THE DAILY CLIPS

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What a degree in ceramics can do

BY DIANE DANIEL - Correspondent

Almost flunking out of East Carolina University was one of the best things Charlotte potter Julie Wiggins could have done.

"My parents said, 'You have one more shot and then you're on your own.' " she recalled. "I had no idea what I wanted to do. I'd been directed to study things like science and other academic things, and nothing really excited me."

Wiggins decided to take time off, work and figure out her life.

"I got a job at a coffee shop and my friend working there, Jen Mecca, told me she was getting a degree in ceramics. 'You can do that?' I said. I had no idea. She took me to the studio, gave me a little experience on the wheel, and I was hooked. I'm a creative person and just hadn't been exposed to that way of expressing myself."
Fourteen years later, Wiggins, Mecca and two other Charlotte-area potters get together twice a year to host a show and sale, and Wiggins sells her Asian-style functional porcelain in galleries in Raleigh, Charlotte and beyond. She returns to the Triangle next month for a one-day show in Durham at Julie Olson's White Oak Pottery studio.

Wiggins' path to pottery started with a two-week course at Penland School of Crafts, which, at age 19, she arranged and paid for herself.

"I called my parents while I was there and said I wanted to go back to college. My first semester back, I made a 4.0, and my dad had a total change of heart about what I needed to study. He now uses me as an example of how people should follow their passions," she said of Paul Wiggins, a retired high school principal in Jacksonville, where Wiggins, 33, grew up.

**Experiencing history**
A longer stay at Penland, along with an ECU-sponsored art history course in Morocco and Spain for six weeks, further opened her eyes.

"Experiencing their history and tradition, seeing all those mosaics and tiles, really pushed me to see things differently," she said. "It took years to digest it all."

She and her now-husband Dave Pettine moved to Charlotte in 2002, when he entered graduate school at UNC. She took a job teaching elementary school and joined Clayworks Studio.

Wiggins started out making earthy salt-glazed pots, but gradually moved toward more refined porcelain ware.

"One of my ECU professors was Korean, and so Asian influences have always been a big part of my work," she said. "When [her husband] finished school, I went to China to study. I knew I hadn't given clay the focus and discipline it needed and that my heart desired."

Through West Virginia University, she spent four months in 2005 at Jingdezhen Ceramic Institute in the city dubbed "the porcelain capital of China."
"We studied traditional Chinese techniques, and each week we had a different master," she said. "All the clay rules I'd been taught were broken when I got there. It was an awakening that there really are no rules.

"We learned about porcelain carving, blue and white porcelain, and yixing teapots, my very, very favorite thing to make. I'm intrigued by it because it's an intimate object, it signifies taking time to pause, and I love the communal aspect, sitting and having tea together."

**An accidental setback**
She returned home itching to put her mark on what she'd learned in China, only to have a major setback - an auto accident that seriously injured her wrist.

"I couldn't use my right hand, but as that door closed, windows opened," Wiggins said. "I started to train my left hand and learned to hand build instead of using the wheel. It's less stress on the body."

With physical therapy, surgery and yoga, she has recovered and is making pots full time using both hand-building and wheel-throwing techniques. She teaches a class at Clayworks and runs a pottery program for Mecklenburg Area Catholic Schools.

"Last year I knew I needed to make a leap, because my pottery was in demand and I wasn't able to fulfill the orders. [My husband] and I built a studio in May. ... It was a crazy amount of work, but I wanted it so badly."

**Asian patterns, forms**
Wiggins' work is a blend of contemporary and traditional Asian patterns and forms, with clean lines under celadon glazes. She often turns clay on a traditional human-powered treadle wheel instead of an electric wheel, adding the rhythm of her body to the creation of the pots.

Most of Wiggins pieces have delicate inlaid drawings or patterns that she carves with an X-acto blade.

"I've always been a big doodler, and I thrive on patterns and repetition. I'm always sketching, and I'll pull from those and start putting them on pots, maybe combining geometric patterns with flowers and birds. I never
intended the drawings to be representative, but people seem to really connect to them. For them, the drawings start a story."

Wiggins has focused recently on building her inventory before a burst of spring shows. Among her biggest sellers are dinner and lunch plates, which she often sells in sets of eight or more. Her table settings are dishwasher safe, though hand-washing keeps them stronger.

After starts and stops from moving, travel and injury, Wiggins says things are finally coming together.

"Last year was a fun, transitional year, when I felt like I was finally bringing everything home."

Send suggestions to diane@bydianedaniel.com.

**Details**

**Who:** Julie Wiggins  
**Ware:** Functional porcelain  
**Location:** Charlotte  
**Contact:** www.juliewigginspottery.com and 704-351-0532  
**Price:** Bowls $20 to $75; plates $45 to $55; platters $45 to $200; teapots $150; vases $65 to $150  
**Where to buy:** The Collectors Gallery, 443 Fayetteville St., Raleigh, 828-6500, www.thecollectorsgallery.com;  
On April 16, White Oak Pottery Spring Show and Sale, 3915 Rivermont Road, Durham, www.whiteoakartworks.com, 641-6808;
Healthcare reform focuses on prevention
Published: March. 7, 2011 at 4:54 PM

GREENVILLE, N.C., March 7 (UPI) -- U.S. healthcare reform provides the first true opportunity to elevate nation's commitment disease prevention and wellness promotion, researchers say.

Lead author and public health professor Kenneth DeVille and co-author Dr. Lloyd Novick, both of the Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, suggest the ultimate success of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act will depend on the level of public support.

Unfortunately attacks on the public health provisions have already been attempted, the researchers said. For example, last November, the Johanns Amendment in the Senate proposed eliminating nearly all preventative and public health funding, the researchers said. The amendment ultimately failed, but illustrates the risk created by partisan disagreement, the study authors said.

DeVille and Novick said the act will only meet its promise if government and social leaders shift the focus to a broader vision of preventative public health issues and if more Americans embrace the idea healthcare is more than just medical care for the sick.

"While opinion shifted enough for the act to include a public health focus, I am concerned about its future because U.S. culture remains focused on what is good for individuals versus the public as a whole and on limiting the role of government," Novick said in a statement.

The findings are published in the March/April issue of the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice.

On this day 104 years ago, the N.C. General Assembly approved the construction of the school that would become East Carolina University. What a wise decision by our lawmakers this has proved to be.

During the last decade, East Carolina has been the fastest-growing university in our state. Today, ECU produces more teachers and more nurses than any other university in North Carolina. The Brody School of Medicine has a national reputation in many areas, including primary care and family medicine. In fewer than six months, the first class of dental students will begin their studies in the new school of dentistry.

The motto of East Carolina University is “To Serve.” For more than 100 years, ECU students, faculty and alumni have proudly served North Carolina. Last summer the U.S. Department of Defense presented ECU with the Freedom Award for outstanding support of employees serving in the National Guard or Reserves.

As we celebrate the accomplishments of the past, we must hope that today's General Assembly will recognize the value of investments in our future in the same way their predecessors did 104 years ago. I'm proud of what ECU has become and proud to be a Pirate.

CARL DAVIS
Chairman,
ECU Alumni Association Board
Raleigh
Duke projects find $80 million in funding

BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

DURHAM—As a weak economy has led some universities to scale back construction, Duke has found a way to move ahead with three big new projects: by having someone else pay for it.

The university announced plans Monday to renovate three historic buildings used for performances, events and student gatherings. The projects will cost $80 million and will be completely funded through a gift from the Duke Endowment, the nonprofit philanthropic organization established in 1924 by James B. Duke, a member of the family for whom the university is named.

The renovation and modernizing of West Union, Page Auditorium and Baldwin Auditorium would not have been possible without the endowment's largesse, Duke President Richard Brodhead said.

"We are going to transform these places," Brodhead said. "We want students to have the richest possible experience."

The gift is the largest in Duke's history, topping the Duke Endowment's $75 million gift for financial aid in 2005. The endowment aims its philanthropy primarily on health care and education and has given out $2.7 billion since its inception, including about $1 billion to Duke University.

Neil Williams, chair of the Duke Endowment, presented the gift's first installment - $10 million - to Brodhead on Monday. The balance will be paid in coming years.

The announcement Monday came at West Union. Located in the center of campus in the shadow of Duke Chapel, West Union is a somewhat confusing amalgam of fast food restaurants, coffee joints and student meeting areas. It was Duke's primary student meeting space until the opening of the Bryan Center in 1982 and will be completely reconfigured.
"It's extremely disjointed," Brodhead said. "When you walk in the door, you can't figure out where you are. You would just build this very differently these days."

**Baldwin is first**

Yi Zhang, a Duke senior and president of the Duke University Union, which plans campus programming, said a more cohesive, inviting West Union will prove a popular student hangout.

"I see a place where 10-minute coffee breaks turn into two-hour conversations with friends," Zhang said.

Construction will start first on Baldwin Auditorium, the East Campus performance venue with the distinctive white dome. Renovations, expected to begin late this year, will include improvements to acoustics, new seats and other patron amenities. The venue is used primarily by student ensembles like the Duke Symphony Orchestra and the Duke Jazz Ensemble.

With 1,200 seats, Page Auditorium is Duke's largest venue and has hosted thousands of performances since it opened in 1930. It has some miles on it today, with chipping paint and well-worn floors. It will get an interior facelift with new seating, acoustics and backstage and lobby spaces.

Renovated buildings tend to be a draw; when Duke refurbished and added to its main library several years ago, it saw a 40 percent increase in users; Brodhead hopes the same holds true when all three projects are complete. Renovations are expected to take several years, during which time some existing programs, activities and dining services will be relocated.

This new infrastructure investment comes as another high-profile construction project remains in limbo. Duke's plan for a new campus at Anderson Street and Campus Drive - expected to be a mix of campus housing, academic space and retail - is still on hold. Once complete, this new development would link Duke's east and west campuses. The first phase alone is estimated to cost $300 million.

"It's a big project," Brodhead said. "We have to find the funding for it."

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Top gifts at other universities

N.C. Central University: $17.8 million from the Golden LEAF Foundation in 2003

UNC-Chapel Hill: $50 million from Quintiles founder Dennis Gillings and his wife, Joan, in 2007 for the school of public health

N.C. State University: $40 million from alumnus Lonnie Poole late last year for the College of Management and other uses
Maness honored for gem vs. Waves

The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, March 8, 2011

East Carolina senior Seth Maness was named Conference USA co-pitcher-of-the-week in the wake of his dominating performance against Pepperdine last Friday.

The Pinehurst native tossed his first career complete-game shutout in a 2-0 win over the Waves. Maness allowed just two hits and tied his career-high with 11 strikeouts, which was previously set last March against Pepperdine in Malibu, Calif.

Maness faced three batters over the minimum and at one point retired 18 in a row. The right-hander, who registered his 30th career win, is third on ECU's all-time wins list and first among active NCAA pitchers.

Sharing the pitcher-of-the-week honor with Maness was Rice freshman Austin Kubitza, who tossed a complete game, six-hit shutout against No. 9 Texas A&M in just his third career start.

Pirates hit the road

The ECU baseball team will hit the road tonight to take on Campbell at 6. The Pirates (7-3) handed the Camels a 7-4 defeat when the teams met in Greenville on March 1.

ECU infielder Corey Thompson leads the team in hits (16), RBIs (nine) and on-base percentage (.489), and is second in batting with a .421 average.

Ellis Lowe, who became the Camels' all-time hit leader in the first game with ECU, is batting .385 for Campbell.
NCSU program gets ABB money

BY JOHN MURAWSKI - STAFF WRITER

Swedish energy conglomerate ABB is financing half of a $1.2 million expansion of the power engineering program at N.C. State University.

The philanthropic gift from ABB, a company with 780 employees in North Carolina, will pay for faculty, scholarships and a lecture series in the subspecialty of engineering that focuses on the generation, transmission and distribution of electric power.

The program to be housed at the NCSU’s College of Engineering will also include $6,000 scholarships. NCSU expects to receive matching grants from state and private sources to develop the program.

ABB makes heavy equipment for the electric industry. The company employs 124,000 globally and has its North American headquarters in Cary, with additional locations in Raleigh and Pinetops. ABB is building a factory in Huntersville that will employ more than 100 people when it is completed next year.
Andrew Peake of Plymouth State University and other college students protest outside the statehouse in Concord, N.H., on Feb. 24, 2011. New Hampshire House Republicans are pushing for new laws that would prohibit many college students from voting in the state - and effectively keep some from voting at all. (Jim Cole - AP)

In states, parties clash over voting laws that call for IDs, limits on where college students can cast ballots

By Peter Wallsten
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, March 7, 2011; 12:15 AM

New Hampshire's new Republican state House speaker is pretty clear about what he thinks of college kids and how they vote. They're "foolish," Speaker William O'Brien said in a recent speech to a tea party group.

"Voting as a liberal. That's what kids do," he added, his comments taped by a state Democratic Party staffer and posted on YouTube. Students lack "life experience," and "they just vote their feelings."

New Hampshire House Republicans are pushing for new laws that would prohibit many college students from voting in the state - and effectively keep some from voting at all.

One bill would permit students to vote in their college towns only if they or their parents had previously established permanent residency there -
requiring all others to vote in the states or other New Hampshire towns they come from. Another bill would end Election Day registration, which O'Brien said unleashes swarms of students on polling places, creating opportunities for fraud.

The measures in New Hampshire are among dozens of voting-related bills being pushed by newly empowered Republican state lawmakers across the country - prompting partisan clashes akin to those already roiling in some states over GOP moves to curb union power.

Backers of the voting measures say they would bring fairness and restore confidence in a voting system vulnerable to fraud. Many states, for instance, do not require identification to vote. Measures being proposed in 32 states would add an ID requirement or proof of citizenship, according to an analysis by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University.

"I want to know when I walk into the poll that they know I am who I say I am and that nobody else has said that they are me," said North Carolina state Rep. Ric Killian (R), who is preparing to introduce legislation that would require voters to show a photo ID at the polls.

Democrats charge that the real goal, as with anti-union measures in Wisconsin, Ohio and elsewhere, is simply to deflate the power of core Democratic voting blocs - in this case young people and minorities. For all the allegations of voter fraud, Democrats and voting rights groups say, there is scant evidence to show that it is a problem.

"It's a war on voting," said Thomas Bates, vice president of Rock the Vote, a youth voter-registration group mounting a campaign to fight the array of state measures. "We'd like to be advocating for a 21st-century voting system, but here we are fighting against efforts to turn it back to the 19th century."

The debate over voter fraud has become a perennial issue since the contested 2000 presidential election. While limited by federal law and court rulings, states have authority over how they run elections. Although elections officials say there are occasional cases of fraud, experts say the battle lines are drawn largely along deeply partisan - and largely theoretical - lines.

"Election policy debates like photo ID and same-day registration have become so fierce around the country because they are founded more on
passionate belief than proven fact," said Doug Chapin, an election-law expert at the Pew Center on the States. "One side is convinced fraud is rampant; the other believes that disenfranchisement is widespread. Neither can point to much in the way of evidence to support their position, so they simply turn up the volume."

**Implications for 2012**

The disputes are taking on national implications. Several states where newly empowered Republicans are pushing voter legislation, such as New Hampshire, Wisconsin and North Carolina, are expected to be battlegrounds in the 2012 presidential race. Democrats say the voters most likely to be affected are core pieces of President Obama's base.

An analysis by the North Carolina State Board of Elections showed that any new law requiring a state-issued ID could be problematic for large numbers of voters, particularly African Americans, whose turnout in 2008 helped Obama win the state.

Blacks account for about one-fifth of the North Carolina electorate but are a larger share - 27 percent - of the approximately 1 million voters who may lack a state-issued ID or whose names do not exactly match the Division of Motor Vehicles database. The analysis found about 556,000 voters with no record of an ID issued by the DMV.

Republican lawmakers in North Carolina had pledged to make a photo ID bill a top priority for their new majority, but they have yet to release a plan, with the caucus deliberating over how restrictive it should be. The issue could present a dilemma for Democratic Gov. Bev Perdue, who would have to choose between signing or vetoing a bill that would be popular with swing voters but that could dampen turnout of voters she needs to win reelection next year.

In Wisconsin, a photo-ID bill backed by the state's new GOP majority would not permit voters to use school-issued student cards. The measure would allow for other IDs, such as passports, but opponents say thousands of students who do not have Wisconsin driver's licenses or passports would face unfair hurdles that would keep many of them from voting.

Republican state Sen. Mary Lazich, who heads the chamber's elections committee, said the legislation is designed to prevent irregularities, such as
allegations that votes have been cast by the deceased. She said she hoped to work with university officials to allow student IDs at some point.

Student groups are rallying opposition, distributing fliers on campuses and creating Facebook pages to pressure lawmakers.

"It's no coincidence that some of the groups being targeted and that would be most affected by the bill are more Democratic generally," said Sam Polstein, 19, a University of Wisconsin sophomore from New York who is helping to organize the protests.

Opponents are also using a tea party twist - cost - to try to defeat the bill. States that require voter IDs also must be willing to pay for them, the result of a court ruling that declared part of Georgia's ID law unconstitutional because people lacking IDs would have to pay for cards themselves - creating, in effect, a poll tax. A legislative analysis shows the Wisconsin measure would cost the state $2.7 million a year.

The Wisconsin bill is poised for passage in the state Senate but is stalled because of the legislative standoff between Republican Gov. Scott Walker and state Senate Democrats over his plan to roll back public-sector unions' collective-bargaining rights.

The outcome could be particularly critical in Wisconsin. Though Obama won the state easily in 2008, strategists in both parties expect his reelection contest to be much closer. In 2004, the Democratic nominee, Sen. John F. Kerry (Mass.), won there by just 11,000 votes, a margin easily covered just by the 17,000 out-of-state students who attend the University of Wisconsin's campus in Madison.

New Hampshire bill
In New Hampshire, the measure that covers college students also targets members of the military who are temporarily stationed in the state. But there are no major military installations there, and GOP lawmakers have reserved their criticisms for the voting behavior of students - leading even some college-age Republicans to fight back.

"There's no doubt that this bill would help Republican causes," said Richard Sunderland III, head of the College Republicans at Dartmouth College. But,
he added, "this doesn't help if the Republican Party wants to try to win over people in the 18-to-24 age range."

After posting O'Brien's comments about college students on the Internet, state Democratic Party officials accused the GOP of pushing the legislation to rig elections. Voting rights advocates have noted that the courts have affirmed the rights of students to vote where they live.

A spokeswoman for O'Brien said he had not endorsed specific legislation but had spoken out in favor generally of tightening state voting laws.

Same-day registration "coupled with a lax definition of residency creates an environment in which people may be claiming residency in multiple locations," O'Brien said in a written statement from his office. He added that changing the law "is not an idea targeting any particular political party or ideology."

Still, the sponsor of the measure, state Rep. Gregory Sorg, addressing a packed public hearing room late last month, focused his ire directly at the college set.

Average taxpayers in college towns, he said, are having their votes "diluted or entirely canceled by those of a huge, largely monolithic demographic group . . . composed of people with a dearth of experience and a plethora of the easy self-confidence that only ignorance and inexperience can produce."

Their "youthful idealism," he added, "is focused on remaking the world, with themselves in charge, of course, rather than with the mundane humdrum of local government."

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Love's lacrosse number is retired by University of Virginia

By Jean Marbella
Sunday, March 6, 2011; 10:27 PM

CHARLOTTESVILLE - On the field of her dreams, Yeardley Love will remain number one forever. The Cockeysville, Md., native's uniform number was retired Sunday at the University of Virginia, where teammates, relatives, friends and fans gathered in the rain to present her mother and sister with a commemorative jersey and to raise a flag bearing her name and number, one, at her beloved lacrosse field.

Love was killed 10 months ago in a crime that still resonates on the campus, where the 22-year-old had fulfilled her childhood dream of playing for the perennial lacrosse powerhouse. Less than two weeks before she was to graduate, she was found dead in her apartment, leading to the arrest of her ex-boyfriend and fellow lacrosse player, George Huguely, who remains jailed on murder charges.

But before Sunday's women's lacrosse game at Klockner Stadium, it was Love's life that school athletic officials honored by retiring the number one that she wore and giving her mother, Sharon, and sister Lexie flowers, hugs
and a framed jersey as fans gathered for the game against Penn State stood and applauded.

For Sharon Love, who had cheered from the sidelines and stands of numerous lacrosse fields since her daughter took up the sport as a 5-year-old, returning to the U-Va. stadium brought a mix of emotions.

"It's bittersweet," Love said in an interview Saturday.

Love said she and her elder daughter have been bolstered through the difficult months by the outpouring of support for the foundation her family has started and named after Yeardley. Called the One Love Foundation, it has raised money for a new lacrosse field at Notre Dame Preparatory School as well as future scholarships and projects that will promote community service.

"Lexie and I have been overwhelmed by people's kindness and generosity," Love said. "People have been so kind, it's really helped us so much. It just pulls you on."

Mother and daughter watched from the center of the field as five former players, seniors with Yeardley Love last year, hoisted a banner bearing her name and number at the center of the stadium's flag court. It will fly at every U-Va. women's lacrosse home game.

"She was so much more than lacrosse, but it's hard not to come back to Charlottesville and see our coach and the other players without thinking of Yeardley," said Brittany Kalkstein, one of the Class of 2010 players.

'An honor for her'
The retirement of Love's number was the latest in a series of posthumous honors that the family has received in her name, including the diploma that her cousin Lawren McChesney accepted on her behalf at U-Va.'s commencement ceremony and the Betty and Money Yates award, given by the school to the female lacrosse player who best exemplifies dedication and leadership to the team. Yeardley had been selected for the award but died before receiving it, her mother said she was told.

"I'm sure she knows about it now," Sharon Love said. "It was an honor for her, and, of course, I feel as a mother she deserves it."
Love teaches and interprets for hearing-impaired children in the Baltimore public school system. Her family members say that getting the One Love Foundation off the ground has helped them channel at least some of their grief during the past months as the criminal case against Huguely has made its way through the courts. He faces a variety of charges, including murder and burglary, in connection with her May 3 death. He told police that he had shaken her during a fight in her apartment, causing her head to bang against the wall. He faces a preliminary hearing April 11.

"In our hearts, we know this is what Yeardley would want us to focus on," said Debbie McChesney, Sharon Love's sister. "This would make her happy. We are spending our time looking forward to the future and trying to bring some good out of this."

The foundation is sponsoring its next "Yards for Yeardley" fundraiser, a running event, April 9 in Charlottesville after a previous one in Richmond generated $60,000, McChesney said.

Such events helped the foundation and Notre Dame Prep raise funds that were matched by a $500,000 donation by the Charles T. Bauer Foundation that will be used to build a turf field at the school and endow a scholarship in Yeardley Love's name.

The foundation also hopes to create its own version of U-Va.'s Yates award, asking the ACC women's lacrosse teams to each nominate a player and then selecting one to honor. In addition, it will offer college scholarships to students, initially in Baltimore, who keep up their grades and do volunteer work with senior citizens in their neighborhoods.

"Yeardley always had a soft spot for the elderly, so we've tried to incorporate that," Love said. "I remember one of the last times she was home from school, an elderly man, I don't know if he lost control of his car, but it ran off the road, and she stopped and called for an ambulance and sat with him.

"He wanted to go home. He was worried about his wife and a meal she made getting cold, but [Yeardley] stayed with him until the ambulance came and made sure he was okay," she said. "She was just like that."
Love said Yeardley also enjoyed working with children. As a student at Notre Dame Prep, she worked with the school's Camp Umoja in the summer, which offers learning activities, sports and swimming for underprivileged children from Baltimore, some of whom she stayed in touch with over the years. She also learned a bit of sign language to help her mother during summertime extended school year classes.

"Yeardley was always so kind to everyone. We wanted to set up something that would complement her life," Love said. "We hope it will honor Yeardley and mirror her."

'Extended family'
Yeardley Love's death has inspired changes at U-Va. and beyond. A little more than a week ago, Virginia legislators expanded the law on protective orders to allow those in dating relationships to seek them. Previously, protective orders could be issued only to family members - such as a wife against a husband - or those who could prove they were being stalked. After her slaying, reports emerged of previous physical altercations between Huguely and Love.

The university tightened its requirement that students notify the school of previous arrests or convictions. Huguely had not disclosed a 2008 arrest for public intoxication in Lexington, Va., during which he hurled vulgarities at a police officer, who then used her Taser to subdue him.

Talking about her loss remains difficult for Sharon Love, who prefers to instead highlight her daughter's life. Yeardley thought that after graduating from U-Va., where she majored in political science, she might eventually go to law school, Sharon Love said.

For now, Love is focused on the One Love Foundation, taking comfort when she sees people, many she doesn't know, wearing T-shirts from one of the group's events.

"When you join One Love, we really think it's like we're a great extended family now," she said. "A lot of us don't know each other . . . but we're a team."

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Ivy League diplomas still worth price of admission?
By Mark Koba, CNBC.com
Updated 12h 52m ago

They're often called the elite eight, boasting U.S. presidents, Nobel Prize winners, Wall Street CEOs, world leaders—as well as famous actors and musicians—among their alumni.

But they're incredibly expensive and getting more so—prompting many students and families to ask: Is an Ivy League diploma really worth the money?

No. And, well, yes. When it comes to education, they may be a draw with other schools, say analysts. But if your concern is getting and keeping a well-paying job for a lifetime, the Ivy League is still hard to beat.

"When an employment recruiter looks at an Ivy League degree, they will usually look at it more carefully," says Elena Bajic, founder and CEO of Ivy Exec, an online executive job search site. "An Ivy League education makes a candidate stand out, even before a recruiter talks to them."

Besides a high-profile degree, Ivy League schools provide a social network that other schools can't duplicate—emphasizing it's who you know as much as what you know, says Brian Eberman, CEO of StudentAdvisor.com, an education comparison site.

"From an undergraduate perspective, the primary advantage of Harvard or Yale is the connections that college creates between the students and their peers," Eberman explains. "Those connections can be quite valuable over time when it comes to jobs and salaries."

For the eight schools—Harvard, Cornell, Princeton, Yale, Dartmouth, Brown, Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania—their pedigree is long established. Seven of the schools are older than the American Revolution. (Cornell was founded in 1865.)

And admission standards for all are intimidating—they mostly take the top 10% of a senior high school graduating class with the highest of SAT scores. All have sizable endowments and get plenty of financial support from alumni while drawing first-class teachers.

"Students at higher end schools are taught by faculty who are leaders in their fields," says Dr. Patricia Brandt, associate dean and director at Stanford University. "To work with these faculty is to engage in study at the farthest reaches of the subject."
While not the most costly of U.S. colleges—Sarah Lawrence has that distinction at some $57,556 a year—Ivy League school fees average around $55,000, more than the median American annual income of $46,000.

But Ivy League grads should be more than able to recover those costs when they enter the working world, according to statistics.

Depending on a graduate's degree, the lowest median starting salary for an elite eight ranges from $49,400 for Brown to $59,600 for the University of Pennsylvania. According to one study, that's about 32% higher than a graduate at a non-Ivy League, liberal-arts school.

A mid-career salary ranges from a low of $99,700 from Columbia to a high of $123,000 from Princeton and Dartmouth. Those high-end salaries are a direct benefit of a high-end education, says Amanda Griffith, assistant professor of economics at Wake Forest University.

"Research suggests that educational expenditures and peer quality are related to future success in the labor market," adds Griffith. "Students that graduate from top institutions can expect higher average salaries."

Griffith says that an Ivy League student might also be getting a bonus even before taking a job.

"Students at higher tuition schools often receive significant funding from university endowments and alumni," Griffith says. "As a result, students will get a salary benefit by not having to pay the full cost of their education."

As for the actual learning behind a diploma, some experts say other schools are now equal to an Ivy League degree.

"They enjoy a reputation that can't be equaled. However, it doesn't mean the education matches it," says W. Kent Barnds, vice president of enrollment, communications and planning at Augustina College. "Many other university programs have caught up with them academically."

"Businesses are giving less preference to Ivy League grads since the advent of specific program rankings," says Dr. Mel Schiavelli, president of Harrisburg University of Science and Technology in Pennsylvania. "Yale does not have an accounting program that equals the University of Maryland, and accounting firms recruit accordingly."

And not everyone who wants to climb the corporate ladder needs to be an Ivy Leaguer, says Katherine Cohen, CEO and founder of IvyWise, a private college admissions counseling company based in Manhattan.

"Some of our nation's political leaders and Fortune 500 CEOs have come out of Ivy League schools, but there are still many more who did not and succeeded," Cohen
explains. "Employers are more interested now in what a student has made of his or her college experience."

But some traditional firms still head to the Ivy League for new recruits because they are considered special, says Bajic.

"Senior execs like to hire within their circle. And companies like Goldman Sachs, Credit Suisse, McKinsey, BCG, Bain and others continue to put a preference on Ivy League grads because they see them as intelligent and driven," Bajic says.

In the end, however, it may be just as important to take stock of one's life as it is to brag about the college they attend, says Stanford's Brandt.

"After a certain age, people don't ask each other about their SAT scores or where they went to school," Brandt explains. "Such individuals value each other based on how they have moved through life and what good they have done for others."

For many college-bound students, the lure of a Dartmouth or Cornell remains intoxicating. Christopher Stanley is a 21 year-old senior at Yale and has already secured an investment banking job on Wall Street after graduation. By picking an Ivy League college, the native of Los Angeles, Calif., admits to taking the fast track he saw others get on.

"My high school really set the tone for me to attend an Ivy League school," says Stanley, a student athlete who chose Yale over Penn and Brown, as well as other colleges that offered full scholarships.

"There were so many kids from my high school football team that got admitted to Ivy League schools and got great jobs and were off to do great things with their lives," Stanley explains. "For me, the choice to attend Yale involved the 'Oh' factor as a resume builder."

The 'Oh' factor comes with the first step on campus, Stanley says.

"We're constantly told that we have been selected because we are better and special," says Stanley, who will graduate with a double major. "This gets instilled in our brains from the moment we enter Yale."

Stanley warns that an Ivy League school is not for everyone—at least when it comes to finances.

"I've had great experiences at Yale, but the school itself does not breed success. If money isn't an issue then come here," says Stanley, whose family paid for his first three years before he received a full scholarship as a senior. "If money is an issue, you can probably get a good education elsewhere."
As he sums up the last four years, Stanley concedes the opportunities that lay ahead may be worth more than the education he got.

As legislatures nationwide debate whether to legalize medical marijuana, colleges and universities in states where laws have been adopted say their campuses will remain drug-free.

The reason: Marijuana use and possession violates federal law, and colleges don't want to risk losing federal funding.

This year, 13 state legislatures are considering proposals to legalize medical marijuana, and four more are looking at bills, says Morgan Fox of the Marijuana Policy Project, a group that advocates loosening marijuana laws. Proposals to tighten or ease laws are pending in at least 10 of the 15 states, plus the District of Columbia, where medical marijuana is legal.

Colleges say they have no choice but to abide by the federal rules and keep marijuana off their campuses.

• **In New Jersey**, where a medical-marijuana law passed last year, Rutgers University declined an invitation by the governor to grow and research medical marijuana.
• **In Arizona**, where a law passed in November, University of Arizona lawyers in January posted a notice saying anyone found with marijuana on campus "will continue to be subject to disciplinary action."
• **In San Diego**, the City Council approved in January a proposal that medical-marijuana dispensaries be located at least 1,000 feet from college campuses. "Dispensaries are not
compatible with our educational mission," San Diego State University President Stephen Weber said in a letter to the council urging a buffer zone.

• In Illinois, where a bill to help medical-marijuana users was introduced in January, students on two campuses have run into roadblocks as they seek to create advocacy groups for changing marijuana laws.

After a steady decline in marijuana use since 2003, the percentage of college students who said they had used marijuana in the previous month jumped from 17.9% in 2008 to 20.1% in 2009, says the 2010 National Survey on Drug Use and Health. The survey doesn’t tie the rise to medical-marijuana legalization, but "highlighting (marijuana) as some kind of medicine has sent a terrible message to young people," says Gil Kerlikowske, director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

Some activists see legalizing medical marijuana as part of a larger strategy to decriminalize the drug.

At the University of Arkansas, where the chancellor last fall rejected a proposal to ease penalties for marijuana-related violations, students are developing a state campaign to legalize medical marijuana. "We decided to focus our efforts where we could accomplish some real policy changes," says Robert Pfountz, a past president of the campus chapter of Students for Sensible Drug Policy.

Medical marijuana
Fifteen states and D.C. have enacted laws to legalize medical marijuana:

- Alaska
- Arizona
- California
- Colorado
- District of Columbia
- Hawaii
- Maine
- Michigan
- Montana
- Nevada
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- Oregon
- Rhode Island
- Vermont
- Washington

Source: USA TODAY research