THE DAILY CLIPS

February 23, 2009

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

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The New York Times
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USA Today
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ECU physicians perform Special Olympics physicals

ECU News Services

A group of Special Olympics athletes moved a step closer to the starting line after receiving physicals Feb. 4 from East Carolina University physicians. The physicians – and one medical student – from the Brody School of Medicine performed physicals on dozens of athletes, many of them school-age, at Elm Street Gym.

"Every individual deserves the opportunity to strive to perfect their skills in some form and fashion," said Dr. Joseph Garry, director of the sports medicine fellowship at ECU and one of the doctors who performed the physicals. "Special Olympics is one such venue for many athletes, and our participation serves to help them participate to their fullest."

Doctors in the sports medicine division of the ECU Department of Family Medicine have performed the physicals twice a year since 2001. Before that, retired physicians in the community volunteered to provide the service. ECU's involvement makes it possible for school-age athletes to receive a physical during the school day so parents don't have to take time off from work and schedule appointments with doctors.

"It helps out the athletes a lot because those who wouldn't be able to go to the doctor and get the physicals can go during school," said Deitra Crandol, Special Olympics Pitt County coordinator and a recreation supervisor for Greenville Parks and Recreation.

Athletes are required to have a physical once every three years.

The athletes' next chance to perform in a major event will be April 1 at Special Olympics Pitt County's Spring Games at J.H. Rose High School. Pitt County has approximately 500 active Special Olympics participants.

The ECU Department of Family Medicine and its sports medicine division are platinum sponsors of Special Olympics Pitt County.

Student aces engineering exam

An ECU student has earned a perfect score on an international engineering certification exam.

Burns Mijanovich, a senior in the Department of Technology Systems' Information and Computer Technology (ICT) program, was one of six students to successfully complete a Red Hat certification exam as either a certified engineer or certified technician.

Mijanovich took the Red Hat Certified Engineer (RHCE) exam on Jan. 31 and became the first student at ECU to earn a perfect score on it. Five other ECU students successfully earned their Red Hat Certified Technician (RHCT) certification.

"I was very excited, because although I expected I would pass the exam, a perfect score seemed unlikely," said Mijanovich, a native of Marshall.

"With a hands-on exam as rigorous and demanding as this, there's always the chance that something will go wrong. But that day, everything went according to plan."

The RHCE and RHCT exams test competency in Linux system administration as well as security, configuration and web server skills. Since being named a Red Hat Academy in 2006, ECU's Information and Computer Technology program has had about 55 students complete the RHCE and RHCT exams.

Voyages lecture focuses on Vespucci

Amerigo Vespucci, a 16th century Italian explorer, will be the focus of the Lawrence Brewster Lecture in History at ECU on Wednesday.

In continuation of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences' Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series, Dr. Felipe Fernández-Armesto, professor of modern history at Oxford University and professor of global environmental history at Queen Mary, University of London, will present the lecture, "Vespucci: The Man Who Gave His Name to America," at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium.

"Dr. Fernández-Armesto's prodigious scholarship on the nature of exploration and discovery in world history makes him a superb fit for the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series," said Alan White, dean of Harriot College. "We look forward to Dr. Fernández-Armesto's remarks illuminating significant ironies in the voyages of discovery that led to the naming of our conti-
ECU ART STUDENT Logan Wagoner donates a pint of blood under the care of Marvin Pope of the American Red Cross. The campus-wide blood drive was held in the Student Recreation Center on Wednesday and netted 391 pints, beating the previous record of 386. Another blood drive will be held in the fall.


He was the 1999 recipient of the John Carter Brown Medal and the 1995 recipient of the Caird Medal of the National Maritime Museum. Fernández-Armesto's journalistic works have been appeared in The Times of London and he has contributed to BBC Radio.

The Lawrence Brewster lecture series bears the name of the late professor emeritus of history whose generosity supports the series. Tickets are complimentary for ECU faculty, staff and students, and $10 for the public. Tickets are available through the ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or at the Wright Auditorium box office window immediately prior to the lecture.

For more information, contact Dr. John Tucker at tuckerjo@ecu.edu or 328-1028, or visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

Scherer exhibit to hold closing reception

The closing reception for the Deidre Scherer textile art exhibit will be held at 5 p.m. Friday at the Greenville Museum of Art, 802 Evans St., Greenville.

The film, "Holding Our Own," will be shown at 5:30 p.m. The movie, which features Scherer, is on the powerful yet tender treatment of our final life passage. The exhibit was made possible in part by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council and sponsored by the End of Life Care Coalition of Eastern Carolina in collaboration with East Carolina University faculty and staff, community members, entities and businesses.

The unique fabric and thread art focusing on end of life is on display at the museum through Friday.

See ECU, B7
Collaborative Nursing Day set for Friday

The 18th annual Collaborative Nursing Research Day will be held from 8 a.m. to noon Friday at the Edwin W. Monroe AHEC Conference Center in Greenville.

The conference will provide an overview of strategies for collaboration among faculty and clinical nurses to foster a culture of evidence-based practice and clinical research. Dr. Linda Dudjak, a 30-year health care veteran and associate professor at the University of Pittsburgh’s School of Nursing, is the keynote speaker. She also is co-director of the Translation and Dissemination Core grant in the university’s Center for Research in Chronic Disorders. Call 744-5220 for more information.

Upcoming events:

■ Dr. Lee West, professor of pathology at the Brody School of Medicine, will present “Who was the first physician?” at 4:30 p.m. Monday in the Evelyn Fike Laupus Gallery, fourth floor Laupus Library, Health Sciences Building.

■ The New Music Festival kicks off Wednesday at 9 p.m. at the Starlight Café with Christopher Grymes, clarinetist, and continues through Sunday. More information: www.ecu.edu/music

■ The First Greenville Krispy Kreme Run supporting the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation will be Saturday. Registration begins at 7 a.m.; the run begins at 8 a.m. at the ECU commuter parking lot on College Hill Drive. Co-sponsored by Ben’s Buddies and the ECU Chapter of the Phi Sigma Pi National Honor Fraternity. For more information and to register online: www.donutsfordiabetes.com.

■ ECU Symphony Orchestra will perform the world premiere of “Exorcisms” by Mark Paris, winner of the 2008-09 Orchestral Composition Competition 3 p.m., March 1, A.J. Fletcher Music Center Recital Hall. More information: www.ecu.edu/music

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for more information about these and other ECU events.
Holtz applauds team, cancer survivors at Relay for Life fundraiser

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, February 22, 2009

A Relay for Life fundraiser turned into an East Carolina University football news conference when keynote speaker Pirates Coach Skip Holtz took the stage Sunday night at Tie Breakers.

Holtz answered questions about everything from quarterbacks to what you tell a young kicker before a crucial kick and how tough their first three games will be this season.

"Someone asked me how I sleep with that schedule," he said about those initial opponents. "I told him I sleep like a baby. I wake up every two hours and cry."

That banter was exactly what volunteer Paula Loftin was hoping for when she asked Holtz to be the keynote speaker. She raises money annually as an American Cancer Society Relay for Life "Team of One" — but that includes donations and support from family and friends.

"I don't know if it would have been as successful without him," Loftin said, glancing around at the more than 80 locals who attended. "He's important in the community. Not that he's an icon per se, but he's so warm and genuine."

Holtz said he chose to speak at the fundraiser because he lost a grandmother and grandfather to cancer "before I ever really got to know them." Further inspiration comes from his mother, who survived throat, lung, adrenal gland and ovarian cancer.

"My father doesn't pray for her anymore, he prays to her," the coach quipped.

Loftin's "reason to relay" is her father, Charles Triplett. He battled lung cancer for two years before passing away in 1997. Loftin's been raising money for a cure ever since.

"Relay is very dear to me," she said. "I don't know what I would do without Relay. It was difficult to watch him go from a vibrant, active man to an invalid unable to care for himself."

Sarah Swain, community manager for the American Cancer Society, said Pitt County's goal is to raise $300,000 this year. They're also hoping for 100 teams and have 72 registered currently — one of which is Loftin.

"I found that people really are digging deeper," Loftin said. "When I ask people and they know it's something near and dear they're willing to give. Everybody's been touched by cancer."

The annual Relay for Life walk will be held April 24 and 25 at South Central High School.

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

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Shore up NC beach policy

Star-News, Wilmington

State officials are talking about relaxing a seawall ban that has served the North Carolina coast well over the years. At the same time, they’re shy about taking action that would reduce the need for drastic erosion-control measures in the first place.

The N.C. Coastal Resources Commission heard from experts recently about the possible use of “terminal groins” to protect property unwisely built near erosion-prone inlets. If approved, the use of these sand-catchers would reverse the ban on hardened structures that protect the property they guard but tend to promote erosion on other parts of the beach.

In some cases, palatial homes have been built in areas that, because of natural shifting that occurs on barrier islands, have gained sand. Common sense dictates that what the ocean giveth, the ocean may one day taketh away. Allowing continued building in such precarious areas is folly.

It’s a question of public policy: Should North Carolina allow continued development and then change the rules that protect our beaches for the benefit of those who built in an ill-advised location?

Somehow, that doesn’t seem smart.
Ray of hope?

Laurels — To the faintest hint of sunshine amid the gloomy economic forecast in the news that two areas of employment stability and growth are education and health care. Though North Carolina was not insulated against the recession as was predicted, Pitt County is well positioned should those two fields continue to survive and strengthen since they are key areas of the county’s economy.

Play ball

Laurels — To the return of East Carolina University baseball, which starts this weekend at Clark-LeClair Field with a three-game series against Monmouth. Expectations are high, as always, with this year’s Pirate squad, which features many talented ballplayers looking to start the season on the right foot. Good luck to them, and especially to Brandon Henderson who will wear the No. 23 this year.

Laurels — To money given to Ayden Middle School as part of the Motivating Adolescents with Technology to Choose Health, or MATCH, program. The school received $20,100 to provide a wellness program to kids, outlining a regimen of proper diet and exercise in order to build better, healthier habits at an early age.

Darts — To the scare created by a suspicious powder that hospitalized several people this week. Employees and customers at a Greenville automotive parts store requested treatment after a powder was found at the entrance. A state hazardous materials team was called and the road was closed, only to later discover the dust was little more than a mixture of chili powder and dirt.

Laurels — To the level of participation at recent listening sessions to discuss the proposed long-range facilities plan for Pitt County Schools. Hundreds have gathered for the hearings, and speakers have had the opportunity to address the school board about concerns. School officials should listen carefully and make sure the final plan works to builds community consensus for making progress.

Darts — To concerns about the future of Bethel, prompting some residents to gather in prayer for their community. The closing of many businesses in recent years, particularly the main grocery store, has many citizens worried about the long-term stability of the northern Pitt County town. It is a special place, a tight-knit, caring community, and we can all hope brighter days are ahead.

Laurels — To this week’s visit by the C-SPAN bus, a teaching tool for students geared toward cultivating more astute critical thinking skills and a greater appreciation for informational access. Students at J.H. Rose High School were part of the channel’s 100 schools in 100 days campaign, and educators explained C-SPAN’s role in broadcasting government and civics programs for the public.

Compiled by Brian Colligan, editorial page editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at 329-9507 or via e-mail at bcolligan@coxnc.com
UNC should resist tuition hike

The Herald-Sun, Durham

Erskine Bowles, UNC system president, said the nation is facing "the worst economic environment of our lives — the worst since the Great Depression."

Hannah Gage, chair of the UNC Board of Governors, said the future of the entire state — not just the universities — is at stake.

So while the Board of Governors recognized the dire situation, it decided to raise tuition by an average of 3.9 percent anyway. Officials pointed out that was less of an increase than was first recommended.

At a time when few workers in private or public enterprises are receiving raises, when companies are laying off workers and unemployment is soaring, the decision to raise tuition seems tone deaf. Most governments are saying that despite looming budget cuts, they will try to hold the line on tax increases in recognition of the tough challenges citizens face.

Still, while the UNC system could have made a symbolic, hold-the-line gesture, the tuition increase probably won’t stop anyone from going to college.

At Carolina, the increase will amount to a $160 for the year, along with a $68 bump in student fees. At N.C. Central, tuition will rise by $46 and fees will go up $86.

Of course, any increase will be felt by families struggling to make ends meet. To help, North Carolina students are fortunate to have a variety of financial aid options. Students should talk to an adviser — most will find the help they need.

And don’t get the idea universities are above the economic maelstrom. Like everyone else, they face unprecedented cutbacks. State lawmakers will be studying how to cut $2 billion to $3 billion from the budget. With education at 55 percent of all spending, UNC schools are bracing for impact.

University employees may also face furloughs — unpaid, mandatory time off. And, as UNC president Holden Thorp told The Herald-Sun’s editorial board recently, dozens of open positions are staying unfilled.

The tricky balance is to keep tuition as low as possible and quality of education as high as possible. In times like these, that balance is a moving target.
Event showcases African-American cultural contributions

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, February 21, 2009

Hundreds of Greenville and Pitt County residents went to the Koinonia Christian Center on Saturday for the Community Celebration of Black History Month.

Theresa Holley of Greenville Recreation and Parks coordinated the event, which was also sponsored by Koinonia, East Carolina University and the Greenville-Pitt County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Grandparents walked the exhibit halls with their children and grandchildren and explained the importance of remembering and celebrating the path that their ancestors journeyed to achieve freedom and equality, and the many contributions they made to American life along the way.

Exhibitors included the Village of Yesteryear, a restored village of 20 buildings at the county fairgrounds, which brought artifacts depicting the tools of everyday life and culture of African-Americans from the 1840s through the 1940s.

Among the displays were articles from The Daily Reflector that spanned decades of Greenville's black history, with stories about native sons Billy Myles and Billy Taylor, both musicians; Caesar Corbett, the first black police officer; and educator C.M. Eppes.

"Older folks handle the artifacts with a sense of honor, and youngsters are tickled to see how differently their ancestors lived," curator Roger Kammerer said.

Live entertainment was provided in the main hall by jazz musician Michael Brown, the Jonkonnu performers and the C.M. Eppes Alumni Choir.

In one room, children were taught how to make African face masks. An African dance workshop was conducted in another exhibit hall, next to a room where a storyteller weaved tales of African-American history.

More modern concerns among Greenville's African-American community were also addressed at the celebration, including health, human and social services, and education counseling.

"It's very hard to focus young kids on their history, so I use every chance I get to teach them," said Kathy Battle, who brought her grandchildren, Ashante and Njeri Bracy from Winterville, to see the artifacts and listen to tales of their heritage.

"The opportunities for black children are endless now, and that didn't start with us. It started with our ancestors. As far as I'm concerned, the more they learn about them, the better they'll be," Battle said.

Her grandson, Ashante, 11, sported a T-shirt with a basketball player on it, but his grandmother said she was more concerned about scientists, doctors and educators than athletes as role models for her grandchildren.

"I look at President Obama now and see the door of opportunity is kicked open," Battle said.

Her grandson seemed to get her message and talked of what he was searching for among the exhibits.

"I'm looking for respect for my history. It will make me a better person," Ashante Bracy said.
There were no athletic exhibits at the celebration, but professional artists, including Greenville's Peerless Speller and Robersonville's Richard Wilson, exhibited their works, many focused on ethnic heritage.

"My art reflects my life. It's like a quilt that portrays my journey. I want people to see my talent and get my message," Speller said.

Wilson considers himself a trailblazer for those who will follow, he said.

"I know what it's like to have a passion for art and no opportunity to do something with it. I want to show young people how to live their dreams through art," he said.

Greenville resident Laura Morris, 70, was at the celebration with her mother, Isabelle, 95.

"We've been through some 'stuff' as a people, so it's nice to see so many things we can be joyful about," Morris said.

Koinonia congregation member Ayesha Atkinson was pleased her church was able to host the event.

"A house of worship is a great place to build connections. It's wonderful that people can come together here to see how well-rounded our culture is, but celebrating a heritage must be an every day thing," Atkinson said.

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Black History Month series

In the last installment of the Reflector's four-part Black History Month series, reporter Kathryn Kennedy looks at various Pitt County organizations focused on directing African-American children on the best possible paths. Their efforts aim to create the "village" youth need to protect and sustain them as they meet various challenges, such as gang violence, absentee parents, drugs and low self-esteem. LOOK, E1
After moment in spotlight, ECU Dance Team wants more

By Kristin Day
The Daily Reflector

Friday, February 20, 2009

Back in January, more than 3,000 athletes from across the country, plus Puerto Rico, gathered in Orlando, Fla., for an all-out battle for bragging rights and a chance to show their skills on national television.

It was the 2009 College Cheer and Dance Team National Championship, as well as ECU's return to the national competition since its last visit 10 years ago. Highlights from the competition air Sunday and March 19 on ESPN2.

It wasn't that long ago — November to be exact — when Coach Kristin Winstead told the team its videotape submission had earned a spot in Florida.

"We all screamed," Sarah Miller, a junior at ECU, said.

"Especially since it was such a hassle last year," senior Monica Williams added. Apparently, there were some financial issues.

But after finding out, they "practiced their butts off," said junior Shelley Underhill, and basically gave up their winter break to develop their choreography.

"In actuality, we had less than two months to learn a routine and perfect it," Miller said.

On Jan. 16, the team flew to Orlando.

"Better than the bus ride to Memphis (for the Liberty Bowl)," freshman Jordyn Barrick said.

The team stayed at Disney's All-Star Sports Resort, "the basketball place," according to sophomore Emily Hendricks.

"It's like oversized hoops and basketballs this big," said sophomore Rebecca Thomas as she raised her arm about eye level.

Participants from 152 universities and an estimated 6,000 spectators twittered around the Wide World of Sports Complex and the Indiana Jones Theater at Disney's Hollywood Studios that weekend. ECU team members describe the scene as "very school spirited" and a little bit like the movie "Bring It On." But the teams, though in contention, remained supportive of one another.

ECU first performed in the semifinals for the Hip Hop Dance division, although the routine was set to a rock 'n' roll medley. There were nerves, of course, but once their feet hit the stage, the girls said all their anxiety disappeared.

And when list of teams was called out for the finals, all they could do was sit in anticipation as each team's name was read.

One by one until, finally, ECU was called.

"They tricked us," Barrick, said, and the rest of the girls laughed.

"But it was a big deal," junior Courtney Caterfano said. "We were bawling our eyes out."
The best feeling, perhaps, was the reaction from other schools, some of whom seemed surprised by the skill displayed by a dance team they had never seen before.

ECU danced for the finals on Sunday and placed 15th in the nation for Hip Hop Dance. The top three teams will be shown on ESPN, but ECU's performance can still be seen online here.

Team members say their accomplishments give them motivation for next year's competition, although they might start practicing a little earlier this time.

"Now we know what to expect and what to do. ... It's like we got our toes wet," Miller said, before several of the girls motioned as if they were sticking their toes in water.

Williams, a senior, just wants her team to remember why they're there next year.

"I just hope in the future, everybody has fun," she said. "Sometimes we got stressed, but you have to remember you're doing it because you love to dance."

"The second you step on stage, it's worth it," Miller added.

They also hope winning a ranking spot will garner more recognition from some of their peers.

"I think we're hoping to get a little more respect from the students," senior Megan Thornton said. "People look at us and think we're just the girls with the half-tops."

"They think (the moves) are cool, but that's it," sophomore Brianne Camp said.

The ECU Dance Team will enter the competition again this year in hopes of finishing higher. But the chances of getting Pee Dee into the mascots division? Not good, they say. Mascots have to be invited.
One hurt in wreck with bus

The Daily Reflector

Friday, February 20, 2009

An East Carolina Student Transit bus collided with a car at 9:10 a.m. at the intersection of Charles Boulevard and Fire Tower Road, a university official said.

The female driver of the car, a black Nissan 350-Z, was transported by Greenville Fire-Rescue personnel to Pitt County Memorial Hospital with unspecified injuries, said Christine Neff, an ECU information officer.

The bus, with a driver and one passenger aboard was headed south on Charles along its route toward The Bellamy apartments.

The car made an unshielded left turn from the northbound lane of Charles onto Fire Tower Road, into the path of the bus, according to the accounts Neff said she was given.

The bus driver and unidentified passenger were unhurt, Neff said.

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Petition laments speaker selection

UNC law school split over Mukasey

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — The selection of a former Bush administration official as commencement speaker at UNC-Chapel Hill’s law school has sparked a furor.

Some faculty and students are criticizing the selection of Michael Mukasey, who served as U.S. attorney general from 2007 to earlier this year.

A petition is circulating decrying the choice. It reads in part: “We believe a commencement speaker should reflect the collective values of the UNC Law community... By refusing to condemn waterboarding as torture, former Attorney General Michael Mukasey has demonstrated that he does not represent those values.”

Mukasey was a controversial figure from the outset of his time as the nation’s top lawyer. During his confirmation hearings in 2007, Mukasey declined to say whether waterboarding, an interrogation technique, amounted to torture.

Travis Packer, a third-year law student, said offering Mukasey the commencement speaker slot suggests that the UNC law community in general agrees with his beliefs.

“I feel like we’ve endorsed this person,” Packer said. “But I would never give him my endorsement.”

Packer conceded it would be difficult to find a speaker with views that everyone agrees with and said Mukasey would be a good addition to a law forum, panel or other round-table discussion.

But a commencement speech is different, he said.

“When you invite someone to come and speak, you’re bestowing an honor upon him,” Packer said.

The UNC Student Bar Association made the selection. Its president, Matt Modell, said politics did not factor into the decision. He praised Mukasey’s long career in law and public service.

“We suspected some students would not be pleased simply because he was nominated to the office by President Bush, and I have been told by some students that any conservative would have been unacceptable,” Modell said in an e-mail message.

Last year Mukasey drew criticism when he spoke at Boston College’s law school graduation.
Sir Walter, we hardly knew you

By Josh Shaffer
Staff Writer

Sir Walter Raleigh enjoys the reputation of a silver-tongued explorer, a swashbuckling courtier, a dashing symbol of North Carolina topped off with a plumed hat.

It's a biography more flowery than a sonnet, and an international group of scholars hopes to rescue Sir Walter from his own mythology.

Let's debunk the big myths first:

1. He led the Lost Colony and brought England its first puffs of tobacco. No, Sir Walter never set foot in North America, let alone the Outer Banks, and he served only as tobacco's first PR man.

2. He spread his velvet cloak over a mud puddle to spare Queen Elizabeth's royal feet. It's a good story, but there's no proof.

3. He was a paragon of knightly virtue. Not exactly. Sir Walter spent 13 years in prison for treason and got his head chopped off by an angry King James. His final words: "Strike, man, strike!"

Last month, the Raleigh Research Circle met in London to rethink Sir Walter's exaggerated reputation. The point wasn't to drag him off his pedestal, but rather to promote a truer picture of the namesake of North Carolina's capital.

What should the 21st century make of this Elizabethan dandy,

See Sir Walter, Page 6A
who inspired Sir Walter Chev-

...let and Raleigh’s Velvet Cloak Inn?

...Owen, the furry-chested actor

...who portrayed him in “Elizabeth:
The Golden Age”?

... (Not really, and he definitely

...didn’t fight the Spanish Armada

...on the storm-tossed seas.)

...Did he really make off with

...Queen Elizabeth's handmaiden?

... (Yes, and he lied about it —

...another mistake that got him

...tossed in prison.)

...Even his name is subject to 70

...variations: Raleigh, Raughlie,

...Rolle, Wrawley ...

...A few thoughts from Larry Tise,

...history professor at East Carolina

...University who helped organize

...the Raleigh Research Group:

...“He dressed funny. He enjoyed

...giving the appearance of a sea

...captain. He blew his entire estate,

...and his wife's entire estate. The

...power that he used, he used flam-

...boyantly. He was a great self-pro-

...moter, but he was also a great

...self-destroyer.”

...Off with his head

...Tise grew up in Winston-Salem,

...fed on the same stories that glo-

...rified Sir Walter as the state's

...founder.

...The more he dug into his story,

...the more he found it enshrouded

...by legend.

...Tise learned that the more un-

...flattering chapters of Raleigh’s

...life were also the lesser-known.

...Many residents of Raleigh, he

...said, don’t realize the city’s name-

...sake was beheaded for treason.

...North Carolina has always

...struggled to define itself, espe-

...cially in its earlier centuries when

...Virginia outshone it.

...Sir Walter gave the state an

...emblem, Tise said, a towering fig-

...ure to rally around and, eventu-

...ally, create a tourist industry

...around. In its early days, the seal

...of Chowan County displayed the

...fiction of Sir Walter stepping

...ashore on the Outer Banks.

...In England, Tise discovered,

...Sir Walter enjoys a far broader

...reputation — not only as explorer,

...or as tobacco promoter — but as

...poet and political thinker.

...He wrote a million-word history

...of the world, and though Sir Wal-

...ter made it only as far into history

...as Hannibal and his ancient battles

...against Rome, it is widely consid-

...ered a masterpiece.

...“Some of his poems are very

...fine ones,” said Christopher Ar-

...mitage, an English professor at

...UNC-Chapel Hill, who also at-

...tended the conference. “In his
day, everyone should know how
to write them. He should know
how to write a sonnet, how to
fence, how to dance, how to eat
with a fork instead of behaving
like a barbarian.”

...Raleigh dabbled with chemistry

...while in prison, wrote long vol-

...umes and collected an extensive

...library.

...He never saw his doomed

...Roanoke colony on the Outer

...Banks, which vanished in the

...1580s, leaving cryptic carvings

...such as “Croatoan” on trees as its

...only clue. Sir Walter never even

...chose Roanoke’s location, forbidden

...by Queen Elizabeth to leave England.

...But he did make two voyages to

...South America in search of the

...golden city of El Dorado, attack-

...ing a Spanish outpost along the

...way.

...He had trouble with politics,

...falling out of favor with two Eng-

...lish monarchs. But he spoke so elo-

...quently and with such drama that

...he acted as his own defense coun-

...sel when tried for treason against

...King James in 1603 — swaying

...the verdict against execution.

...“He was always at his best in a

...crisis, resolute, commanding and

...brave when his own life was at

...stake,” said Mark Nicholls, presi-

...dent of St. John’s College at Cam-

...bridge, also a member of the

...Raleigh Research Circle. “Am-

...ericans should perhaps remember

...particularly that he was a strong

...critic of arbitrary monarchy, and

...tended to believe that too much

...power corrupts the person who

...possesses it.”

...A traveling man

...Sir Walter’s bronze monument

...has wandered about downtown

...Raleigh for years, finally settling

...on the front steps of the city's

...new convention center.

...There is no hint of Sir Walter’s
darker side behind the statue’s

curled mustache, and it seldom

...gets discussed.

...But in 1580, he ordered roughly

...600 Spanish and Italian soldiers

...executed as pirates for assisting

...Irish Catholics in their resistance

...against the English crown. Re-

...ports still rise of headless skele-

...tons surfacing on the shore where

...the massacre took place.

...He hated the Spanish, not

...uncommon in Elizabethan Eng-

...land. But political winds shifted

...under King James, who impris-

...oned Raleigh in 1603, then freed

...him 13 years later so he could

...continue his futile search for New

...World gold.

...On his second voyage to South

...America, Sir Walter had strict or-

...ders to leave Spanish interests

...untouched. When the voyage

...turned out fruitless, and Sir Wal-

...ter had nothing to deliver, he at-

...tacked a Spanish fort — a gamble

...that killed his son, left Sir Walter

...ruined and speeded his execution.

...From the platform, Sir Walter

...delivered a speech that lasted 45

...minutes, and when his head rolled

...off the block, his lips were still

...moving.

...Pieces of history

...The Wilson Library on the cam-

...pus of UNC-Chapel Hill houses one of the

...world’s largest collections of Sir

...Walter Raleigh relics.

...An ax from Roanoke.

...A model of his ship and nu-

...merous portraits.

...Volumes of his history dating

...to the 1620s.
Depictions of Raleigh in comics and steamy pulp novels that fuel his outsize reputation.

"I think Trivial Pursuit has something about him coming to America," said Robert Anthony Jr., curator of the library's North Carolina Collection and a member of the research group.

He hopes that the group's work will trigger more interest in Sir Walter, which has been scarce until now.

"He was quite the showman, quite the showman," Anthony said. "One person at the conference said he was vain. We probably wouldn't like him very much. He would spend hours with his valet getting dressed."

But even if he never stepped on this state's shore, Sir Walter is worth recalling, if only to remember a more dramatic, risky and boisterous era and the small part North Carolina played.

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Falcon is Colbert's newest namesake

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It helps to have fans in high places. Just ask Stephen Colbert, who has had a peregrine falcon making its nest atop a California city hall named after him.

The male falcon was dubbed "Esteban Colbert" by San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed, an admirer of the Comedy Central star. Like the human Colbert, Esteban is comfortable before cameras; he and his new mate, Clara, have their rooftop rendezvous beamed throughout the world by way of a FalconCam installed when baby falcons turned up on City Hall three years ago.

The falcon is the third wild bird or mammal to be publicly named after the host of "The Colbert Report." Breeders at the San Francisco Zoo named a bald eagle Stephen Jr. in 2006. Last month, researchers at the University of California, Santa Cruz, christened an elephant seal Stelephant Colbert.

But an East Carolina University scientist went one better, naming an entire species after Colbert.

Biologist Jason Bond named a species of trapdoor spider found in California in 2007 Aptostichus (ap-TAS-thi-kus) stephencolberti.

EYE ON ESTEBAN

San Jose installed a FalconCam atop City Hall three years ago to let the world see the falcons who like to roost there. See what's going on up there at www.sanjoseca.gov/falcons/index.asp.
Getting to college a maze

Students get help with aid forms as economy worsens

BY J. PEDER ZANE
STAFF WRITER

Esha Hickson knows that dreams must be grounded in reality. She hasn’t just imagined herself becoming a doctor some day; she’s worked hard to earn straight As at Knightdale High School.

Now she fears that the nightmare of the recession may smother her hopes. “College is so expensive and money is so tight, I’m really afraid,” the soft-spoken senior said yesterday at Meredith College. “I will never give up, but it’s going to be a huge struggle.”

Hickson was one of an estimated 4,000 students who visited Meredith and 64 other locations across the state yesterday for help filling out their Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The eight-page form is the first step college-bound students must take as they try to cobble together a package of grants, loans and scholarships to help pay for college.

Reflecting the tough economic times, applications for federal financial aid in North Carolina have risen 29 percent so far this year, according to the College Foundation of North Carolina, a FAFSA sponsor that helps students with filling out the applications and finding loans.

Prospective collegians face a particularly daunting environment. In response to budgetary pressures, many colleges and universities have raised prices. Earlier this month, the UNC system’s Board of Governors increased tuition and fees for in-state students by an average of 3.9 percent across its 16 campuses.

The baby boom of the ’80s and ’90s and the influx of immigrants means that the number of high school students is steadily rising.

Rising unemployment and the falling stock market have also made it harder for families to foot those bills. The College Foundation reports that contributions to its college savings program — the NC 529 program — has decreased while the number of families withdrawing those monies for purpose other than college has doubled.

As a result, many more families are asking for help. Requests for aid at UNC-Chapel Hill were up 13 percent this year, according to Shirley Ort, director of scholarships and aid. She expects that to grow 15 percent more this year.

Ort said 35 percent of UNC-CH students now receive need-based aid to cover tuition and fees, which will reach $5,456 next year.

The percentage is even higher at Meredith College, a private women’s college where annual tuition and fees are $30,290. Sixty-five percent of Meredith students receive need-based aid, and 95 percent of all students receive some sort of assistance, said Sandra Rhyme, the school’s director for scholarships.

Rhyme and Ort both stressed that people should not assume that they wouldn’t qualify for aid. At UNC-CH, the median income of a family of four receiving need-based aid this year is $50,300, Ort said.

Although the eight-page FAFSA can seem forbidding, many of the 200 families who showed up at Meredith College yesterday said it took less than 30 minutes to fill it out.

“As long as you have the right documents, like your tax forms, brokerage and savings account information, it’s not so bad,” said Danny Kim of Morrisville, whose daughter Eunice will attend Duke University next year. Rhyme of Meredith College said the financial aid offices at most schools are happy to walk people through the process.

North Carolinians can find the FAFSA and receive help filling it out from the College Foundation’s web site, cnc.org, or by calling 866-866-2343.

Completing the form is only the start of the journey. As they sat together in a Meredith College classroom yesterday, Brandon Sligo’s family insisted that he type in all the information in the FAFSA form. His parents said they will do everything they can to help the senior at Wake Forest Rolesville High School realize his dream of studying music at Western Carolina University. But they want him to be fully aware of the economic realities that involves.

“This is a big deal, and he knows that,” said his step-father Marlon Mitchell. “But seeing exactly how big a deal it is will drive it home.”

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FROM STAFF REPORTS

Paul Frederick Sharp, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1964 to 1966, died Thursday in Norman, Okla. He was 91.

When he came to North Carolina from the presidency of Hiram College in Ohio, Sharp was described by then-UNC system President Bill Friday as a "brilliant, dedicated and successful educator."

When Sharp arrived, the UNC campus was seething with unrest over a law passed the previous year by the legislature banning individuals who were known Communists or anyone who advocated the overthrow of the Constitution from speaking on UNC campuses. Known as the Speaker Ban law, it prompted the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities to threaten to withdraw the university's accreditation, saying it amounted to political interference that hampered educational pursuits.

Sharp spoke out against the law, saying it "has already damaged the university; its effects are currently injuring the university; and unless the legislation is removed, the damage already suffered is only a tithe of the injury we will sustain." A federal court panel eventually threw out the law in response to a lawsuit.

Sharp left UNC to become president of Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa.

Among his survivors are his wife, Rose; three children, William Frederick Sharp and his wife, Liz, of Homer, N.Y.; Kathryn Ann Dunlap, of Oklahoma City; and Paul Trevor Sharp and his wife, Jane, of Greensboro.

A memorial service will be held at 4 p.m. today at the First Christian Church in Norman.
‘A boy in a dress’ rules over homecoming

Winner says his victory celebrates George Mason’s diversity

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FAIRFAX, Va. — George Mason University senior Ryan Allen dresses in drag and doesn’t mind being called a queen — homecoming queen, to be exact.

Allen, who is gay and performs in drag at nightclubs in the region, said he entered the homecoming contest as a joke, competing as Reann Ballslee, his drag queen persona.

But he considers the victory one of his happiest moments and proof that the suburban Washington, D.C., school famous for its run to the Final Four a few years back celebrates its diverse student body.

“I was very touched by how Mason was so supportive through the whole process of allowing a boy in a dress to run for homecoming queen,” Allen said in a phone interview. “It says a lot about the campus that not only do we have diversity, but we celebrate it.”

The senior from Virginia’s Goochland County won the pageant Saturday at a sold-out Homecoming basketball game against Northeastern University.

Large portions of the crowd cheered as Allen, wearing a gold-sequined top, accepted the tiara and the Ms. Mason 2009 sash.

The contest was half talent judging and half voting by the student body. Allen received the most votes but doesn’t know how he scored in the talent competition, in which he performed in zebra-print pants and lip-synched to Britney Spears.

Allen’s selection does not appear to have caused much consternation among the school’s 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students. An online article in the student newspaper prompted only two comments, both positive.

Alyssa Cordova, an officer with the school’s College Republicans, said she didn’t pay much attention to Allen’s election and is surprised by the media attention it has received.

“I just think it’s kind of silly,” she said.

Mara Keisling, executive director of the National Center for Transgender Equity and a former adjunct professor at Mason, said the lack of controversy “shows that the students and the George Mason community have a good sense of perspective.”
Don't put off ECU's dental school

If you think North Carolina has done a good job of providing dental health care to its citizens, take a trip east of Interstate 95. Way down east. The gap between North Carolina's affluent regions and rural areas is as plain as the smile on your face. Or, in too many unfortunate cases, the lack thereof.

The economic struggles of Eastern North Carolina are no secret, and the recession has made a bad situation worse. Poor dental health goes hand-in-hand with low income, high unemployment and few prospects. Our classical images of poverty almost invariably include misaligned or missing teeth.

But poor dental health isn't just a cosmetic problem. It is a key factor in poor overall health. Having a mouth of broken, painful teeth leads to bad eating habits (resulting in obesity, diabetes, heart disease and a host of other disorders). Perhaps even more importantly, it leads to low self-esteem, which cripples its victims' dreams and aspirations.

Improving dental health is an important, and underappreciated, part of breaking the cycle of poverty in rural North Carolina, and it is time to help our citizens who've been left behind by the systems in place. As a news story earlier this month noted, more than half of North Carolina's counties have fewer than three dentists for very 10,000 people. Four counties have no dentists.

In 2006, plans were approved to build a new dental school at East Carolina University. Today, the school is preparing for its first class in the fall of 2011. Pending appropriate state funding, the school will graduate 50 dentists in the middle of the next decade.

In the meantime, the school will set up clinical service learning centers around the state — in the rural east and the rural west — to train aspiring dentists and provide care to the state's neediest.

Admission policies will emphasize recruiting and accepting students from these same underserved areas, which increases the likelihood of graduates' returning to those areas to practice. If that strategy sounds familiar, it should. It's the same critical mission that the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina has been fulfilling for more than 30 years. It's the same mission East Carolina University has been fulfilling in the region for a century.

My late father, a professor of pediatrics at the medical school, believed deeply in that mission, because he saw firsthand how it changed lives. In the early 1980s, every couple of weeks, Dad rode with his colleagues, sometimes 90 minutes each way from Greenville, to staff clinics in places like Swan Quarter and Columbia, among other rural areas. They saw countless examples of the unfathomable disparity in the quality and availability of medical care between the state's population centers and its rural regions. In many cases, Dad was the first doctor those children had ever seen.

That critical work continues today and has expanded significantly. The new dental school is the next step.

In November, Dr. James Hupp left his job as dean of the University of Mississippi School of Dentistry to become founding dean at the East Carolina dental school. Hupp has significant experience in developing comprehensive programs and curricula to meet the needs of rural communities, and he is excited about the prospect of building a dental school from the ground up.

Unfortunately, in the midst of the recession, the funding needed to recruit faculty and pursue accreditation is at risk, posing a dramatic quandary: The new dental school cannot recruit students until it is accredited. It cannot get accredited if it can't get sufficient funding this year and next to hire faculty and develop its innovative curriculum.

Hupp and other university officials are working to ensure that this message gets across to the General Assembly, the UNC Board of Governors and anyone else who will listen.

Eastern North Carolina stands on the brink of something big — a basic building block to a better, healthier tomorrow for thousands of people in unserved and underserved areas. Addressing the region's dental health needs has been a long time coming, and further delay for lack of funding would only perpetuate the disservice that the region has suffered for decades.
High-paid officials: It's not just college presidents

By Mary Beth Marklein, USA TODAY

Presidents of a number of colleges vowed in November to take a pay cut or otherwise give back part of their earnings as a way to help buffer their schools against the struggling economy.

Now, an analysis of tax filings of more than 4,000 other employees at 600 private colleges shows that presidents’ earnings are relatively modest.

For example, the head football coach at the University of Southern California and a Columbia University dermatologist each earned more than $4 million in 2007, making them the highest paid employees at private colleges. The presidents, meanwhile, earned about $500,000 and $1.4 million, respectively.

The salaries of employees other than presidents were released today by the Chronicle of Higher Education, which has published a report on presidents’ compensation each fall for more than 15 years. It is expanding its scope to other employees, it says, because their compensation "contributes to the broader national discussion about appropriate levels of pay for leaders in all sectors," including higher education.

"There are other people getting pretty big paychecks" besides presidents, says Chronicle editor Jeffrey Selingo.

Of the 88 employees who earned more than $1 million, 11 held the chief executive post — typically either chancellor or president. Of the 293 who earned $500,000 or more, fewer than a third were presidents. Athletic coaches and directors, medical school faculty and administrators and investment managers made up about half.

The focus is on private institutions because the same level of detail for public-college employees does not exist. But earlier research suggests a similar pattern.

A USA TODAY analysis of football coaches' salaries in 2006 found 50 who earned $1 million or more; most were at public universities, and many earned more than $2 million. In the Chronicle's November report on 2007 presidential compensation, the highest-paid public university president, Ohio State's E. Gordon Gee, earned $1.3 million. (Both the Chronicle and USA TODAY listed University of Southern California coach Pete Carroll as the top earner at a private institution.)

Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, who has criticized college spending, said the report shows "more money at some colleges than people might think. Is $4 million for a single professor or coach the best use of resources?"

Selingo, though, notes that many of the best-paid employees bring in significant revenue.

The National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities says the median compensation package for all 4,110 employees studied is $160,493 — "significantly lower" than they would earn in the for-profit sector, says president David Warren.
**Top college salaries**

Highest earners at private colleges (in millions, not including college presidents):

1. Pete Carroll, head football coach, USC  
   $4.4

2. David Silvers, clinical professor, dermatology, Columbia  
   $4.3

3. Michael Johns, executive VP, health affairs, Emory  
   $3.7

4. Arthur Rubenstein, executive VP and dean, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania  
   $3.3

5. Zev Rosenwaks, professor, Center for Reproductive Medicine and Infertility, Cornell  
   $3.1

6. David Swensen, chief investment officer, Yale  
   $3.0

7. Harry Jacobson, vice chancellor health affairs, Vanderbilt  
   $2.6

8. Jeffrey Moses, professor of medicine, Columbia  
   $2.5

9. Norman B. Urym, former executive vice president for clinical affairs, Vanderbilt  
   $2.4

10. James Grifo, professor, obstetrics and gynecology, NYU  
    $2.4

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