THE DAILY CLIPS

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Estate provides $1.5 million to ECU for scholarships

Francine Sawyer
March 2, 2009 - 6:39PM

The late Geraldine Mayo Beveridge continues to give.

Her latest gift is $1,527,500 to East Carolina University

Her brother, Hiram J. Mayo Sr. met with Greg Abeyounis of the East Carolina University Foundation on Monday at Mayo's home to go over the gift to ECU.

The money will provide scholarships from East Carolina University given in the name of Capt. David L. Beveridge and Geraldine Mayo Beveridge. The scholarships will be restricted to graduates of Pamlico County High School, New Bern High School, East Carteret High School and Ocracoke High School.

Terms call for $65,000 to be made available to the four high schools annually.

Beveridge was a native of Mesic and taught home economics in the Carteret County schools. She lived in Beaufort. She was 90 years old when she died May 28, 2008. She had no children and asked in her will that all of her money go to organizations and charities.

In February, the Pamlico Community College Foundation received a bequest of $152,750 from her to use for scholarships.

Hiram Mayo Sr., her brother, is the only one of the five children living. Mayo is a former Craven County school superintendent. He said Beveridge lived much of her life in Beaufort with her husband, David, who was a longtime boat captain in military and state ferry service.

The couple invested their money in stocks and real estate, buying a great deal of land in Ocracoke, according to Mayo.

Other portions of her estate went to:

--Mesic Bay Creek Disciples of Christ Church aka Bay Creek Christian Church, $305,500.

--Ann Street United Methodist Church, Beaufort, $305,500.

--Ocracoke Preservation Society, $305,500.

--Carteret County Retired School Personnel Organization, $305,500.

--Atlantic House, Morehead City, $152,750.

Her total estate was $3,055,000.
DAVID S. PHELPS JR.

David S. Phelps Jr. Just before dawn on Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009, Dr. David S. Phelps Jr., 79, passed away peacefully in the arms of his loving wife Dorothy Block-Phelps. Dr. Phelps was a Professor of Anthropology Emeritus at East Carolina University. A public celebration of his life will be held at the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site Visitor Center in Manteo, North Carolina at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, March 15, 2009. All who knew him are invited to attend. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the David S. Phelps Jr. Anthropology Scholarship Endowment. Please make checks payable to the ECU foundation with the notation Phelps Memorial and mail to the Phelps Archaeology Laboratory, 267 Flanagan Building, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858.

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NC student accused in snowball fight goes to court

The Associated Press

Monday, March 02, 2009

A teen arrested and charged with hitting an officer with a snowball during a large snowball fight at East Carolina University is scheduled to appear in court today.

Steven Rashad Bass is scheduled to appear in Pitt County District Court on charges of assault on a government official and resisting, delaying and obstructing a law enforcement officer.

Officials say the 18-year-old ECU student was among more than 200 students who participated in a snowball fight on Jan. 20 when several inches of snow fell in the area.

Officials said a campus police officer used pepper spray on a group of students that rushed officers trying to make an arrest. Officials said no serious injuries had been reported among the students participating in the melee.

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Duke is freezing some salaries

Workers making more than $50,000 won't get raises next year. Construction plans are on hold, too

ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

DURHAM - Duke University is halting construction and freezing the salaries of about half its employees in response to an economic crisis forcing the institution to cut $125 million from next year's operating budget.

Employees earning more than $50,000 won't get raises next year, and those who earn less will receive just a $1,000 one-time payment, President Richard Brodhead announced Monday in a mass e-mail message.

"We have entered a world very different from the one we have grown used to in recent years," Brodhead wrote. "In this new circumstance, Duke has no choice as to whether or not to reduce its expense base."

The $125 million reduction is 6 percent of Duke's $2 billion budget.

There may be layoffs. Though Duke is first looking at eliminating vacant positions, making internal reassignments and considering incentives to prompt retirements, some employees may lose their jobs, Brodhead said.

"Given the scope of the challenge, and given the fact that compensation makes up 60 percent of the university's operating budget, we have to assume that the number of people employed by Duke University in the future will be smaller than today," he wrote.

The freeze will apply to about half the 12,000 workers employed by the university, medical and nursing schools, said Michael Schoenfeld, a Duke spokesman. It excludes employees of the Duke University Health System.
Collectively, the university and health system are the state’s second-largest private employer, after Wal-Mart, according to the N.C. Employment Security Commission, and are the largest private employer in the Triangle.

"Duke is a huge economic engine in Durham's economy," said Ted Conner, vice president for economic development community sustainability with the Greater Durham Chamber of Commerce. "People are going to be unhappy. But would I rather have my salary frozen, or would I rather lose my job?"

Much of Duke’s struggles stem from a 20 percent drop in the university’s endowment, which was valued at $6.1 billion last summer but is worth about $4.9 billion now. The university generally draws off about 5 percent each year, so a lower value means less money to spend.

Duke recently sold $500 million in bonds to bolster its operating budget, a move that made more sense than cashing in more of the endowment, Schoenfeld said.

"Instead of liquidating assets at what are historic lows, we are able to borrow the money," Schoenfeld said.

Construction on campus will cease for now, Brodhead said.

The university recently concluded a flurry of construction, including additions to the schools of business and law and renovations to residence hall rooms.

That work came just in time, said Craig Henriquez, a biomedical engineering professor who leads Duke’s Academic Council.

"We were lucky we did our expansion a couple of years ago," Henriquez said. "The university went through a remarkable change in the last five years. A lot of those projects are complete. We're lucky not to have gaping holes in the ground."

All university divisions are reducing expenses related to travel, equipment purchases, overtime, entertainment and other goods and services, Brodhead wrote.

Among the faculty, the extent of the budget problem is just starting to sink in, Henriquez said.

"I don't see a decline in morale," he said. "But we're concerned for our students who are trying to go out and get jobs. We know they're not in the best situation."

Last week, Duke trustees approved a 3.9 percent increase in tuition and fees, one of the lowest annual increases in recent years.

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Service will honor slain student leader

ANNE BLYTHE, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - In Coker Arboretum, a botanical refuge at the heart of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus, a small black gum tree is taking root.

The sapling, with its lustrous green leaves in late summer and brilliant red foliage in the fall, was planted in memory of Eve Carson, the admired UNC-CH student body president whose life came to a violent end a year ago March 5.

At a time when the scenic campus sanctuary is about to burst into spring bloom, the young tree embodies Carson's promise.

"I find it a special spot," said Megan M. Mazzocchi, associate director of the Morehead-Cain Scholars Program of which Carson was a part.

Mazzocchi and others touched by Carson expect the coming days to be an emotional blur. "It will be a bit of a roller-coaster," she said. "There will be a lot of laughter when we remember Eve's energy. But it's hard. We just miss her."

Thursday marks the anniversary of the day Carson, 22, was found shot to death in a neighborhood less than a mile from campus. Two men charged in the death are awaiting trial.

On Thursday, students, professors and others plan to meet in the Pit, a central gathering place.

Chancellor Holden Thorp, who was on the Morehead Scholarship committee that selected Carson for the program, will speak briefly. He then will join the Clefhangers a cappella group as they sing James Taylor's "Carolina In My Mind," an unofficial school anthem.

"I always think of Eve when I sing that," Thorp said. "That's going to be difficult."
The two were fans of each other. He gave her a top score when he recommended her for a Morehead. She had him at the top of her list as a member of the chancellor search committee that tapped Thorp for the top campus job shortly after her death.

Carson, with her charisma, high academic achievements and drive to help others, left an impressive legacy in her short life.

Two merit scholarships at UNC-CH have been established in her memory, and more than $400,000 in donations have come in from admirers -- many of whom she never met.

In Athens, Ga., the college town where she grew up, more than $60,000 has been given in her memory to the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education to support the Clarke County, Ga., public schools.

In Chapel Hill, UNC-CH students formed Students for the Carolina Way, an organization with a philanthropic mission.

Trees have been planted in Chapel Hill and Athens in her memory.

"Eve just had a tremendous aura about her that just sort of oozed compassion," said Charles Lovelace, executive director of the Morehead-Cain scholars program. "It was not an issue of her physical attractiveness. It was her spiritual beauty. People were touched by that."

Matt Hendren, a friend of Carson's who works at UNC-CH, expects Thursday to be a tough day. The past year has been difficult, he said, not only because he lost a friend with such a passion for life but also because so many people mourn the loss.

"It's both something that's very personal but also something very public," Hendren said. "It just means so many different things to so many different people. That's hard to reconcile because she was our friend first."

Carson's inner circle knew the student who loved to dance, the e-mailer who rarely sent a message without exclamation marks and the bright young woman who might have said "Y'all come on," at the glowing and tearful recollections. They are the ones left to wonder what might have happened had she not become the victim of a terrible crime.

"For many of us, this has made us realize how dear to each other we are," Hendren said. "We talk about this 'Carolina Way' that Eve talked about and a large part of that 'Carolina Way' is to love and treasure your friend."

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**EVE CARSON MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will remember former student body president Eve Carson during a memorial service Thursday, the anniversary of her death.

TIME: 4 p.m., with music starting at 3:45 p.m.

PLACE: The Pit, outside the Student Union.

RAIN SITE: Frank Porter Graham Student Union auditorium.

**Related Content**

- Read more stories about Eve Carson and about the case
Students get a crash course in economics
By Jessica Durando, USA TODAY

Struggling college students are having an even more difficult time because of the financial downturn.

Some opt to wait in food-pantry lines. Others have stopped drinking soda, using their cars or eating out.

"I have noticed all around that prices have gone up. Rent, food and basic utilities ... it is a lot harder to survive," says Natalie Romero, 24, a student at Metropolitan State College in Denver, which opened a food bank on campus in September.

COLLEGE BLOG: NYU students protest for affordability
BEST VALUE COLLEGES: Top 100 for 2009

"We have been seeing in the past year that many of our students are in need of the basic necessities," says Johanna Maes, assistant dean of student life.

The Community College of Denver has offered a food bank to students for more than 10 years, but in the past year there been a significant increase in its use, says Jerry Mason, director of student life: "We are actually having trouble keeping up." The student government has doubled its annual funding from $3,000 to $6,000 to help with the increased demand, he says.

Federal financial aid applications filed nationwide for this fiscal year increased by 9% compared with last year, a projected 1.2 million more applicants, according to Department of Education data.

"Any time there is a recession, financial need increases," says Mark Kantrowitz of FinAid.org, an online resource for students. And schools that rely on state support are likely to see costs rise even more. "I'm already hearing from colleges that are discussing 10%, 13% increases" in tuition, he says.

Financial strategist Paul Rivers says parents losing their jobs has played a key role in more students seeking aid; 30% of his clients were declared eligible for more aid from their college because of an "unusual circumstance" last year.

"In the middle of the year, a parent may lose a job and fall down to a lower income bracket," says Rivers, head of Sourcesforstudents.com, a New York-based financial aid consulting company

He says the number of students who qualify for "unusual circumstances" has increased steadily for five years. "The cost of education continues to increase despite what is going on with the economy."

For Matt Long, 28, of Berkeley City College in Oakland, cutting back on expenses last semester meant walking 45 minutes to campus because he couldn't afford the $3 bus fare. He also cut back on meals. "I usually drank coffee, and that got me through the first half of the day," Long says. "My friends kept saying, 'You look skinny.' I have gotten sick as a result of my diet." He says his finances have stabilized since he received his financial-aid check.
Zack Hall, 21, a senior at the University of Texas, says that with $30,000 in debt, he must be frugal. "I don't use the dishwasher. We don't use paper towels because it is a waste of money. We grab stacks of napkins from restaurants or Starbucks to use at home. ... We eat so much tuna, it's not even funny."

His Facebook group, "I'm Broke & Sick of Ramen," has nearly 1,000 members. "I lead a comfortable life, but economic turmoil changes the way you live."

Schools such as Merrimack College in North Andover, Mass., and Benedictine University in Lisle, Ill., have announced tuition freezes; others are responding with programs designed to keep students from dropping out.

The University of Arizona will implement a policy this month that allows students to remain enrolled even if they have unpaid tuition at the beginning of the semester by enrolling them in a deferred payment plan, which costs $75. Before, students who had not paid were given 24 hours to pay or their classes were dropped, says Beth Acree, interim registrar. "It could positively impact students who are caught up in financial struggles and are caught off-guard. Maybe students will have a change in circumstances."

The University of South Florida created the "Don't Stop, Don't Drop" program. "We had one young lady living in a car. She needed some more financial aid and a place to stay," says student ombudsman Les Miller. "I referred her to financial aid and housing. She was able to get some additional loan money. She qualified also to get money for the cost of living."

The office has provided services for 129 students since September. "We tried to come up with any means necessary to make sure they would not drop out," Miller says.

When USF senior Stephanie Pafahl, 38, was between jobs and was denied a student loan, she went to the office in desperation, seeking assistance.

After being directed to the right resources, she eventually was approved for the student loan she needed to stay in school.

"If it wasn't for this, I would have had to quit right now and work full time," Pafahl says.

READERS: If you're in college, have you had to cut back? How? If your kid's in college, have you asked them to forgo any particular expenses?

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March 2, 2009

Well-Regarded Public Colleges Get a Surge of Bargain Hunters

By LISA W. FODERARO

NEW PALTZ, N.Y. — Admissions officers at the State University of New York college campus here are suddenly afraid of getting what they have always wished for: legions of top high-school seniors saying “yes” to their fat envelopes.

Students are already tripled up in many dorm rooms after an unexpectedly large freshman class entered last fall. And despite looming budget cuts from the state, which more tuition-paying students could help offset, officials say they are determined not to diminish the quality of student life by expanding enrollment at their liberal-arts college beyond the current 6,000 undergraduates.

At SUNY New Paltz, as at many other well-regarded public institutions this spring, admissions calculations carefully measured over many years are being set aside as an unraveling economy is making less expensive state colleges more appealing.

The application deadline is not until April 1, but officials here conservatively predict 15,500 students competing for 1,100 spots, a 12 percent jump over last year.

Similar surges are occurring at public colleges and universities across the country, education experts say.

The Connecticut State University System is projecting an 11 percent rise across its four campuses — the largest one-year increase ever — with Central Connecticut State up 16 percent by January. At Oregon State University, freshman applications are up 12 percent, and transfer applications more than 31 percent. At the University of Cincinnati, applications are still pouring in, but by early February they were outpacing last year’s pool by 10 percent.

“The country is in the process of reconsidering the easy accumulation of debt for consumer things, and it may well be that that will be a factor that tilts people toward public institutions because of the cheaper sticker price,” said Patrick M. Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, a nonprofit research and advocacy organization.

A poll by the center in December showed that “people’s anxiety about paying for college is almost at an unprecedented high,” Mr. Callan said.

“We’re not sure how they will respond, but we’re pretty sure they won’t respond by deciding not to go,” he added. “Middle class families understand that you’re going to be consigned to the minimum-wage economy if you don’t get some higher education or training.”

Private colleges, which are more expensive than public institutions, are facing a different problem: worried
about losing students, they are trying to find ways to increase financial aid.

In the SUNY system, the biggest growth is at its eight four-year technology colleges, whose vocational degrees are in demand because of their practicality; they have seen 11 percent more applicants than last year.

Tucked next to the snow-carpeted Shawangunk Mountains about 75 miles north of New York City, SUNY New Paltz has become steadily more popular — and more selective — over the past decade, with the grade-point average of entering students climbing to 92 from 85 and their SAT scores to 1,160 from 1,100. Named the “hottest small state school” in the country by Newsweek magazine and the Kaplan testing company last year, it has a total price tag of $16,000 a year, making it increasingly attractive to middle-class families running for cover in a battered economy.

Given last year’s surprise of 24 percent of accepted students actually enrolling — a big increase from the 20 or 21 percent in previous years — the college plans to send 4,500 acceptance letters this year, 1,000 fewer than usual, and keep a longer waiting list.

“We have to be very careful moving forward with the size of this freshman class,” said L. David Eaton, the college’s vice president for enrollment management. “Admissions people have all kinds of formulas they use for predictions: How many historically do we expect to accept our offer and enroll? The prevailing attitude is that all that is up for grabs.”

But the flood of applications — made greater by a demographic bubble as the offspring of baby boomers reach college age — comes as SUNY is facing a $210 million cut in its $1.4 billion annual state appropriation for four-year schools, with New Paltz, whose state share is $63 million, expecting to lose up to $9 million next year.

“That’s the conundrum,” said Megan Galbraith, a spokeswoman for SUNY, the nation’s largest public university system under a single governing board, with 438,000 students on 64 campuses statewide. “There’s increased demand for what SUNY has to offer in this economy. But with this budget, there will be challenges meeting that demand. Our campuses are increasing class sizes. Services may be diminished. Even in residence halls, you might see more tripling up. It’s that type of ripple effect in the quality of the student experience.”

Over the last decade, enrollment in the SUNY system has grown by 20 percent. But officials at New Paltz do not want to grow, and instead see the swelling applicant pool as a way to further refine its status and student body. In the last five years, the college has winnowed the student-to-faculty ratio to 14 to 1, from 17 to 1; more than two-thirds of courses are taught by full-time faculty members today, compared with 50 percent a decade ago.

“I’m not just a number,” said Alexis Schild, a history major from Staten Island. “The professors really care about you. They remember your name.”

Steven G. Poskanzer, president of SUNY New Paltz, wants to keep the momentum going, with plans for a $48 million science building and new residence halls. But he said layoffs were possible.

“Eighty-four percent of our budget is people, so when you get cuts of this magnitude, it’s difficult to imagine that we end up with the same size work force,” he said. “We’re going to have to make some very hard choices. But it’s better to do fewer things and do them well than to take many things and water them down.”
Last year's unexpected yield of students who decided to enroll resulted in a freshman class of 1,300, or "200 over target," said Mr. Eaton. (New Paltz also accepts about 800 transfer students each year.)

College officials scrambled to make room for the extra students and drafted plans for a new dormitory, but that will not be built until the fall of 2010 at the earliest. While an enrollment spike can translate into more tuition dollars, it can also mean fewer available study carrels in the library, crowded dining halls and faculty advisors who feel stretched thin.

So the admissions office is playing it safe. With more than 4,000 students already accepted, hundreds of qualified students who previously would have gotten fat envelopes are instead being added to a waiting list.

"If you exceed your targets, you can make a lot of money, but it backfires," Mr. Eaton said. "If you bring in a lot of students and it diminishes their experience, then it goes back to what people say when they go home. There's a point beyond which it becomes a problem."