THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU team seeking answers about painting
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, April 24, 2010
Each week, as many as a dozen faculty and curious students ride or climb to the top of East Carolina University’s Joyner Library. They cluster in a room with a conference table in the center and lined with ancient books.
All chat excitedly as they wait for her arrival, talk about what they’ve found the last two months as they gazed at her under magnification or ultraviolet light.
ECU conservator Susanna Grieve lifts a blue, quilted blanket off an inconspicuous black box in the corner and folds back two protective wooden panels. The flashes of visiting media fire, but she remains still, not looking altogether pleased — the left side of her face screwed into a near grimace.
But the flaming hair and porcelain skin equally saddled with heavy, dewy pearls leave no doubt. It’s Queen Elizabeth I immortalized in paint, the portrait the size of so many posters hanging in nearby dorm rooms.
There is much more the experts in the room don’t know. Those details include when she was painted, who painted her and how she wound up sitting in a gatehouse where visitors paid admission to visit a Dare County historical attraction.
A team at ECU is determined to find out.
The portrait was purchased from the Berry-Hill Gallery in New York City, according to June Bell, governing board chairwoman for the Elizabethan Gardens. She and Dare County historians have been cobblering together a past for the painting in attempts to help the authentication process.
Bell thinks a North Carolina garden club and a private donor matched funds to purchase it for about $3,000, and it was bought specifically to hang in the gatehouse.
It’s been cleaned several times, twice in-state but once in Washington, D.C. People passed the queen every day, but no one ever expressed a thought that she might be worth something. Bell
said. Six million dollars, actually, is where estimates have come in if she’s all she’s cracked up to be.
And cracked she is, Grieve said, and weathered. It’s Grieve’s job to verify the information
estimates are based on: that the portrait was painted in 1592, possibly by Tudor court artist
Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger, and was crafted late in the queen’s life — a period which
historians say she went to great lengths to destroy.
“I looked at her, and she was amazing,” Grieve recalled. “The way she’s posed and looks at you,
it’s like ‘Wow. This is the queen.’”
She described the persistent glare as they tried to photograph the work, quipping, “It’s almost like
she wasn’t giving us anything to work with.”
Grieve was hired last July to reinvigorate ECU’s conservation program, and history professor
Larry Tise put her to work straight away. He noticed the painting years ago in his prior work as
director of the state archives. It became his personal goal to see it identified and properly stored.
It took more than two years to convince the board.
Tise has done some authentication of his own though he, like Grieve, is more at home with
artifacts than art. Honored as the Wilbur and Orville Wright Distinguished Professor of History,
he’s identified a table from the Wright brothers’ camp and targets they used for shooting practice.
“Eastern North Carolina is a treasure trove of things sitting around that people have seen EUR?
and don’t really know what they are,” Tise said.
The team tries a different authentication procedure on the painting every Wednesday from 3-5
p.m. Each is non-invasive. This week, they used an X-ray fluorescent spectrometer, which
measures levels of elements on the painting’s surface. Those can help identify the type of
pigments, which are matched with the time period artists used them.
“We do science,” Grieve said.
There are symbols on the back — a V and a six — and the professors conjecture the body and
background may have been painted prior to the head and face. The portrait has been restored a
few times, each one masking potential clues, Grieve said. Many details remain a mystery.
There’s been no “smoking gun” to prove authenticity, Grieve said. But the team also has found
nothing that proves otherwise, including a prior study conducted in 1985.
This high-profile project could show the world ECU is equipped to take on this kind of research.
Tise hopes it will be “a lightning rod” for other challenges and notes that no other state schools
are actively authenticating and preserving state artifacts.
Professors already made headway with preservation work on the Queen Anne’s Revenge, the
remains of a 300-year-old ship piloted by infamous pirate Blackbeard. That’s been possible
because the university has one of only three underwater archeology programs in the nation.
“We’re here to help preserve North Carolina cultural heritage, their family heritage,” said Grieve,
who said her students are doing pro-bono work for the Village of Yesteryear and are willing to
take on more local projects.
As for the queen, she again will be on display Aug. 19, as Dare County and the Elizabethan
Gardens celebrate the anniversary of Virginia Dare’s birth. Historians believe Dare to be the first
child born in the new world.
Bell said her board is not even talking about how conditions might change if the painting is as
valuable as estimates project.
“I don’t even want to get my hopes up that high,” she said.

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Pat Sells, right, uses a computer to analyze the results of a test to determine if a portrait of Queen Elizabeth is authentic as Larry Tise gets a closer look at the painting at the Joyner Library on the campus of East Carolina University last week.

Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector
Bowles to speak at ECU spring commencement
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, April 24, 2010
Erskine Bowles, president of the University of North Carolina system, will be the commencement speaker at East Carolina University’s 101st spring commencement on May 7. About 3,400 students are candidates to receive degrees at the ceremony, which begins at 10 a.m. in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. A band concert will begin at 9:30. Shirley Spruill Redford, the retired director of the Somerset Place State Historic Site in Creswell. She played the leading role in establishing the site, which is one of the most significant African-American historical locations in North Carolina.

Bowles, who announced in February that he will retire at the end of this year or when his successor is chosen, became the leader of the UNC system on Jan. 1, 2006. He is known for his work ethic and is widely applauded for bringing increased focus and efficiency to the system. He was a White House chief of staff in the Clinton administration, and he has been selected by President Obama to co-chair a the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, charged with proposing long-term strategies for reducing the federal budget deficit and restoring the nation’s fiscal health.

This will be Bowles’ second commencement address at ECU; he spoke at the fall ceremony in 2006.

In addition to the university-wide ceremony, many colleges, schools and departments will hold recognition ceremonies May 8-9. Details are available at www.ecu.edu/commencement.
ECU's coaching search winds down
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, April 25, 2010

East Carolina could have a new women’s basketball coach in place as quickly as today. Sources have confirmed that University of Tennessee-Chattanooga coach Wes Moore is the leading candidate to take over for Sharon Baldwin-Tener. The university announced Sunday that the ECU Board of Trustees will hold a conference call this afternoon to “consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment or conditions of initial employment of a prospective employee.” Moore has built an impressive resume with the Mocs. In his 12 seasons at Chattanooga, Moore has led the team to 11 straight Southern Conference regular season titles and 11 consecutive 20-win seasons on his way to a 290-85 record.
He’s also no stranger to North Carolina. Moore spent two seasons as an assistant coach under Kay Yow at N.C. State before moving on to the head coaching job at Frances Marion, where he compiled a 69-20 record in three seasons.
Before joining the Wolfpack, Moore was 131-36 in six years as head coach at Maryville College in Maryville, Tenn.
Moore’s wife, Linda, is from Jamesville.
Moore would take over the position vacated when Baldwin-Tener opted to return to her home state to coach at Georgia State earlier this month.
Baldwin-Tener left East Carolina as the winningest coach in program history, guiding the Pirates to a 126-115 record in eight seasons.
She grew up in Smyrna, Ga., a suburb of Atlanta, and played at Kennesaw State and Georgia. Baldwin-Tener was also an assistant coach at Georgia from 1991-98.
Dr. William Meggs

“Double Vision, 2009” is part of the “Women Artists: Professors of the Studio” art exhibition in Joyner Library. The photograph by Annie Hogan was made with a large format camera on two plantations in South Carolina, Drayton Hall and McLeod Plantation. The exhibit features work by female studio faculty artists of the ECU School of Art and Design and continues through June 30 in the exhibit gallery on the second floor.
Cliff Hollis/ECU News Services
Art students make quilt for Ronald McDonald House
Saturday, April 24, 2010
ECU News Services
During a special art show Monday, 16 young local artists will present to the Ronald McDonald House of Greenville a friendship quilt that they made with the help of one of their East Carolina University student instructors.
The one-day exhibition of art produced by students in third, fourth and fifth grades in the ECU School of Art and Design’s After School Art program will be from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Monday in the Foundations Gallery of the Jenkins Fine Arts Building.
The children helped create a friendship quilt by contributing self-portraits to add to a framework of colorful fabrics. The young artists also learned about the history of quilt making and friendship quilts.
ECU student Abigail Cochran enlisted the help of a pair of master quilters, her mother Joyce J. Cochran and grandmother Edith W. Wood, both of Colonial Heights, Va. Wood, 91, donated some vintage fabrics to be used in the quilt, including fabric samples, some of which were more than 80 years old and had belonged to her mother and sister-in-law.
The five ECU students leading the afterschool program are enrolled in ART 3860: Classroom Participation in Art, taught by Robert Quinn. The students write the lesson plans and teach them to the elementary students in the art program.
“Each student teacher takes turns doing lessons with the students and this project was one of mine. The students made self-portraits that have been incorporated into the quilt,” Cochran said.
“This project features collaborative artwork that is incorporated into the community. I wanted to have something that the children would have a sense of pride that they were doing something for the community,” said Cochran, who earned her bachelor of fine arts degree in sculpture in May and is working on her teaching license for art education.

Professor receives research award
Dr. William Meggs, a professor of emergency medicine and chief of toxicology at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has received the Research Award from the American College of Medical Toxicology for contributions to toxicology research.
During the past three decades, Meggs has shown innovation and creativity in medical toxicology and related areas of study. These range from the use of the drug heparin to treat anaphylactoid shock to ways to delay onset of toxicity from snakebites. Perhaps his greatest impact has been his research into irritant sensitivity, which can cause inflammation similar to asthma and other conditions.
Meggs also was the first researcher to report that chronic exposure to low levels of an organophosphate insecticide could induce obesity.
Meggs is the author of “The Inflammation Cure,” which combines scientific writings regarding fundamental processes that produce inflammation in diseases with lifestyle modifications to reduce harmful inflammatory processes in the body.
He has been on the ECU faculty since 1988.

Pirates Treasure to collect donations
The Pirates Treasure program will again be collecting unwanted items from departing ECU students as the semester ends. The program, organized by ECU and the City of Greenville, aims to curb the amount of waste left in campus neighborhoods or sent to landfills.
Instead of trashing reusable items, students are encouraged to drop off their unwanted household goods, such as furniture, kitchen appliances, clothing, nonperishable foods, lamps and more, at the Pirates Treasure donation site. From there, nonprofit organizations and social services groups will distribute items to local families in need. Also, students in need of available items can visit the drop-off location and collect what they need, free of charge. Donations will be collected from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Thursday and Friday. Items should be taken to the Willis Building at the corner of First and Reade streets.

“This is our third year organizing this event, which is a great opportunity for students and community members to assist with the beautification of our city while helping those who need it,” Lucia Brannon, coordinator for ECU Off-Campus Student Services, said.

Associate deans of tech college named
Leslie Pagliari and Evelyn Brown have been named associate deans for the College of Technology and Computer Science.

Pagliari is coordinator of the distribution and logistics program in the Department of Technology Systems. She will focus on industry engagement and undergraduate education and also is leading the creation and implementation of the new career development program for the college. She has published more than 15 journal articles and has more than 25 published conference proceedings and presentations. She is a board member of the North Carolina Council for Logistics Education. She is president of the Association of Operations Management and education chairwoman for the Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals.

Brown is a faculty member in the Department of Engineering and will focus on research and graduate studies. Her research interests center on the application of industrial engineering tools to improve health care delivery.

She has served on numerous university committees, including the University Research Council, the TECS Recognition Ceremony Committee, the Engineering/Math Committee, and the Engineering Assessment Committee. She serves as co-chairwoman of ECU’s Research and Creative Achievement Week Committee.

She is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education, Society of Women Engineers, Institute of Industrial Engineers, and Society for Health Systems.

“I am extremely pleased to announce these appointments to our leadership team,” David White, dean of the College of Technology and Computer Science, said. “Leslie and Evelyn have and will continue to make great contributions to our department and college.”

ECU News Service
Three anatomy and cell biology faculty members at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU were invited to provide cover art for recent scientific journals.

A slide by Dr. Ann Sperry, associate professor, was used on the cover of the March issue of Biology of the Cell. It is a fluorescent image of two cultured cells and a protein discovered in her laboratory (labeled in red) near the site in cells where microtubules (labeled in green) originate. Sperry hypothesizes that this protein may regulate cell shape and/or cell division.

Dr. Warren Knudson, professor, provided a slide of cultured chondrocytes, cells that make up cartilage, for the cover of the May issue of Arthritis & Rheumatism.

These cells were studied in an article identifying the fragmentation of an important protein, CD44, that occurs during arthritis.

Dr. Qun Lu, associate professor, provided art for the March issue of NeuroToxicology.

His study demonstrated how the chemotherapy drug cisplatin induced peripheral neuropathy but inhibiting signaling of a protein facilitates recovery from experimental neurodegeneration.

The picture chosen for the journal cover illustrates sensory nerve action potentials in cisplatin-treated mice.
The work of these researchers was funded by grants from ECU Division of Research and Graduate Studies, the National Institutes of Health, the National Cancer Institute and the National Institute on Aging.

**Upcoming Events:**

Tuesday: Founders Day-University Awards Day, 10 a.m., Hendrix Theatre. The UNC Board of Governors awards for excellence in teaching along with ECU teaching, research and service awards will be given.

Wednesday: Community Service Fair, 1-4 p.m., Willis Building, First and Reade streets. More than 25 nonprofit organizations will participate along with an American Red Cross blood drive, 12-5 p.m. Open to the public.

See [www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Presumptuous fundraising letter was sent in error

Jenni Elion wrote this week that she was bothered by a fundraising letter from N.C. State University's Wolfpack Club, which offers scholarships to athletes.

The letter read, "Last year your pledge of $120 to the Annual Scholarship Fund played an important role in the lives of over 550 student-athletes."

The thing is, Elion, who received her master's from NCSU in 2009, has no record of making such a pledge.

And two, "as an engineer who is turned off by the disproportionate amount of funding channeled to ... athletic programs, when I donate, it's earmarked for ... engineering programs," she wrote.

And three, Elion considers herself a Virginia Tech Hokie, where she received her bachelor's degree, so she gives most of her money there.

Elion also says that "certain negative experiences with NCSU, including the whole Mary Easley mess, have made me loath to donate anything to NCSU ever."

So - to summarize - she definitely never, ever donated money to the Wolfpack Club.

(Before I go on, I want you to know I did not go to UNC-Chapel Hill, nor am I related to anyone who did, nor can I name anyone on UNC-CH's basketball team, or NCSU's, or even my own alma mater's, for that matter. So please no e-mails accusing me of being an NCSU hater, OK?)

I called the Wolfpack Club and spoke with Ed Stack, the club's associate executive director. There's a simple explanation, he said: Elion received the wrong letter.

The club, which is separate from the alumni association, recently got new software. Elion was mistakenly tagged as a donor and not a young alumna.

"What we typically do is categorize them as young alumni separate from donors," Stack said. "She received our regular donor letter, but that's not what we typically send to young alumni."

Elion should have gotten a recent graduate renewal packet that explains that all graduates are automatically enrolled in the Wolfpack Club as part of the young alumni program.

For their first year, it's free. New graduates receive a $120 credit to be club members as a way to help them as they start out in their careers, Stack said. They do not receive tax deduction letters for this, he explained.

For the next three years after graduation, graduates received tiered club membership credits - $90 toward their fee for the second year, $60 for the third and $30 for the fourth. Then, in the fifth year after graduation, they can decide whether they want to give the full $120 to continue their membership. As a
club member, you can get priority parking spots and seating at athletic events.

The club is really not trying to force itself on anyone, and it certainly was not trying to mislead Elion, said Media Hooks, who is with the young alumni program of the Wolfpack Club.

"We're just trying to get people involved the Wolfpack Club," she said.

Now, Stack said, he is going to go back and look at all recent graduates to make sure they received the correct letters.

"Obviously we have to do some follow-up now," he said. "The master's and doctoral students could have been coded incorrectly. We're definitely going to have to check that out.

"It was truly a mistake, and we don't want anyone mad at this," Stack added, saying they will either put Elion on the list or take her off, "whatever she wants."

As a side note, I just want to say it's so refreshing talking to people who want to right the wrongs. Stack and the Wolfpack Club definitely fall into this category. Some other businesses should take note. Customer service makes a huge difference, and I'm going to try to make a note of good service in future columns so you know who has it.

Recycling rewards

Last week, I wrote about Raleigh's Recycle and Win program, where randomly selected city residents are rewarded with $50 Harris Teeter gift certificates for recycling correctly. This week, Durham County started a similar program: a house is eligible to be selected randomly to win a pair of Durham Bulls game tickets, a buffet meal and a souvenir cap.
Models raise money for charity

Growing up, like many girls, Michelle Congleton flirted with the idea of being a model. At 14, she even went to the Barbizon School of Modeling.

But the Raleigh-born daughter of a Wake County magistrate and city councilman was pretty and smart, and she had other dreams, too. She graduated from Enloe High School, East Carolina University and the N.C. Central University School of Law and now runs her own law firm.

Still, 20 years later, while being photographed for her firm's website, the old itch came back. The photographer told her that local retailers like hiring models in their mid-30s because it adds a layer of authenticity.

"I thought it could be a fun hobby," Congleton says, "but I wondered how I could turn it into something more meaningful." Her idea was to give a percentage of what she earned to charity.

And then she had another thought: Why just me?

So began Models for Charity. Begun in December, the group of professional men and women raises money for Triangle charities through modeling. When they get paid work, a minimum of 25 percent of their wages goes to a local charity, with the tax benefit going to the employer who gave them the work. The members organize and host events for charities and volunteer at and attend fundraisers given by other groups.

It's a simple name with double meaning: there's the goal of making themselves available for charitable organizations, and then there's the weightier goal of being examples of what giving back can look like.

"We're holding ourselves out as role models," Congleton says.

There are about 30 members of Models for Charity, working in real estate, restaurant management, computer programming, law and other professions. Not all members walk the runway, but all are focused on benefiting the Triangle community.

That's why Jay McBain, who works at Lenovo, got involved. A native of Canada, he had been active in national organizations but wanted to do more local work when he moved to Raleigh. He met Congleton at an event and joined Models for Charity in March. "Michelle is unique across the U.S. in terms of what she's doing," he says.

McBain doesn't have a modeling background, just a spirit of adventure ("I say yes to everything at least once"), so he says he's "getting there" with the modeling. He admits to getting some ribbing from colleagues. "They call me a rock star," he says. "But the ends justify the means. We're not there for personal branding or leverage."

That focus is shared by Jennifer Gray, a Wake County assistant district attorney who has been with Models for Charity from the start. She had never modeled and isn't thinking about developing a
signature runway walk.

"I'm not interested in the diva aspects [of modeling]," she says. "We know this is not our day jobs. That's why it's fun."

So far, the group has helped the Me Fine Foundation, which aids parents and caregivers with children at Duke and UNC Hospitals; the American Heart Association; the Women's Center of Wake County; and the Tammy Lynn Center for Developmental Disabilities.

This month, along with physicians acting as models, they held an event with Saks Fifth Avenue, hosting a fashion show and silent auction to benefit Wake Med Children's Hospital.

Debbie Laughery, vice president of public relations at Wake Med says as the hospital tries to raise $20 million, Models for Charity is giving it another audience of potential donors.

"In some ways, raising the money is not as important as raising awareness," she says. As an accountant works on the group's nonprofit status, Congleton says the biggest challenge is getting operating money; the divorced mother has dipped into her own pocket for expenses. She hopes to gain corporate sponsorships and would like the group to host at least two charity fundraisers a year.

Founding the group and being a model has changed her in some ways, Congleton says. "You have to be very confident; you have to have a good sense of self worth," she said. "Models for Charity taught me about, more so than I ever have felt before, and I've seen others in the group develop that as well."

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Peace College names its 10th president

RALEIGH -- Peace College has named Debra Townsley as the 10th president of the 153-year-old Raleigh women's college.

Townsley, now president of Nichols College in Dudley, Mass., will succeed Laura Bingham, who took office in 1998 and plans to retire June 30.

 Reached by phone, Townsley said she was nominated for the position and had not been actively looking for a new job. But she became interested when she learned of Peace's heritage and the fact that it's a women's college, she said. Townsley said she began her academic career at a women's college.

"And Raleigh doesn't hurt," she said. "It's a little warmer."

A native of Florida, Townsley holds a bachelor of science in business administration, with concentrations in marketing and management from American University, an MBA from George Washington University, a master of arts in psychology and a Ph.D. in organizational psychology from the University of Vermont.

"After meeting with her several times here in Raleigh, it was evident that she not only met but exceeded all the criteria we established for the College's next leader. We could not be more pleased to welcome her to Peace," Board of Trustees member Fred Kelly, chairman of the search committee, said in a news release.

Townsley was named president of Nichols College in 1998, after serving as dean of academic affairs for a year. She also has worked at Saint Michaels College in Vermont, at Northern Virginia Community College and at Marymount University of Virginia.

Early in her career, she was a senior consultant and project manager at Booz, Allen & Hamilton and a marketing support representative for IBM.

"I really think Peace has a tremendous potential to increase its capacity," Townsley said. "I'm really excited about that potential and what the future holds for the college."

Townsley will move into the Peace president's house with her husband, Mike. She has three grown children. She will assume the presidency in August.

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