THE DAILY CLIPS

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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 FAX: 252-328-6300
By ECU News Bureau
Special to The Daily Reflector

Kemal Atkins has joined East Carolina University as vice provost for student affairs.

ECU NOTES

Before coming to Greenville, Atkins was assistant vice president for academic and student affairs for the University of North Carolina General Administration. And for four years prior, he served as director of academic and student affairs at UNC-General Administration.

Interim Provost Marilyn Sheerer said, "Kemal Atkins is a talented and experienced professional, and we are excited that he has joined our team at ECU. He has an excellent background, and his knowledge of the UNC system will be very valuable to us as we move forward."

Atkins earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in English literature at Appalachian State University and is pursuing his doctorate in higher education administration at North Carolina State University.

As vice provost for student affairs, Atkins will lead 12 departments with 500 staff members and work closely with the ECU Police Department chief and the director of advancement for student affairs. Atkins will also provide leadership and vision on issues related to the undergraduate experience and student retention.

HHP college hosts leadership forum

The College of Health and Human Performance recognized more than 80 of its alumni and other leaders Feb. 22 at a Centennial Leadership Forum.

Glen Gilbert, dean of the college, said it is fitting that—nearly 100 years after the first class entered East Carolina in 1909—the study of fitness and personal health is still a key area of focus.

"I think the early students of ECU would be pleased to see the growth of Health and Human Performance, and the recognition of good health, as a foundation of this institution," Gilbert said.

More than 80 leaders from the college's advancement council and departments participated in breakout sessions with ECU faculty and students during the afternoon.

The leadership forum was followed by a gala celebration at the Hilton Greenville with 300 students, faculty and friends of the College of Health and Human Performance.

Student's coastal research honored

An ECU coastal studies student received the 2008 Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards and NOAA Awards for Excellence in Coastal and Ocean

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Management.
Heather Ward, a doctoral student in ECU’s Coastal Resource Management Program, was one of four North Carolinians who received the award Wednesday at the Capitol in Raleigh.

In addition to her work at ECU, Ward, a Rocky Mount resident, is the 2007-08 North Carolina Sea Grant science communications fellow and a writer for Coastwatch. Her studies at ECU include interpreting hurricane graffiti, emergency communication and risk perceptions, and media coverage of climate change research.

“Heather is breaking new ground by examining the role of language and communication in coastal management, paying close attention to how the public, scientists, and policy-makers talk about the coast and its various challenges and opportunities,” said Derek Alderman, professor of geography and co-author of the study, “Writing on the Plywood: Toward an Analysis of Hurricane Graffiti.”


Historian holds book signing

Gerald J. Prokopowicz, acting chairman of the history department, will read from and sign his new book, “Did Lincoln Own Slaves? and Other Frequently Asked Questions about Abraham Lincoln” (Pantheon, 2008) at 7 p.m., Wednesday, at Barnes and Noble Bookellers, 3040 Evans St.

Obesity focus of weight summit

The role of environmental factors in the development of obesity will be the topic of the fifth annual Pediatric Healthy Weight Summit Thursday and Friday in Greenville.

The event, “When Environment and Biology Collide: What Everyone Needs to Know about the Impact on Obesity from Pregnancy through Adolescence and Beyond,” will be held at the Hilton Greenville, beginning at 8 a.m.

The registration fee is $105 each day or $155 for both days. Contact Yancey Crawford at (252) 744-5061 or crawfordy@ecu.edu.

Acclaimed poets offer reading

The Writers Reading Series of Eastern North Carolina will welcome two nationally acclaimed poets, David Wojahn and Mark Cox, 7 p.m., Wednesday at the Greenville Museum of Art.

Princeville film scheduled

ECU will offer a screening of “This Side of the River: Self-

determination and Survival in the Oldest Black Town in America,” 6 p.m., Thursday, in Mendenhall Student Center.

Student receives scholarship

An ECU master’s student was awarded the North Carolina Association for Educational Communications and Technology scholarship. Elizabeth Lynne Keith, a student in the College of Education’s instructional technology program, was awarded a $2,000 scholarship.

In addition to being a full-time distance education student at ECU, Keith is a program and technology specialist in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system.

The scholarship is one of two awarded annually by the association.

Journal receives top ranking

Human Organization, a journal co-edited by ECU faculty members, has been ranked number one by a records citation organization.

The Web of Science, an organization that tracks citation rates of major journals, ranked Human Organization the number one journal that deals with cultural issues.

Journal editors are David Griffith, professor of anthropology and Jeff Johnson, professor of sociology.

“These professors illustrate that faculty in our college are dedicated to sharing knowledge, not only in the classroom, but with the community as a whole,” said Alan R. White, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.
Patel joins Brody medical school in family medicine department

Dr. Kirtida Patel has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University as a clinical associate professor of family medicine.

Patel comes to ECU from the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, where she was assistant professor of family medicine/sports medicine and head team physician at Rider University.

Patel received her medical degree from Ross University in Dominica, West Indies, and completed a residency in family medicine at ECU. She completed a primary care sports medicine fellowship at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School.

Patel is board-certified in family medicine with a certificate of added qualifications in sports medicine, and her special interests are women's health, particularly women athletes. She sees patients at the Firetower Medical Office under the auspices of ECU Physicians, the group practice of the Brody School of Medicine.
Dental school going green

Officials plan to build ECU's 112,500-square-foot facility with an eco-friendly design.

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University's dental school building will be the first campus structure to seek green construction certification.

ECU officials and the building's architects are planning the 112,500-square-foot school with an eye toward certification from the United States Green Building Council.

"The university has always been interested in energy-efficient design, and it's part of our design standards for sustainable design," said Bill Bagnell, ECU's director of facilities engineering and architectural services.

The council offers four levels of certification for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, also called LEED. The group awards points for a range of energy-efficient and environmentally friendly design steps: offering easy access to public transportation, recycling construction materials, effectively managing stormwater, according to the council's Web site.

ECU is aiming for silver certification, the second of the four tiers. On a 69-point scale, silver buildings score between a 33 and a 38. This early in construction — a site has been selected, but building design has just started — it's unclear exactly where the dental school will score points, said architects Jennifer Amster and Amster works for B.JAC, a Raleigh-based architecture firm. Yachyshen works for Philadelphia-based Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, a firm that specializes in dental school design. The two agencies are partnering on the ECU school.

The school is expected to cost $87 million. Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2009 and the building will open in mid-2011.

In selecting a site next to the Health Sciences Building on West Fifth Street, ECU and its designers have already taken some LEED-scoring steps. They chose a site with a north-south orientation, increasing the amount of daylight that will bathe the building's interior.

"One of the best things you can do is start at the very beginning, which is where we are, talking about it during programming and as we're just starting to design and site the building," Amster said.

Future measures could include installing plants around the building that require little water, buying materials locally and using alternative energy sources to power the facility, Yachyshen said.

Some practices the green building council favors are natural fits for patient-care and academic facilities, Amster said: incorporating views of the outdoors and ensuring good air quality, for instance. Sustainability is "considered in every decision that we make," Yachyshen said.

The school will be the first LEED-certified structure at ECU, but it's unlikely to be the last, Bagnell said. State law will likely require some level of certification for all state buildings in the future.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-9568.
Candidate meets Brody officials

Robert Orr, a Republican candidate for governor, met with officials at the Brody School of Medicine last week, according to a news release from his campaign.

During a two-day eastern North Carolina swing, he discussed “how to expand medical provider education, professional development, and (physician) retention in eastern North Carolina” with leaders of East Carolina University’s medical school, according to the release.

Orr is running against Bill Graham, Elbie Powers, Fred Smith and Pat McCrory for

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the Republican gubernatorial nomination.

GOP hopeful visits business owners

Joe McLaughlin, an Onslow County commissioner running for Congress, spent part of Thursday visiting Greenville.

McLaughlin met with local small business owners and city officials before lunching with Pitt County Republicans at The Met deli, said Del Pietro, a local McLaughlin supporter.

He “did more or less some meet-and-greets and just continued the momentum,” Pietro said.

McLaughlin is challenging seven-term U.S. House incumbent Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., in the May 6 Republican primary.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 329-9568.
ECU volunteers help girls dress for less for prom

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector

They come in toffee, periwinkle, crimson, leopard print, hot pink, buttercup yellow and, of course, basic black.

Some are beaded; others have bows.

One-straps, strapless, sleeved, and halters — all accounted for.

With this veritable rainbow of dresses, East Carolina University’s Volunteer and Service Learning Center is helping girls from low-income families make it to their senior proms. The group is providing free gowns, shoes and accessories — all donated by the community — and the lot will be on display this weekend for their choosing.

"Most people have great memories of prom," said Shawn Moore, community partner coordinator for the center. "It's a rite of passage. ...To be excluded from that, it does something to you."

The Fairytale Boutique project has been in the works since Moore read about a similar project launched by a high school student two years ago. When that student left for college, Moore and co-organizer Jessica Gagne took over. They found a space, asked for dresses and then sought out girls through their connections with social workers, school counselors and churches.

They were pushing along when panic hit last week.

Gagne said they had only 50 dresses from which the 12 girls registered could choose.

"It was very scary," she said, as their goal had been to collect over 200.

Fortunately, the tides turned.

"Early this week, people started coming in," Moore said. "And they weren't bringing just one dress, they were bringing 10."

And each one with a story. Some belonged to new mothers who, knowing that high school figure isn't coming back, want those dresses gone. Many recalled hokey prom themes like "Under the Sea."

Gagne recited one tale both tragic and hopeful, embodied in a floor-length red gown with a sparkling rhinestone broach.

"This one is from a family whose

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PROM

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daughter was hit by a car," she said, fingering the silky fabric. "This would have been the year of her prom so it was given in dedication to her."

Individuals weren't the only ones pitching in.

Bailey's Fine Jewelry is donating pearl earrings to six young ladies, one from each school, who write the best letters about their experience with the fairy tale boutique. The top writer out of that set will have the Bailey's limousine at their disposal for their school's prom night.

"We thought it was a great thing they were doing and it really attracted our attention," explained employee Blair Dickens. "We're trying to get involved more in the community and ECU is such a large part of that."

In addition, Shoe Crate provided $1,800 worth of shoes, Mary Kay is sending makeup sample bags and Bowen Cleaners will clean the selected gowns for free.

With everything in place by Friday, staff and volun-
teers stocked the studio above downtown Greenville's Tipsy Teapot with more than 150 gowns in sizes ranging from 1 to 28.

"It doesn't matter who you are or where you're coming from," Gagne said. "We've got something here."

When the girls arrive, they'll be provided their own personal shopper — a volunteer offering sizing help, advice and encouragement.

"You need an outside opinion sometimes and they're hip, young, stylish girls who can be a friend and mentor," said Moore of the assistants. "It's a really daunting task. You wanna look your best."

More than anything, it's a feeling of accomplishment that organizers are pushing for. Moore calls the event an "esteem booster" for the girls involved.

"There are opportunities out there for them," she stressed. "They just have to look for them. I mean, when you look good and you feel good everything's possible."

Kathryn Kennedy can be reached at k.kennedy@coxnc.com or 329-9566.
Holding the line on terminal groins

BY ORREN H. PILKEY
AND ANDREW S. COBURN

Advocates for Inlet Solutions, an organization of Figure Eight Island property owners lobbying to change state law and build a terminal groin to protect several houses from erosion, believe such a structure will not only protect the beach but also that it will do so without environmental impacts.

While the Advocates organization certainly has the money, influence and political connections to get what it wants, one key element is missing: proof that a terminal groin will work. Because there isn’t any. The proposed terminal groin at the exclusive island near Wilmington will create serious erosion problems.

But that hasn’t stopped the group from listing a number of so-called terminal groin research studies on inletsoptions.org, the group’s Web site. It is not a surprise to us that these studies have nothing to do with terminal groins. There are no studies showing that such structures don’t do damage to adjacent beaches.

A terminal groin is a long wall, usually made of rock or steel, that extends seaward, perpendicular to the shoreline, adjacent to an inlet.

A number of the articles listed are in the Journal of Coastal Research, Special Issue 33 (2004), which carries the subtitle “The Interaction of Groins and the Beach.” Thumbing through this volume, one can get a quick lesson not on terminal groins but in the huge amount of damage done to beaches by groins and other shore-parallel structures.

One study in their list makes no mention of groins. Another is concerned with offshore breakwaters. Two are concerned with lakes and structures that have nothing to do with the question at hand.

Most are about short groins away from inlets. One paper is by the late Per Bruun, recognized as the father of coastal engineering, who in times past repeatedly said groins are a losing proposition. Several of the papers are concerned with rocky shorelines, which have little bearing on barrier island shorelines. The only paper (by Robert Dean) about terminal structures adjacent to inlets never even mentions terminal groins.

In another dubious effort to hype terminal groins, the Web site quotes coastal engineer Dean as saying that terminal structures should be an option to manage inlets. He even goes so far as to call the terminal groin at Oregon Inlet a success.

But terminal groins disrupt the flow of sand. And when the flow of sand is disrupted, problems ensue.

The terminal groin built in 1992 at Oregon Inlet to protect the Bonner Bridge, for example, has required a total of 8 million cubic yards of sand to combat downdrift beach erosion along the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

The erosion rate continues at a pace faster than before this erosion control structure was built.

The Web site also quotes one of us (Orrin Pilkey). Although Pilkey wasn’t speaking of terminal groins, the quotes are genuine — there are some examples where groins have lengthened the lifespan of nourished beaches. The site neglects to mention, however, that as the beach retreats landward beyond the tip of the groin, the sand supply of adjacent beaches is reduced and downdrift erosion ensues.

Terminal groins are clearly not a solution to the state’s coastal development problems. The depth of understanding is so pervasive and evidence so overwhelming that a recent statement signed by 43 coastal experts (not everyone is a geologist) even concluded that any further study of groins is pointless.

Even so, pressure from coastal property owners desperate to protect their investments and communities interested in preserving tax revenue will continue.

North Carolina has held the line on its coastal erosion control structure policy for decades, and allowing even a “pilot project” will make it virtually impossible to continue to do so, as more and more buildings get closer and closer to the eroding shoreline.

So now we wait. We wait to see whether elected officials in Raleigh have the political courage to do what’s best for all North Carolinians. Certainly they need pay little attention to Advocates for Inlet Solutions. The future of our coast is on the line.

Orrin H. Pilkey is James B. Duke professor emeritus at Duke University’s Nicholas School of the Environment. Andrew S. Coburn is associate director of the Program for the Study of Developed Shorelines at Western Carolina University.
Twister season starts; Tuesday may bring storm

March is the deadliest month for tornadoes in North Carolina, weather experts say, a time when the severe thunderstorms of late winter and early spring are most likely to produce twisters that kill.

With that lethal prospect in mind, Gov. Mike Easley has declared this Severe Weather Awareness Week and announced a statewide tornado drill for schools and government buildings Wednesday.

Spring weather conditions, featuring upper-level disturbances and wind shear, are ripe for the strong thunderstorm lines that can produce twisters, said Jeff Orrock, warning coordination meteorologist at the National Weather Service office in Raleigh.

Severe weather could develop later this week. Forecasters have their eye on a storm system moving across the plains, said meteorologist Brandon Locklear. It could bring the Triangle much-needed rain or produce more severe weather. It could also miss the Triangle entirely, he said.

It will be warm today and Tuesday, with highs near 70 degrees. Winds will start picking up and could hit 35 mph by Tuesday, Locklear said.

JIM NESBITT AND BENJAMIN NIOLET

WATCH VS. WARNING

A TORNADO WATCH is issued when a severe weather system may produce tornadoes. It means watch the sky.

A TORNADO WARNING is issued when a tornado has been spotted on the ground or is about to touch the ground. The warning lasts for one hour or less, and it means take action right now.

SURVIVAL TIPS

- Flying debris from a tornado causes the most fatalities and injuries, followed by structural collapse. Seek shelter in interior bathrooms, closets, basements and hallways in well-built structures.
- Listen to a weather channel or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration radio for information.
- Never try to outrace a tornado in a vehicle. If you see a tornado, get out of the car. Take shelter in a ditch, ravine or culvert. Be alert to potential flooding.
- Do not seek shelter beneath an overpass. High winds and flying debris are likely to cause injuries.
- Avoid any area with a wide, unsupported roof. That includes auditoriums, cafeterias, gymnasiums, theaters or central courts at malls. Go to interior rooms with no windows.

SOURCE: NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
North Carolina Central University can be thought of as a rocket on the launch pad with its fuel tanks full. Why it hasn’t blasted off is a puzzle, but only to a degree. It’s not for want of attention. In recent years, attorney Julius Chambers, a respected and forceful leader, was among its chancellors. The university received $122.4 million to improve the campus from a multibillion-dollar bond referendum passed by North Carolina voters in 2000. When the UNC Board of Governors, the governing body of the state’s 16-campus system, wanted a new biotechnology program, it picked the Durham school.

No, N.C. Central’s slowness to soar is due in part to a lack of educational rigor. So Charlie Nelms, who was officially installed as chancellor a few days ago, is a burst of fresh air. The 61-year-old son of Arkansas farmers has a no-nonsense expectation of excellence and is not satisfied just to look backward at NCCU’s proud history.

Nelms repeated in his inaugural address a call—emphasized since his arrival in Durham—for students to enter the university with the aim of graduating, and in a reasonable length of time. NCCU has had a high dropout rate in recent years. One measure of a university’s quality is how well students move toward a diploma, and public institutions have a special responsibility in that regard to the taxpayers.

Nelms' call for the faculty to be more accountable for their students' education also is timely. Any professors who are mostly marking time may chafe at the admonition, but the chancellor is right to issue it. Otherwise, students aren't being well served.

Nelms has other initiatives in mind — raising more money and beginning new professional programs, to name a few. But he wisely wants to shore up the basics first. N.C. Central and its students will have a far better chance to soar if he succeeds.
BRIEFS

Campbell law school design taking shape

FROM STAFF REPORTS

RALEIGH—Campbell University hired Shepley Bulfinch Richardson & Abbott of Boston and Small Kane of Raleigh to design and oversee the renovation of 225 Hillsborough St., the downtown building that will house Campbell's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law.

It's the latest step in Campbell's $27.5 million decision to move the law school from its campus in Buies Creek to Raleigh.

The 107,000-square-foot renovation, to be complete by August 2009, is to include the addition of a law library, courtrooms, classrooms and common spaces.
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Hospitals less finicky about kidneys

Broader donor criteria save lives

BY JEAN P. FISHER
STAFF WRITER

Deaths among patients awaiting lifesaving kidney transplants fell nationally last year amid rising organ donation and broader use of kidneys that would once have been discarded.

Patients who would otherwise face long waits for a kidney are now often encouraged to consider organs from deceased donors older than age 60 or from younger patients who died of stroke or suffered from high blood pressure. Many transplant centers will now give a patient two low-functioning kidneys instead of one higher-functioning organ, as is customary.

"In a perfect world, it would be nice to get everyone a kidney from a younger donor," said Dr. Robert Stratton, director of transplants at Wake Forest Baptist University Medical Center in Winston-Salem since 2001. "But we don't live in a perfect world. Getting a kidney is better than not getting a kidney."

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Penny Poston prepares to take her first walk after a kidney transplant three days earlier at Duke Hospital.

STAFF PHOTO BY ROBERT WILLET

KIDNEYS

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So-called expanded-criteria donor organs are more likely to fail than kidneys from younger, healthier donors. Traditionally, such organs were considered unsuitable for transplant. But as the gap continues to widen between the number of patients seeking transplants and the number of organs available to them, Stratton and other transplant experts increasingly see them as an untapped resource.

The use of expanded criteria donor kidneys has increased about 30 percent since 2002, when the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) set criteria for their use. These kidneys now account for nearly 11 percent of all kidney transplants.

The number of patients seeking kidney transplant is rising by an average of 7 percent to 10 percent a year, in part because of rising rates of Type 2 diabetes, which damages the kidneys. Meanwhile, as the number of organs from both living and deceased donors has increased modestly, the supply of kidneys available for transplant has only inched up. According to UNOS, only about 500 patients waiting for kidneys nationally got a transplant last year.

"Hardly a week goes by that I'm not notified that someone on our waiting list has died," Stratton said.

To cut such losses, Stratton has led Wake Forest Baptist to become one of the nation's most active kidney transplant programs and one of the most daring in its use of higher-risk kidneys.

High-mileage kidneys

Aggressive use of expanded criteria donor kidneys has helped Wake Forest Baptist shorten the wait for kidney transplants. Stratton said agreeing to an extended criteria kidney typically shaves a year off a patient's wait.

Higher-risk kidneys do tend to wear out sooner, lasting no more than eight years on average. A standard kidney transplant lasts an average of about 12 years.

A 2005 study sponsored by the Scientific Registry of Transplant Recipients found that patients who took less-than-optimal organs were less likely to die than patients who remained on dialysis. Older recipients were particularly

BY THE NUMBERS

More than 30,000
Americans who join the wait list for a kidney each year, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing.

800
North Carolinians go on the waiting list.

About 75%
The percentage of patients on organ transplant waiting lists who need a kidney. Nearly 100,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for organ transplants.

425
North Carolinians who got kidney transplants last year. That includes 315 deceased-donor transplants and 110 living-donor transplants, in which a healthy donor gives one kidney.

SOURCE: ORGAN PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANTATION NETWORK
likely to benefit.

"It's a little bit like buying a used car — there are some high-mileage cars that are good cars," Stratta says of selecting expanded criteria kidneys for transplant. "If we don't think it's a good kidney, we don't offer it."

But higher-risk kidneys aren't a good option for all patients. Younger patients are still best served by holding out for a healthy organ from a younger donor, Stratta said. So closing the gap between demand and supply also depends on getting more kidneys from healthy donors.

To that end, Wake Forest Baptist and other busy transplant programs, such as those at Duke University Medical Center in Durham and UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, have joined forces in recent years with organ procurement agencies and the federal government. A Duke transplant surgeon is co-leader of a 2002 national effort, called the Organ Donation Breakthrough Collaborative.

Raising donation rates

When the project started, only about 40 percent of families eligible to donate a loved one's organs did so. Today the average consent rate is about 60 percent, and many hospitals have maintained consent rates of 75 percent or better. Rex Healthcare in Raleigh and Wake Forest Baptist are two North Carolina hospitals that have kept organ donations at or above 75 percent.

"We’re recovering organs that we wouldn’t have recovered five years ago," said Dr. Janet E. Tuttle-Newhall, a Duke transplant surgeon and co-leader of the national organ donation collaborative.

The project emphasizes practices proven to achieve high levels of organ donation. For example, families with a loved one near death in the hospital are now routinely assigned a contact from an organ procurement organization. He or she helps the family through the grieving process to ensure the approach is made with sensitivity, said Burt Mattice, vice president and chief operating officer of Carolina Donor Services. The Durham organ procurement agency works with hospitals in 79 North Carolina counties to recover and preserve organs for transplant.

The supply of kidneys available for transplant has increased nearly 15 percent since the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services established the national collaborative. And experts see signs that increasing the supply of organs is helping save lives.

Many states have also passed laws that allow hospitals to treat the organ donation symbol on a person's driver's license as legal consent to donate. North Carolina enacted such a law in October. Before it took effect, families did not always honor loved ones' wishes to donate organs, Mattice said.

He said Carolina Donor Services and other procurement agencies are also preserving more donated kidneys with mechanical pumps instead of keeping them in cold storage. Pumped

are more likely to begin functioning quickly after transplant, studies show. They can also be preserved longer, allowing more patients on the waiting list to be considered and more time to transport the organs.

A happy surprise

Penny Poston of Raleigh considers herself one of the beneficiaries of efforts to increase the supply of donor kidneys.

When Poston, 34, was added to the waiting list at Duke more than a year ago, hoping to receive what would be her third transplant, she was told to expect a wait of up to seven years. Patients who have had previous transplants develop antibodies that make them particularly hard to match to donor kidneys. But to Poston’s relief, she received a kidney transplant Feb. 19.

"When they called to say they might have a match, I was just shocked," Poston said. She had her first transplant at age 6 after a strep throat turned into a systemic infection that caused permanent kidney damage.

A second transplant in 1998 turned out to be a bad match, and that kidney had to be taken out in 2002. Poston had been on dialysis since then, going to a center three days a week to have up to eight pounds of fluid drained off. She moved to Raleigh in 2007 to live with her mother and sought care at Duke shortly after.

"If there are more kidneys," Poston said, "then there was a better chance for me to match."
Getting in:
Students hedge bets on colleges

By Eric Ferreri
Staff Writer

As high schools graduate more students than ever and universities become increasingly competitive, college candidates have hatched a new strategy for gaining admission: apply to more schools, even those they are not likely to attend.

This strategy may backfire. Universities flooded with applications can be choosier. Now, entering the stressful “fat-or-thin-letter-in-the-mailbox” season, high school seniors and colleges alike are bracing for a higher level of rejection.

“There is a great deal of uncertainty,” said Kathy Cleaver, co-director of college counseling at Durham Academy. “I feel it this year more than ever.”

With decision deadlines approaching, high school guidance counselors and college admissions directors say there’s unease on both ends of the process: Students gauging their standing in the collegiate marketplace have filed a huge number of applications. Meanwhile, colleges are sweating over the number of applicants they should accept, knowing that some applied on a lark with no intention of attending.

At Durham Academy, students who at one time might have applied to four or five schools are

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now sending up to a dozen applications, Cleaver said.

3.3 million seniors

In part, the surge is a demographic phenomenon. Nationally, more students than ever before — 3.3 million — will graduate from high school this year, said David Hawkins, director of public policy and research for the National Association for College Admissions Counseling. This upward trend is expected to plateau next year, then decline slightly.

The last graduation boom of this kind came in the mid-1970s when about 3 million students graduated in one year. Forty-nine percent of those graduates went on to some sort of two- or four-year college. This year, Hawkins said, two-thirds of high school graduates are expected to seek some form of higher education.

Other factors contribute to the rise in applications. Most universities now ease the process by offering online applications, so students can fill out one application and send it to multiple universitites.

Another reason: growth. In Wake County, the never-ending population surge has created a huge demand for higher education, particularly at the still-affordable UNC-system campuses, said Eric Chancy, an Apex High School guidance counselor.

"Think about our growth here and how many college-educated folks have moved here," Chancy said. "They expect their kids to attend college at a four-year institution in North Carolina."

Grant Fitzgerald, a Trinity Academy senior from Raleigh, has applied to seven universities. That's more than some of his friends, but far fewer than others, including one who sent out 14 applications. Fitzgerald thinks many students get caught up in a competitive frenzy.

"I think it's kind of become a fad," said Fitzgerald, who has been admitted to UNC-Chapel Hill, Wake Forest and Elon, but is waiting to hear from several schools. SAT went to UNC-CH, Farmer said. Last year, 46 percent of those students enrolled at Chapel Hill.

Other North Carolina universities are drawing greater interest as well. Three hours west of the Triangle, officials at Appalachian State University are buried in applications. About 14,500 applications came in this year for 2,775 seats. Applications are up 19 percent from last year and a staggering 53 percent from five years ago.

Although demographics can tell part of the tale, ASU has also benefited from all sorts of good publicity. In 2001, it was Time magazine's College of the Year. It routinely does well in U.S. News & World Report's rankings of Southern regional universities. And its football team has won three straight national championships and beat the University of Michigan last year in a monumental upset.

"I don't know that a lot of students would choose the university solely because of the football program," said Paul Hiatt, ASU's admissions director. "But it helps to bring focus to all the things going on here."

Duke University received a record 20,250 applications this year, a 5 percent jump from last year. N.C. State also received a unprecedented number of applications — 17,224, up 7 percent.

Fewer early decisions

Another factor driving the application frenzy: Princeton, Harvard and the University of Virginia made national news when they eliminated an admissions option called "early decision" — students could apply early but had to attend if accepted. In doing so, those three elite institutions prompted students who might have embraced an early decision option to consider other schools as well.

This has dragged out the process for some high school seniors and universities, said Steven Roy Goodman, a Washington-based consultant who advises students on the admissions process.

"It's a really tough year," he said. "The uncertainty ... encourages people to apply to more schools."

For Fitzgerald, the Trinity Academy senior, the stress of putting together seven college applications was as time-consuming as school itself was last fall.

"It's like a class," he recalled. "The first semester, I did more work on my college applications than I did in any single class."

Staff writer Jane Stancill contributed to this story.

erica.ferrer@newsobserver.com
or (919) 956-2415
Duke challenges lawsuit hoopla

BY ANNE BLYTHE
STAFF WRITER

Duke University is accusing the lawyer representing 38 members of the 2006 Duke lacrosse team of violating the same professional rule of conduct that fallen prosecutor Mike Nifong did.

J. Donald Cowan Jr. and Dan J. McLamb, attorneys for Duke and the Duke University Health System, filed a motion in federal court Thursday complaining about the Web site dukelaawsuit.com, a news conference and other communications by Chuck Cooper, the Washington lawyer representing the players.

Thirty-eight members of the Duke 2006 lacrosse team filed suit last week, saying their reputations were damaged by their association to an escort service dancer's phony gang-rape allegations.

Cooper and Bob Bork Jr., the group's hired publicist and son of rejected Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork, announced the lawsuit at a news conference at the National Press Club in Washington.

The suit contends that the players suffered emotional distress and other injuries when Duke University remained silent about evidence that early on contradicted the allegations of Crystal Gail Mangum, a dancer hired to perform at the team's now-infamous March 2006 party.

No player listed in the suit was charged in the case, but Cooper said they nonetheless had been through "a horrifying personal nightmare."

Duke, which posts its responses to the case on a university Web site, has asked a judge to declare the dukelaawsuit.com Web site, the players' news conference and other statements in violation of a N.C. State Bar rule.

In their most recent motion, the Duke lawyers complained that statements made by the players' attorney and his agents "appear calculated to 'influence the actual outcome of the trial' and prejudice a jury."

The creation and promotion of the Web site and a news release issued Feb. 21 'make clear the plaintiffs' intention to use the techniques of modern communication ... to win litigation,' the motion said.

anne.blythe@newsobserver.com or (919) 932-8741
Bush aide resigns, admits plagiarism

THE WASHINGTON POST

WACO, Texas – An aide to President Bush responsible for outreach to conservative and Christian groups resigned Friday after acknowledging that he had plagiarized material for a column he wrote for his hometown paper in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Special assistant Tim Goeglein admitted lifting material from an essay about college education by Dartmouth professor Jeffrey Hart and presenting it as his own in a guest column Thursday for the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. Other allegations of plagiarism quickly surfaced after Goeglein informed White House officials of the situation Friday morning, and by day’s end he said he would step down.

On its Web site Friday, the newspaper said 20 of 38 Goeglein columns between 2000 and 2008 contained “portions copied from other sources without attribution.”