THE DAILY CLIPS

March 2, 2012

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The Greenville Daily Reflector
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  The Charlotte Observer
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  Newsweek
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252-328-6481
Empty Bowls fundraiser today
By Kelley Kirk
The Daily Reflector
Friday, March 2, 2012

Many of us don’t have to worry about our next meal. That isn’t the case for one in six people in the United States for whom hunger is a daily struggle.

To help fight hunger, the East Carolina University Ceramics Guild and ECU’s Campus Living and Dining Services have joined forces to hold an Empty Bowls Project fundraiser benefitting two local organizations from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. today at Mendenhall Student Center.

“One hundred percent of the proceeds will be divided equally between the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina and the Greenville Community Shelter,” said Karen Silinsky, the event’s organizer.

If you’re concerned about parking, spaces have been reserved for the event behind Mendenhall free of charge.

Silinsky has participated in Empty Bowl Project events on her own and wanted to bring one to ECU and Greenville communities. Each year the Ceramics Guild holds a fundraiser for their organization, but this is the first year that a fundraiser for the local organizations has been held.

Silinsky is a graduate student studying for a master’s of fine arts in ceramics. She is from Jacksonville, Fla., and moved to Greenville for school.

She worked with ceramics students to get more than 450 bowls donated for the event that will be on display as you enter Mendenhall. Attendees will select a bowl and receive a simple meal of soup and bread and will get to keep the bowl afterward.
“The simple meal is so they are mindful that people are hungry in the world,” Silinsky said.

The Empty Bowls Project is an international grass-roots effort to fight hunger. Each individual group or organization coordinates events around the needs of their own community and is responsible for their own event.

“The Empty Bowls Project is a great partnership opportunity, which helps our talented art students showcase their individual skills in addition to providing some much needed financial assistance for two local agencies that do so much good for our community,” said Bill McCartney, associate vice chancellor of Campus Living and Dining Services, in a news release about the event.

If you Go!

What: Empty Bowls fundraiser  
When: 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. today  
Where: Mendenhall Student Center  
Cost: $25  
Call: 328-4788
Local college students are preparing for next week’s spring break, prompting safety tips from Greenville police.

A news release issued Thursday by the Greenville Police Department reminds East Carolina University and Pitt Community College students to secure their apartments and vehicles before heading to their spring break destination.

Break-ins are crimes of opportunity, and students hold the key to keeping their apartments and vehicles safe, the news release said.

Before departing the area for spring break, police encourage students to observe the following safety tips:

- Conduct a security sweep and make certain apartment windows are locked and shades are drawn closed.
- Maintain a list of serial numbers for most valued items such as computers, gaming consoles, iPods and televisions.
- Lock bedroom doors in multi-student apartments.
- Remove valuables — including book bags that could be perceived to contain something valuable — from cars that will be left parked during break.
- Use a timer switch to keep lights operating, giving the appearance of occupancy.
- Communicate with apartment property managers, and ask them to hire short term security. Let them know if roommates will be staying in the apartment, and ask them to be on the lookout for strangers in the area.
- Leave outside lighting on around front doors, patios or deck areas, and use a timer or motion sensors to activate outside lighting at night.
- Be certain to dead bolt outside doors, and lock any sliding glass doors with a locking bar in the tracks.

Police encourage students remaining in the area during spring break to call the department at 252-329-4315 upon seeing any strangers walking around their apartment buildings or driving through the parking lots.
Nichol joins ECU football staff
By ECU Sports Information
Thursday, March 1, 2012

Dave Nichol, who has served an active role on spread scheme offensive staffs that have made a combined eight bowl game appearances since 2000, has been named outside receivers coach at East Carolina University according to an announcement from head football coach Ruffin McNeill Thursday.

Before his appointment at ECU, Nichol spent five seasons at Pac-12 Conference member Arizona. After arriving in Tucson as a graduate assistant in 2007, he was quickly promoted to full-time status as the Wildcats' outside receivers coach a year later before adding inside receiver responsibilities in 2011.

"Dave brings high-level competition experience from his involvement in the Pac-12," McNeill said. "Dave has also established himself as a great recruiter and a great developer of players, and his understanding of our offense reaches from A to Z. We are absolutely thrilled to have Dave join the Pirate family."

While working with the offensive line during his initial campaign, Nichol assisted in the installation and operation of UA's spread attack. His efforts helped boost offensive production by 130 yards per game over the previous system and arguably provided a foundation for a run of three consecutive
postseason games.

Nichol’s transition into a leadership capacity with the Wildcats' receiving corps vaulted Arizona's passing game into national prominence in just three seasons. After standing 36th and 48th nationally in 2008 and 2009, respectively, UA was ninth in 2010 after averaging 307.7 air yards per game. The Wildcats improved to third last fall with a clip of 370.8 behind the play of quarterback Nick Foles and receiver Juron Criner.

Criner, one Nichol’s prized pupils, ranked 15th among all active FBS receivers (receptions) at the end of his career. In 50 games, he caught 209 passes for 2,859 yards and 32 touchdowns - a number which stood fifth nationally - and as a senior in 2011, was 20th in receptions per game with a 6.8 average.

In addition to his receiver duties, Nichol also served as Arizona's sideline wigwag man on game day relaying play signals from coordinators to the quarterback.

Nichol spent the 2006 season at Baylor as a staff assistant contributing to the implementation of a spread offense that helped the Bears set numerous school single-season passing records, including yards, completions, completion percentage and touchdowns. One of his players, Justin Fenty, earned The Sporting News Big XII All-Freshman honors as a receiver while Nichol worked with the unit's inside pass catchers.

He enjoyed three bowl appearances as an offensive line assistant at alma mater Texas Tech before his move to Waco. While with the Red Raiders from 2003 to 2005, Nichol was part of an explosive unit that topped the nation in passing each season and shattered numerous school, conference and NCAA records.

Nichol was passing game coordinator, quarterbacks and receivers coach at Cisco (Texas) Junior College in 2002, directing a group that led the Southwest Junior College Football Conference in passing and finished second in total offense.

He was a football letterman as a receiver at Texas Tech, and worked as a student coach on the Red Raider staff after completing his playing career. Nichol assisted with quarterbacks and receivers during a pair of bowl
seasons, which included a matchup against East Carolina in the 2000 galleryfurniture.com Bowl

Nichol, 35, earned his bachelor's degree in exercise sports sciences from Texas Tech in 1999 before following with a master's in interdisciplinary studies from the same institution three years later.

A native of Chicago, Ill., Nichol graduated from Jesuit College Preparatory School of Dallas (Texas) before enrolling at Texas Tech.

Nichol immediately replaces Pat Washington, who resigned last month to take a position on the Kentucky staff after accepting the ECU post in early January.
Where the Jobs Are, the Training May Not Be

By CATHERINE RAMPELL

As state funding has dwindled, public colleges have raised tuition and are now resorting to even more desperate measures — cutting training for jobs the economy needs most.

Technical, engineering and health care expertise are among the few skills in huge demand even in today’s lackluster job market. They are also, unfortunately, some of the most expensive subjects to teach. As a result, state colleges in Nebraska, Nevada, South Dakota, Colorado, Michigan, Florida and Texas have eliminated entire engineering and computer science departments.

At one community college in North Carolina — a state with a severe nursing shortage — nursing program applicants so outnumber available slots that there is a waiting list just to get on the waiting list.

This squeeze is one result of the states’ 25-year withdrawal from higher education. During and immediately after the last few recessions, states slashed financing for colleges. Then when the economy recovered, most
states never fully restored the money that had been cut. The recent recession has amplified the problem.

“There has been a shift from the belief that we as a nation benefit from higher education, to a belief that it’s the people receiving the education who primarily benefit and so they should foot the bill,” said Ronald G. Ehrenberg, the director of the Cornell Higher Education Research Institute and a trustee of the State University of New York system.

Even large tuition increases have not fully offset state cuts, since many state legislatures cap how much colleges can charge for each course. So classes get bigger, tenured faculty members are replaced with adjuncts and technical courses are sacrificed.

State appropriations for colleges fell by 7.6 percent in 2011-12, the largest annual decline in at least five decades, according to a report from the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University. In one extreme example, Arizona has slashed its college budget by 31 percent since the recession began in 2007.

It is this cumulative public divestment — and not extravagances like climbing walls or recreational centers advertised on a few elite campuses — that is primarily responsible for skyrocketing tuitions at state institutions, which enroll three out of every four college students.

Colleges have found ways to hold costs per student relatively steady. Since 1985, the average amount that public institutions spend on teaching each full-time student over the course of a year has barely budged, hovering around an inflation-adjusted $10,000, according to a State Higher Education Executive Officers report. But in the same period, the share of instruction costs paid for by actual tuition — not the sticker price, but the amount students actually pay after financial aid — has nearly doubled, to 40 percent from 23 percent.

“I understand why students are angry,” said George R. Blumenthal, the chancellor of the University of California, Santa Cruz, where student protests have erupted. “They have to write bigger checks every year, and they can’t get into the classes they want. The reality is they’re paying more and getting less.”

In cutting educational subsidies, states may be penny-wise and pound-foolish, Mr. Ehrenberg said.

Economists have found that higher education benefits communities even more than it benefits the individual receiving the degree. Studies show that
an educated populace leads to faster economic growth and a more stable democracy, and benefits the poorest workers the most. The post World War II economic boom, for example, has been attributed to increased college enrollment thanks to the G.I. Bill.

Less-skilled workers have much to gain from enrolling in higher education, given the wage premium that additional training brings. State funding cuts not only reduce the ability for the poor to receive more training, but also disproportionately limit access to the fields that are most important to economic and job growth: sciences, engineering and health care.

These courses are especially expensive to teach partly because of equipment and safety precautions. Because these skills are in such high demand, professors also have more opportunities in the private sector and so can command higher pay.

State laws usually bar colleges from charging different tuition amounts for different undergraduate subjects, regardless of costs. Traditionally the higher cost of technical training has instead been subsidized with state funds.

“When they don’t get the appropriate level of funding, there’s a flight to cheaper programs, like general studies or the humanities,” said Nate Johnson, a higher education consultant and former associate director of institutional research for the University of Florida.

Florida International University graduates more Hispanic engineers each year than any other institution in the 50 states. Since the 2007-8 school year, the state funding the university receives annually per full-time student has fallen by $2,628. The university has been allowed to raise tuition by $1,233 in that time, covering less than half the shortfall.

Florida International has found efficiencies, like reducing energy costs. But it has also increased student-teacher ratios and eliminated some academic programs, like industrial engineering and dance, even as enrollment has surged. (Fine arts courses are also expensive to teach, partly because they require so much one-on-one time with professors.)

“There’s a lot of soul-searching in Florida,” said Mark B. Rosenberg, president of the university. “In the end if higher education is viewed by most states as a cost and not an investment, then it’s inevitable that this kind of cost shifting will continue to occur.”

If they are not eliminating job-friendly technical programs outright, many colleges are simply not expanding them to meet demand. Students then have
to stay in college longer to squeeze in required classes, increasing both their
debt and the chance that they will drop out.

At Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, N.C., enrollment has
grown by about 30 percent in the last three years, while total state funding
has fallen by 21 percent, an amount not fully offset by tuition increases. The
college cannot afford to expand its popular nursing program beyond its 275
slots, leaving 1,000 frustrated students on the waiting list. To keep these
students, the college has enrolled them in a “pre-nursing” program, a new
prerequisite for staying on the waiting list. But even those courses have a
waiting list of more than 400 students. Some flagship universities in state
systems, with relatively wealthy alumni and robust endowments, have
survived the state cuts with less damage. The University of California,
Berkeley, for example, has started a $3 billion fund-raising campaign and
begun investing its working capital more aggressively.

Many state colleges have been leaning more heavily on the federal
government, including through expanded Pell Grant funding and Recovery
Act money. President Obama recently proposed a $8 billion federal package
for community colleges to provide additional job training.

“There is this narrative out there that we have enough money in the system,
that if we only spent it better we could increase degree attainment,” said
Jane V. Wellman, founding director of the Delta Cost Project, which
released a comprehensive report on college costs. “But we are not going to
get the degree attainment levels the economy needs exclusively from finding
‘efficiencies’ here and there. This is not the miracle of the loaves and
fishes.”