THE DAILY CLIPS

February 3, 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

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ECU

East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard will give the inaugural Chancellor's State of the University Address at 11 a.m. today in Hendrix Theatre in Mendenhall Student Center. Students, faculty, and staff — as well as members of the Greenville community — may attend to hear Ballard address the university's challenges, successes and opportunities as it begins to emerge from the economic malaise.

The address also may be viewed from a link on the university's Web site at www.ecu.edu.

East Carolina University is working with the U.S. Department of State to promote a course on climate change that begins at 8 a.m. today with a presentation by President Obama's top science adviser, John P. Holdren, on "Science and the Impact of Climate Change." Holdren, director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, will speak by videoconference to students at ECU and at partner universities in India, China and Brazil — three countries that are major players in the climate change debate. His presentation can be viewed live at http://gcc-aos.ecu.edu/news.
Cynthia S. Jones

BELVOIR — Dr. Cynthia Summerlin Jones, 61, died suddenly Monday, Feb. 1, 2010. Funeral service will be held Thursday at 2 p.m., Carlisle Funeral Home with Dr. Lavelle Waters and the Rev. Ed Hausle officiating. Burial will follow in Edgecombe Memorial Park.

Cynthia was Assistant Director-Administrative Services at Joyner Library, East Carolina University. She received her Doctorate Degree from North Carolina State University after retiring from Sprint Telephone Company with 36 years of service.

She was preceded in death by her father, Maynard Summerlin and sister, Sylvia Rawls.

Cynthia is survived by her mother, Mildred Summerlin of Belvoir; special friend, Leon Wilson of Tarboro; sisters, Phyllis Brown of Belvoir, Pam Ringgold and husband, Ernie, of New Bern; brothers, Dwaine Summerlin of Conetoe, Mike Summerlin and wife, Melinda of Belvoir, Tony Summerlin and wife, Wendy of Belvoir; brother-In-Law, Johnny Rawls of Greenville; stepdaughter, Ann Jones; nieces and nephews, Glenn Brown, Steven Summerlin, Nicole Bridwell, Danielle Ringgold, Tyler Summerlin, Jordan Summerlin and Ashton Bennett.

Family will receive friends tonight at Carlisle Funeral Home from 7-9 and other times at the home, 1445 Porter Road, Greenville.

Online condolences may be directed to the family by visiting www.carlislefuneral-home.com.
ECU’s Joyner Library helps Pitt County celebrate 250th

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Three exhibits opened Tuesday at East Carolina University’s Joyner Library as part of the celebration of Pitt County’s 250th anniversary.

ECU and the Pitt County Historical Society hosted a reception and discussion of county history to celebrate the 1760 founding of Pitt County.

Local historian Roger Kammerer spoke about the importance of the documents and photographs in the three collections.

Kammerer said the photographs in “The Seeds of Change: The Daily Reflector Image Collection,” which includes 40 images from newspaper photo negatives between 1949 and 1967, is important to historians.

The articles in the paper, Kammerer said, are invaluable.

“You learn these unbelievable stories,” he said. “It means so many things to so many people.”

Kammerer’s talk, “The Daily Reflector: Greenville’s Steadfast Newspaper and Conscience of the Community,” included a history of the local paper and the Whitchard family who owned it for more than a century.

“Do you think of The Daily Reflector as the conscience of the community?” Kammerer asked the audience of about 100 people. “It talked about what to do. It was the

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moral center.”

The three exhibits include thousands of documents and photographs and will be on display in the library during the coming months.

The library’s special collections department will house an exhibit of manuscripts, photographs, maps and other items from its collection to celebrate the anniversary.

“Pitt County’s 250th Anniversary Exhibit: From the Vaults of Special Collections” will be on display on the fourth floor of the library through July 31.

The “Pitt County’s 250th Anniversary: Special Resources from North Carolina Collections” exhibit will run through April 30.

It includes printed resources such as broadsides, maps, newspapers, memoirs, histories and works of fiction for the study of Pitt County history. It is located on the third floor of the library.

on highways that welcome visitors and residents to Pitt County.

Officials also are collecting the stories of people, churches and businesses as part of the celebration of the county’s 250th birthday this year.

The county’s “What’s Your History?” project will compile stories about the county’s history.

Kiara Jones, director of public information and media relations for Pitt County, will collect photos and stories from residents until Feb. 28.

Materials and stories collected will be displayed through several mediums, including PittTV Channel 13, PittTV online, other Web sites and a book that will be available at local libraries and the county office.

Any church, business or individual between the ages of 85-100 will be filmed and interviewed by county staff for a Pitt County history DVD.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphies@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Bad economy forcing recruits to stay home

Despite the lagging economy, college football staffs are spending millions of dollars nationwide to seek out the best high school football players for their schools. But many of the players who are being recruited are cutting back on their own spending.

"You don't see kids taking nearly as many unofficial visits," said Miller Safrit, a recruiting analyst for the Web site Scout.com. "And it was very plain last summer that the players aren't going to as many college camps. Attendance at the college summer camps was down almost everywhere."

Colleges spend their recruiting budgets visiting high schools, gathering information on prospective players, and bringing athletes in for official visits.

The process for many players culminates today when they sign national letters of intent, officially binding a player to a specific school and obligating the school to provide scholarship assistance. Players have been committing to colleges and colleges have been offering scholarships to players for months. But until the national letter is signed, none of the agreements is binding.

In recent years, college football staffs have relied on their summer camps to see and evaluate players. Prospects are limited to five expense-paid official visits, but players can make an unlimited number of unofficial visits at their own expense.

Gabe Henderson, Southeast Raleigh High's quarterback, said he didn't take as many unofficial visits last summer as he expected. Nor did he spend the summer travelling to far-away college camps. He went to camps at Tennessee, N.C. State, Georgia Tech and East Carolina, the schools that were showing the most interest in him.

"I did a lot of research online," he said. "We're in a recession and the finance for travelling everywhere is expensive."

Henderson, who passed for 2,416 yards and rushed for 1,005 yards, committed to Kent State, but later decided he didn't want to go there. He is now considering Appalachian State, Elon, Liberty and Toledo and is waiting to see if there is interest from the new coaches at Kansas and East Carolina.

"It wasn't the distance to Kent State that was the biggest problem - Toledo is farther - but I didn't feel comfortable there," Henderson said. "They changed offensive coordinators."

Comfort important

Kareem Martin of Roanoke Rapids, one of the state's best defensive players, concentrated on in-state schools, eventually choosing North Carolina over Duke and Virginia Tech.
"He wanted to play in-state," Roanoke Rapids coach Russell Weinstein said. "He got calls from everywhere, but he wanted to be close."

Mike Farrell, an analyst with Rivals.com, expected to see the economy have a bigger impact on the prospects than what he's seen.

"I expected I would, but I didn't," Farrell said. "And one of the best examples of this, I think, is when you're looking at in-state kids, Alfy Hill [of West Brunswick] I thought would stay home. I thought he would go to North Carolina. But he decided to go away. And it's a fairly long drive to Alabama.

"Some of the kids I expected to go elsewhere decided to stay at home, but it had nothing to do with finances. David Amerson [of Greensboro Dudley] I thought was going to go to Notre Dame, but he just felt more comfortable at N.C. State."

Farrell said some players in North Carolina come from families that are not well off financially.

"It hasn't affected them, at least to my knowledge, whatsoever in any of their choices," Farrell said. "I think the guys that stayed home decided to do so because they felt more comfortable at those schools or for other reasons. And I think the ones that wanted to get away, just got away."

But for whatever reason, in-state schools are doing a much better job getting the top players in North Carolina. Nine players on Scout.com's Top 10 list have made commitments. Seven of the nine have announced for North Carolina or N.C. State.

Duke has commitments from three of the top 30. Wake Forest has two and East Carolina one.

And the in-state total may go up.

Top-ranked Keenan Allen of Northern Guilford is expected to announce his decision today. He is committed to Alabama, but nothing is official until he signs the national letter. Ethan Farmer of South Columbus is uncommitted, but is expected to sign with either North Carolina or Clemson.

Jerry Petercuskie, the recruiting coordinator at N.C. State, said the Wolfpack's summer camp attendance was down a little bit last summer, and the program is making adjustments for this summer.

"We're going to concentrate a little bit more on the one-day days," Petercuskie said. "Obviously, it's less expensive for a family."

State plans to have a two-day camp and a couple of one-day camps, Petercuskie said.

Petercuskie said State wasn't cutting back in its recruiting but was being more frugal.

Safrit said most colleges are identifying specific spots to pursue players.

"Very few schools right now are recruiting nationally," he said. "The colleges are still spending the money, but they aren't flying all over the country."

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Pirates enter uncertain waters

By J.P. Giglio
STAFF WRITER

Ruffin McNeill didn’t have any time to waste after taking over as East Carolina’s new football coach. He hired on January 21 and introduced the next day in Greenville, McNeill then hit the road that weekend to recruit.

The Pirates have 19 commitments in a transitional class that was gathered by former coach Skip Holtz, and it is up to McNeill to close the deal.

With four players already enrolled, McNeill personally visited the homes of the other 15 recruits in the last 10 days.

“The first thing I did was talk about the players and let them know we’re going to behere,” McNeill said Tuesday. “The second thing I did was talk about the recruits and let them know the same thing.”

McNeill expects to hold onto all of the recruits lured by Holtz, who left after five seasons for South Florida, except one. He said he doesn’t know yet how many of the 19 players he will have to play immediately his first season.

“I’ll know more after spring practice,” McNeill said. “I know this, we don’t have a set of entitlement rules at ECU. No one, senior or freshman, is entitled to start.”

The Pirates lose a lot of experience on both sides of the ball from a 9-5 team that won the CUSA title in 2009. Twenty-eight seniors depart with Holtz, including quarterback Patrick Pinkney and leading rusher Dominique Lindsay.

Mike Farrell, a national recruiting analyst for Rivals.com, said the Pirates will have help at both positions from this recruiting class.

Dominique Davis, a Boston College transfer via Fort Scott Community College in Kansas, and incoming freshman Desi Brown are a pair of quarterbacks who could contend for the starting role in 2010. Josh Jordan and Rio Johnson are the return ing quarterbacks on the roster who will be sophomores in the fall.

“They will be an upgrade at the quarterback position down the line,” Farrell said of Davis and Brown. “There should be a competition between those two.”

Davis started three games for BC in 2008, including the ACC championship game, and completed 63-of-138 passes for 741 yards with six touchdowns and four interceptions.

But the recruit that most impresses Farrell is running back Alex Owah, who spent the 2009 season prepping at Hargrave Military Academy.

“He could be a home run at running back,” Farrell said.

Owah is one of four players already enrolled at ECU, joined by defensive end Maurice Falls, linebacker Jeremy Grove and defensive end Derril Johnson.

COMMITMENTS

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EAST CAROLINA RECRUITING

2009 record: 9-5 overall, 7-1 in Conference USA
Class rank: No. 9 in Conference USA, No. 97 in nation
In-state: 7
Five-star players: 0 Four-star: 0 Three-star: 1
Class prize: Tailback Alex Owah preppeled a season on an outstanding Hargrave Military team.

“There are a lot of safety. With East Carolina the biggest question is, what happens if? They have a new coach. How many of these guys are going to end up sticking, with Alex Owah being probably the big name from this class from Hargrave. I love the wide receivers. I think some of the safeties you can easily see on the other side of the ball. I think a lot of it is going to depend on what happens with these guys, if they fit in the new scheme that comes in and the changing of the guard.”

Miller Safrit, Scout.com analyst
UNC-CH is urged to give up coal

CHAPEL HILL -- With UNC-Chapel Hill's coal-burning power plant behind him, NASA scientist James Hansen pushed universities Tuesday to eliminate coal as an energy source.

Hansen donned a yellow "Beyond Coal" T-shirt - the same as those worn by about 15 sign-toting activists - to speak as a guest of the local Sierra Club.

The environmental organization's lobbying helped prompt Chancellor Holden Thorp to recently form a new energy task force to examine the university's use of coal and other issues.

Hansen, an expert on global climate change, says the United States must wean itself off coal, and sooner rather than later.

"Coal is the dirtiest fuel on the planet," he said. "If we phase out coal over the next 20 years, we can solve the problem."

Hansen directs the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and is an adjunct professor at Columbia University.

He said universities should seek renewable energies, but he said he could not specify which technology is best.

UNC-CH's cogeneration plant on Cameron Avenue burns coal and natural gas to generate steam and electricity simultaneously to cool and heat the campus and UNC Hospitals.

The process is twice as efficient as producing steam in one plant and electricity in another and has saved North Carolina taxpayers tens of millions of dollars, according to the university's Web site.

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Sharp Drop Is Seen in Gifts to Colleges and Universities

By TAMAR LEWIN

Gifts to colleges and universities declined almost 12 percent in the 2009 fiscal year, to $27.85 billion, according to the Council for Aid to Education’s annual survey of voluntary support of education. It was the steepest decline in the survey’s 53-year history.

“The picture was worse than we thought for the fiscal year that ended on June 30,” said John Lippincott, president of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education, which sponsors the survey. “We estimated in July that we’d be down 3.9 percent for fiscal 2009. I think the biggest factor in our underestimate appears to be that individual giving was even softer than we thought it would be.”

Mr. Lippincott estimated that in the 2010 fiscal year, higher-education giving would be up 2.5 percent.

In the last fiscal year, alumni participation declined to 10 percent from 11 percent, the lowest ever recorded in the survey, and the amount alumni contributed dropped 18 percent.

Corporate support, in contrast, declined by less than 6 percent.

“Organization giving did not drop as much as personal giving, perhaps because it’s based less on emotion,” the survey’s director, Ann E. Kaplan, said. “In the next year, I’m wondering what effect the situation in Haiti is going to have on the overall giving pie.”

Generally, private liberal arts colleges reported the largest decline, 18.3 percent. And gifts for capital purposes — those made to endowments or for property or buildings — dropped 25 percent.

Over the last 10 years, contributions have increased an average of 4.1 percent a year.

“If historical patterns hold up, giving will rebound in fiscal 2010, and beyond,” Ms. Kaplan said. “There are some new players, like two-year colleges that haven’t been asking for the same kind of dollars as liberal arts colleges or universities, but they’re starting to, and they have a good case.”

The universities that raised the most money in 2009 were Stanford ($640 million), Harvard ($602 million) and Cornell ($447 million). Among public institutions, the top fund-raisers were University of California, Los Angeles ($352 million), University of Wisconsin-Madison ($342 million) and University of California, San Francisco ($300 million).