THE DAILY CLIPS

February 19, 2010

News, commentary, and opinion
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East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
David "Rod" Compton

David "Rod" Compton NEWARK, OHIO - A funeral service for Rod Compton, 62, of Greenville, N.C. and formerly of Newark, will be held at 11 a.m. Monday at Brucker and Kishler Funeral Home, with the Rev. Barbara Sholis officiating. Burial will follow in the Lutheran Reformed Cemetery, Thornville Cemetery. Rod passed away in Greenville, N.C. on Friday, Feb. 12, 2010. He was born May 19, 1947, in Newark, Ohio to the late Clayton M. and Dorothy R. (Anspach) Compton. Rod graduated from Newark High School in 1965 and was considered Newark High School's first student athletic trainer. He was given credit for what is now the Newark Athletic Training position at NHS. Rod was inducted into the Newark High School Hall of Fame in 2008. He held a Bachelor of Science in Education from Ohio University and a Master's of Education in from Bowling Green University. Rod had been employed by East Carolina University as an Assistant Professor and Program Director of Safety and First Aid Education since 1970. He had done much research and publishing on topics of Sports Medicine and Athletic Training and had been the recipient of many honors including the Pioneer in Athletic Training Award (North Carolina Athletic Trainer's Association), the Sayers J. Miller, Jr. Distinguished Athletic Training Educator Award (National Athletic Trainers' Association) and the award of Appreciation for Service as Editor-In-Chief of Athletic Training. The Journal of the National Athletic Trainers' Association 1972-1979 He is survived by his sister Barbara Maier and husband, John, of Newark; nieces Lesley Maier, Missy Wortmann and husband, Richard, and Pam Gallatin; nephews Corey Maier and Jeff Gallatin. Besides his parents a brother Norman Gallatin precedes him in death. Friends may call from 10 a.m. till 11 a.m. Monday at the funeral home, 985 N. 21st St., Newark. Those who wish may make contributions to the American Heart Association in Rod's memory. To sign an online guest book, please visit www.brucker-kishlerfuneralhome.com and click guest book obituary.

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Book signing, performances highlight activities

Several Black History Month programs are planned this weekend.

■ The Pitt County Branch of the NAACP, Women in NAACP (WIN) and A Sister's Expression Book Club will host author Trice Hickman at a book signing from 6-8 p.m. today at Wingate Inn. The eastern North Carolina native has written two novels and is owner of Platinum Publishing Co. Refreshments will be served, and there will be door prizes. For more information, call 506-9234.

ROBERT CLARKE plays the role of Harry Truman speaking during the closing session of the 38th Annual Conference of the NAACP in the play Journey into Black History.

■ Journey into Black History will be presented through monologues, poems, songs and dance at 7:30 p.m. today and Saturday in the Doug Mitchell Auditorium of the Ayden Arts and Recreation Center. Admission is $5. For more information, call Francine Strong at 355-6914 or e-mail aydencommunitytheatre@yahoo.com.

■ A black-tie gala to honor African-American faculty, staff and students at East Carolina University is scheduled for today at the Hilton Greenville. A social and photography session begin at 6:30 p.m., and dinner will be served at 7:30. The event is sponsored by ECU's Organization of African-American Staff and the Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations. Admission is $35 per person.

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■ The Iota Kappa Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, George Washington Carver Library and 100 Black Men of Eastern N.C. will hold a Black History Quiz Bowl at 9 a.m. Saturday at Phillippi Church of Christ. Area teams will compete for monetary prizes. An essay contest also will be held for grades 3-12. Admission is free. For more information, call Mary Maultsby at 756-1646 or LaVette Ford at 830-3885.

■ A community celebration of black history will be held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at Koinonia Christian Center Church, 1405 S.W. Greenville Blvd. The event will include entertainment, children's activities, workshops, student artwork, storytellers and exhibitors. There also will be information on HIV prevention, stroke prevention, sickle cell risks and screenings on vision, hearing, blood pressure and body mass index. For more information, call Andrew Schmidt at the Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau at 329-4200.

■ East Carolina University's Jazz Studies program will offer its annual Tribute to Motown concert at 8 p.m. Saturday in Wright Auditorium. The cost is $10. Call 328-4788 for tickets.

■ Lydia No. 170 of the Order of the Eastern Star will sponsor "The History of Economic Empowerment in the North Winterville Community" at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Mount Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, 230 Boyd St., Winterville. Several businesses from the north Winterville community will be recognized. District 10 also will have a presentation during the program.

For more information, call Veronica W. Roberson at 355-5053.
New journey begins for East Carolina baseball

When last the faithful gathered at Clark-LeClair Stadium, outfielder Devin Harris sent fans into a frenzy with a run-scoring single to win the first NCAA Regional Tournament held in Greenville. East Carolina University’s magical baseball season would only continue for two more games, but the memories of that weekend will live in Pirate lore for ages.

More than eight months after that evening’s deafening roar gave way to offseason silence, the Pirates will return to action this afternoon against the University of Virginia to kick off this year’s home slate. The goal, as always, is a trip to Omaha and the College World Series, but it is the journey as much as the destination that makes the baseball season a special time in this community.

**Our Views**

One week ago, residents across eastern North Carolina were preparing for the likelihood of snowfall and a blast of arctic cold, fitting weather for the season. Today, however, the surest sign of spring’s imminent arrival will come in the form of nine young men in purple and gold, playing the summer’s pastime. Around them will be the Pirate fans, loyal and engaged as always, filling the university’s gem of a stadium and populating the Jungle beyond the outfield fence.

Football may be the straw that stirs the drink for the athletic program, and consecutive Conference USA titles attest to recent success at that sport. But the baseball program is, in many ways, what sets East Carolina apart from its peers.

Players recruited to come here are among the best in the nation. The legacy of past teams and past coaches echoes through the years. A national ranking, a rare treat in other sports, is a common burden to shoulder.

This team expects to win, expects to make the postseason and expects to compete for the school’s first trip to the College World Series.

With so lofty a goal set each year, it would be easy to look at a season like the last as a failure, since the Pirates could not best in-state rival North Carolina for a spot in Omaha. Rather, fans were treated to remarkable displays of poise and power, dominating performances and thrilling endings. Some nights — like the final game of the regional tournament — have it all. And to look with unyielding intensity at the goal is to lose sight of the journey’s excitement, intensity and joy.

So sit back, Pirate fans. Grab a seat along the baselines and settle in for another season of East Carolina baseball.

It should be one to treasure.
Pirates kick off baseball season today

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

There is no longer anything new or fresh about the East Carolina baseball team playing a schedule littered with top 25 teams.

Nothing other than the fact ECU is now one of those top 25 teams, too. The Pirates, ranked No. 11 in the rivals.com preseason poll, will try to take the final step this season toward solidifying the vision of ECU athletic director Terry Holland. The man behind the frightening schedules the baseball and football teams must contend with has wanted ECU to become a power in its region, not just in the widely-scattered Conference USA.

While the ultimate goal of making a trip to the College World Series has yet to be realized by ECU baseball and head coach Billy Godwin, the goal of becoming a major player in the Mid-Atlantic seems to have been realized.

The Pirates’ showdowns with North Carolina, N.C. State and South Carolina are well documented in the Godwin era, and the Pirates swing into the 2010 season today by tak-

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ECU BASEBALL coach Billy Godwin during practice Thursday.
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ing on another titan of the region in Virginia, ranked as high as No. 2 in the nation entering today's 3 p.m. season opener inside ECU's Clark-LeClair Stadium.

"We're in a very tough region, baseball-wise," said Godwin, who has guided the Pirates to 40 or more wins and a regional appearance in each of the last three seasons. "You look at all of the great baseball programs in this region, and we're really the only Conference USA team in the region. You've got Clemson and South Carolina. You've got Virginia and so many others.

"This is a talent-rich region for baseball, so it makes it tough. But I love challenges, and we're looking forward to it."

The Pirates, who sent Greenville fans into hysteria last season when they upended South Carolina in the Greenville Regional, will renew their rivalry with the Gamecocks next week.

After this weekend's games with the Cavaliers, ECU hosts Old Dominion on Tuesday before hosting the Gamecocks for a weekend series.

The season slate also includes West Coast games at Cal State Northridge and Pepperdine, a home date against the Wolfpack and a home series against perennial C-USA power Tulane.

"I think they're ready," Godwin said after Wednesday's practice ended and before Virginia's players hit the field for the first time at Clark-LeClair Stadium. "I've been really pleased with the last 10 days, how they focused and how much better we got as a team. Sometimes you don't know until the scoreboard comes on, but we know we're at home and we've got a great challenge."

Much of this season's ECU team already knows what it's like to play on a big stage.

Last season, Godwin's club won the C-USA regular season title, then hosted and won its regional before bowing out in the Super Regional round against North Carolina. It marked the third time the Pirates have been left standing on the doorstep of the College World Series, and Godwin said playing top-10 teams like the Cavaliers is the only way to get in the door.

"Virginia has got a great club, and that's why we schedule these games," he said. "It's exciting and we want to put our kids on a national stage. They've been somewhere we want to get to, and it'll be a nice challenge right out of the gate."

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252) 329-9595.
Local students attending prestigious science meeting

D.H. Conley's Alex Haddock, Mark Poczontek, Aakash Gandhi and ECU freshman Missy Buckingham are going to the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual event.

BY KIM GRIZZARD
The Daily Reflector

At the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, being held this weekend in San Diego, scientists will hear about the latest research by presenters from Harvard, Stanford, Duke — and D.H. Conley High School. Three students and one graduate of the Pitt County High School are among delegates representing the American Junior Academy of Science, a national honor society that recognizes high school students for their scientific research. The students, seniors Alex Haddock and Mark Poczontek, sophomore Aakash Gandhi and East Carolina University freshman Missy Buckingham will present scientific research at the event, which is America's largest general scientific meeting.

"This is a great opportunity for our students to go to this national meeting," said Susan Purser, who is accompanying the students along with fellow Conley science teacher Coleman Bailey. "It's really good for building their science skills."

The Pitt County students, along with one other North Carolina delegate, earned the right to attend the meeting based on their performance at the North Carolina Student Academy of Science competition. (Two other Conley graduates and one senior were also invited but were unable to attend.) All the students were among top finishers among 230 competitors in the state in last spring's NCSAS competition, placing in the top three in their categories.

The NCSAS, also known as the Student Academy, has a different approach from that of a science fair or even a Science Olympiad competition. For its district and statewide competitions, NCSAS requires students to complete a research paper and to prepare an oral presentation.

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presentation. Following their presentations, students receive feedback from scientists in their field who may offer suggestions on how to enhance their research.

“What sets our competition apart is they actually give a PowerPoint presentation,” said Heather Vance-Chalcraft, a teaching assistant professor in ECU's biology department and co-director for the NCSAS district competition. “That's exactly what scientists do at professional conferences. It's an authentic experience.”

Nancy Bray, who co-directs the NCSAS competition for 15 counties in eastern North Carolina, said the format not only gives students a chance to hone their research skills but their public speaking skills as well.

“They stand in front of judges, scientists and present their project,” she said. “They have 10 minutes to present what they've spent a long time on.”

Following the presentation, young scientists must respond to a series of unscripted questions posed by judges. It is a process that has been compared to defending a master’s thesis.

“It's an amazing skill they have to develop,” Bray said. “They have to think on their feet.”

At this weekend's meeting, students will have a chance to interact with professional scientists at events ranging from tours to meals. They also may sit in on lectures and discussions on such topics as marine sciences, stem cell research and laser technology.

Today and Saturday, local students will have a chance to share their research as part of poster and oral presentations. Poczontek will present “The Effects of a Nutritional Diet on an Athlete's Performance,” a project he completed with student Rachel Jenkins; Haddock will present research on how gross motor skills affect fine motor skills; and Buckingham will present research she conducted on springboards used in gymnastics competitions. Gandhi, the youngest team member, will give a presentation on how playing musical instruments affects finger bones. It is a continuation of research he initiated while he was a student at Hope Middle School.

Bray said one advantage to the NCSAS competition is that it allows students to build on their research from one year to the next, expanding their understanding and contributing additional data over time, in much of the same way that professional scientists conduct research. Another similarity between this weekend's presentations and other professional scientific conventions is that even the youngest participants are viewed as collaborators, not competitors. Unlike the Student Academy, which secured them a spot at the AAAS meeting, the meeting itself is not a contest.

“It's very intentionally not a competition,” Purser said. “This is for these students to share their work with other top science students from around the country and professional scientists. It's really a very supportive system.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or (252) 329-9578.
ECU relies on mound staff

With so much college baseball tradition in North Carolina, it means something to be the best program in the state.

The University of North Carolina has been the best for the better part of a decade, but East Carolina has a chance this season.

It was Greenville native Alex White who pitched the Tar Heels past the Pirates last spring in the Chapel Hill Super Regional, but with White and teammate Adam Warren gone, East Carolina has the more experienced pitching staff.

Duke, N.C. State and Wake Forest have promise, as well as question marks.

East Carolina

The Pirates lost a good chunk of last year's explosive lineup, which led the nation in hits and was fourth in runs scored. From top to bottom, everyone in the lineup hit .311 or better.

But East Carolina (46-20, 17-7 C-USA) lost only one starting pitcher, Chris Heston.

Back are junior righty Seth Maness (4.71 ERA, 9-3), sophomore lefty Kevin Brandt (3.64, 9-2) and junior righty Brad Mincey (3.16, 10-5), who will start the weekend rotation in that order.

"We return 37 wins on the mound from a year ago as opposed to just 18 from the 2008 staff," coach Billy Godwin said.

The bullpen is mostly intact, with Patrick Somers, Mike Wright and closer Seth Simmons returning. Three freshmen will compete for midweek starting roles, and a pair of rookies will supplement the bullpen.

"Putting together pitching depth like we have this season is something that we have tried to build since I got here, and we realize that you have to be able to pitch to get to Omaha," Godwin said.

Godwin will still have power in his lineup in senior designated hitter Kyle Roller, who hit .336 and led the team with 16 home runs, and outfielder Devin Harris, who hit .344 and with 14 homers.

Northern Durham standout Bryan Bass is one of three other freshmen expected to make up some of that lost firepower.

"In my heart, I know this team will be able to hit, but what scares you the most as a coach is the unproven factor," Godwin said.
East Carolina will find out quickly if the No. 18 preseason ranking by Baseball America is warranted. The Pirates open the season today by hosting No. 2 Virginia and then face No. 10 South Carolina at home next weekend.

Duke

Duke has improved every season under fifth-year coach Sean McNally.

But after losing first baseman Nate Freiman - drafted in the eighth round by the San Diego Padres - and a few other productive hitters, plus top weekend pitcher Andrew Wolcott and closer Alex Hassan, Duke could have a challenge ahead. The Blue Devils were awarded the fewest points in the ACC preseason coaches poll.

"Can't replace it immediately," McNally said. "I think we'll have to score, [and] execute a little bit differently. But those guys became those players by playing. We've got younger guys ready to play. How fast they grow and develop this year, that's the big mystery."

McNally is leaning on what has been his team's strength; Duke (35-24, 15-15 ACC) was fourth in the nation in fielding percentage last season.

"We've hung our hat on that," McNally said. "We've got to defend at a really high level to be competitive."

Last year's squad achieved one of its main goals - getting to the ACC Tournament at Durham Bulls Athletic Park, where the team will play 18 home games this season.

N.C. State

A year ago, the Wolfpack had problems defensively, which cost the team early wins, including a weekend series against Miami that coach Elliott Avent has yet to forget after State blew two late leads. But the Wolfpack has more stability at each position this year.

"Not only better at every position, but deeper at every position," Avent said.

N.C. State (25-31, 10-20 ACC) will need to hit better. Sophomore Andrew Ciencin is the only returning player who hit over .300, but Avent said he has a dozen hitters who can help this team right now.

Pitchers Alex Sogard, John Lambert and Rey Cotilla are expected to miss the first month of the season with injuries.

"Some of these freshmen are going to have to step up until we get them back," Avent said, referring to seven freshman pitchers.

Wake Forest

The Demon Deacons (22-30, 6-24 ACC) missed the ACC Tournament last spring and lost top hitter Weldon Woodall, who batted .328. He's one of four position starters the team will be replacing.

But weekend starter Austin Stadler is back, as is most of the pitching staff. Freshman lefty Tim Cooney will start Saturday against Dayton.
RALEIGH -- N.C. State University leaders got their first detailed look Thursday at plans for a new $3 million lakefront chancellor's house, and the project appears to be headed for easy approval today after winning solid reviews.

"The university will be proud of this for many, many years," said Gayle Lanier, chairwoman of the NCSU board of trustees' Buildings and Property Committee, which enthusiastically voted to recommend the full board approve the house today.

The house would be built with private donations of cash, materials and services, which NCSU has already received, university officials said. It would sit on the south shore of Lake Raleigh on NCSU's Centennial Campus.

The 8,500-square-foot design replaces an earlier version that had soared to more than 12,000 square feet and more than $5 million. The project had stalled after university officials grew concerned about the size and cost.

But interim Chancellor James Woodward revived the project shortly after his arrival on campus last summer, saying that it was crucial for the kind of fundraising that a modern university needs. Also, he said, the chancellor's home is often a key first impression for important visitors.

The current chancellor's home off Hillsborough Street near the Bell Tower is more than 80 years old, has little parking space and is cramped for even modest gatherings.

University facilities staff, an ad hoc committee appointed by the trustees, College of Design Dean Marvin Malecha and others retooled the old design. Several of them visited the chancellor's home at UNC Charlotte to get ideas.

The new NCSU house, Woodward said, is a refinement of that house, which he was involved with as chancellor there.

Several universities across the state have built new chancellors' homes in recent years, part of a trend of making them quasi-public buildings geared as much toward fundraising events and other social affairs as housing. The chancellor's family living quarters will be on the 3,000-square-foot second floor.

Malecha, president of the American Institute of Architects last year, gave the committee a presentation on the house, for which he acted as chief designer.

Modern touches
The design is meant to be modern, to fit on the technology-oriented campus, but with traditional form and materials, such as brick like that found in NCSU's oldest buildings. Malecha said the design aims for a proper level of dignity for such a house, but also stays humble and approachable, befitting NCSU's position as a land-grant university.

The home, approached on a long, tree-lined drive, will incorporate "green" design elements, such as a geothermal heating and cooling system, solar panels and perhaps a small windmill. It also will be a "mini-stimulus plan," Malecha said, because the university plans to use as many materials from North Carolina as possible.

Trustee John Sall, co-founder of SAS Institute, asked about the geothermal heating and cooling system and about the dramatic approach to the house. Then he beamed and proclaimed the design a winner.

The committee endorsed it unanimously.

Kevin MacNaughton, associate vice chancellor for facilities, said that if the full board approves it today, the university will take the plans to the city next week for approval. Construction could begin as soon as two weeks later.

jay.price@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4526
Alabama killings put tenure in the spotlight

The circumstances behind the deadly shooting at the University of Alabama-Huntsville remain unclear, but the Harvard-trained neurobiologist accused in the rampage was upset about being denied tenure - the academic world's highly coveted form of job security.

The profile of Amy Bishop that is emerging suggests deep-seated emotional problems and a history of violence. But her vocal displeasure about being rejected in the period leading up to the attack has cast a spotlight on the increasingly pressure-packed quest for tenure at American colleges.

"You remember it almost like a death in the family," said John Tisdale, a journalism professor who was denied tenure at Baylor University in 2002 for reasons that he said were never fully explained.

"It's so traumatic," Tisdale said. "Your life is turned upside down. Obviously it's a professional setback, but it's personal, too."

Decades ago, tenure was almost automatic. Now, cost-conscious colleges and universities are turning to part-time and adjunct faculty who will never get a shot at tenure. Some live like academic nomads, drifting from position to position with marginal pay and benefits.

Professors lucky enough to land tenure-track positions must endure rigorous scrutiny and, at times, an ambiguous process deciding their fate. Those who wash out wear the scarlet letter of academia.

Bishop is accused in the attack last week that killed three fellow professors. According to one report, one of the victims was a professor who supported her tenure bid.

A tenure dispute being linked to violence, let alone deaths, is extremely rare. In 1992, an associate professor who had been denied tenure at Concordia University in Montreal killed four colleagues.

In the 1960s, the concern was "tenure by default" - that faculty were being awarded just for sticking around, said Gregory Scholtz, director of the American Association of University Professors' department of academic freedom, tenure, and governance.

Now, it's not uncommon for tenure candidates to turn in portfolios 2 or 3 feet high stacked with teaching evaluations, syllabuses, examples of course materials, scholarship and explanations of their teaching philosophy, Scholtz said.

The fact that expectations have risen in the past 25 years for earning tenure is a positive development,
said Ada Meloy, general counsel for the American Council on Education.

"Higher education in general should not be static," she said. "We're constantly trying to improve learning and knowledge and research and teaching."

Academics denied tenure can have a hard time getting tenure-track positions elsewhere - unless they are coming from an Ivy League school or other elite institution. Most who stick with academics patch together part-time appointments at other schools, community colleges or for-profit schools, Scholtz said.

Others go on to successful careers. Bishop was better positioned than, say, a classics professor denied tenure. While at Huntsville, she developed a new type of portable cell incubator and won $25,000 in a statewide business competition in 2007. The school has not disclosed why she was denied tenure.
Dance marathon still in vogue as UNC fundraiser

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.-- More than a thousand North Carolina college students aim to dance around the clock to help a hospital.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill holds its largest student-led fundraiser when the annual dance marathon kicks off Friday night. The event has raised more than $2 million since the first was held 12 years ago.

About 1,600 students will try to stay awake and on their feet for 24 hours to raise money for the North Carolina Children's Hospital.

Money raised by the students helps patients and families pay medical costs not covered by insurance or Medicaid. That includes phone cards to help families stay informed about a child's treatment, parking and meal vouchers, and holiday dinners for families who can't afford them.