THE DAILY CLIPS

April 16, 2010

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Trustees discuss options for chancellor's residence

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, April 15, 2010

The East Carolina University Board of Trustees will take another look at options for improving or replacing the chancellor’s residence.
The facilities and resources committee to the board discussed new sub-committee meetings to explore the options available when it met Thursday on campus.
“A lot of us have thought for a long time that the chancellor’s residence is outdated,” said Trustee David Redwine, chairman of the committee.
“We need a residence that is more functional and usable than what we have now.”
Trustee Chairman David Brody said replacing the chancellor’s residence has been under consideration for 10 years. The board has explored expanding the residence, rebuilding it and purchasing or building a new one in a different location.
The Dail House, which serves as the chancellor’s residence and entertainment venue for special visitors, was purchased by the university in 1948. It is located on Fifth Street directly across from the main section of campus.
“This is something for the betterment of the university,” Brody said.
The committee discussed several other universities in the state that recently have built new chancellor residences including the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Appalachian State.
Redwine said that the issue can be sensitive in the tough economic environment, especially with tuition increases.
“I think it is a sensitive issue, especially in the times we are in,” he said. “I don’t think proposing a big new residence would sit well with the general populace, but we have to do something to raise the profile of the chancellor’s house because it is too small and outdated.”
The board also discussed the installation of cell phone antennas on the roofs of many of the campuses buildings, both on the east and west campuses.
The committee approved a plan that would place antennas on the roofs in collaboration with a private company that will then lease the use of the antennas to cell phone companies to eliminate any dead spots on campus.
Scott Buck, associate vice chancellor for business services, said that students should be able to have full bar reception all over campus once the antennas are installed along with the repeater boxes that go with them.
Because students can be contacted via text message during an emergency, the plan impacts safety on campus.
“This will make for a robust cell system so that anybody can pick up a better signal,” Buck said.
“This can mean a big impact on emergency management and student services.”
Revenue generated from leasing the towers to the cell phone companies will be dedicated to housing.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
March brings attention to human trafficking

The Daily Reflector

Shouts of “stop human trafficking” rang out over College Hill as East Carolina University students marched to protest human trafficking on Thursday evening.

About 25 students gathered on campus and marched from College Hill to the Hendrix Theatre to view “Playground,” a documentary on the trafficking of minors in the United States.

The march was organized by students and Eastern N.C. Stop Human Trafficking Now.

Pam Strickland, of Eastern N.C. Stop Human Trafficking Now, said the practice of people being tricked, lured or coerced from their home or country — then forced to work with no or low payment or on highly exploitative terms — is often thought to exist only in the back-alley brothels of developing countries. But trafficking could not exist without the help of American capital, Strickland said. The documentary explores this and many other issues.

Participants said they marched to raise awareness of human trafficking and begin a serious discussion on how to stop it.

PARTICIPANTS CARRY signs and chant during a protest march against human trafficking. They walked from College Hill to the Hendrix Theatre on ECU’s campus.
Report: GSU to hire ECU coach
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, April 15, 2010
East Carolina coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener will be named Georgia State’s women’s basketball coach today, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Thursday night. In eight seasons at ECU, Baldwin-Tener led the Pirates to a 126-111 record. She is the program’s all-time winningest coach, and led ECU to a rare NCAA tournament berth in 2007. Her .532 winning percentage ranks fourth all-time at East Carolina.
The Pirates are coming off a 23-11 campaign, which ended in the second round of the WNIT. Baldwin-Tener, who had four winning seasons at ECU, is a Georgia native who played two seasons at Kennesaw State before transferring to Georgia. Baldwin-Tener also was an assistant coach at Georgia from 1991-98.
Cancer survivor Riley Philpot paints a flowerpot during the second annual Pediatric Cancer Survivor Dinner at St. James United Methodist Church on Thursday. Philpot's started the nonprofit Riley's Army.

Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector

Physical Therapist Lora Joyner hugs Isabella Davis, 5, as they greet each other during the second annual pediatric cancer survivor dinner at St. James United Methodist Church on Thursday. Joyner became friends with Davis after working with her through her cancer treatment.

Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector
Everyone is a guest of honor at cancer survivors celebration
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, April 15, 2010
Though Jonathan Moebus turned 12 on Wednesday, the colossal celebration on Thursday — complete with music, a magician, crafts and cake, flower pots and face-painting — was not just for him.
There were more birthdays to celebrate. At the second annual pediatric cancer survivors dinner, it seemed everyone was a guest of honor.
“It’s a huge birthday party with balloons and cake,” said Kelly Philpot of Riley’s Army, a local cancer support organization that co-sponsored the event, along with Relay for Life of Pitt County.
“More birthdays” is a theme the American Cancer Society is using to salute the 11 million survivors of the disease. Local families have much to celebrate as well.
“The survivorship for children has improved greatly,” said Philpot, whose daughter, Riley, was diagnosed with Wilms Tumor nearly four years ago. “We have survivors we know who are up into their late 40s. We hope to see them older and older.”
Pediatric cancer survivor Laura Irons Johnson was diagnosed in 1999. Now cancer free, the 27-year-old Pactolus School teacher spoke at Thursday’s event to give inspiration to families who still are battling the disease.
Such stories are a source of encouragement to Kathy Moebus, who has had two of her four children diagnosed with cancer. Jessica suffered from dyserminoma. Now 24, she has been cancer free for nine years. Jonathan was diagnosed in October 2007 with acute lymphoblastic leukemia.
Jonathan, a student at A.G. Cox Middle School, has another year of treatment ahead of him.
He was given this week off from chemotherapy to celebrate his birthday and to attend the survivors’ dinner.
“It’s kind of special, especially with someone like Jonathan,” Moebus said. “He can’t be a kid. He’s not a normal 12-year-old; he’s 12 going on 30. He misses being able to play ball and do normal things that a 12-year-old wants to do.”
Thursday’s event scored lots of points with ball players like Jonathan. East Carolina University’s women’s soccer coach Rob Donnenwirth and his team volunteered for the celebration, held at St. James United Methodist Church.
Donnenwirth became involved with Riley’s Army after serving as a volunteer coach for Riley’s recreational soccer team. For the Philpot family, the coach and players were examples of the multitude of supporters who wanted to help their family during Riley’s illness. Such volunteers inspired the name Riley’s Army and the mission to help provide support to children with cancer and their families.
Lisa Green, whose son, Daniel, was diagnosed a day after his third birthday, said support for the entire family is critical.
“We all go to the clinic together; we all go to the hospital,” said Green, a wife and mother of five. “Cancer is a family affair. It definitely is the hardest on the kids who are having the medicine, but the other kids are affected as well.”
Daniel’s siblings have missed not only play dates but their own birthday parties when their brother was too sick to risk having guests in their home. All four of them were invited to the
pediatric cancer survivors’ dinner, which included 15 cancer survivors and their families. One was diagnosed a month ago, another has been cancer free for 20 years.
Every year, more than 150 children in eastern North Carolina are diagnosed with cancer.
According to the Pediatric Cancer Foundation, one in 330 children will be diagnosed with cancer.
“As much as we felt like we were hit by lightning,” Philpot said, “it’s a lot more common than we expect.”
Riley’s prognosis is good, but, like many pediatric cancer survivors, she is at risk for long-term health complications. Her mother said the disease will have lasting effects in other ways as well.
“Our family is forever changed,” she said. “You can never go back to where you were before because you have a whole new perspective. You appreciate every birthday.”
That outlook is common among families of cancer survivors. But in a room full of kids, cake and balloons, such emotions can be overlooked, at least temporarily.
“They’re excited,” Green said. “They don’t see all the deep meaning behind everything. For them it’s just fun, and that’s what it should be.”

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ECU's 'The Wild Party' promises memorable music bash

By Kelley Kirk
The Daily Reflector
Friday, April 16, 2010

Greenville is a college town, and just like college towns all over the country, there has been a wild party or two in its past. East Carolina University will hold its own memorable music bash with its production of “The Wild Party.”
ECU/Loessin Playhouse presents Andrew Lippa’s “The Wild Party” at 8 p.m. today-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday and 8 p.m. Monday-Tuesday.
The show is based on Joseph Moncure March’s 1928 narrative poem of the same name. Lippa’s “The Wild Party” coincidentally debuted during the same theater season, 1999-2000, as Michael John LaChiusa and George C. Wolfe’s version.
“My personal opinion is that Lippa’s is musically superior to the other. I really like the variety. There are references to many musical styles: Latin, Cuban and the kind of jazz-age rhythms that you’d find in ‘Chicago,’” said Director John Shearin. In addition to his career at ECU, Shearin has an extensive acting career including appearances on “Dawson’s Creek,” “Matlock” and several soap operas. Shearin believes that if this show had been written 30 years ago, many of the tunes in it would be jazz standards today.
Shearin said vocally “The Wild Party” has some of the most difficult music ECU has ever done. “We could not have done this show 10 years ago. We have the depth of talent now,” he said.
Shearin also said his cast has handled the show with incredible maturity. The production contains adult themes, so parents considering taking their children should be aware that there are some risqué characters in addition to a steamy story line. For example, at one point during “The Wild Party” each character seeks out a sexual partner.
“I think its done very poetically and beautifully. Everyone there is in search of a spiritual partner,” Shearin said.
The story opens with Queenie and Burrs appearing to be a match made in heaven. The vaudeville performers — a show girl and a clown — decide to live together in a Manhattan apartment. After the shiny veneer of new love wears thin, Queenie tires of Burrs, who is physically abusive. Queenie decides to throw a party, just to embarrass her thuggish partner. The guest list is a motley crew of characters including a prizefighter, a theater producer, a pair of flamboyant brothers, a hooker and a lesbian madame.
“They are a collection of lost souls, people who don’t belong anywhere else,” said Shearin. There are 26 in the cast, all of whom are students except Michael Tehaney who plays Jackie, a mute dancer. Tehaney is an assistant professor at ECU and bachelor of fine arts coordinator for musical theater.

Contact Kelley Kirk at kkirk@reflector.com or (252) 329-9596.

If you Go!
When: 8 p.m. today-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, 8 p.m. Monday-Tuesday
Where: McGinnis Theatre
Cost: $12-$17.50
Call: 328-6829
ECU's Simmons named to watch list

*Pirates' closer leads conference with seven saves*

Published: Friday, April 16, 2010 2:15 AM EDT

ECU Sports Information

IRVINE, Calif. — East Carolina's Seth Simmons is one of 45 relief pitchers to be named to the midseason watch list for the sixth annual National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) Stopper of the Year Award, given to the top relief pitcher in NCAA Division I baseball, as announced by the association Thursday.

The junior right-hander has appeared in 17 games as the Pirates closer posting a 1-1 record with seven saves, which leads Conference USA (all games). On the year, he has fanned 28 batters, walked 12 and allowed seven runs (all earned), while posting a team-best 3.06 ERA.

In his three seasons as the Pirates closer, Simmons has made 77 relief appearances with 18 saves, boasting a 6-2 record and a 3.94 ERA. He has struck out 121 batters while walking just 41 in 93.2 innings of work.

On ECU's all-time charts, the Lewisville, N.C. native ranks second in saves and third in appearances.

Leading the elite field with a nation-best 11 saves is Virginia's Kevin Arico. The junior right-hander owns a 2.37 ERA and had registered 27 strikeouts in 19.0 innings pitched.

Also included on this year's midseason watch list is 2009 finalist Matty Ott of LSU (0-0, 2.70), who ranks second in the nation with 10 saves. Last year, Ott, the 2009 SEC Freshman of the Year, set a new high for the most single-season saves in LSU history with 16 and carried his team to a national championship. Oklahoma's Ryan Duke (0-1, 1.59) and Appalachian State's Chris Patterson (2-1, 0.77) each hold 10 saves apiece, tying them for second in the country with Ott.

The Big 12 Conference leads the way with six players named to the midseason watch list. The ACC, Pac-10, SEC and Southland Conference have four pitchers each on this year's watch list, while the Big East Conference is represented by three players. In all, 20 conferences are showcased in this year's midseason watch list.

At the conclusion of the regular season, the Division I national saves leader and four other relief pitching standouts will be selected as finalists and released Wednesday, June 2, prior to start of NCAA regional tournament competition. The NCBWA's All-America Committee then will select the winner, with this year's recipient to be announced on the opening day of the College World Series on June 19.

Texas hurler J. Brent Cox won the inaugural Stopper of the Year Award in 2005, with Don Czyz of Kansas claiming the honor in 2006, Luke Prihoda of Sam Houston State winning it in 2007, Georgia's Joshua Fields topping the field in 2008 and San Diego State's Addison Reed grabbing the honor last season.
The NCBWA, founded in 1962, presents the Dick Howser Trophy to the nation’s top player. It also selects All-America Teams for all Divisions, a Division I Freshman All-American team, Division I and III Players of the Week, Division I District Players of the Year and Division III Players of the Year.

ECU BASEBALL TO HOST ECBL GAME SUNDAY

The East Carolina baseball team will host an Exceptional Community Baseball League game this Sunday at 3 p.m. at Lewis Field inside Clark-LeClair Stadium following the C-USA series finale against UAB.

Formerly the Challenger League, the EBCL is for children with any special needs who are from the ages of 5-18 and plays each Saturday from the end of April through mid June.

The 26th-ranked Pirates (21-12, 3-3 C-USA) will act in a buddy system for the participants helping them with all phases of the game such as hitting, fielding and throwing.

More than the skills of baseball learned through the experience, the value of the Little League ECBL is found in the proven therapeutic and socialization benefits of participants’ self esteem, the opportunities to mainstream into other divisions of play, and the disciplines of teamwork, sportsmanship and fair play which are hallmarks of the Little League program.

The philosophy of the ECBL is to provide the framework so that every Little League program may offer a structured, athletic activity for all youth in the community.

Playing equipment, uniforms, official shoulder patches, and announcers will be available for the ECBL participants as well.

A special group of children, who shun the description “special”, can now enjoy all the benefits Little League Baseball has been offering to youngsters worldwide since 1939. Playing with the same equipment on the same fields, ECBL participants learn not only the fundamentals of baseball, but also how it feels to be just like other children, pulling together as a team, being cheered, and earning awards for their achievements. Greenville Little Leagues’ ECBL is co-sponsored with the Greenville Recreation and Parks Department. For general information (registration info., game times and locations, etc.) regarding ECBL contact Brian Weingartz (252) 341-5680. For more specific information regarding ECBL call John Harer at (252) 353-5167.

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Basnight to support open salary records

Senate leader Marc Basnight will push for making the salary histories of all state and local employees public when lawmakers go into session next month, a spokesman says.

"I can confidently say that he would be very persuasive in expressing to his colleagues that people paid with taxpayer dollars, their salary history should be publicly available," Basnight spokesman Schorr Johnson said.

Changes to the state personnel law from Senate Democrats might go further. State Sen. Doug Berger, a Franklin County Democrat, said employment histories should also be public. He is one of three senators Basnight asked to look into the state's personnel law in response to a News & Observer series, "Keeping Secrets," that reported that the law is among the most secretive in the nation.

North Carolina appears to be the only state that keeps salary and employment histories of public employees secret. Berger, like other legislative leaders, said it doesn't make sense that information that was once public doesn't remain public.

Johnson said Basnight was still considering whether the personnel law needs to be changed to open information about employment histories, disciplinary actions and hiring.

Berger said that he wants to tackle the problem of school teachers disciplined for sexual misbehavior who quietly move from district to district, but he isn't sure he wants to make that information public.

Senate Minority Leader Phil Berger, a Rockingham County Republican, has said he will seek to introduce legislation that makes public the salary and employment histories, records explaining disciplinary actions and hiring information such as reference letters from state officials.
The Washington Post

Virginia Tech students remember those who died in shooting

By T. Rees Shapiro
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, April 16, 2010; B01

When Virginia Tech student Molly Pearl was a freshman, she slept through her morning French class on April 16, 2007. And perhaps for that reason, she will be there Friday evening to commemorate the nation's worst massacre by a lone gunman by lighting a white candle and placing it next to one of 32 limestone blocks -- one for each victim, including Pearl's French professor and 11 students from the class she missed.

The ceremony has been held annually since the shooting, but it has taken on extra significance this year because of the looming graduation of many of the students who were freshmen at the time of the massacre -- a dwindling group that calls itself "the 4/16 generation."

The thousands who are saying goodbye are preparing for the days ahead with feelings of nostalgia, camaraderie and survivor's guilt. Many are wondering what it will mean for Virginia Tech after they are gone, when most of the witnesses leave Blacksburg and become alumni.

There also are those, like Pearl, who are staying on. Her academic progress stalled after the shootings because of depression and a resulting leave from college, but she is back on track and expects to graduate in 2011.

"People in my class tried to jump out of windows," said Pearl, 21, who is from Fairfax. "What would I have done? I would have stood there, frozen. If I had gone to class I would have been shot. I probably would have been killed."

Virginia Tech, with a student population of 28,000, has been losing students who experienced the massacre and its extended aftermath. Nearly a quarter of them graduated one month after the shootings by student Seung Hui Cho, who killed 32 and himself and left 25 others wounded. Two more classes graduated in 2008 and 2009. The 2010 commencement, scheduled for May 14, will see off most of those who were freshmen during the massacre.

Brandon Carroll, 21, of Poolesville, helped pack up the apartment of Mike Pohle, who was killed in a German class across the hall from Pearl's French class. Carroll, now the student body president, said he wonders whether the April 16 date will continue to be as momentous for future students.

"It's inevitable that it's going to fade a little bit and that it won't mean as much to the community," Carroll said. "If you don't have that shared bond with other classes, then it's slowly going to lose its significance."

Friday's "Day of Remembrance" is expected to follow a schedule similar to previous years' memorials.
Classes will be canceled, and there are events planned throughout the day to highlight the achievements of the victims and honor their memory.

Seniors say they already sense a dwindling intensity about the tragedy among younger students, some of whom appear to view it mainly as a day off. The university has decided to resume holding classes on April 16 beginning in 2012, the fifth anniversary of the shooting.

"I think the gravity of April 16 will be lifted a little bit after our class goes through," said Kelsey Steiner, 21, a senior psychology major who shared a class during her freshman year with Nicole White, who was killed in the German class. "To have been here and felt the emotions and to have experienced the fear, the pain, the grief, everything, is something I don't think another class will know."

Pearl knows, and she's haunted by the fact that there easily could have been a 33rd stone inscribed with her name.

"I think the Tech community needs to make sure we still have a day off for remembrance," Pearl said. "The memorial is beautiful, but we need to make sure people see it and know why it's there. In the future, they can't ask, 'What are those rocks?'"

Pearl spends many of her days in bed, the only place she feels safe. She has spent hours talking with therapists, and to this day she shakes when retelling her story.

The weekend before the shootings, she was invited by an older student to his fraternity's spring formal in Myrtle Beach, S.C. After a long weekend of drinking and hours in the sun, Pearl returned late Sunday, exhausted, and went to sleep.

She was awakened about 9 a.m. by her roommate, who said there had been shootings on campus and that it was on the news. Pearl sat up in bed and for a few hours watched CNN "just like someone from California," observing events occurring a half-mile from her door.

About midday, a friend ran to Pearl's room.

"Didn't you have class in 211 Norris?" the friend asked. Pearl couldn't remember. While walking to class she would just "follow her feet."

A little while later Pearl heard it on the news. Many of the victims had been her friends in Intermediate French.

"It was like an anvil dropped down on my head," Pearl said. She had panic attacks and needed to surround herself with friends who understood her grief. This year, Pearl said, because many of her friends have graduated and moved on, she feels lonely.

When the shooting survivors get together every April 16 to remember their friends, she feels like the pariah.

"I feel guilty for not being there because I had partied that weekend and was tired and slept in," Pearl said. "How is it fair that I'm going through all this quote-unquote emotional trauma when I wasn't even there?"

When Pearl sleeps, she has nightmares. She sees her classmates, sitting in 211 Norris as blood flows out
of their bodies like water spilled from a glass.

A new tattoo on her foot reads: "Je me souviens" -- "I remember" in French.

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The Washington Post

2 more Pr. George's officers suspended over beating at U-Md.

By Ruben Castaneda
Washington Post Staff Writer
Friday, April 16, 2010; B02

Prince George’s County police said Thursday that they have suspended two more officers in connection with an incident last month in which officers in riot gear beat an unarmed University of Maryland student who had taken to the streets with hundreds of others to celebrate a victory by the men’s basketball team over Duke University.

With those suspensions, a total of four county officers have been relieved of their police powers in connection with the attack of John J. McKenna, 21. The March 3 beating was captured on video by another student and has been aired all across the world since McKenna’s attorney released it on Monday.

The video shows McKenna skipping on a sidewalk before stopping before a phalanx of officers on horseback. As McKenna backs up, two county officers in riot gear rush him and knock him against a wall; at least one of them hits McKenna repeatedly with a police baton. As McKenna crumples to the ground, the video shows, a third officer rushes in and strikes him repeatedly with his baton.

McKenna suffered a concussion and other injuries, his attorney said.

The FBI, the state’s attorney’s office and police internal affairs detectives are all investigating the incident.

In addition to the beating, they are focusing on official charging documents filed by Officer Sean McAleavey against McKenna and another student.

The charging documents allege that McKenna and Benjamin C. Donat, 19, assaulted officers on horseback and their mounts, and were injured by horses. Prosecutors dropped charges against McKenna and Donat before the video surfaced.

McAleavey is the only suspended officer who has been publicly identified by officials.

In another development, Maj. Daniel A. Dusseau, commander of the 1st District and the official who was in charge of the police response the night of the beating, is retiring, officials said.

Dusseau, a 21-year veteran, has taken a job in the private sector and will retire at the end of the month, said Maj. Andy Ellis, a police spokesman. Ellis said the retirement is unrelated to the controversy over the College Park incident.

Said Dusseau: "My retirement and movement to another job is something I've been working on since I was eligible to retire and has nothing to do with the incidents going on in College Park," he said.

Staff writer Matt Zapotosky contributed to this report.

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