THE DAILY CLIPS

March 4, 2011

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

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The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
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Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

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Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, it is said. A statement that aptly applies to art. What some may find beautiful, others may not.

East Carolina University's School of Art and Design faculty strive to teach their students the best skills in creating their art.

The best of this year's undergraduate work is on display in the annual School of Art and Design Undergraduate Exhibition in the Wellington B. Gray Gallery. The exhibition runs through April 2.

Area curriculum coordinators selected the outstanding works submitted by more than 600 undergraduate students. The Undergraduate Exhibition displays the best of all these disciplines.

Curriculum areas represented in the exhibition are: art foundations, ceramics, drawing, graphic design, illustration, interactive media, metals, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, textile design, video and wood design.

An awards ceremony was held Thursday honoring those students who received recognition for their work.

Roger Manley served as awards judge for the exhibit. He is a photographer, folklorist, curator, filmmaker and writer with a variety of interests including tribal people, fairy tales and gardens. Manley serves as director of the Gregg Museum of Art & Design at NC State University and authored several books for the Weird U.S. series including “Weird Carolinas,” “Weird Louisiana” and “Weird Tennessee.”

ECU offers the largest studio art program in North Carolina. It is fully accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design (NASAD). The school has received NASAD accreditation since 1962.

The Wellington B. Gray Gallery is located off Fifth and Jarvis streets in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. Founded in 1977, the gallery is an integral part of the School of Art and Design's educational mission by providing educational programming for students. The mission extends to the community through the gallery's six to eight exhibitions each year, which include symposia and lectures by visiting artists and curators.
The Gallery and School of Art and Design maintain a significant collection of western and central African art, Baltic ceramics, the Dwight M. Holland collection, a major and on-going donation of contemporary ceramics and a suite of Larry Rivers prints.
Council OKs pact to protect Fifth St. corridor

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

An agreement between the city, Tar River University Neighborhood Association and East Carolina University aimed at protecting a portion the Fifth Street corridor passed unanimously following some debate Thursday.

Councilwoman Marion Blackburn and Councilman Calvin Mercer advocated for more discussion between the entities. Blackburn cited the importance of preserving aging historic homes in the area and the neighborhood’s position in the heart of the city.

Councilwoman Rose Glover disliked the proposal. She argued that west Greenville is just as important to ECU because it links the main campus with the medical campus. Students live in her district, she said, and they are in an area of greater need. Councilman Max Joyner Jr. said that there are several programs already in place to promote homeownership and safety in TRUNA.

Mayor Pro-Tem Bryant Kittrell pointed out that large amounts of money have been spent on projects in west Greenville. He suggested that once the agreement was passed, a similar one be pursued between any interested west Greenville neighborhoods and ECU.

Health care trends among city employees raised several council eyebrows Thursday night. Joyner requested the council review wellness programs already in place. It was postponed at two previous meetings, including the council’s annual planning

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session.
Human Resources Department staffer Frank Salvato described wellness initiatives as a passive system they hope will engage employees. Educational luncheons and other activities have drawn participants, but "we're not sure if those attending are really the ones at risk," he said.

An estimated 76 percent of city employees are at risk in three or more areas of concern, based on a test group of more than 175 people. Areas of concern include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, body mass index and glucose levels. The number of employees prescribed anti-depressants is notable, Salvato said.

Blackburn said she was alarmed that employees at risk for hypertension or suffering from hypertension approached 90 percent. Those in the test pool who are overweight, obese or extremely obese was close to 80 percent, she said.

Human Resources Director Gerry Case said HR will set goals this year and look for the best means to achieve them. She added that wellness programs can have an effect on insurance and a full report should be ready in 60 days. Joyner stressed that "a carrot and stick" plan is needed to get more people involved.

Glover said wellness plans look good on paper but do little good.

The following items also were approved Thursday by the City Council:

- The second year of a $25,000 contract for services with nonprofit Uptown Greenville passed unanimously. Uptown Executive Director Denise Walsh said the group has been able to increase the frequency of events like the First Friday's Art Walk — one is planned for tonight — and the summer Uptown Umbrella Market because of the city's contribution.

- Authorization to pay the Pitt County drainage district to ensure properties in the city feeding county ditches will be maintained. Funding comes from the stormwater utility fund.

- An order renaming West Meadowbrook Park as the Matthew Lewis Park at West Meadowbrook passed unanimously. Lewis was a resident of the neighborhood beginning in 1939 who led efforts to get a recreation facility in the area and later gave land for a city park.

- A list of non-highway projects for inclusion in the Metropolitan Planning Organization's transportation improvement priorities.

- Ordinances granting taxicab franchise to Mahmoud Ahmad Atiya as Ace Cab and Yadollah Rezaei as Alfa Taxi, and a limousine franchise to Cristina Gutierrez and Nelson Felipe Napa as Royal Party Bus.

- A resolution and map identifying areas under consideration for annexation.

- A budget for the Environmental Advisory Commission and any other boards will not be addressed until budget discussions begin in the coming months.

- A $974,000 contract awarding construction work for the second phase of the Thomas Langston Road extension project to ER Lewis Construction.

Two people spoke during the public comment period. Greenville resident Terry Boardman spoke against efforts to design and create an intermodal transportation center planned just south of downtown. He said it is "a bad idea in a bad location at a very expensive price."

Steven Hardy-Braz, who lives in Farmville but said he spends significant time in Greenville, asked the council to postpone work on the railroad crossing on Greenville Boulevard scheduled for this month until sidewalks can be included in the plan. He said those and other tracks across the city are hard to cross on a bike, in a wheelchair or with a stroller.

No action was taken following either statement.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
When Zarah Cecich walked onto the East Carolina University campus, she said she had an epiphany.

The puzzle piece finally fit.

The nursing school is 13th in the nation, perfect.

The volleyball program made her feel comfortable, perfect.

She was even told she'd have the chance to play right away.

When East Carolina offered her a full scholarship to be a setter for the volleyball team, she knew she couldn't say anything but, "Yes."

"A lot of colleges said it'll be hard to be a nurse and an athlete," Cecich said, "they welcomed it. They want us to be in the nursing program."

Cecich, a four-year, three-sport athlete at Crown Point, was an All-Star at the North-South volleyball game this season and had narrowed her college choices to Ball State, Valparaiso and Grand Valley before committing to the Pirates. Cecich is the second member of the 2010-11 Bulldogs team to commit to a D-I school, joining Sofjia Cucuz, who will go to Rutgers.

"It's the best offer and opportunity that she's received through all of her visits," C.P. coach Allison Duncan said. "It's such a great opportunity for her and they're definitely getting an athlete. Since she's been a three-sport athlete, she's never really had time to just focus on volleyball, so this will be the first time she'll be able to do that in her career."
Through four years, Cecich set her mark on the C.P. program, leaving with her name on the single-season assists mark (732), total assists record (1,611) and is second in both total blocks (257) and games played (375).

In addition to her more than 700 assists as a senior, she had 39 aces, 194 digs, 30 solo blocks, 85 total blocks and 79 kills. East Carolina University was 2-30 in 2010 and 1-19 in Conference USA.

"It's a lot off my mind now and it'll be easier to concentrated on the track season," Cecich said.
Jerry Coleman is a restaurant manager who can’t turn his back on his counter; he’s also a business man who can’t turn his back on his community.

As operator of Garner’s two Chick-fil-A restaurants, Coleman credits the success of his franchises and the overall brand to the company’s investment in its staff on all levels and its commitment to corporate philanthropy within the neighborhood.

“I believe that I have always had a special knack for finding and selecting great people with talent,” he said. “Surround yourself with great people and then help them to accomplish their life goals. [Founder] Truett Cathy said he believed if he helped enough people accomplish their goals in life, then he would be blessed to accomplish his goals, and I guess I adopted this same philosophy.”

Coleman added that the company’s attention to constant staff training and steady business strategy adjustments to best meet the evolving needs of its guests, while staying true to the basics of customer service, also contribute to the longevity and popularity of the brand.

Coleman, who counts his own family as current or former members of Garner’s Chick-fil-A teams, began his 30-year Chick-fil-A career in 1981 on what he calls “the front...
lines” as a unit team member in 1981, soon after finishing his industrial technology degree at East Carolina University.

“When I first began in the business with Chick-fil-A, we believed that hard work and dedication to serving others and commitment to cleanliness and quality was the key to success,” he said. “Today, it is more about finding talent and growing relationships while still committed to quality, cleanliness and a great dining experience, but it still entails investing in the lives of those individuals we have surrounded ourselves with.”

A big part of staying true to the Chick-fil-A mission is reaching people where they are, Coleman said, and he attributes the use of technology as a driving force in his team’s efforts to connect with all his stores’ customers, from the regulars to the “raving fans.”

“Our guests have influenced most of our business environment changes,” he said. “As times are changing, and the use of technology is a major player in businesses, we are especially enjoying the move into social media with the use of Facebook, Twitter and text messaging and our own website.”

Chick-fil-A has a corporate reputation for generous philanthropy in each of the communities it serves. As an operator, Coleman embraces the importance of building relationships with others not only to be successful in business but also to enhance the quality of life in the area.

“I have been blessed by a wonderful staff, who I empower to reach beyond the walls of the stores and invest in people, using what we have (chicken),” he said. “I believe, like our founders, that we are not in the chicken business, but the people business. The chicken sandwich is just the tool.”

Coleman added that the foundation established by Chick-fil-A corporate empowers independent operators to support area schools, churches, service organizations in a variety of ways.

He said he takes pride in supporting Garner schools, churches and civic organizations by providing food donations, offering a percentage of dining room receipts and making available fundraiser ideas such as cow calendars and cheesecake sales.

“The cow mascot is always a big hit at school festivals and family events,” he said. “He likes to make his way around the community and has become quite famous.”

With assistance from his staff, Coleman strives to build relationships as he builds awareness for community causes. He said Chick-fil-A of Garner was a pioneer in the “Cops-on-Top” Torch-Run campaign, an opportunity for state SBI and ALE agents to camp on the roof of the restaurant to raise funds for the N.C. Special Olympics — “a way to create an emotional connection with our customers, law enforcement and the athletes we support” — which has become a statewide event.
Coleman is inspired by the constructive impact of the numerous community partnerships, and he wants his restaurants to continue playing a positive role in Garner’s future.

“My faith plays a major role in all my decisions,” he said. “People who have invested in me gave me inspiration to invest in others. Truett Cathy saw something in a young man and was willing to give me an opportunity to be in business with him as a partner (franchisee) so I feel it necessary to give back as well.”