THE DAILY CLIPS

January 28, 2010

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252- 328-6300
Park service pioneer advocates for outdoor play

Fran Mainella, the first woman to serve as director of the National Park Service, will speak at a free East Carolina University lecture this afternoon.

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

The first woman to serve as director of the National Park Service will speak at a free East Carolina University lecture this afternoon.

Fran Mainella had run the Florida State Parks system for 12 years before former President George W. Bush appointed her head of the department. Now she's a visiting scholar at Clemson University and will speak at East Carolina University’s Murphy Center at 3:30 p.m. today about what she considers one of the nation’s biggest hurdles — nature deficit disorder.

The theory revolves around the idea that as Americans spend less time outdoors or in recreation, it negatively affects both physical and mental health. Nonfiction author Richard Louv coined the term, and it resonates with things Mainella and other parks officials have always believed.

"It’s critical to be outdoors with nature and be able to do free and structured play," Mainella said. "As a nation, we’re not doing very well (in providing that)."

She noted rising rates of attention deficit disorder and obesity as tell-tale signs.

Free play for children and

See PARKS, A9

PARKS
Continued from A1

young adults encourages imagination and decision-making skills, she added. After age 25, it still works as a stimulus for the mind and spirit.

Among her numerous awards and honors, Mainella received the Sheldon Coleman Great Outdoors Award in 2002 from the American Recreation Coalition.

In 2006, she was awarded the William Penn Mott Jr. Award for Excellence by the National Society for Park Resources and in 2007 received the Pugsley Award — the highest award given by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration.

The lecture is part of the College of Health and Human Performance’s Ralph Steele series. Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation Director Alice Keene said Mainella is the perfect choice for the first event.

"We're just elated," she said. "Dr. Steele? The outdoors was his love."

On a tour of the area’s facilities Wednesday afternoon, Mainella lauded the opportunities Greenville provides for children and seniors. Keene said she wanted to show Mainella a bit of the collaborative spirit — from the university to the city to the health department — that keeps local parks and recreation facilities up and running.

Both women hope that growing awareness of nature deficit disorder will strengthen requests for policy changes, facility planning and funding requests.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
United Way celebrates grant for academy

The Student Success Academy was awarded a $50,000 grant from AT&T to continue combating the rising dropout rate.

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

United Way of Pitt County board members and partners celebrated the present while facing an uncertain future at their annual meeting Wednesday afternoon.

The Student Success Academy was awarded a $50,000 grant from AT&T to continue combating the rising dropout rate. Hundreds applied nationwide and only 15 United Way organizations — two in North Carolina — received a portion of $2 million, said John Lyon, AT&T’s regional director for external affairs.

Lyon passed the oversized check to United Way of Pitt County Executive Director Cecelia Scott, flanked by a number of educators and elected officials. He noted that much of his company’s giving is focused on educational programs.

See UNITED, A9

Continued from A1

The Student Success Academy monitors academics, attendance and behavior among participants as they enter sixth grade, said coordinator Robin Dailey. It also forms connections with parents.

N.C. Sen. Don Davis and Sen. Clark Jenkins applauded the work of both the Student Success Academy and the United Way as a whole.

“There is really no reason for a young person to think they can’t get a job ... with the proper amount of education,” Jenkins said.

He emphasized Greenville’s role as a hub in eastern North Carolina, anchored by the school system, Pitt Community College, East Carolina University and Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Davis noted that aside from dropout prevention being “the right thing to do,” it also is important to the future of the county and state.

“This is a matter of economic security and public safety,” he said. “Try to go through a deep recession ... without a diploma. Think about that.”

Rep. Marian McLawhorn and Rep. Edith Warren also attended the meeting, as did Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn and City Councilman Calvin Mercer.

United Way cabinet co-chairman John Pierpont spoke to the future of the nonprofit as it continues implementing a new business model and seeks “lasting improvement.” He said coming days may be filled with uncertainty, but he has faith in the vision and partnerships cultivated by United Way.

“There’s nobody that’s not needed,” Pierpont said. “We need everybody. We’re daring to think we can improve the status quo, that the future could be better than the present.”

The meeting concluded with the recognition of outgoing board members Michael Aichinger, John Bacon, Monica Carrion-Jones and George Perry and welcomed new board members Paul Anderson of Bank of America, Tommy Baker of NACCO, Mike Grizzard of The Daily Reflector, Denisha Harris of the Pitt County Economic Development Commission, and John Pierpont and Beverly Wright, both from ECU.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
FrederickNewsPost.com

Frederick graduate killed in action
Originally published January 27, 2010

By Megan Eckstein

Sgt. David Smith, a 2002 graduate of Frederick High School and a Marine in the local reserve unit, died Tuesday of injuries suffered in an attack on Saturday in Afghanistan.

A bomb killed three and injured several others during a patrol in Helmand province, which borders Pakistan and is one of the most volatile regions in Afghanistan.

In the attack around 11 a.m. Afghanistan time, Smith was hit by shrapnel in the head, said Smith's cousin, Ann Rudd. His family was notified about nine hours later, at 11:30 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. By Saturday evening Eastern time, Smith was at a trauma center in Kandahar. He was later sent to an air base in Bagram and then on to Germany by Monday morning.

Rudd said Smith, 25, died Tuesday afternoon. He donated his organs, a final selfless act that Rudd said he always proudly said he would do.

"Frederick's lost a very good human being, it's just so hard to see," Rudd said. "He was the best of us."

Rudd recalled how fun it was to watch Smith at his sister Kristen Forse's wedding last summer. Smith, Forse, and their brother Daniel took over the dance floor and had everyone laughing, she said.

"I just keep thinking of all his dance moves and how funny he was and how close those three siblings were," Rudd said.

Smith wrestled and played lacrosse and soccer at Frederick High, his friends said. He joined the Marine Corps in December 2003 and served a tour of duty in Iraq in 2006, Forse said. Smith was attending East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C.

"No one could ever find a bad word to say about him," Caitlin Barton, who grew up with Smith and attended church and school with him, wrote in a Facebook message on Monday. "He is an amazing person with such a spirit about him that you can't help but love David. He loves what he does, he loves being a Marine, but he also loves being a son, a brother, a uncle, and a friend to many."

"He was a great guy -- the sort of guy who would give all he had to whatever he was doing or whatever person he was spending time with," wrote Evan Hays, a 2002 Frederick High graduate and old friend of Smith's, in an e-mail. "I remember him for his strength, his fun-loving attitude, his intelligence, and his welcoming attitude."

Several people mentioned the death of Smith's stepfather as a key point in his life. Smith was in high school at the time, and his family had a hard time dealing with the loss.

"David was extremely strong and probably began to drive his determination to be the person he was today," Megen Majoros Franklin, a friend, wrote in an e-mail about the death of Smith's stepfather.

Franklin said she and Smith attended St. Joseph's-on-Carrollton Manor Catholic Church in Buckeystown, where they went to dances and class together. She described Smith as an unselfish man and a proud Marine, which was obvious when she ran into him once at Frederick Community College.

"He was dressed in his uniform and I almost did not recognize him. He never looked so proud and happy,"
Franklin said, "I believe he would say that he was proud to die for his country and in being a part of something that he loved and respected so much."

His friends from East Carolina University saw the same things in him.

"David Smith was a strong, compassionate and courageous man," said Allison Rayle. "Dave loved to cook and found a passion for country music and cowboy hats. Dave always had a smile on his face and always knew how to cheer you up."

Many of his friends said Smith had a real love for life and will be greatly missed by all those whose hearts he touched. Two other service members died Saturday in the attack. Lance Cpl. Jeremy Kane, a Marine in the 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion Company B, was a 22-year-old student at Rutgers University's Camden campus and a native of Cherry Hill, N.J. Kane joined the Marines in May 2007 and was serving in his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Xin Qi, 25, was a Navy hospital corpsman from Cordova, Tenn., who was attached to Company B after they deployed in November. Qi joined the Navy in June 2006 and was also serving in his first deployment to Afghanistan.

Please send comments to webmaster or contact us at 301-662-1177.

Copyright 1997-10 Randall Family, LLC. All rights reserved. Do not duplicate or redistribute in any form. The Frederick News-Post Privacy Policy. Use of this site indicates your agreement to our Terms of Service.
College endowments nosedived in '08-'09

College and university endowments suffered huge losses in the fiscal year that ended last June, a new report finds, but stronger investment returns in recent months point to a rebound.

The global economic crisis shrunk the ranks of billion-dollar endowments from 77 to 54 in a year's time, according to a report today that provides the fullest picture yet of endowment performance in the 2008-2009 fiscal year.

The value of university and college endowments fell almost 19 percent on average during that period in what report authors described as the worst decline since the Great Depression.

Although the downturn hit all types of universities, elite schools such as Harvard, Yale and Stanford absorbed some of the deepest losses. Some of the richest private schools, which rely heavily on endowments to operate and flourished in boom times, have resorted to cutting staff and shelving construction projects.

"What last year demonstrated is that what goes up does come down - and that's what happened to college and university endowments," said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of government and public affairs for the American Council on Education.

Gains seen recently

Things appear to be headed up again, mirroring trends in the stock market and most other investments. In the 2009 calendar year, Duke's endowment grew 8.5 percent and Georgetown's grew 8 percent, school officials said, and other colleges and universities have reported similar gains.

The swings are part of what has been a volatile decade for endowments, which are managed as permanent assets and are especially crucial for large private schools that don't rely on state funding.

The average rate of return on endowments soared as high as 17 percent as recently as 2006-2007; endowments on average posted annual gains of 4 percent during the up-and-down 2000s.

During flush years, colleges and universities have come under pressure to increase spending from their endowments to lessen the burden on students struggling with rising tuition and costs.

Schools spend 4 to 5 percent of their endowments annually on student aid, faculty, research and other costs.

On average, schools spent 4.4 percent of their endowments on operating costs in the last fiscal year, up slightly from the year before. More than seven in 10 schools with $1 billion-plus endowments increased spending.

"To the extent endowments are there to support the academic enterprise during difficult times, they stepped up to the plate this year," said John Walda, president of the National Association of College and
University Business Officers, which jointly issued the report with the nonprofit Commonfund.

But Lynne Munson, an endowment researcher who has testified before the Senate Finance Committee on the issue, said little evidence exists showing that schools with huge endowments are using their wealth to help more students attend college, enlarge their undergraduate enrollment or deepen research commitments.

"They are mostly focused on sitting on those resources," she said. "If you try to sit on too much wealth for too long, you're going to lose a big part of it."

Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley of Iowa, who has pressed for a minimum payout requirement for endowments, said in a statement he hopes the losses do not lead to tuition hikes or student aid freezes.

Better than the S&P

Many colleges "relied on some risky investments, like hedge funds, to get big gains in recent years, and now those strategies are causing losses," he said. "Students shouldn't bear the brunt of colleges' easy-come, easy-go investment strategy."

Matthew Hamill, a senior vice president at NACUBO, disputed the notion that endowment managers are relying on risky strategies with little regard for the students. He said university endowment managers have posted better returns than such major market indexes as the S&P 500.

"That seems to suggest the investment strategies are very carefully thought through," he said.

For the first time in several years, smaller endowments outperformed large ones, in large part because of their reliance on fixed-income investments, the report said. More universities and colleges sought to diversify their portfolios by investing in hedge funds, private equity and venture capital.

Of the universities with supersize endowments, Harvard, the largest, suffered the greatest losses - 30 percent, from $36.5 billion to $25.6 billion in 2008-9. That loss is larger than the entire endowments of all but four other schools.

Harvard slashed about 275 jobs last year and has announced other cost-cutting moves, including suspending a massive $1 billion expansion project.
NCSU tops Duke, UNC on 2009 endowment returns

Triangle Business Journal - January 28, 2010
Triangle/stories/2010/01/25/daily37.html

NCSU tops Duke, UNC on 2009 endowment returns

Only one of the Triangle's universities saw its endowment perform better than the national average in fiscal year 2009, according to a new study.

North Carolina State University's endowment lost only 14.8 percent, falling from $545 million to $464 million. Universities nationwide lost an average of 18.7 percent, according to the National Association of College and University Business Officers' and The Commonfund Institute's annual study of endowment returns.

The study, released Thursday, compiled endowment data from 842 higher education institutions, representing $306 billion in endowment assets.

"These results illustrate the extreme difficulties colleges and universities faced at the height of the global economic crisis," said John Waldrop, president and CEO of NACUBO.

Institutions saw declines in nearly all asset classes. Domestic equities fell 25.5 percent. International equities fell 27.6 percent. And alternative investments, such as private equity, fell 17.8 percent.

Fixed income investments grew 3 percent while short-term securities/cash grew 0.8 percent.

Within the Triangle, Duke University saw the largest drop, at 27.5 percent. The Durham institution's endowment fell from $6.1 billion to $4.4 billion. Despite the drop, Duke still held one of the largest endowments in the nation, ranked 14th.

Harvard University retained its spot atop the list with $25.6 billion, down 29.8 percent from $36.5 billion.

The University of North Carolina came close to the national average, with losses at 19 percent. UNC's endowment, the 26th largest in the nation, was worth $1.9 billion on June 30, 2009, down from $2.3 billion a year prior.

While Meredith College and Peace College have substantially smaller endowments, they were not immune to major declines.

Meredith lost 21.1 percent, falling to $65 million while Peace lost 20.8 percent, falling to $38 million.

Universities just outside the Triangle, however, did relatively well in 2009.

East Carolina University's endowment fell 6.3 percent, to $89 million and Fayetteville State University's endowment lost 3.1 percent, coming in a $12.1 million.

Elon University, however, bucked the national trend and was one of 39 institutions to not post a loss. The Burlington school saw its endowment grow 3.1 percent, to $81.8 million.

North Carolina Central University, Shaw University and St. Augustine's College were not listed in the report.

John Griswold, the Commonfund Institute's executive director, said his group hopes that the strong first half of fiscal year 2010, which spans from July 1, 2009 through Dec. 30, 2009, will result in more positive results at the end of the fiscal year.

Duke's long-term investment pool already has recovered some of its losses. The university reported earlier this week that its long-term investments were up 8.4 percent during the second half of calendar year 2009. Investments for the university and Duke University Health System combined, have grown from $5.97 billion to $6.47 billion, according to the Duke Chronicle.

While 8.4 percent is a good start, the university still has a long way to go. Duke needs its investments to return 37.9 percent before it recovers the 27.5 percent lost and returns to pre-recession levels.

Reporter e-mail: jgallagher@bizjournals.com

All contents of this site © American City Business Journals Inc. All rights reserved.
Haitian burn victim at UNC

CHAPEL HILL -- Covered in deep, gaping burns from a gas station that exploded during Haiti's earthquake, Eric Louis spent nearly two weeks in the devastated countryside with nothing more than petroleum jelly and water to salve his wounds.

He had no pain medicine for injuries widely considered the most excruciating of all traumas. His singed skin began melting away. Movement became agonizing.

Now Louis is getting the best that modern medicine can offer, as one of four burn patients plucked from the rubble and flown to North Carolina - three to the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center at UNC Hospitals and one to Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem.

Early Wednesday, Louis, 48, had his first surgery. Skin from human donors and modified pig tissue were used as temporary patches over the largest and deepest burns.

For most patients facing six weeks of painful burn treatments, the worst would seem to lie ahead.

Not for Louis. Little could rival what he has already endured.

From the moment he pulled into a gas station in Port-au-Prince on the afternoon of Jan. 12, his suffering began. The earthquake sparked an explosion, covering him in flames. Dazed, he staggered to a nearby hospital, but it was in ruins.

When his wife, Yvita, tracked him down by cell phone, she set out to get him to a place where people could help - or at least get him home.

She walked 10 miles through the devastation and, when she couldn't find him inside the hospital, she climbed on a car and shouted his name until he was found. "She took her husband and went home," said translator Lionel Giordani.

A woman standing about 5 feet tall, Yvita Louis trudged the 10 miles back home bearing her husband on her shoulders. She was careful not to aggravate the wounds on his back, and his arms, and his head, and his legs. His eyelids were singed, his feet dotted with burns.

Water and Vaseline

"For seven days, all she did was put water on the wounds," Giordani said. It was crude therapy, but all that there was aside from Vaseline. Without proper care - wound treatments, skin grafts, antibiotics, fluid restoration - the burns burrowed deeper into his flesh, and his damaged skin sloughed and oozed.

A week or so later, a pickup rumbled past the couple's concrete-block house in a Port-au-Prince suburb, Martissant.

It was the first sign of assistance, and the people were from the neighboring Dominican Republic. Yvita
Louis ran out of the house, calling, "Help! Help! Help!"

The people in the truck agreed to drive Eric and Yvita Louis nine hours to a hospital in the Dominican Republic. Eric Louis was given basic care, but not the specialized treatment required for severe burns.

A military helicopter then transported the couple to the floating Navy hospital off the coast of Haiti. From there, the Louises were flown to North Carolina.

Yvita Louis said she left three grown children behind - children she has not seen since the earthquake. She hopes to find them and perhaps move the entire family to the United States.

More pain ahead

"It's incomprehensible to imagine what these two individuals went through," said Dr. Bruce Cairns, medical director of the burn center.

For reasons burn doctors cannot explain, Eric Louis has shown no signs of infection in his wounds, but the depth of his burns and the amount of time that has passed since he suffered the injuries have complicated his care.

Cairns said doctors must first patch the open wounds with borrowed tissue, which will ease some pain and begin the healing. Additional surgeries will involve tethering Eric Louis' hands to skin flaps cut at his groin - a method used to salvage the delicate tendons that are currently exposed at the top of his hands.

He will also face painful procedures to shave swaths of his skin for grafts on the burns, and then difficult exercises to keep damaged limbs from tightening into uselessness.

In the scarring aftermath, life will never be the same for Eric Louis. And for thousands of Haitians left on the island, the same could be said.

"Haiti is completely gone," Yvita Louis said through Giordani.

savvy@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4882
Molding fervent Pack fans

Jeff Wilhelm of Raleigh had taken his daughters, Sylvia and Madison, to college basketball games before Monday night. Still, when he told them that after the game they could step onto the same court as the N.C. State Lady Wolfpack players they idolize, they didn't believe him.

"They said 'Oh, Dad,' like they didn't believe me. They thought I was going to break in," Wilhelm said, laughing as he took off his jacket to join them on the court.

He and about 40 other fathers took their daughters onto the court at the venerable Reynolds Coliseum on NCSU's campus to run and shoot around after watching the Lady Wolfpack play the UNC Tar Heels.

Wilhelm said both Sylvia, 9, and Madison, 12, play in a North Raleigh YMCA league, and he thought the Dads & Daughters event would be fun and instructive. "Their coach thought it would be a good idea to come and see the college game, to learn about boxing out and setting picks," he said. "As they get more involved [in basketball], we'll be coming back to see more."

That sounds as sweet as a swished Wolfpack 3-pointer to Morgan Rogers, assistant director of marketing for NCSU, who sees the event as "a good way to grow our fan base. We thought this would give [them] a chance to come out and shoot around and have fun."

Sylvia and Madison were having fun, though Sylvia had a tougher time reaching the rim with her shots. Pop Wilhelm, who initially said he wasn't going to shoot - "I don't want to show 'em up," he cracked - lofted a 3-pointer that hit nothing but net. Once. His subsequent shots? Let's just say he didn't have to worry about showing anyone up.

"This was a good turnout for the first one on a weekday night," Rogers said. She said she ensured a good turnout by scheduling it for a big game. Because of the intensity of the Wolfpack-Tar Heel rivalry, it's likely that a huge crowd would show up to watch a marble-shooting match between the schools. Carolina rallied for an 81-69 come-from-behind win.

Dad Jerry Freeman sank a couple of long jumpers in a row, not surprising since he said he played basketball in high school and junior college. Freeman, 38, of Raleigh, was content mainly to brave the mass of daughters and dads under the basket, grab rebounds and toss them out to his daughter, Jerlisa. She is a 14-year-old freshman who plays on the junior varsity team at Southeast Raleigh High School and wants to play college ball for the University of Connecticut or the Wolfpack.

"It's fun," said Jerlisa, beaming through her braces, when asked what she thought of being on the Lady Wolfpack's court with her father. "We play a lot in the backyard."

Does your dad let you win? I asked.

"I let her get close," Jerry Freeman cut in; "then I have to hit the winning shot."

Despite the final score in their father-daughter backyard tiffs, Jerlisa - and all the daughters who were on the court with their dads Monday night - were the real winners.