the season, Yow was on her own.

She spent four years there followed by another year in her hometown at Gibsonville High, compiling a 92-27 record. She moved on to Elon, going 57-19 in four seasons before being hired at N.C. State in 1975.

Her original cancer diagnosis came the year before coaching the United States to the gold in the Seoul Olympics. She had a mastectomy as part of her treatment, then discovered a lump in November 2004 close to where cancer was first discovered. She had surgery that December and started on a regimen of radiation and daily hormone therapy. Still, the cancer came back again and again.

She missed two games of the 2004-05 season while attending an eight-day nutritional modification program, which called on her to eat an organic-food diet free of meat, dairy products and sugar. She stayed on the diet for eight months, losing 40 pounds by keeping junk food and Southern favorites like biscuits and gravy off her menu. Still, she cheated on her organic diet during home recruiting visits because she didn’t want to offend anyone by passing on a home-cooked meal.

Over the years, Yow never lost her folksy, easygoing manner and refused to dwell on her health issues, though they colored everything she did almost as much as basketball.

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Rare happenings of wintry weather stick with Pitt County

By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector

Friday, January 23, 2009

When snow falls as infrequently as it does in eastern North Carolina, it's almost guaranteed that some great tales will follow.

Tuesday's 5-inch blanket tied for fourth place among local January snowfalls measured by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The area's largest measured snows, however, usually come in February and March, according to the collected data.

So get ready.

Greenville's largest recorded snowfall was 13 inches that fell Feb. 18, 1896, according NOAA's Online Weather Data Web site. NOAA has records dating back to 1875.

In modern times, the city's largest snowfall was 12.8 inches, which came March 3, 1980. There also was a 9-inch snowfall on Feb. 25, 1989.

Greenville has seen several snow flurries in the last several years, including a light snowfall in November, but the last snow with accumulation, two-tenths of an inch, fell Jan. 20, 2005, according to the State Climate Office of North Carolina. And the county's last significant snowfall was 2.5 inches, Dec. 27, 2004.

The complications coming from a relatively light snow didn't seem significant to Richard Eakin, who served as East Carolina University's chancellor from 1987 to 2001.

Of course, coming from Bowling Green, Ohio, what he viewed as a "relatively light" snow wasn't seen that way by folks in this area, and when the snow began to fall, he had been here less than a year.

Eakin said he remembered getting a telephone call at 4 or 5 a.m. from then vice chancellor Clifton Moore asking if classes should be canceled because of a light snowfall that fell overnight.

"I have lived all of my life either in Pennsylvania or Ohio or the state of Washington and was pretty much accustomed to snow," he said. Classes were a go.

Eakin said he was stunned when he arrived at his office and find he and Moore were almost the only people on campus, because everyone else stayed home.

"I learned a valuable lesson that day, to be more respectful of snow in Greenville, N.C.,” he said.

Of course, that decision didn't match the decision he made to cancel fall commencement ceremonies when about a foot of snow fell at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. It was the ceremony during which his wife, Jo Ann, was supposed to receive her bachelor's degree.

"It's still a sore subject to this day,” he said.

Eakin said he has learned local habits and customs are important factors when deciding how to handle decisions involving snow.

Pitt County Sheriff Mac Manning said the area's largest snowfalls have taught him you can never be too prepared for the weather.
Manning was in his early 20s and working as a firefighter and emergency medical technician in Williamston when the area was hit by what many people called "The Blizzard of 1980." It left nearly 13 inches of snow in Greenville and larger amounts in the region's northeast counties.

"We had several emergency calls at the height of the blizzard, or snow, and it was an interesting ordeal," he said.

At one point, Manning and several others were responding to a man buried under an awning that collapsed from the weight of the snow. The snowfall was so intense and the drifts so high that the ambulance driver missed the road and turned into a ditch.

"We ended up unloading the gear, and some of the crew hiked the rest of the way to the scene of the accident, and the rest of us stayed to try to get the ambulance out of the ditch."

Eventually, a state Department of Transportation road grader and a pickup truck were called to the scene to transport the man to the hospital, the grader pushing the snow out of the way of the pickup, Manning said.

"That was a heck of an experience," he said.

Manning said he was also struck about how, several days earlier, he kept hearing explosive sounds and seeing flashes of light during a smaller snow. He found out later it was thunder and lightning.

Because of those and other experiences, such as the 1999 floods, Manning and his staff have secured several heavy military trucks over the years to use in weather emergencies.

Roger Jones, director of electric services for Greenville Utilities, said he doesn't remember the 1980 snow as a large event.

"I was stuck at home for three days because I couldn't get out of the neighborhood," he said in an e-mail.

A 9-inch snow that fell shortly before Christmas in 1989, produces a few more memories, he said.

"It was the first time I didn't spend all Christmas Day traveling and visiting folks, because we were snowed in," he said. "That was also the first, and so far only, Saturday (utilities use) peak, with a temperature of 11 degrees." He knows, because he checked the utilities records.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@coxnc.com and (252) 329-9573.

'I remember the snow of ...'

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has data on Greenville area snowfalls dating back to 1875 on its Online Weather Data web site. The following lists the dates of snowfalls 5 inches or more:

13 inches — Feb. 18, 1896
12.8 inches — March 3, 1980
11 inches — March 3, 1927
9.5 inches — Feb. 13, 1899
9 inches — Feb. 25, 1989
7.7 inches — Jan. 11, 1927
7.5 inches — Feb. 22, 1936; Feb. 12, 1899
7 inches — Feb. 7, 1980
6.9 inches — March 25, 1983
6.5 inches — March 10, 1934
6 inches — Jan. 4, 2002; Dec. 4, 2000; Dec. 12, 1958; Jan. 16, 1939; Feb. 28, 1937; Feb. 12, 1895
5.8 inches — Dec. 23, 1935
5.5 inches — Feb. 19, 1979; March 10, 1960; Dec. 12, 1917
Former North Carolina Gov Bob Scott dies at age 79

The Associated Press

Friday, January 23, 2009

HAW RIVER, N.C. — Former North Carolina Gov. Bob Scott has died at the age of 79.

Scott's daughter, Meg Scott Phipps, said Friday her father died at a hospice care center in Alamance County. She said he had been in declining health for the past several months.

Scott served as governor from 1969 to 1973, and was part of a political family that saw three generations get elected to statewide political offices. His father, Kerr Scott, also was governor and a U.S. senator. Phipps was elected state agriculture commissioner in 2000.

Bob Scott, a Democrat, later served as president of the state community college system.

The ex-governor's funeral is scheduled for Tuesday morning at Hawfields Presbyterian Church in Alamance County.

Jan 23, 2009 - 10:21 a.m. EDT

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Pension fund dives 22 percent

But treasurer offers assurance that the state's employees won't lose benefits

BENJAMIN NIOLET, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

RALEIGH - The value of the state pension fund fell 22 percent over the past year as a global economic crisis battered the retirement system for government employees, but the state's new treasurer said Friday that those employees do not need to worry about losing benefits.

Treasurer Janet Cowell held a news conference Friday to announce that the fund has fallen from a high of $77 billion last year to its current $60 billion. Cowell said conservative investment choices have left the state's pension fund in better condition than most in a time of financial turmoil.

"North Carolina is in better shape than almost any state," Cowell said.

The pension system covers about 820,000 state employees, teachers, firefighters, police officers and other local government employees. The system is funded at 104.7 percent, which means it has more than enough money to pay all of its obligations. That figure has declined, and Cowell said that by next year, it could be at 100 percent.

Over the last year, the fund had a negative 19.7 percent return on its investments. Cowell said the fund has an even higher-than-usual allocation of safer, long-term investments. Those investments had a 7.4 percent return. But other categories lost money.

Despite the losses, Cowell emphasized that all retiree benefits will be paid.

"You're entitled to your money," Cowell said.

Interest groups accepted the situation.

"I'm concerned, of course, but at the same time, it could have been worse," said Ed Regan, executive director of the N.C. Retired Governmental Employees' Association.

The fund raises money through a 6 percent contribution from employees, from returns on investments and from employer contributions. Cowell said the legislature will likely need to raise its contribution to the fund this year by $29 million, bringing the state's total annual contribution to about $430 million. That burden likely will increase again next year, Cowell said.

The same factors that led to the decline in the pension fund have contributed to a shortfall in the state budget that could grow to as much as $3 billion out of a $21.5 billion budget. But lawmakers may see the increase as a necessary expense.

"I would certainly be in support of doing whatever we need to do to kind of shore it up," said Rep. Larry Bell, a Clinton Democrat who is chairman of a legislative committee that oversees
the fund. Bell, a retired school superintendent, is a beneficiary of the state plan.

State Sen. Richard Stevens, a Cary Republican, said he wishes his personal retirement plan were down only 20 percent.

"I don't see how the legislature could avoid its obligation to its retirees," Stevens said.

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UNC-CH grades still ballooning

ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer

Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - At UNC-Chapel Hill, students are getting great grades.

And that's a problem.

A new report on grade inflation reveals that about 82 percent of all undergraduate grades at UNC-CH were A's or B's in the fall of 2007, and more A's were given than any other grade.

Now, some faculty fear top students aren't getting the recognition they deserve as the line between them and the rest of the class blurs.

"We think it is a problem," said Donna Gilleskie, an economics professor who analyzed more than 1 million grades since 2000 in writing the report. "It's a disservice to students. Sure, students would all like to get A's. But you want to reward students who have mastered the material."

The new report comes nine years after a similar study found 77 percent of the grades issued to undergraduates were A's and B's. That report prompted lengthy faculty discussion but no changes, and the trend has worsened since.

The new report is a draft that can change as Gilleskie adds data and controls to it. But it shows that the average undergraduate grade-point average has increased steadily, from 2.976 in 1995 to 3.2 in 2007.

The inflation appears greatest in some humanities departments, where grading is often more subjective than in the hard sciences or math. But there was a significant spike in medical-related schools as well, the report notes.

Across the country, grades have been on the rise for years. At UNC-CH, Provost Bernadette Gray-Little said there are no formal plans for a broad examination of the issue.

Many of the more than 50 UNC-CH departments analyzed have had average GPAs of at least 3.0 dating back to 1995. Since then, the averages in most departments have risen steadily.

A couple of examples: In 2000, the average GPA in environmental science and studies was 3.15. By 2007, it had risen to 3.72. The percentage of A's given in that department rose over the same time span from 36 percent to 76 percent.

In the exercise and sports science department, 94 percent of undergraduates received A's in the fall of 2007, according to the data, up from 83 percent in 2000.

The inflation could help explain increases in membership to academic honor societies such as Phi Beta Kappa, which had 110 members in fall 2004 at UNC-CH and 176 this past fall.

Higher expectations

But even as grades climb, students aren't always satisfied.
Andrew Perrin, a sociology professor and chairman of the faculty committee that produced the new report, recalls one student who, upon receiving an A-minus for a final grade, asked him what she had done wrong. That sort of outsized expectation may be part of the problem, Perrin suggests: Students expect great grades, and some professors are becoming less willing to be "judgmental" and critical in grading, he said.

"Virtually everybody entering UNC now is used to getting an A on everything," Perrin said. "The sensibility of people in humanities and social sciences is pretty anti-hierarchical and inclusive and tolerant of all kinds of expressions. It's difficult not to apply that to grading practices as well."

Although changes to the classroom dynamic may contribute to grade inflation, faculty members say there are plenty of other possible reasons. Students, by some measures, are smarter today. In some departments, smaller classes lead to more effective learning. And many professors see high grades as evidence that they're doing a good job teaching.

Grade inflation is not unique to UNC-CH. At Princeton, faculty members have tried to control grade inflation by setting quotas, allowing departments to award A's to no more than 35 percent of students. At Seton Hall University, grade inflation diminished after faculty members confronted the issue by talking about it in detail with each other.

At UNC-CH, little has been done to date. Recommendations in the 2000 report, such as introducing a new grading standard to roll the average GPA back to the 2.6 range, were discussed but never adopted. And in 2007, a proposal to the Faculty Council to adopt an Achievement Index -- a different sort of GPA that factors in differences in grading practices in various courses -- was narrowly defeated.

'Worse than in 2000'

"The situation is considerably worse than it was in 2000," said Boone Turchi, an economics professor who conducted the 2000 study. "The faculty, as a whole, has not really been willing to come to grips."

Over more than three decades in higher education, Ed Neal saw a slow shift in the makeup of the UNC-CH student body that may be connected to the current grading phenomenon. Neal is a former director of faculty development at UNC-CH's Center for Teaching and Learning.

Thirty years ago, male students comprised 60 percent of the college population. Today, females, who traditionally get better grades than males, account for more than 60 percent of the students.

But there are plenty of other factors, Neal argues. For one, universities work harder today to keep students in school, he said.

"We used to give students D's and F's and flunk them out," Neal said. "Now, we're more humane. We counsel them. If they're doing badly in a course, they drop it."

Also, more faculty rely on relatively inexperienced teaching assistants to grade papers, and they may not be as critical as they ought to be. And in some departments, only students with a serious interest in the subject enroll in it, he points out.

"Who dares to take Mandarin?" he said. "Someone on a lark? You have to be motivated to take that course."

The average GPA in Chinese in fall 2007 was 3.41.

Jeremy Ford, a UNC-CH senior majoring in biology, said he gets good grades and is proud of his work. But his accomplishment would be lessened if he found out that most of his classmates received high grades as well.
It doesn't carry the same weight as it would if I was part of just 5 percent who got an A," he said. "That's not the real world. If you don't perform well at work, you're going to get fired."

**High grades helpful**

Perhaps Ford shouldn't worry. Grade inflation may actually help him and others get a job, said Marcia Harris, who recently retired as director of UNC's career services office.

Although some employers don't care about a student's GPA, many -- in such fields as computer science, banking, business consulting and science research -- look at it when deciding whom to interview. For many, the cutoff is 3.0.

"Twenty-five years ago, 3.0 eliminated half the senior class," Harris said. "Now, it may eliminate maybe a third. So [grade inflation] actually gives more students a shot, at least, at an interview."

To Todd Dalrymple, a UNC-CH senior from Cary, grade inflation makes him less likely to boast of academic achievement.

"It makes you think twice about what that Dean's List distinction means," he said. "It makes you think twice about putting it on your resume."

Gilleskie, the economics professor who crunched the data for this new grade report, has struggled grading in an honors-level economics course that involves a great deal of tough written research. In a class of 15 honor students, the work ranges from very good to "really bad," Gilleskie said. But it's very difficult work, so should she give C's to students low on that ladder?

She gives mostly A's, she acknowledged.

"They're undertaking a task that very few others have done, and the fact that they got through it is an accomplishment," she said. "But is that right? That's what I struggle with."

Perrin, the sociology professor, hopes that the grades he gives reflect his students' true work and abilities. But he fears that if something doesn't change across the university, grades will become meaningless.

"The good-performing students can't distinguish themselves," he said. "It's also bad for students just checking classes off the list because it doesn't give them the incentive to do better."

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**Related Content**

- Graphic: More A's than B's at UNC-Chapel Hill
- Graphic: See how grades have risen since 2000

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The coach

Kay Yow of N.C. State spent years at her profession's pinnacle, and her personal fight against cancer was inspiring

Comment on this story

She coached as long as she could. Even when her cancer, first diagnosed more than 20 years ago, had weakened her to the point of exhaustion. Yet it was as if Kay Yow, who died yesterday at the age of 66, were living by the words of another Wolfpack coach felled by the disease. Even as he was dying, Jim Valvano had said, "Never give up."

That was a message Kay Yow expressed, and lived, in every way. Take the numbers alone, and every sports fan likes numbers, and she stands with but a handful in both women's and men's coaching ranks who achieved the gold standards of success. Over 700 victories as a head coach, championships, Hall of Fame inductions.

Yow was one of an even smaller number, this one confined to the women who were coaching, who truly took their sport to a higher level, both in terms of the quality of competition and the venues where they played. Yow demanded and won respect for the women's game. Her influence went far beyond her team, her school, her Atlantic Coast Conference. The tall, silver-haired coach was a presence in any room. Her words were not ignored.

Born in Gibsonville on March 14, 1942, Yow held an undergraduate degree from East Carolina University and a master's from UNC-Greensboro. She coached a while in high school, then at Elon College, and then, in 1975, was hired by the late Willis Casey, athletics director, to coach women's basketball, softball and volleyball at N.C. State. Is there a personal and professional story that could be more steeped in the Old North State? Kay Yow, in other words, was one of us, and devoted her life to institutions here at home.

For all of her coaching career, she fought to promote the women's game -- to get more television coverage, more ink in magazines and newspapers, more respect for the young women who she argued were as gifted at their sport as the men were at theirs. Talking about the subject with her was a lesson in what might be called "forceful diplomacy." She visited The News & Observer on occasion to discuss women's sports, and she was always congenial but firm and focused on her purpose.

Since 1987, when she was diagnosed with breast cancer, Yow became a leader of another kind, raising consciousness about the disease, raising money and serving as an example of carrying on against adversity. She did not complain, and she did not like for people to know when she might have been suffering from the side effects of treatment, or just tired. To say that she was an inspiration would be an understatement.

She was a tough coach, and a gentle soul. She wanted badly to win, but was ever gracious. She was dealt a blow by cancer but never bowed her head except to charge over the next hill. For those who played for her, Kay Yow will remain one of the most significant people in
their lives, all their lives. Yow wanted to teach her players to be better students and better people, to give them lessons that would stick with them always.

For those in the Wolfpack Nation, she'll be forever a colleague who helped show them the way. For those who knew her outside the sports world in Raleigh and the Triangle, she'll be the fighter, the crusader.

One who never gave up.

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UNCG aims for pharmacy school

But even if the demand exists, it could be a hard sell at a time when the UNC system is cutting budgets

ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer

UNC-Greensboro is making its pitch to become just the second public university in the state with a pharmacy school.

UNCG chancellor Linda Brady thinks a new pharmacy school would ease a statewide pharmacist shortage and would not create competition with UNC-Chapel Hill, which currently operates the only pharmacy school within the UNC system.

Currently, the state’s drugstores, hospitals and other employers need more pharmacists than UNC-CH and the state’s other two pharmacy schools -- Campbell University in Buies Creek and Wingate University near Charlotte -- can produce. And Brady thinks a new pharmacy school in her region would spark economic growth in the Triad.

"There really seems to be a major gap in terms of the need and what's available," Brady said recently.

But at a time when UNC system leaders are cutting budgets, a costly new venture may be a tough sell, even if UNCG can prove the demand for new pharmacists exists.

"It will take some convincing," said Harold Martin, the UNC system’s vice president for academic affairs. "We will look at balancing compelling need against cost."

A 2002 study by the Sheps Center for Health Service Research at UNC-CH found that the number of retail pharmacists per 10,000 citizens was decreasing even as the state’s population and the demand for prescription drugs was rising. And in 2005, a medical news magazine reported that chain drugstores across the nation had 6,000 unfilled pharmacy positions, according to a memo UNCG has submitted to the UNC system as part of its request for a new pharmacy school.

But the situation is changing, argues Robert Blouin, dean of UNC-Chapel Hill’s Eshelman School of Pharmacy. The state’s weak economy and a lessening demand from retail pharmacies will lead to decreased demand in coming years, Blouin said, citing a recent decision by the Walgreens pharmacy chain to lay off 1,000 workers.

"For a public university, we have to be responsive to a need," Blouin said. "When you look at the demand equation, it's changing. It has changed dramatically in the last six months."

UNCG would hire at least 20 new faculty members and enroll 75 to 100 students per class, Brady said. Little vacant space exists to build on the UNCG campus, so a refurbished downtown Greensboro space is the more likely location, she added.

One key in the decision-making process: Are there enough learning opportunities at
pharmacies, hospitals and other health care sites in the Greensboro area to accommodate pharmacy students from UNCG and UNC-CH? The latter already places students at on-the-job training sites in that area and around the state.

"There are many clinical sites in the Triad, so we would not be competing head to head with Chapel Hill for those sites," Brady said. "We're confident there are sufficient sites."

UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp said he and Brady are "on the same page" on that issue.

"We'll have a lot of work to do to make sure we have enough clinical sites," he said. "It's been proven to me that they're willing to work through it with us."

Fred Eckel, executive director of the N.C. Association of Pharmacists, isn't so sure about the availability of those practice locations.

"We're not growing clinical sites to the extent that enrollments are growing," Eckel said. "Three pharmacy schools in North Carolina have pretty much filled up our state's practice sites. ... You add another school into the mix, it just complicates that whole process."

In 2002, a plan for a new pharmacy school at Elizabeth City State University -- also a UNC system campus -- was shelved after a consultant's report showed the venture would be very costly. It eventually became a joint program through which students at Elizabeth City take UNC-CH pharmacy courses using distance education.

Martin, the UNC system vice president, said the Elizabeth City model may be a less costly alternative in this case as well.

Brady, the UNCG chancellor, believes the demand is evident. UNC-CH recently received 800 applications for 155 spots in one of its incoming classes, while Wingate received 1,112 applications for 70 seats.

Since 2000, 28 new pharmacy schools have opened across the nation, including one -- Wingate -- in North Carolina, according to data from the American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy.

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