THE DAILY CLIPS

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Marissa George, Sara Graves and Alex Braham, from left, pin on their numbers before the 5K run on Saturday.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector

Betty Foh races ahead of Sarah Fritz on Saturday in the Stiletto Dash.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector

'High' stepping to help others
By Kristin Day
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, March 28, 2010
Breaking in a new pair of strappy sandals has never been so benevolent — even more so as the wind threatened to freeze toes.
Amid the morning's brisk gusting winds, nine people showed up to run a 400-meter Stiletto Dash on Saturday wearing heels at least 3 inches high in the inaugural Run4Uganda. Fifty-six more runners accepted a slightly tougher challenge and competed in the 5K race. The charity event at East Carolina’s North Recreation Complex was a year in the making and organized by the ECU Running Club, local nonprofit Kids With Knowledge (KWK) and more than 10 other ECU organizations.

Parteek Singla, 20-year-old founder of KWK and an ECU student, said he had been looking for a new way to raise funds for his organization — which provides aid to women and children in Uganda, other parts of Africa and Greenville — for some time. He was doing research in Boston when he heard about another stiletto dash and thought Greenville would be the perfect market for such an event.

"There are so many wonderful causes out there, so I think you need something to draw people; something people can enjoy," Singla said. "With the Stiletto Dash, it gives people a chance to do something they've never done before, and they're making a difference."

Sixty-five people registered for the event, raising approximately $3,000. Singla said the money received would help KWK create a scholarship fund for girls in Uganda, provide uniforms for orphans and pay for school supplies, HIV tests and malaria nets.

"The good thing is they're all small costs," Singla said. "They're usually less than $1,000 to do, so we can do many, many projects with the funding we get from here today."

The winners of the 5K all received medals and engraved wine glasses; the winner of the dash received a gift card to Moxie Clothing and a glass.

Singla created KWK in 2007, when he was a college freshman.

"Starting my own organization was always this big idea," Singla said. "It was always something that I wanted to do, and I thought maybe it would be when I was 30, down the road when I had a career and I could start it on my own. And now that it's all started, to do this and see it all together ... It's definitely a big thing, and we're so happy it panned out the way it did."

KWK previously had raised about $10,000 to provide medical and educational supplies to Ugandan women and children. Most recently, the group raised money to renovate the Mugusu Maternity Ward in Fort Portal, Uganda, which was so poorly supplied that women chose to give birth at home instead of at the facility. One week after the ward was outfitted with mattresses, gloves, gauze, cotton and other supplies, 45 mothers arrived for prenatal checkups, and six children were born inside.

"You see such a small difference can make such a lasting impact," Singla said.

And with events like the Stiletto Dash, Singla hopes to spread that impact across the world, saying his organization may soon work with Ghana and Indonesia, as well.

For more information about the organization, visit www.kidswithknowledge.org. Contact Kristin Day at kday@reflector.com or (252) 329-9...
Work of Jesse Peel to be recognized during center's opening this spring

By ECU News Service
Saturday, March 27, 2010

The ECU Center for Diversity and Inequality Research this spring will celebrate its opening by honoring the work and commitment of Dr. Jesse R. Peel, a recent recipient of an ECU Alumni Achievement Award.

Housed in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, the CDIR will host a nationally renowned researcher on health disparities in honor of Peel, a clinical psychiatrist who practiced for many years in Atlanta and community health activist committed to faith-based support of the homeless who are HIV-positive.

On April 15, David R. Williams, the Florence Sprague Norman and Laura Smart Norman Professor of Public Health and professor of African and African American Studies at Harvard University, will commemorate the opening celebration in a free, public presentation. Williams will speak about “Social Inequities in Health: Patterns, Causes, Intervention” at 7 p.m. in Room 207 of the Science and Technology Building.

Williams is an internationally recognized authority on social influences on health and the author of more than 150 scholarly papers in scientific journals. His research focuses on trends and determinants of socioeconomic and racial disparities in health, the effects of racism on health and the ways in which religious involvement can affect health.

The goals of the CDIR are to provide fundamental and applied research and education on social diversity and inequality, and to develop public policy and advocacy for those historically underserved.

For additional information, contact Maril at 328-6147 or marijr@ecu.edu, or Jeanne Watkins at 328-6193 or watkinsj@ecu.edu.

Romary to receive UNC advocacy award

Peter Romary, director of Student Legal Services at ECU, has been selected to receive the John L. Sanders Student Advocacy Award given by the University of North Carolina Association of Student Governments.

The annual award is the highest individual honor given by students to a member of the UNC system. It recognizes individuals who advocate for the best interests of North Carolina’s students and, thereby, contribute to the quality of their lives.

Romary will receive the award during the annual UNC Association of Student Government meeting on April 24 at the N.C. Central University Alumni Center in Durham.

Romary, an attorney, has been working with ECU students since 1994. He is licensed to practice law in North Carolina, the District of Columbia and before the U.S. Supreme Court. He also is a certified arbitrator and mediator.

In 2006, Romary conceptualized and helped found the North Carolina Higher Education Safety Symposium, which provides education and training in safety-related issues to faculty, staff and students in the state’s higher education institutions. This year’s event, scheduled for April 9, will be a special online symposium presented from ECU to other campuses.
In 2008, Romary designed “Personal Safety Issues,” a for-credit course on safety and personal risk management. Romary continues to consult and provide trainings in threat assessment, violence prevention and conflict resolution to the K-12 and higher education sectors. The award honors John L. Sanders, longtime director of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Institute of Government, now part of UNC’s School of Government. Recipients of the award include Lloyd V. Hackley, Fayetteville State University chancellor; Rep. Alma Adams, Sen. Eleanor Kinnaird, and Sen. Richard Stevens, N.C. General Assembly; Benjamin S. Ruffin, chairman emeritus, UNC Board of Governors; and Dan Gerlach, chief financial adviser, N.C. Council of State.

**Pirate Alumni Road Race will be April 17**
The third annual Pirate Alumni Road Race and Fun Run is scheduled for April 17, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center. It supports ECU student scholarships. The 5K road race and one-mile fun run is sponsored by The East Carolina Alumni Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, Dr. Chris Gauland of Eastern Carolina Foot & Ankle Specialists, Occasions Party & Tent Rentals, and Panera Bread. Open to the public, the entry fee is $15 until Wednesday and $25 thereafter. Race day registration is from 7:30-8:30 a.m.
The road race, which will be a USATF-certified course, begins at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center and will travel through the College View Historic District and end back at the Alumni Center.
The fun run will begin a few minutes after the start of the road race and follow a portion of the same course.
Race packets, including a complimentary race T-shirt, can be picked up at the starting point from 7:30-8:30 a.m. on race day.
Awards will be given to the first three male finishers overall, the first three female finishers overall, and the top three male and female finishers in each of eight age groups.
Register online at [www.active.com](http://www.active.com), download a registration form at [www.PirateAlumni.com/roadrace](http://www.PirateAlumni.com/roadrace), or call the East Carolina Alumni Association at 328-6072 for more information.

**ECU News Service**
In this economy, it is tough to find a job, especially for new college graduates. But that didn’t stop the East Carolina University College of Technology and Computer Science from holding its first career-networking event in the Murphy Center last Wednesday. The goal of the event was to showcase technology and engineering careers to the more than 250 participating students. Throughout the day, students and employers had the opportunity to talk about positions or internships.
“We’re committed to building and collaborating alliances between our college, our programs, and the business community,” Leslie Pagliari, associate dean and event organizer, said. “In this economy, we’re happy with all the positive responses that were received.”
According to labor statistics, the unemployment rate in Greenville is hovering at 10.8 percent. Students and employers had one-on-one time to talk and interview for prospective internship and job positions.
“This event has created a great opportunity to promote our college and programs,” David White, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science, said. “Our objective is to make this event even bigger next year.”

Upcoming events:
Wednesday: Illusionist Mike Super, winner of NBC’s “Phenomenon,” 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Tickets are $15 for adults, $10 for students. Visit www.ECUARTS.com.
Thursday: Dr. Farr Currin presents “Getting Below the Surface: Addressing Religious and Spiritual Issues”; 12:30-1:30 p.m.; Brody 2 West 50. The lecture is sponsored by the Department of Medical Humanities and the Bioethics Collaborative and co-sponsored by the Office of Medical Education, Spirituality & Medicine Initiative. Call 744-2797 for more information.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Expert: Fighting childhood obesity a community effort
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Friday, March 26, 2010

A one-size-fits-all approach will do little to reshape the health habits of a growing number of children who are overweight or at risk for obesity, a National Institutes of Health expert said Friday.

Speaking at the Pediatric Healthy Weight Summit at the East Carolina Hearth Institute, psychologist Laura Koehly addressed the social context of childhood obesity. Koehly, an investigator with the social and behavioral research branch of NIH’s National Humane Genome Research Institute, talked to those attending the seventh annual summit about the importance of involving families, schools and entire communities in the fight against childhood obesity.

"Obesity is one of the most pressing health problems in the United States as well as other developing countries," Koehly said. "If our goal is to change behavior and affect health outcomes, then network-based strategies may be particularly effective."

The summit, sponsored by the ECU’s Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center, invited medical practitioners and other professionals to share intervention methods to combat childhood obesity, which is reported to affect as many as one in three children in America. Such statistics have recently propelled the issue of childhood obesity into the national spotlight. Last month, first lady Michelle Obama unveiled "Let’s Move," a national public-awareness campaign centered, in part, on encouraging children to exercise and their parents to make better food choices.

Koehly said obesity prevention efforts that focus on the home can be effective, especially in early childhood. She cited statistics that indicate that in a home where both parents are overweight, a child’s chances of developing obesity are 80 percent, compared with 7 percent if neither parent is overweight.

"Because kids model their parents’ behaviors," Koehly said, "parents (should) encourage healthful behaviors in their children."

Beyond parental influence, Koehly said, other adult role models and peers also have an influence on a child’s weight. Recent studies involving high school students in California and Australia showed that friends tend to have similar levels of physical activity. Koehly said peer influence also has been shown to extend to screen time, high-calorie food consumption and even to weight itself.

Dr. David Collier sees both sides of these influences in his patients. As director of the Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center, established by the Brody School of Medicine’s pediatrics department in 2003, Collier sees children of morbidly obese parents come to the center...
as much as 300 pounds overweight. He also has seen such children lose weight through interventions like Take Off 4-Health, which is designed to help children learn to lead a healthy lifestyle.

Collier spoke at Friday’s summit about the three-week residential summer camp, held in conjunction with North Carolina 4-H and N.C. Cooperative Extension. Koehly believes such partnerships can serve to address childhood obesity far better than efforts with a narrower focus. “If we just intervene in the school, for example, without considering the impact of the family or the neighborhood or the community, then our efforts may not be sustainable because of those outside influences,” she said.

“These network ties exist within the neighborhood, within community organizations, including faith-based organizations, Scouting organizations,” Koehly said. “These may be more salient and effective in engaging kids in healthy weight-enhancing behaviors that may be sustainable throughout their lives.”
Cranes work on the end zone construction project.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Construction workers wrap up electrical cords inside a concrete corridor in the foundation of the new seating in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

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**East Carolina construction projects progressing**

By Mark Rutledge
The Daily Reflector
Friday, March 26, 2010

The east end zone expansion project at East Carolina’s Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium is starting to resemble the Graveyard of the Atlantic. Maybe even The Boneyard or Captain’s Corner. Those are three of eight possibilities from which students will choose when voting to name the new section, scheduled for completion in time for ECU’s football home opener against Tulsa on Sept. 5. University officials believe they’ll have a full house for the 2010 kickoff.

“It’s a tremendous addition to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium that capitalizes on the growth and success from Skip Holtz’s time here,” Jimmy Bass, senior associate director of ECU athletics, said. “And now we’re trying to get off to a really great start with the Ruffin McNeill era.”

Adding to the usual allure of a home opener following back-to-back Conference USA championships, the Labor Day weekend game will have a national television audience on ESPN. “We think 7,000 new seats will make it a very, very difficult place for opponents to play, while improving the college football experience for all the fans entering the stadium,” Bass said.
The $15 million addition promises more than new seats. There will be more concessions, restrooms and other facilities, too. But besides closing the east end zone, the most visible change will be a new giant scoreboard.

“The video portion of the scoreboard will be 84 feet wide and 24 feet tall,” Bass said, “with an audio system on top. We’ll be putting an additional scoreboard structure on the west end as well attached to the Murphy Center.”

The west scoreboard will be a more traditional scoring system with a static clock providing the score, down and distance.

“But it will also have some video boards on either side with some enhanced video capabilities for fan enjoyment,” Bass said.

The stadium expansion is one component of a major project to enhance sports facilities at ECU. A $30 million project also is under way to create an Olympic sports complex that includes a softball stadium, track and field complex, soccer stadium and an office building to house space for coaches, meeting rooms, equipment storage and sports medicine.

The school also is embarking on a fundraising campaign aimed at raising $15 million for a basketball and volleyball practice facility.

“The vision is for that facility to be built onto Minges Coliseum in some fashion,” Bass said. “We feel like the timing for that project is terrific with the hiring of (new ECU head basketball coach) Jeff Lebo.”

The project for Minges may not get started for another couple of years, Bass said, but it promises to be a significant facility, which he says is needed to help the basketball and volleyball programs become more competitive.

“When everything is finished,” he said, “we’ll have one of the finest athletic complexes, not only in Conference USA, but on the East Coast.”

Contact Mark Rutledge at mrutledge@reflector.com or (252) 329-9575.

Possible names for the new east end zone expansion:
Captain’s Corner
Crossbones Zone
Crow’s Nest
Graveyard of the Atlantic
No Quarter Zone
Purple Zone
The Boneyard
The Prow

Construction facts:
5,500 cubic yards of concrete.
470 tons of reinforcing steel.
30-40 vendors are involved with the project with 75-100 people on the job each day.
The concrete design matches the previous expansion (upper deck & club level) and requires less maintenance than steel.
With the addition of new restroom facilities, souvenir stand and concessions facilities, the new expansion will be a focal point for the stadium.
Estimated costs: $15.5 million, not including soft costs such as owner-furnished items and design fees.
Source: T.A. Loving Construction Co., Goldsboro.
Construction of new seating in the end zone of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium is scheduled to be completed for the Sept. 5 opener.
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Construction of the new seating is seen in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium at ECU Wednesday, March 24, 2010.
(The Daily Reflector)
Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector
UNC's 1st black female undergrad to speak

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. -- The first black female undergraduate to attend the University of North Carolina is returning to campus to speak about being an activist and a professional without creating conflicts of interest.

Karen Parker of Winston-Salem will speak Monday evening in Chapel Hill as part of the Carolina Association of Black Journalists' lecture series. Parker enrolled at UNC in 1963 and graduated in 1965 with a major in journalism. She's a copy editor at the Winston-Salem Journal.

Parker was born in Salisbury and grew up in Winston-Salem. In 1963, she transferred to UNC from what was then Woman's College in Greensboro and became the first black female undergraduate to enroll at UNC.
Health law hits home in UNC Hospitals' halls

CHAPEL HILL -- A man looking after three tykes at UNC Hospitals hailed the new health care law as an overdue boost for people in need.

A shuttle driver lamented the cost and the scope of the new law's changes.

And the head of the emergency department braced for an expected onslaught of new patients in an already busy unit.

On Wednesday, a day after President Barack Obama signed the health care bill into law, the state's flagship hospital was its usual bustle of patients and workers - all with their own impressions of the historic legislation.

From the valet parking attendant to the CEO of UNC Health Care, from doctors to patients, from rich, poor, black, white, Hispanic - the opinions spanned the nation's own conflicted views of a measure that expands health coverage to 32 million more Americans by 2014.

According to polls last week, the nation remains deeply divided over the issue, although more people are warming to a measure that curbs insurance companies from excluding sick people and mends holes in Medicare drug coverage.

"This is big-time, indeed landmark, legislation," said Dr. William Roper, chief executive of UNC Health Care, which operates the 778-bed UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill that serves more than 500,000 patients a year.

Founded in 1952 as N.C. Memorial Hospital, the institution has its origins in the Good Health Plan, an effort launched by state leaders after World War II to improve the health of residents.

Fifty-eight years later, in a cornerstone of the state's public commitment to health, a new era was contemplated by the people seeking and giving care.

savery@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4882
He led NCSU out of crisis

RALEIGH -- UNC-system President Erskine Bowles had to pick a new leader for N.C. State University, and quick.

The university was all but rudderless. It had lost its provost and the chairman of its board of trustees over their roles in hiring former first lady Mary Easley in 2005.

Then its chancellor, James Oblinger, also resigned after admitting to Bowles that he hadn't been open about his role in the hiring.

Bowles needed someone to end the chaos at the top of the state's largest university, calm the faculty, staff, students and alumni and handle a complex job until a permanent replacement could be found.

He called retired UNC Charlotte Chancellor James Woodward.

Nine months later, as Woodward prepares to make way for new chancellor Randy Woodson, there is wide agreement at NCSU that Bowles chose well. Woodward is credited with bringing an almost Zen-like calm to a troubled campus and then tackling several potentially controversial tasks that could have saddled Woodson with unpleasant baggage.

Approval at NCSU

"He brought a calm, level-headed approach to a pretty chaotic and rapidly evolving situation," says David Genereux, a professor in the department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and member of the faculty senate's executive committee. "He wasn't afraid to take an honest appraisal of things and do what needed to be done."

Student Body President Jim Ceresnak, who sits on the board of trustees and has worked closely with the interim chancellor, agreed.

"As soon as Woodward walked in, instantly his credibility and personality settled everyone down," Ceresnak says. "He was that calming figure that allowed everyone to step back and say OK, we can do this now, and here's what we're going to have to do."

Woodward had good cause to think Bowles might call when he heard about the problems at NCSU.

He had a reputation as one of the UNC system's steadiest leaders and had been chancellor of UNC Charlotte for 16 years. That's double the national average for chancellors and an eternity by NCSU's standards. He had held fundraisers for the governor and lieutenant governor and worked with legislative leaders, key allies at a time of state budget cuts.

But Woodward wasn't looking for a job. He had retired in 2005 and was enjoying time at home with
Martha, his wife of 50 years; his work on several boards; and taking his grown children and grandchildren on trips. He'd also just bought a puppy that he had promised his wife he would train.

But Woodward says he knew how badly NCSU needed a leader who could bring stability and how important NCSU is to the state. More importantly, Martha Woodward knew, too.

She had supported his career for decades, following him as he bounced around the country, then playing the often thankless role of a chancellor's wife at UNC Charlotte. He felt it only fair to leave the decision to her.

Her answer was simple: "She told me I could not not do it," Woodward says. "We both knew the importance of this institution, its importance to the state and the nation."

Choosing his path

Education has been the core of Jim Woodward's life. He was born in central Florida. His father was a flooring contractor and his mother a homemaker. He was the first member of his family to go to college, where he earned four degrees and literally became a rocket scientist - his speciality was structural engineering for aircraft and missiles.

After graduate school, he taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy for several years, then moved to Raleigh for his first civilian teaching job. He was here a year before getting an unusual offer from the University of Alabama at Birmingham that included not only a post at the university but one in private industry.

For a long time Woodward believed he would wind up in industry. But after several years moving back and forth between industry and academia, just after he resigned from UAB to take an attractive private-sector job in Finland, he was offered the academic vice president's job at UAB. From that point, his path was clear: academia it would be.

In 1989, he went to Charlotte, where he grew the university from about 12,000 students to more than 19,000, led a construction boom and added several doctoral programs.

In retirement, he has spent much of his time in volunteer roles with various groups that support education, particularly for underprivileged children. He says now he is eager to get back to those groups.

"If you lose kids in first grade," he says, "you lose them forever."

Woodward started work at NCSU two days after Bowles' phone call, slowed only when Martha stopped him on the way out the door to make him swap a yellow tie for NCSU red.

Woodward had told Bowles he would take the job if he had the full authority of a chancellor and the backing to make big and hard decisions. Bowles had said he wanted the same thing.

"I didn't think the institution could simply float for a year, and frankly I had no intention of coming out of retirement and placeholder for a year," says Woodward, who is 70 years old. "For me to give up a year of my life, at my age and my wife's age, that didn't make sense. I didn't need a job, I didn't need
an income, and I didn't need any ego strokes."

Tough decisions

Meeting with deans that first morning and with other groups throughout the day, Woodward stressed that the university's problems were confined to the handful of top jobs and pledged to act transparently so there would be no question about any decisions he made.

He soon identified three tasks that he believed were not only important, but also doable in the months he would be on the job: laying the groundwork for an eight-year fundraising campaign to boost NCSU's undersized endowment, jump-starting stalled efforts to build a new chancellor's house and greatly expanding the student center.

NCSU's Talley Student Center opened in 1972, when there were about 14,000 students. Even then, it was too small, campus officials have said. Now, there are more than twice as many students. A revamped student center is crucial if NCSU is going to attract the best students, Woodward said.

He asked the staff to retool the design to make it less expensive and develop a schedule for increasing student fees beginning this year, but with the largest burden placed on students who would use the center after it is finished in the 2013-2014 school year.

But current NCSU students weren't thrilled.

In a nonbinding referendum, 57 percent said the expansion was needed, but only 38 percent approved the financing scheme.

The student government approved the fee increases, triggering a storm of complaints from students who felt they had been ignored.

Ceresnak was among those who took the brunt of criticism, but he says Woodward was right about the importance of the student center.

"His resolve and vision allowed us to move forward," he says.

The harshest criticism Woodward faced came in October when he fired Associate Vice Chancellor Lennie Barton, the popular head of the alumni association. Barton had unusually long ties to the university, having played on the varsity golf team as an undergraduate and worked for NCSU in various capacities for more than 30 years.

Woodward says Barton was fired because of his performance.

Among other things, he says, the alumni group's membership growth had stagnated, and Barton had done a poor job handling its finances.

Some alumni are still bitter about the way Barton was treated. Woodward says that it was the most difficult personnel decision he had ever made but that the problems were serious, and he had no choice.
Woodward is particularly proud of how well the university has continued to do extraordinary work, despite the leadership crisis. It's on track, he says, to set a record this academic year for the number of research proposals and grants and contracts received.

As Woodward prepares to return to his busy retirement, Bowles pronounced himself pleased with the results of the phone call he made in June.

"He did his homework, he listened, he got a good sense of where the university was, then he used his experience and his enormous personal skills and leadership ability and moved the University forward," Bowles wrote via e-mail. "He hasn't deferred a single tough decision. He has clearly left N.C. State better than he found it."

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