THE DAILY CLIPS

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Admission to ECU gets more competitive

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Wednesday, March 04, 2009

With an increase in admission standards and students applying to get in, East Carolina University is getting more competitive.

ECU has received more than 18,000 applications, up from 15,664 last year, and the deadline is March 15.

"It actually means that admission to ECU has become more competitive," Judi Bailey, director of enrollment management at ECU, said.

"While we have grown in applications, we have not grown in capacity for classrooms or new faculty or additional residence hall space. We are having to admit from the top of the applications."

The ECU board of trustees approved raising admission standards slightly last fall but, with so many applications coming in, projected grade point averages and SAT scores are increasing.

Last year, the average SAT of students admitted to ECU was 1046. This fall, the average SAT score is projected to be 1075.

Predicted grade point average (GPA), a number arrived at by a formula that includes high school GPA and other factors and determines how well a student will do at ECU, is also rising.

For the fall, the average predicted GPA was 2.71 for students who were admitted. This year, the number is expected to be 2.75.

These increases indicate that more students will be retained at ECU, Bailey said. The higher a student scores, the more likely they are to stay in college and graduate, she said.

Student Government Association President Drew Griffin said that students are excited to know that ECU is getting a better reputation for academics.

Griffin discussed the enrollment issue with other members of the student affairs sub-committee to the board of trustees last week.

Better students may ultimately translate into less room on campus.

With more students staying at ECU, there will be less room for new freshmen and transfer students each year.

ECU is expected to grow by 10,000 students during the next decade, but a large number of those students will primarily take classes online.

The university had to lease rooms from local apartment complexes this year to house the largest incoming freshman class in the school's history.

Officials say it is likely that they will have to do that again next year.

ECU also has moved its acceptance date to May 1. By then the university will know how many students have enrolled and plan to come in the fall, which will give administrators more time to plan, Bailey said.

Until this year, ECU has admitted students all the way up to the first day of class.
Knowing approximately how many students are coming early is better overall for the university, Bailey said. Housing on campus is on a first come-first served basis, so students will likely be signing up for housing as soon as they decide to attend ECU.

“This will give a better idea of how many people will be on campus and the earlier you know that the better,” she said.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.
UNC-CH to remember Eve Carson today

Staff Reports
Comment on this story

A year after student leader Eve Carson was shot to death, the UNC-Chapel Hill community will remember her today with a service on campus.

The ceremony begins at 3:45 p.m. at the Pit, next to the Student Union. Chancellor Holden Thorp will speak, and the Clef Hangers, an a cappella group, will perform.

Today marks the anniversary of Carson's death. Two men are awaiting trial on charges of robbing and killing the 22-year-old, who was president of the UNC-CH student body.

Students, professors and others plan to meet today to commemorate the life of Carson, who was known for her high academic achievement and drive to help others.

The student group Service North Carolina is urging students to honor Carson's memory by volunteering for public service during the month of March.

The university has posted a biography of Carson at www.unc.edu/eve/bio.html.

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Related Content

- Read more stories about Eve Carson and about the case
ECU baseball gets national notice

JAVIER SERNA, Staff Writer

Comment on this story

The weather took the bats out of East Carolina's hands this past weekend, but the national sporting press already had taken notice.

The Pirates cracked the top 25 in three national polls this week and received votes in two others after a 5-1 start. Only last weekend's rain could stunt the early season run.

ECU's highest ranking was No. 20 in the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association's poll.

Senior right fielder Stephen Batts said Wednesday in Greenville that the recognition is nice, but it's not something to "worry about" right now.

"Coach [Billy Godwin] says it's much better to be ranked at the end of the season," said Batts, who is hitting .536 over the first six games. "... Any team can get beat any time, if you're ranked first or 50th. It feels good. We have great chemistry. It's our team coming together and hopefully we can stay there."

ECU topped No. 11 Oklahoma State and St. John's before the final two days of the LeClair Classic were washed out.

FIVE TO WATCH

* Virginia Tech at Duke, 3 p.m. Friday
* Lincoln at Shaw. 1 p.m. Saturday
* Clemson at North Carolina, 1 p.m. Sunday
* George Mason at N.C. State, 3 p.m. Tuesday
* UNC-Asheville at East Carolina, 3 p.m. Wednesday

BAT OF THE WEEK

Campbell junior Zach Johnson, who is from from Smithfield, went 10-for-18 with three home runs and 11 RBIs in four games. His .593 batting average this season leads the team.

ARM OF THE WEEK

N.C. State righty Jake Buchanan of Gastonia has the lowest ERA (1.64) of the team's weekend starters and has averaged a strikeout an inning in 11 innings. A sophomore, Buchanan (1-0) has walked only one batter.

ROOKIE OF THE WEEK

UNC freshman Levi Michael got his first college home runs last week against Coastal Carolina and Seton Hall.
BLOG: BALLS AND STRIKES

Check out the college baseball blog at blogs.newsobserver.com/baseball/home.
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NCSU picks up $1 million NSF grant

Dozen minority grads to get help with Ph.D.s

JAY PRICE, Staff Writer

N.C. State University has received a grant worth nearly $1 million to help draw more minority students into its science, engineering, technology and mathematics doctoral programs.

The money from the National Science Foundation will fund two-year fellowships for a dozen graduate students who plan to seek Ph.D.s.

The fellowships will include a $30,000 stipend each year and all tuition, fees, medical insurance and travel expenses related to their studies.

The grants are aimed at under-represented minorities, such as blacks, Latinos and American Indians.

The federal government has long been interested in raising the number of students from those groups in technical and science fields, said Tony Mitchell, an assistant dean in the College of Engineering who leads NCSU's minority engineering programs.

"Being able to offer opportunities like this will allow us to recruit some of the top students in the country from these under-represented groups," Mitchell said.

Some of the universities that NCSU competes with for top students, such as Georgia Tech, offer substantial financial packages, and the new grant will give NCSU a crucial edge in those tug-of-wars.

"Also, while 12 students may not sound like a lot, once we get them here, they can spread the word about the quality of our programs, and that will magnify the impact of this," Mitchell said.

The program won't be limited to minority students, he said.

The participants, though, must have been in similar undergraduate programs with connections to the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation, another National Science Foundation program. The grant program is designed to ease the transition from master's degree programs to doctoral programs.

The participants will receive faculty mentoring, a six-week introduction to research techniques, workshops and summer research programs.

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Campbell law school plans clinic to help senior citizens

Comment on this story

The law school at Campbell University, slated to relocate from the Buiès Creek campus to Raleigh later this year, has announced plans for a clinic catering to low-income senior citizens.

Scheduled to open in September, the clinic will provide experience for law students while serving senior citizens who otherwise might not be able to afford an attorney, according to Brit Davis, Campbell Law's development director.

Dubbed the Campbell Senior Law Clinic, the operation will be led by an attorney specializing in elder law, focusing on wills, power of attorney, guardianship, abuse and neglect, consumer fraud and other issues pertinent to seniors. Cases will be generated through referrals and a partnership with Legal Aid of North Carolina.

The clinic is funded in part by a $150,000 gift from Progress Energy.

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