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Locals 'imagine' united Greenville

By Kristin Zachary

Monday, March 26, 2012

Improving Greenville is a task that must be tackled by united neighborhoods and city departments, according to organizers of the IMAGINE! United Neighborhoods conference.

About 50 people attended the Saturday conference at City Hall, where city and neighborhood association officials discussed the importance of working toward a common goal.

“The goal is embodied in the title of the event,” said Laura Searfoss, neighborhood liaison with the city’s Community Development Department, which works with the Neighborhood Advisory Board, a sponsor of the conference.

“The purpose is to bring leaders and aspiring leaders together to discuss common hopes and goals,” she said.

The event, also sponsored by the Human Relations Council, included updates on city transportation and recreation projects to improve the city in addition to ideas from resident leaders working to improve neighborhoods.

“If we look at neighborhoods, they really are a building block for the community,” said Jerry Weitz, director of the Urban and Regional Planning Program at East Carolina University. “Good neighborhoods don’t come easy.”
Weitz said neighborhoods see improvements through city government action, initiative by individuals and collective efforts by residents.

The City of Greenville offers many services for neighborhoods, including trash removal and recycling, infrastructure improvements, an established Neighborhood Advisory Board and safety, Weitz said.

“We should be optimistic because these efforts show the city cares deeply about its neighbors,” he said.

The availability of parks, recreation facilities and a transit system also is key to improvement, according to city officials.

“Recreation and parks is not just fluff,” said Gary Fenton, director of the recreation and parks department. “The cost of recreation and parks is not just an expenditure, it’s an investment, and investments pay dividends.”

He said the investors — Greenville taxpayers — see individual, environmental, economic and community benefits as returns on their investment in parks and recreation. Green spaces provide healthier residents, stronger families, increased community spirit and reduced crime, he said.

“We’ve known for a long time that if you keep young people busy with something positive, you’ll keep them out of something negative,” Fenton said.

Fenton also said the economic benefits are great, noting specifically the anticipated arrival of a Dick’s Sporting Goods to the area.

The company would not open a store if the city lacked a need for recreation and sporting merchandise, Fenton said.

Also anticipated is the construction of an intermodal transportation center, which would improve the city’s transit system, said Marsha Wyly, Public Transportation and Parking Commission chairwoman.

She said there is a large need for the facility, which would provide safe and user-friendly connections between multiple transportation providers.

Wyly asked residents to email City Council members to encourage the construction of this type of center.

The city can only do so much, and neighborhood leaders must fill the gap, Weitz said.

“This is where neighborhoods must step in and act collectively for change,” he said. “Let’s take the window of opportunity given to us today and blaze a path of action.”
Residents must move past their current complaints, imagine what could be in their neighborhoods and take action, said Ann Maxwell, Neighborhood Advisory Board chairwoman.

“As we’ve gone around doing these neighborhood groups, there are some people who have lost hope and feel powerless,” she said. “A lot of people think they can’t be leaders, but, in our little ways, we can make a difference.”

For more information, contact Laura Searfoss at 329-4228 or visit www.greenvilleneighborhoods.org.

Contact Kristin Zachary at kzachary@reflector.com and 252-329-9566 and follow her on Twitter @kzacharygdr.
Editorial: Cooperation needed for efficiency
Sunday, March 25, 2012

As the Greenville City Council and Pitt County Board of Commissioners construct their annual budgets for the coming fiscal year, and as East Carolina University faces the possibility of additional spending cuts, finding areas ripe for cooperation should be central to the discussion. Anywhere these three entities can eliminate redundancy and cut costs must be explored.

At a time of widespread economic hardship, government should strive to be as efficient as possible while forging a greater sense of community. Residents here are served when officials can successfully achieve greater integration for initiatives with common interest in order to keep spending as limited as is reasonably possible given citizens’ expectations for public services.

Members of the City Council will soon be faced with the unenviable responsibility of determining the appropriate level of taxation following a revaluation process that showed an overall drop in property value. Similarly the county commission has begun discussion of the tax rate needed to pay for public services, but will be challenged due to its habitual reliance on using the general fund to pay for annual expenses.

Those efforts would be bolstered were there more areas in which programs or projects can be merged in order to cut costs. Members of both boards already have several items of common interest on which they have collaborated, occasionally joined in those efforts by officials at East Carolina and the Brody School of Medicine. The preliminary planning for the 10th Street Connector project is but one example of how these leading forces in the community have cooperated in an effort to save limited tax dollars.

If that work could be expanded — in the areas of economic development, public transportation and perhaps law enforcement, for instance — it would serve citizens. These are but three examples, ways in which shared responsibility could create meaningful savings. There will be a temptation to fiercely resist any encroachment on traditional spheres of influence, but all options should be on the table.

As residents continue to deal with a high unemployment rate and a sluggish economic recovery, officials must go the extra mile to keep expenses — and taxes — as low as possible. If this community hopes to maintain the level of
service to which it has grown accustomed, it will need greater efficiency from those who hold the purse strings. Exploring areas with potential for greater cooperation would accomplish that and should be embraced by those elected to serve.
Stuffy season:
Pollen levels rise

The Daily Reflector

Few residents of eastern North Carolina can escape the springtime affliction that accompanies rising levels of pollen. The yellow dust collects on nearly every outdoor surface, triggering seasonal allergies that leave many residents suffering.

East Carolina University assistant professor of family medicine Dr. Jonathan Firnhaber offers information about pollen and springtime allergies.

In a news release, Firnhaber said most springtime pollen comes from trees, with oak, juniper/cedar and maple/box elder topping the pollen count list last week. While pine pollen is one of the most obvious contributors, pollen grain from pines generally is too large to trigger seasonal allergies. It can act as a nasal irritant and further aggravate existing nasal symptoms.

Pollen levels are increasing across the nation, particularly in the Southeast. Pollen counts are only slightly higher than usual at this time of year, largely due to warmer weather.

Over-the-counter allergy medication options continue to improve to help allergy sufferers control their responses to pollen.
An East Carolina University emergency medicine resident has put down her stethoscope and picked up a notepad for a major television network this month.

Dr. Jessica Rose, a second-year resident at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, is working in an internship with ABC News in New York City.

“It is very exciting,” Rose, 29, said before she left for New York. “I think it will open my eyes to what people want to know about medicine.”

Another ECU medical resident, Dr. Jenniffier Mahand of family medicine, has been selected for a rotation with ABC News in June.

Rose began with ABC on March 12 and will work there until the end of the month. She is working in the ABC News medical unit supporting ABCNews.com, “Good Morning America” and “World News Tonight.” She is also supporting chief health and medical editor Dr. Rich Besser.

Rose is researching medical stories, calling doctors about studies and writing for ABC News.com. In some cases, she reviews studies that are released early to the media under embargo by journals or by medical institutions hoping to stimulate news coverage. Part of the job is determining the scientific merits and clinical implications of the research and writing appropriate summaries for evaluation.
“We are very excited about the opportunity that Dr. Rose has to participate in this unique opportunity with ABC News,” said Dr. Darla Liles, director of accreditation for graduate medical education at ECU. “It is exciting for the entire East Carolina community and highlights the diversity and interests of our residents.”

Rose has a bachelor’s degree in English from Lyon College in her native Arkansas and considered pursuing a master’s degree in English literature, but medicine had a stronger draw for her.

After she was selected for the rotation on ABC, she looked online and found a room to rent in an apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, about 40 blocks from ABC News headquarters. She’s been commuting to work on the subway.

Her three weeks with ABC will count as an elective rotation in her emergency medicine residency program.

Rose said she doesn’t plan to become a TV reporter, but hopes the experience will help her better communicate about medicine, perhaps through a newspaper column, when she returns to Arkansas following residency.

“I think I’ll always practice, but it could be something I add to my career,” she said.

**Geology major wins NASA internship**

ECU geology major John Gemperline was selected in a national competition for a summer internship with a NASA academy in Greenbelt, Md.

Gemperline will participate in the 2012 Goddard Space Flight Center Lunar and Planetary Science Academy, conducting research on “Comparative Geomorphic Analysis of Lunar Landslides and Martian Gullies.”

He is a 2011-12 undergraduate scholar in the North Carolina Space Grant program, a 13-member university-based consortia that funds research and education in science.

Gemperline has conducted research with geography professor Tom Allen, director of RENCI at ECU and co-director of ECU’s Center for Geographic Information Science.

Gemperline is a 2011 cum laude graduate of UNC-Greensboro, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in geography, a bachelor’s in classical studies and a minor in cello.
A Greenville native and 2007 graduate of J.H. Rose High School, Gemperline is the son of Margaret and Paul J. Gemperline, ECU dean of Graduate Studies.

Old Dominion donates to lab training

A gift from a national shipping corporation will ensure that more ECU students studying Industrial Distribution and Logistics enter the workforce with experience using a common software package.

Old Dominion Freight Line Inc., based in Thomasville, provided the one-time endowment to enhance an existing lab in the College of Technology and Computer Science. Administrators and faculty will use the funding to purchase computers and other equipment needed to train more students in SAP.

Leslie Pagliari, associate dean for Academic Affairs in the College of Technology and Computer Science, described SAP as the software most often used at Fortune 500 companies to manage everything from human resource allocation to purchasing to the supply chain and transportation.

“Old Dominion’s thoughtful donation will give students a hands-on opportunity to learn software that is vital to the transportation and logistics industries,” said David White, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science. “Ultimately, this experience will better prepare our students to become leaders in the software business.”

“Old Dominion and East Carolina University have a longstanding partnership,” said Ken Erdner, Old Dominion’s vice president of information system and technology. “The talented students studying technology and computer science at East Carolina University today are the next generation of stars in our industry, and we welcome the opportunity to help them excel in their studies.”

ECU’s Industrial Distribution and Logistics program is the only one of its kind that offers SAP training to graduates. Within a year, program administrators plan to offer a SAP Certificate of Completion.

Youth Arts Festival set for Saturday

The Eighth Annual Youth Arts Festival at ECU is scheduled for Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the mall area in the center of campus.

More than 100 visual and performing artists from ECU and across the region will share their creative talents with children and their families. The event is
free and open to the public. In case of rain, the festival will be held in the Leo W. Jenkins Fine Arts Building.

Activities such as wheel-thrown ceramics, watercolor painting, weaving, papermaking, printmaking, portraiture, blacksmithing and other arts will be offered. Children also will have the opportunity to create their own artwork with the help of ECU art students, faculty members and professional artists.

In addition to visual artists, children will also be able to interact with musical, dance and theatrical groups.

For more information, visit the festival website at http://www.ecu.edu/soad/youtharts.cfm.

Upcoming Events:

- **Monday-Friday**: Research & Creative Achievement Week, events daily on campus. See ECU homepage: Announcements for details.
- **Wednesday**: Sixth Annual N.C. Higher Education Safety Symposium, 8:50 a.m.-4:30 p.m., East Carolina Heart Institute. For registration details: http://www.ecu.edu/safetysymposium/.
- **Friday**: “The Secret Garden,” presented by ECU’s Family Fare series, 7 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Tickets are $9 for adults, $6 for students/youth. Call 1-800-ECU-ARTS.
- **Saturday**: Inaugural Joyner Library Edible Book Festival, 1-4 p.m., Gallery Area of Joyner’s 2nd floor. A festival celebrating books, food and the people who love them. Registration by Monday required. Contact Eleanor Cook at cooke@ecu.edu or 252-328-2598 with questions.
- **Saturday**: St. Baldrick’s Day, 2 p.m., Brody School of Medicine, sponsored by the Brody School of Medicine Class of 2014, to raise money for pediatric cancer research. Email coordinator Philip Leisy at pleisy@gmail.com for more information.
Dr. Karen Schmidt, a genetics specialist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Schmidt joined ECU as a clinical professor in the genetics division in the Department of Pediatrics. She has a medical degree from the University of Nebraska and a master’s degree in genetics from the University of Arizona.

Schmidt completed an anatomic pathology residency and a medical genetics fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Md. She also completed a medical teratology and birth defects fellowship at the University of Washington.

Schmidt served on the ECU faculty from 2001-06 and returns to Greenville from Georgia, where she was a faculty member at Emory University School of Medicine. Her research interests include the translation of genetic basic science discoveries into clinical practice.

Schmidt sees patients at the ECU Pediatric Specialty Clinic at 2150 Herbert Court in Greenville. Appointments are available by calling 744-2523.
“Air Play” by Samantha Woitovich mimics the fluid lines made by planes playing in the sky. The sculpture was placed at the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport on Friday morning along with six others.

**Sculptures take flight at Coastal Carolina airport**

Eddie Fitzgerald

A new group of colorful, thought-provoking and whimsical public sculptures now stand at the entrance of the Coastal Carolina Regional Airport.

Tom Braaten, the airport’s director, introduced the new pieces of art Friday and the East Carolina University art students who created them. This is the fourth year the Airport Authority has partnered with ECU to bring art to the community, and the most difficult year to judge which sculptures to display, Braaten said.

ECU art students submitted 25 models of proposed sculptures and only seven could be chosen, he said.

Those seven pieces were all done this year by women students.

Cassity Norris of Knightdale stood beside her whimsical, 13-foot-tall steel sculpture call Ri Majon — Japanese for “Drawing lines in the sky.” The black and white piece was inspired by jet contrails, she said.
Norris, who is majoring in fine arts sculpture, said it was a fun challenge to design and build the piece.

“I really loved it,” she said. “The only other big sculptures I’ve made were about 6 feet tall. I don’t even think we were supposed to go over 8 feet high. But there it is.”

Parents, students and people just wandering out of the airport also stopped to look at Erin Nolan’s sculpture of a head with two swirling jets coming out of it called “Innovation.”

Nolan, of Calabash, said her inspiration came from thinking about all the people it took to make flight possible.

“All the ideas that have come and gone,” she said. “Some that worked and some that didn’t.”

In front of the airport, Samantha Woitovich was standing beside her sculpture called “Air Play.” Small, jet-like pieces were pointed toward the sky at the end of long, blue coils.

Woitovich said she did not do much research for the piece. It was inspired from her childhood fascination with stunt planes, she said.

All of the sculptures had flight themes. There was Charlotte Green’s “First in Flight,” inspired by children’s imaginations; Jenny Readling’s “Engine Up,” inspired by jet engines; and Rachael Troutman’s “Liftoff Laughter,” inspired by laughing gulls.

Braaten said it was amazing how many people passing through the airport stopped to say how impressed they are with the artwork by ECU students.

“They can’t believe students did the work,” he said. “These are talented kids.”

The partnership with the airport is a good learning experience for the students, Braaten said. They learn not only the enjoyment of displaying their work in a prominent place but also time management by meeting the Jan. 31 deadline for the selection of models to finishing the pieces on March 23; and also the public relations and business side of the art world, he said.

The airport also benefits by being able to present public art to the community and travelers, Braaten said.

Janna Jubran, the ECU art professor who oversaw the students’ work, said the project was a practical study that taught students everything from working with metals and different sizes to estimating costs for material, how
to market their work and how to work on commission and about taxes they face when they have sold one.

“I think it is a great opportunity for our students as well as the airport and community to work toward a common goal of public art,” Jubran said.

All of the sculptures will remain at the airport for a year. The Airport Authority plans to purchase one of them, but the rest are for sale to the public, Braaten said.

Eddie Fitzgerald can be reached at 252-635-5675 or at efitzgerald@freedomenc.com. Follow him on Twitter @staffwriter3.
Jerry Ward Powell passed away Friday morning, March 23, 2012, after complications from a stroke. He was born in Whiteville in 1935. A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Sunday at 2 p.m. and the family will receive visitors following the service. A private internment will be held at Christ Episcopal Church in New Bern.

During his high school years, Jerry was employed by the Imperial Tobacco and Person Garrett Tobacco Companies. He was graduated from East Carolina University where he swam on ECU's first competitive swimming team. He spent two years serving in the United States Army at Fort Bliss, Texas where he was an instructor in the Nike Missile. After the Army, he joined the newly formed North Carolina National Bank as a member of the first management training group in Greensboro. He was graduated from the School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University. His banking career took him to the home office of NCNB in Charlotte. He later opened the first branches of NCNB in the Research Triangle Park and in Wilson. In 1975, Jerry moved to Greenville as the City Executive of NCNB. He enjoyed 36 years of banking in Greenville, especially his last ten years at Southern Bank. Jerry greatly valued the wonderful relationships he developed with his co-workers and customers.

Having grown up in a small supportive town, Jerry lived his life with a core belief of giving back to his community as exemplified by his involvement in civic organizations including the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army, Pitt Community College, Airport Commission and as past president of the ECU Alumni Association. He was a member of the Pirate Club, and the University City Kiwanis Club. He also served on the board of the East Carolina Vocational Center. He was awarded Outstanding Citizen of the Year in 1981. Jerry was an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church where he served several terms on the Vestry.
In addition to being an avid runner, pilot, and lover of chocolate, Jerry's most treasured moments were spending time with friends and family at Atlantic Beach, and more recently in Banner Elk. His contagious grin and love of life will be greatly missed.

He was predeceased by his parents, Flossie Ward Powell and Alonzo Carson Powell; twin infant sons; and a granddaughter, Caroline Nell Norwood. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Carolyn Peal Powell; a son, Gregory Peal Powell and wife, Tammy, of Morehead City; daughter, Caroline Powell Norwood and husband, Michael, of New Bern; and grandchildren, Anna Powell, Meredith Powell, Alston Norwood and Grayson Norwood. He is also survived by his sister-in-law, Jean Peal Crowell and husband, Rus, of Fayetteville; brother-in-law, Bill Scott of Burlington; and many beloved nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors today at the home, 105 Williamsburg Drive. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 E. 4th St., Greenville, NC 27858. The family would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation to the staff and caregivers at Vidant Medical Center for their compassionate care during Jerry's illness.


Published in The Daily Reflector on March 24, 2012
Smithfield-Selma High photography teacher Kelley Hardin, left, with Caroline Lore, a student who was recently a finalists in a national photography contest.

CAROLINE LORE
Smithfield-Selma High student Caroline Lore's senior portrait of a classmate will be feature in a book sponsored by Nikon.

Thumbs Up

A sharp focus on success
By Colin Campbell - ccampbell@newsobserver.com

SMITHFIELD—Caroline Lore’s “big, impossible dream,” as she describes it, is to one day be a fashion photographer for Seventeen magazine. And while she’s probably not the only young woman with that goal, the Smithfield-Selma High senior is closer to it than most people her age.

Caroline, who’s taken photography classes for several years, was recently a finalist in the 32nd Annual College & High School Photography Contest,
sponsored by Photographer’s Forum magazine and Nikon. The senior portrait of a friend that Caroline entered was one of 18,000 entries from around the country. Her photo will be published in the book “Best of College & High School Photography 2012.”

The creative photo, in which Caroline’s subject is in sharp focus behind some greenery, required some unusual measures, Caroline said.

“I was behind a bush and she was in front,” she said. “My friend looked at me like I was crazy.”

It’s not Caroline’s first photography accolade. Last year, in a teen contest sponsored by N.C. Wildlife magazine, she took first place for a black-and-white close-up of a man with a crab. The photo initially showed the man’s entire body, but Caroline said she decided to crop it so that the photo showed only the man’s hand with the crab.

Photography teacher Kelley Hardin said Caroline’s attention to detail has made her successful.

“She always gets a great photograph,” Hardin said.

While Hardin teaches black-and-white darkroom photography as well, Caroline said she prefers digital color photos.

“If it has pretty blues and greens, I like it in color,” she said.

She also prefers photographing people, and she recently was the official photographer for the school’s pageant as part of her senior project. The contestants all got CDs with her photos, and the effort raised money for the school art club.

“My junior paper was on how photography affects society,” Caroline said.

Caroline also is building a freelance photography business doing senior portraits for her classmates. Instead of picking a set location on campus, she often looks for a unique natural setting elsewhere. And she has a website, www.wix.com/clorephoto/caroline.

After graduation, Caroline plans to major in photography at East Carolina University with a minor in graphic design. From there, she’s hoping to work in fashion photography.

Campbell: 919-836-5768
Casey Toth / Harrison Lilley, a Meredith College student and potential resident of the Retreat, walks past signs advertising amenities available for residents. The Retreat at Raleigh marketing staff took students to tour the nearly-finished, luxury, off-campus cottages, located off Hillsborough Street, on Thursday, March 22, 2012.

**N.C. State students can live in luxury**

By David Bracken - dbracken@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH–For those above a certain age, memories of college living likely brings to mind cinder-block walls, linoleum floors, harsh artificial light, tiny closets, no air conditioning and shared bathrooms.

Such utilitarian living quarters seem quaint when compared with three new student housing developments now being built near N.C. State University in Raleigh. When the complexes open this summer, they will offer students a level of luxury and pampering that typically is reserved for well-off working professionals or patrons on a cruise ship.

“We’re all shooting for that higher end, the tenant that can pay a little bit more and they’re getting a bit more,” said John Preiss, executive vice president with the Preiss Co., a Raleigh-based student housing developer that is behind one of the projects.

The “more” in this case includes features such as hardwood floors, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, 9-foot ceilings, fitness centers – and, in one case, a golf simulator and pet spa.
Unlike traditional apartment complexes, which are leased by the unit, student housing units lease by the bedroom in order to make it easier for students to find roommates. Monthly rent for a bedroom in one of the new developments ranges from $520 to more than $650, with most units featuring two, three or four bedrooms with separate bathrooms for each resident.

By comparison, the average monthly rent for a traditional three-bedroom apartment in the Triangle was $1,067 in September, according to Karnes Research and the Triangle Apartment Association.

That three new luxury projects with 1,770 new off-campus bedrooms are opening simultaneously around N.C. State speaks to the opportunity that experienced student housing developers see in Raleigh.

Although there has been growing concern expressed over the spiraling cost of higher education – and the amount of debt many students must take on to pay for it – those fears have not slowed the amenities arms race among developers.

Nor have developers been scared off that, due in part to state budget cuts, N.C. State is slowing the pace of its enrollment growth. The university’s next freshman class will have 200 fewer students than it did the prior year, and the school now expects to add only about 3,000 students over the next eight years, which would bring total enrollment to 37,000.

“All of our product has been virtually 100 percent full with rent bumps,” notes John Preiss, whose company saw annual rent growth of 5 percent last year on its roughly 3,000 bedrooms around N.C. State.

**A big pool**

With 288 bedrooms, the Preiss Co.’s new project, University Village at 2505, is the smallest of the three opening this summer. Located at 2505 Red Lodge Place near Centennial Campus, the complex will offer four-bedroom, garden-style apartments loaded with state-of-the-art finishes.

Not to be outdone is the Retreat at Raleigh, which is going up just off Hillsborough Street about two miles west of the university campus. The development includes 149 cottages built around what the developer, Landmark Properties of Athens, Ga., claims will be the biggest swimming pool in Raleigh.
“We always strive to have the largest pool in any market,” said Frances Thompson, director of marketing for Landmark, which is also seeking approval to build a Retreat project in Chapel Hill.

The 554-bedroom complex will also include a 9,000-square-foot clubhouse with plasma TVs, free tanning beds, a poolside grilling station, fitness center and that pet spa and golf simulator. Thompson said Landmark prides itself in not offering the “box living” found in many traditional student housing complexes.

University Village will rent bedrooms for $520 a month, while the Retreat at Raleigh costs, on average, $600 a month.

The most expensive and largest of the three new projects, and by far the closest to N.C. State’s campus, is Valentine Commons, a 10-story, 928-bedroom apartment building being built right off Hillsborough Street near the intersection with Dixie Trail.

Bedrooms in Valentine Commons start at $645, with amenities that include a 24-hour fitness center, tanning beds and two lounges on each floor. That price includes furniture but not a space in the project’s parking deck.

“It’s basically the convenience of on-campus living with still having your own ... apartment,” said Blair Hebert, vice president of marketing and leasing for the developer, Capstone Properties of Birmingham, Ala. “It’s downtown living on the edge of campus.”

Beyond NCSU students

All three of the new projects are primarily targeting N.C. State students, though they also hope to appeal to students at Meredith College, William Peace University and other nearby universities.

N.C. State, which doesn’t have an on-campus residency requirement for freshmen, has about 9,000 beds on campus. The university is also building a new student housing complex on Centennial Campus that will add 1,200 beds by the fall of 2014.

This school year, N.C. State had 200 students on the waiting list for its existing beds, though Tim Luckadoo, N.C. State’s associate vice chancellor for student affairs, expects there won’t be a waiting list in the fall given all the new options available.

N.C. State has raised its rates for an on-campus bed between 3 percent and 4 percent annually in recent years to account for cost-of-living increases, Luckadoo said. The on-campus housing most similar to the new projects is
probably Wolf Village, the 6-year-old apartment complex at the corner of Gorman Street and Western Boulevard. Monthly rent per bedroom at Wolf Village is about $570.

Luckadoo said the challenge for both students and parents is sifting through all the costs that may or may not be included in the rent. Some projects include furniture in their rent, while others provide it for an additional charge.

“I never make the claim that we’re cheaper, because you can kind of find any price point you want off-campus,” he said. “The real thing you have to look at is where do you want to live.”

A limo ride

University Village at 2505, the Retreat at Raleigh and Valentine Commons are all now engaged in aggressive marketing efforts to persuade students to move in come August. Although the student housing market has the benefit of fairly consistent year-over-year demand, developers of new projects are under the gun to both finish construction on time and get them fully leased by the start of the fall semester.

“Once August comes you’re done,” John Preiss said. “You’re not getting anybody for a year.”

On Thursday, the Retreat at Raleigh began offering tours of its construction site, picking up prospective tenants at the leasing office on Hillsborough Street in a stretch SUV limo and providing them with free T-shirts that said “Live. Love. Retreat.”

In addition to the security features that the gated community will offer, students seemed most attracted to how the Retreat at Raleigh will resemble the adult world they will soon enter. The cottages come with a built-in wine rack in the kitchen, are surrounded by ample green space and feature back porches where students can relax and grill after a long day attending classes.

“It’s like a college suburbia,” said Ashley Acuff, 20, a sophomore from Greensboro who brought her dog on the tour.

Thea Long, 20, a sophomore from Lenoir, is on the waiting list at the Retreat, meaning she’ll be paired up with two or three other roommates on the list in the coming months.

She now pays about $540 a month to live at Campus Crossing, a student apartment complex off Tryon Road.
She plans on getting a job to help her mother cover the additional rent she’ll be paying.

“I didn’t dislike living there,” she said of Campus Crossing. “I just kind of wanted something new.”

Bracken: 919-829-4548

Casey Toth / National Leasing Director Cathy Bryan shows N.C. State student and potential resident, Thea Long, the location of the Retreat at Raleigh clubhouse from an apartment balcony.

**Living Large**

The newer student housing complexes, including the three being built now in Raleigh, resemble resorts or hotels more than anything else. Fitness centers, tanning beds and game rooms have become de rigueur.

Valentine Commons will have a business center with multiple Macs and PCs as well as a game room with a Wii, PlayStation 3 and Xbox. The developer of the Retreat at Raleigh plans to begin outfitting some of its developments next year with spas – as opposed to just the “pet spa” that is among the features at its Raleigh project.

Given how commonplace these amenities have become, developments today largely distinguish themselves with the activity schedule they offer residents.

“Our projects, we almost look at them like cruise ships,” John Preiss of the Preiss Co. says. “There’s always activities, and parties and trivia nights ...”

The Retreat at Raleigh, in addition to providing weekday shuttles to campus, will offer free shuttles to downtown Raleigh on weekend evenings.

Staff writer David Bracken
RALEIGH–One hundred years after the birth of John T. Caldwell, the former’s N.C. State’s chancellor’s impact can still be felt among the Wolfpack nation.

About 125 people gathered Sunday night at the Talley Student Center to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Caldwell Fellows program, a leadership development scholarship program at N.C. State named in memory of Caldwell, who served as chancellor at N.C. State from 1959-75.

“That’s probably one of his highest honors that I think he felt personally to know that there was a scholarship program in place for young students to help further their education,” said Caldwell’s son Andy Caldwell.

Students enrolled in the program must maintain a 3.25 grade point average, participate in annual class retreats and support Caldwell leadership and community projects, said N.C. State sophomore and Caldwell Fellow Hannah Osborne. About 95 students are currently part of the program.

Osborne said Caldwell Fellows receive stipends to help fund projects of interest to the students, including studying abroad, service learning projects and unusual travel and research experiences.

One of the more unique experiences is that of N.C. State senior Saul S. Flores, who recently walked 5,300 miles from Ecuador to North Carolina taking pictures along the way. His exhibit, “The Walk of the Immigrants,” is on display through July at the D.H. Hill Library.

Osborne used her stipend to lead a service trip to work with Habitat for Humanity in South Carolina and plans to visit the Colorado Rockies on a wilderness trip this summer.

**Leadership and service**

“The Caldwell Fellows Program holds great importance in my life,” Osborne wrote in an e-mail interview. “This importance comes from the community; the interpersonal relationships forged through the program test my theories and solidify my values.”
Osborne recently completed a term paper on Caldwell. The goal was to answer what his philosophy of education was and how it served him during the tumultuous 1960s and ‘70s. Caldwell worked to integrate both the university and Hillsborough Street and worked to give women more educational opportunities at the university.

“I came to understand the chief components of Dr. Caldwell’s philosophy of education to be unity, service, open-mindedness, and the pursuit of intellectual truth,” Osborne wrote. “Intertwined with his philosophy was Caldwell’s radiant enthusiasm that granted him the tenacity to promote his philosophy.”

Andy Caldwell said his father helped turn N.C. State from a small agriculture and grant college into a major research university. The student body grew by almost 300 percent; 20 new buildings, plus the Brickyard, were built during his tenure.

“Education was very important to him from a very early age,” Andy Caldwell said. “He always knew that he wanted to serve.”

Miller: 829-4520
Standing Up to the N.C.A.A.

By JOE NOCERA

Over the past few months, I have used this column to explore the various injustices perpetrated by the N.C.A.A. I have written about the way it terrorizes the parents of athletes it is investigating — athletes, I should note, who are invariably suspended before they are even told the charges against them. I have questioned the N.C.A.A.’s lack of due process and its indifference to the most rudimentary concepts of fairness. I have pointed out that its rules enforcing amateurism discriminate against black athletes from disadvantaged backgrounds.

And I have wondered, more than once, how an organization as powerful as the N.C.A.A. can deprive one group of students — “student-athletes,” as the N.C.A.A. insists on calling them — of rights that every other university student, and for that matter, every other American, assumes are his as a matter of course.

Part of the answer, for sure, is institutional arrogance. But it’s also rooted in court rulings. In a 1988 case, N.C.A.A. vs. Tarkanian (yes, that’s Jerry Tarkanian, the infamous former University of Nevada at Las Vegas coach), the Supreme Court ruled that the N.C.A.A. was not a “state actor.” A state actor is a legal term for any institution that acts as an arm of the government — and is, therefore, subject to constitutional mandates like due process. Since then, the N.C.A.A. has waved the “we’re-not-a-state-actor” flag whenever it’s been sued for violating someone’s rights. Since it’s not a state actor, it argues, its members have no constitutional rights.

Which is why I’ve become intrigued by an obscure court case that is slowly wending its way to trial. Once again, the N.C.A.A. is being sued by a coach, though one not nearly as well-known as Tarkanian. Tim Cohane, the head basketball coach at the State University of New York at Buffalo, was forced to resign in late 1999 after he was alleged to have violated N.C.A.A. rules. (The main violation, usually considered extremely minor, was that he had observed potential recruits play pickup basketball in the university gym.) The school apparently wanted to fire Cohane, even though he had recently
gotten a new contract. The easiest way to push him out was to gin up some infractions. The N.C.A.A., it appears, was only too happy to go along.

In the spring of 2001, the N.C.A.A. issued its report — based largely on a joint investigation with the university and its conference, the Mid-American Conference — describing Cohane’s behavior as “unethical,” and issuing a “show cause” order, meaning that any school that wanted to hire him had to “show cause” why it should be allowed to do so. For a college coach, this is the kiss of death.

Cohane, who had coached for 25 years without running afoul of the rules — and who denies doing anything improper — sued, charging that he had been defamed by the N.C.A.A. and that his rights had been violated. It was only when he and his lawyer, Sean O’Leary, began to dig into what had happened that they found the real improprieties — the ones committed by the investigators.

The most egregious was that SUNY-Buffalo officials had threatened to strip the school’s basketball players of their eligibility unless they implicated Cohane. Graduating seniors, whose eligibility had expired, were told that they wouldn’t graduate if they didn’t point the finger at Cohane. The N.C.A.A. knew that players were being coerced to lie — and did nothing to stop it. Indeed, those lies became part of its report. Years later, a number of players submitted affidavits as part of the Cohane lawsuit, saying they had never seen their former coach do anything wrong but had been pressured to implicate him.

Naturally, the N.C.A.A. responded by trying to get the case tossed out on the grounds that it was not a state actor. The trial judge agreed. But, in 2007, the appeals court overruled that decision and said that because the N.C.A.A. had acted in concert with the university — which, as a state-run school, is undeniably a state actor — it, too, could be considered a state actor. The N.C.A.A. then appealed to the Supreme Court, to no avail.

Five years later, the case is still awaiting a trial date. Cohane, who was 58 when he left SUNY-Buffalo, is now close to 70. It could be another five years before the case is over, but he has no intention of settling. “I want to make sure this doesn’t happen to others,” he told me.

“It has been an incredible fight,” said O’Leary, his lawyer. “But once the N.C.A.A. enforcement process is exposed at trial, people will be outraged.”

I hope that happens; the appalling tactics of N.C.A.A. investigators have long remained hidden away, in secret files the general public never gets to
see. They deserve a public airing. But that’s not the real significance of the Cohane case.

The real significance is that if Cohane wins, the law itself might finally force the N.C.A.A. to change its ways. Because, at long last, it would be labeled the state actor it has always been.
George Mason University has enjoyed a rapid ascent through the ranks of research universities. One reason: puppies. (Linda Davidson/The Washington Post - THE WASHINGTON POST)

**Five universities that really are up-and-comers**

By Daniel de Vise

Many in higher education love to pick on the U.S. News rankings franchise—because it’s the dominant collegiate ranking, and because ordinal rankings seem somewhat arbitrary and are difficult to defend.

Yet, a U.S. News ranking provided part of the inspiration for a story in Wednesday’s Post about the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. For each of the last few years, U.S. News has listed the suburban campus among the nation’s top institutions for undergraduate teaching. The list is based on a survey of university presidents, provosts and admission deans, asking them to name schools they consider leaders in collegiate learning.

What struck me about the ranking was the way UMBC stood out on the list. Here’s the rest of the top 10: Dartmouth, Princeton, Yale, Brown, Stanford, Berkeley, Notre Dame, Miami University and the College of William and Mary. All are actual Ivies, “Public Ivies” or Ivy-caliber institutions.

UMBC is a decidedly different sort of school.

For one thing, it’s not the flagship. That distinction, in Maryland, goes to the University of Maryland in College Park. It’s not hundreds of years old,
either; UMBC opened in 1966. For the first half of its young life, UMBC existed as a minimally selective commuter school.

In a very brief span, the university has ascended to the ranks of national universities, with serious research ambitions and ranked doctoral programs.

UMBC is part of higher education’s younger generation, so to speak, a cohort of universities that came into their own in the second half of the 20th century and only recently joined the ranks of “national” (as opposed to regional) universities.

Higher education is a relatively static world: the vast majority of top-tier universities existed before the 20th century, built large endowments and, in the case of public institutions, have long enjoyed a status as state flagships.

UMBC and its peers are a sort of new breed: young, fast-growing schools that are swiftly ascending into the top rank. Why have they prospered? Partly as a matter of simple growth: there are far too many students in Maryland, California, Florida and most other states to fit in the historic flagships. But it’s more than that. Faculty at these schools say they’ve benefitted from a rare opportunity to build a university in the modern era, with modern priorities and contemporary sensibilities. (Although UMBC President Freeman Hrabowski notes the success of his school’s classics department, hardly a cutting-edge pursuit.)

“What we’re working to do at UMBC is to take the best of what we know about liberal arts colleges, and the best of what we know about research universities, and put it together,” Hrabowski said.

Here is a brief dossier on UMBC and four other institutions with similar trajectories:

**UMBC:** Established in 1966 as part of the University System of Maryland. Evolved from commuter school to residential research university — a sort of second flagship behind U-Md. in College Park. SAT averages rose 300 points in 25 years to 1206 (actually 400 points; I’m subtracting 100 to compensate for recentering.) Joined the elite “Research I” list in the past two decades; now listed as a “high research activity” school, technically the second-highest Carnegie category. Annual research funding tops $80 million. Ranked 157th among national universities by U.S. News.

**Binghamton University:** Founded in 1946 as a two-year college. Evolved into one of four “university centers” and an unofficial flagship of the flagship-less SUNY system. Ranked 90th among national universities by U.S. News. Joined the Research I camp over the past 20 years, and now
listed as a second-tier “high research” school. Considered a “Public Ivy.” SATs average in the 1200s.

**George Mason University:** Founded as a freestanding institution in 1972, after serving as an anonymous branch campus of the University of Virginia. Ranked 138th among national universities by U.S. News. Rated as a “high research activity” university by Carnegie, with a $107 million research budget and 33,000 students. Recognized, along with UMBC, as an up-and-comer by U.S. News, and cited for strong minority completion rates. Moreover, the school has enormous influence over development and culture in Northern Virginia.

**University of California, Santa Cruz:** Founded in 1965 as an outpost for the liberal arts within the UC system — a sort of public Swarthmore. Evolved into a Research I university over the past 20 years. Now categorized as a “very high research activity” school. Ranked 72nd among national universities by U.S. News, with elite admission stats. Beat out Berkeley and Stanford to house the Grateful Dead archives, befitting its status as the unofficial torchbearer of the old Berkeley ethos. What other campus could have spawned the band Camper Van Beethoven?

**University of South Florida:** Founded in 1956 as a modestly ambitious state university. Evolved into sprawling Research I status over the past 20 years and now considered one of 63 top-tier “very high research” institution, as well as the eighth-largest U.S. university. Ranked 181st among national universities by U.S. News. Like GMU, USF is known less for selectivity and more for the sheer, impressive scale of its research and scholarship.

Now, a parting quiz. Hrabowski at UMBC offered us a math problem to illustrate the sort of critical thinking his faculty attempts to inspire in their students. He says it’s a sixth-grade math problem. See if you can figure it out.

There are 29 students in Mr. H’s class. Twenty have dogs. Fifteen have cats. How many have both a dog and a cat?