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252-328-6481
Former Auburn head coach and UNC player Jeff Lebo is expected to take over the ECU basketball program.

**Lebo named ECU's men's basketball coach**

By The Daily Reflector  
Monday, March 22, 2010

Jeff Lebo has been named East Carolina’s new men’s basketball coach, according to an announcement from ECU Director of Athletics Terry Holland on Monday.

Lebo’s appointment is pending approval by the ECU Board of Trustees, and he’s expected to be introduced to the media Tuesday afternoon at 4:30.

Fired earlier this month after six seasons as Auburn’s head coach, Lebo, who played at North Carolina and is married to the former Melissa Mills of Williamston, will take over for Mack McCarthy, who resigned after the Pirates’ loss to Southern Miss on March 6. Lebo will be the 23rd head coach of the ECU men’s basketball program and fourth since the 2004-05 season.

“Jeff Lebo has established a well-deserved reputation as a 'program turner,’” Holland said in a statement from ECU. “He has a proven track record as a player, as an assistant coach and as a head coach. When you combine those attributes with his desire for his family to be located in eastern North Carolina, it gives me great comfort that we have the opportunity to establish something very special for our basketball program over the next few decades under Jeff’s leadership.”

Lebo, 43, has compiled a 211-156 all-time record in 12 seasons during head coaching stops at Tennessee Tech, Tennessee-Chattanooga and Auburn. He’s posted 20-win seasons four times and at least one 20-win campaign with each school. His ’01-02 Tech team went 27-7 and made it to
the NIT quarterfinals, a feat he repeated with Auburn in ’08-09 when the Tigers finished with a 24-12 mark.
If Lebo can come anywhere close to achieving those kinds of results at East Carolina, he’ll reach rarefied air with the Pirates, who haven’t had a winning season since Joe Dooley led ECU to a 17-10 record in 1996-97. East Carolina hasn’t finished .500 since Bill Herrion’s team went 14-14 in ’00-01.
A three-time All-Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament selection during his playing days at North Carolina from 1986-89, Lebo had three years left on his Auburn deal, which called for a $1.5-million buyout, according to espn.com.
McCarthy, 34-57 in three seasons in charge of the Pirates, had three years left on his ECU deal as well, but is taking a fundraising job geared toward building capital to finance a practice facility for the ECU hoops program.
ECU tabs Lebo as its new coach

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

East Carolina has turned to former Auburn coach Jeff Lebo to lead its long-struggling men's basketball program.

The school announced Monday it had hired Lebo to replace Mack McCarthy, who spent three seasons on the sideline for the Pirates before stepping down to take a fundraising job in the school's athletics department. Lebo had spent the past six seasons at Auburn, going 96-93 overall and leading the Tigers to the NIT last season before he was fired this month.

Lebo, 43, was coach at Tennessee Tech and Chattanooga for a combined six years. He has a 211-156 (.575) all-time record.

ECU has scheduled a news conference today for Lebo.

"Jeff Lebo has established a well-deserved reputation as a 'program turner,'" ECU athletic director Terry Holland said in a school release.

However, Lebo inherits a difficult job at ECU, a Conference USA member. The Pirates haven't been to the NCAA tournament since making a surprise run to win the Colonial Athletic Association tournament in 1993, and they haven't had a winning record since the 1996-97 season.

A point guard at North Carolina (1984-89), Lebo led the Tar Heels to two ACC regular-season titles and one ACC tournament championship.
ECU sets Youth Arts Festival; poster contest winners named

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University will present the sixth annual Youth Arts Festival from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday on the "mall" area in the center of campus.

The festival, which will feature the Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble, will bring more than 100 visual and performing artists to campus. All events are free and open to the public. In case of rain, the festival will be held in the Leo W. Jenkins Fine Arts Building on Fifth Street.

An annual poster contest, sponsored by UBE and the ECU school of art and design, was held in conjunction with the festival. For the contest, nearly 18,000 posters were printed and distributed to art teachers in the Pitt County public schools and to private schools and kindergartens in the area. Teachers were invited to submit their 10 best posters to the contest. About 30 winning posters were chosen by jury.

Winners in the kindergarten through second-grade category: first place, Ashton Kern, Chicod School; second, Victoria Ringer, Emhurst Elementary; and honorable mention, Zachary Duke, Chico; Nathan Letchworth, H.B. Sugg; Bradley Harris, Trinity Christian School; Kami Stanley, Greenville Christian Academy; Ami

nash Coppage, Pactolus School; and Parker Hall H.B. Sugg.

Winners for grade three through five: first, Isabelle Gallego, Sam D. Bundy; second, Kali Roark, W.H. Robinson and Demi Smalls, Elmhurst; third, Maya Jarrell, Elmhurst and Lauren Lim, Wintergreen; honorable mention, Brian Hardy-Dixon, Ayden Elementary; Maladia Dixon, Belvoir Elementary; Ream Jabr and Zakia Holley, W.H. Robinson; Irma Garcia, Pactolus School; Dail Andrews Greenville Christian Academy; and Ashane Jenkins Wahl-Coates.

Middle school winners: first, Rachel Pogoda, Chicod School; second, JeShawn Carter, A.G. Cox; honorable mention, Monica Bonilla, Chicod School; Kaitlyn Bunting, A.G. Cox; and Destiny Bland and Ronald Tripp, Farmville Middle.

High school winners: first, Jamie Gilliam and second, Raven Lindsay Creech, both of Ayden-Grifton; honorable mention, Eveyt Garcia, Ayden-Grifton; and Erica Suggs and Denzel Massenburg, both of North Pitt.
Dental-school dean addresses Rotarians

By GREG KATSKI
Community Editor
Published: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 2:17 AM EDT

East Carolina University’s School of Dentistry has devised a new and creative way to serve rural communities in desperate need of dental services, according to Dr. James Hupp, dean of the school.

In a presentation made to the Washington Noon Rotary on Monday, Hupp said community-service learning centers will be set up in underserved areas around the state, particularly eastern North Carolina. Dental-school students will receive “on-the-job training” at the centers, working on patients who may be in need of significant dental work.

“We are going to take students and put them in rural settings where they can do more robust dentistry,” Hupp said.

East Carolina University will be the first college in the nation to start such a program, which Hupp called an “experiment.” The first three centers will be located in Ahoskie, Elizabeth City and Sylva, he said.

The school is looking for students who hail from rural communities, as they might be more apt to start a dental practice in an underserved area after graduating from ECU, according to Hupp. The school, which is set to open in August 2011, will have 50 students and four to six general-practice residents a year.

When asked about the possibility of a center coming to Beaufort County, Hupp said that wasn’t likely to happen, considering the county’s close proximity to Greenville.

“Washington doesn’t have the severe access problem that some areas do,” he said. “We’re looking at people that have to drive one-and-a-half to two hours for service.”

Counties north and east of Beaufort are more likely to have centers at some point, Hupp said.

He believes the School of Dentistry’s program will be a success and similar programs will catch on at other dentistry schools.
“Other schools are thinking about doing it. They want to see how we do,” Hupp said.

Hupp, dean of the University of Mississippi’s School of Dentistry before joining ECU’s staff, is a professor of oral and maxillofacial surgery. Hupp earned his doctor-of-dental-medicine degree from Harvard University.
Reactions mixed to health care bill passage
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Monday, March 22, 2010
Increased funding for community health centers and doctor training are among the first changes eastern North Carolinians will see with the passage of health care reform.
U.S. Rep. G.K. Butterfield, D-N.C., whose First Congressional District includes part of Pitt County, touted these reforms Monday following the House of Representatives’ 219-212 vote Sunday night. President Obama is scheduled to sign the legislation into law sometime today.
“History is going to record that our hard work on health care reform will take America to a higher level,” Butterfield said.
“I believe when this debate settles down and people rediscover the facts, they will see that health care reform is a benefit for every citizen, every business in America,” he said. “Now we need to let this debate settle down.”
Butterfield was one of five members of North Carolina’s Democratic delegation to vote for the legislation. Three other Democrats — Larry Kissell of Biscoe, Mike McIntyre of Lumberton and Heath Shuler of Bryson — voted against the bill.
U.S. Rep. Walter B. Jones Jr., R-N.C., a Farmville resident whose Third Congressional District includes part of Pitt County, joined the state’s four other Republicans in voting against the legislation.
“We’ve got problems with our health care system; we need reforms, but we don’t need a federal takeover,” Jones said. “The legislation will only add to the nation’s debt. It also doesn’t offer a solution to rising health care costs which prevent people from receiving medical care.”
The Congressional Budget Office says the legislation’s $940 billion price tag won’t add to the national deficit, Butterfield said. The office predicts it will decrease the deficit by $143 billion in the first 10 years, he said.
Opponents have criticized the plan to use a 3.8 percent tax on Medicare for high income taxpayers to fund the legislation. Butterfield said the tax is applied to families earning $250,000 or more, which will not affect most eastern North Carolinians.
Numerous eastern North Carolinians who couldn’t afford doctor’s visits will benefit from the provision allowing individuals earning less than $14,400 to qualify for Medicaid, Butterfield said. Previously only families qualified for Medicaid, he said.
Butterfield said he recognizes another provision, requiring people who don’t get medical insurance through their employers to purchase their own policies, is controversial but was needed to make such coverage affordable for all.
Already attorneys general in several states are discussing bringing legal challenges against this provision.
“If there is any constitutional question, I am in favor of any of the states asking the courts to review this legislation,” Jones said. He doesn’t believe the Constitution allows the government to force people to buy health care coverage.
Most supporters have touted the legislation’s provisions ending lifetime limits on medical care and providers excluding children with pre-existing conditions.
Butterfield noted there will be new investment in medical training to increase the number of primary care doctors, nurses, and public health professionals.
The bill also increases funding for community health centers, which should nearly double the number of patients seen at those facilities during the next five years.
Dr. Paul R.G. Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine and ECU’s senior associate vice chancellor for medical affairs, said in a December interview increased money for training doctors interested him.
Brody has one of the nation’s best records for placing residents in permanent positions in the east, he said. If more residency positions can be secured, Cunningham said in December that will translate into more practicing doctors for the region.
Officials with Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina are preparing for the changes facing their industry.
“With millions more Americans soon to be insured, we hope Congress will build on this legislation by working to improve health care quality and more importantly, by committing to address the skyrocketing health care costs that drive the cost of insurance higher each year,” J. Bradley “Brad” Wilson, president and chief executive officer of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.
Company spokesman Lew Borman said some of the new requirements found in the legislation are already part of Blue Cross and Blue Shield North Carolina operations, including allowing dependent adult children to remain on their parents plans until age 26.
Additionally, the legislation requires insurers to report how much they spend on medical care versus administrative costs, Borman said.
“We do that already with the North Carolina Department of Insurance,” Borman said. “And last year, as we reported, 87 cents on the dollar went toward medical costs of our customers. The rest goes to information technology, customer service and other key services for our customers.”
Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or (252) 329-9570.
March 21, 2010

Bias Called Persistent Hurdle for Women in Sciences

By TAMAR LEWIN

A report on the underrepresentation of women in science and math by the American Association of University Women, to be released Monday, found that although women have made gains, stereotypes and cultural biases still impede their success.

The report, “Why So Few?,” supported by the National Science Foundation, examined decades of research to cull recommendations for drawing more women into science, technology, engineering and mathematics, the so-called STEM fields.

“We scanned the literature for research with immediate applicability,” said Catherine Hill, the university women’s research director and lead author of the report. “We found a lot of small things can make a difference, like a course in spatial skills for women going into engineering, or teaching children that math ability is not fixed, but grows with effort.”

The report tread lightly on the hot-button question of whether innate differences between the sexes account for the paucity of women at the highest levels of science and math.

Five years ago, Lawrence H. Summers, then the president of Harvard, sparked a firestorm when he suggested that “there are issues of intrinsic aptitude, and particularly of the variability of aptitude” reinforced by “lesser factors involving socialization and continuing discrimination.”

The association’s report acknowledges differences in male and female brains. But Ms. Hill said, “None of the research convincingly links those differences to specific skills, so we don’t know what they mean in terms of mathematical abilities.”

At the top level of math abilities, where boys are overrepresented, the report found that the gender gap is rapidly shrinking. Among mathematically precocious youth — sixth and seventh
graders who score more than 700 on the math SAT — 30 years ago boys outnumbered girls 13 to 1, but only about 3 to 1 now.

“That’s not biology at play, it doesn’t change so fast,” Ms. Hill said. “Even if there are biological factors in boys outnumbering girls, they’re clearly not the whole story. There’s a real danger in assuming that innate differences are important in determining who will succeed, so we looked at the cultural factors, to see what evidence there is on the nurture side of nature or nurture.”

The report found ample evidence of continuing cultural bias. One study of postdoctoral applicants, for example, found that women had to publish 3 more papers in prestigious journals, or 20 more in less-known publications, to be judged as productive as male applicants.

Making judgments about an individual’s abilities based on his or her sex is a classic form of discrimination, said Nancy Hopkins, an M.I.T. biology professor who created an academic stir in the 1990s by documenting pervasive, but largely unintentional, discrimination against women at the university.

Even if male math geniuses outnumbered female geniuses 3 to 1, Dr. Hopkins said, it would be reasonable to expect one female math professor for every three male professors at places like Harvard and M.I.T. “But in fact, Harvard just tenured its first female, after 375 years,” said Dr. Hopkins, who, famously, walked out of the room after Mr. Summers made his controversial remarks.

The university women’s report cited research showing that girls’ performance suffers from any suggestion that they do poorly at math. In one experiment, college students with strong math backgrounds and similar abilities were divided into two groups and tested on math. One group was told that men perform better on the test, the other that there was no difference in performance between the sexes. Their results were starkly different: in the group told that men do better, men indeed did much better, with an average score of 25 compared with the women’s 5. In the group told there was no difference, women scored 17 and men 19.

Any suggestion of advantage based on sex affects results, the research shows, even where there is no cultural stereotype.

In an experiment ostensibly testing “contrast sensitivity ability” — a made-up skill — men and women in a group told there was no difference between the sexes in such sensitivity rated their own ability equally. But in a group told that men were better at it, men rated their skills far higher than women did.

Teaching girls about how stereotypes affect performance, the report found, can diminish such
effects.

In a separate survey of 1,200 female and minority chemists and chemical engineers by Campos Inc., for the Bayer Corporation, two-thirds cited the persistent stereotype that STEM fields are not for girls or minorities as a leading contributor to their underrepresentation.

Many in the Bayer survey, also being released Monday, said they had been discouraged from going into their field in college, most often by a professor.

“My professors were not that excited to see me in their classes,” said Mae C. Jemison, a chemical engineer and the first African-American female astronaut, who works with Bayer’s science literacy project. “When I would ask a question, they would just look at me like, ‘Why are you asking that?’ But when a white boy down the row would ask the very same question, they’d say ‘astute observation.’ ”

The university women’s report found that girls have less confidence in their math abilities than boys with equivalent achievement levels. Because most people choose careers where they believe they can do well, the report said, girls’ lesser belief in their skills may partly explain why fewer young women go into scientific careers. Both the university women’s report and the Bayer survey stress the need for more female mentors and role models.

But even as women earn a growing share of the doctorates in the STEM fields, the university women’s report found, they do not show up, a decade later, in a proportionate number of tenured faculty positions.
March 21, 2010

Student Loan Bill Poised to Pass in Health Vote

By DAVID M. HERSZENHORN

WASHINGTON — Along with the major health care legislation, the House on Sunday approved a major revamping of federal student loan programs that eliminates fees paid to private banks to act as intermediaries.

Instead, the government will expand a direct lending program, a step that the Congressional Budget Office said would save taxpayers $61 billion over 10 years, and use the money to increase Pell grants for students.

The student loan bill is a centerpiece of President Obama’s education agenda, and it was included in the budget reconciliation measure that also made final revisions to the Senate-passed health care bill.

The bill sets automatic annual increases in the maximum Pell grant, scheduled to rise to $5,975 by 2017 from $5,350 this year. The new Pell initiative also includes $13.5 billion to cover a shortfall caused by a steep rise in the number of Americans enrolling in college and seeking financial aid during the recession.

In last year’s budget resolution, Congressional Democrats put forward a plan to complete major education and health care legislation through a reconciliation bill.

The budget reconciliation rules set goals for reducing future federal deficits, and the loan bill helps to meet those goals by redirecting $10 billion in savings from subsidies to private banks toward deficit reduction.

The student loan bill will spend an additional $36 billion on Pell grants over 10 years.

Private banks lobbied against the student loan changes, which eliminate a long-flowing source of revenue for them.
Some Democrats, including Representative George Miller of California, the chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, said the student loan measure represented a landmark shift in education policy that was getting overshadowed by the larger health care fight.

In a floor speech, Mr. Miller called the budget reconciliation measure “truly historic legislation that addresses two of America’s greatest troubles: the crushing costs and high obstacles of obtaining both quality health care and a college education.”