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Not the Justice Republicans Expected
Souter Surprised Observers by Leaning Left in Several High-Profile Decisions

By Robert Barnes
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, May 2, 2009

Justice David Hackett Souter started on the Supreme Court's right, very briefly became part of its center and then for a much longer period was firmly established on the left. Conservatives and liberals are not finished debating whether he's the one who drifted or if the court itself moved.

But there will be no doubt that the legacy of the 69-year-old Souter is far different than what would have been expected from the man President George H.W. Bush's chief of staff prematurely called a "home run for conservatives."

Instead, it was President Obama yesterday who offered the praise of one pleasantly surprised. "He came to the bench with no particular ideology," Obama said after Souter informed him of his intention to step down. "He never sought to promote a political agenda. And he consistently defied labels and rejected absolutes, focusing instead on just one task -- reaching a just result in the case that was before him."

The results for Souter in the high-profile decisions that define the court in the public's mind were almost all on the left. His role in an unusual three-member opinion in Casey v. Planned Parenthood that saved abortion rights established by Roe v. Wade was an early signal that conservatives had not gotten the justice they wanted.

It has been followed by Souter's support for gay rights, affirmative action and other government programs meant to remedy past discrimination and segregation, the restriction of the death penalty and constitutional rights for suspects held in the fight against terrorism.

"Justice Souter's common law jurisprudence, with its flexible approach to constitutional interpretation and deep commitment to precedent, including expansive civil liberties rulings, makes him an unlikely model for future Republican nominees to the court," wrote his biographer Tinsley E. Yarbrough, a professor at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C.

But the lesson of nominating a little-known judge with a limited trail of opinions and writing was one Republicans learned well, evidenced by the unsurprising jurisprudence from the three justices named by both President Bushes since Souter: Clarence Thomas, John G. Roberts Jr. and Samuel A. Alito Jr.

Souter's retirement brought mostly brickbats from the right, such as the sentiments of conservative constitutional scholar John O. McGinnis of Northwestern University's law school: "Souter will be known wholly for doing the unexpected by becoming one of the most liberal justices on the court. . . . He leaves no independent jurisprudential mark and not a single memorable phrase in an opinion of which he was the acknowledged author."
Not surprisingly, Souter's supporters see things differently. "The court moved right, around him, and the Republican Party moved right, as well," said Kermit Roosevelt, a University of Pennsylvania law professor and former Souter clerk. At recent reunions of his clerks, it was clear that Souter was ready to move on, but his clerks urged him not to retire, "especially so during the last administration," Roosevelt said.

Roosevelt, like others, said the decisions that have made Souter controversial reflect his judicial temperament rather than personal ideology.

"Part of his philosophy about the Constitution and the court's work is a respect for precedent," he said. "He doesn't like dramatic change."

Among the back-and-forth yesterday between conservatives and liberals, and antiabortion and abortion rights groups, came praise for Souter from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was the author of last year's decision slashing punitive damages for Exxon Mobil resulting from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska.

"We will remember Justice Souter as an influential voice on the Supreme Court, for taking a balanced and thoughtful approach to the unpredictability of punitive damages, for recognizing the burdens of legal discovery on businesses, and for affirming the primacy of the federal government in foreign affairs," the chamber said.

One reason Souter seems ill-defined to the public is his reluctance, greater than any of the other justices, to reveal himself. His famous statement about cameras in the court is "over my dead body." He rarely gives speeches, and even more rarely, interviews. But friends describe him as witty and charming, with old-fashioned manners, and he seems well liked by his fellow justices. Justice Anthony M. Kennedy yesterday even described him as "one of the best raconteurs."

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recently described how she persuaded the lifelong bachelor to escort her to the opera when her husband was under the weather.

"He never goes out," Ginsburg told her audience of law students, "so people were amazed to see him."
Local official: Economic pressures may lead to anxiety

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, May 03, 2009

Swine flu aside, the down economy remains a topic of discussion and for some, a cause for concern.

Stress related to the economy can affect the lives of average people.

Samuel Sears, professor and director of health psychology at East Carolina University, said some people who have not had trouble in the past with anxiety and depression can develop symptoms or have questions about their stress levels.

“Economic pressures are stressful because people can feel like their financial well-being and their future are out of their control,” Sears said.

He said the severity of anxiety and depression is better predicted by other issues but worries about the economy may bring anxiety to the forefront.

Sears said the economy is usually seen as just another stressor for most people.

“As a result, in my work at the East Carolina Heart Institute, patients say that they are worried about the heart and then cite the economy as one more thing to worry about, in addition to their medical condition,” he said.

Sears said that he would advise patients worried about the economy to budget, cut back on luxuries and set new priorities.

“The strategies also include emotion-focused strategies that involve stress management, self-care, talking about the problems and exercise,” he said.

For many people, the state of the economy is a frequent topic of conversation or a cause for concern, but others are trying to remain positive.

Lynn Caverly, who works with ECU’s Campus Living department, said she doesn’t worry too much about the economy, even though her state salary is being cut by one half of one percent.

For her, the state of the economy is tied to environmental issues and learning to conserve more and live on less.

“I have always been a green person — I don’t buy a lot of new stuff,” she said. “I wonder if I should be more concerned.”

She said she has cut back on things like movie rentals, but she has never bought expensive coffee and prefers to bring it from home to work and support local businesses instead of big box corporations.

“I think this is the global evening out between the haves and the have-nots,” Caverly said.

“We all need to learn to live with less.”

Jack Taft, who was enjoying a beverage at The Tipsy Teapot Friday afternoon with Caverly, is retired and lives off of investments.
But he doesn't stress about the economy too much either, he said.

"I am a generally conservative person anyway," he said. "I still do pretty much what I want to do, but I have never been one to spend money on things I don't need."

Both Taft and Caverly said they didn't know anyone who has lost their jobs in recent months.

For Kristen Etheridge and Cas Valentine the economic situation is a little more troublesome.

Both work for ECU's career center where they help ECU grads find jobs.

But both are concerned about the cut to their state salaries and wonder why the cuts are not being spread to everyone on the state payroll, including judges and legislators.

"I worry about the state of things," Etheridge said.

"Is my job going to get cut? I'm living paycheck to paycheck."

Etheridge pointed out people she knows who are staying in school with the help of financial aid to keep paying the rent instead of trying to find a job.

Valentine said now is the time to get more education.

"I'm pretty confident because I am in school," he said. "School is the best way to overcome an economic problem. As long as you keep learning, you will always have a job."

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.

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ECU News Services

Sunday, May 03, 2009

An East Carolina University geographer received the highest teaching award given at the university during the Teaching Awards ceremony held April 28 in the Mendenhall Student Center.

Derek Alderman, associate professor in the Department of Geography, has been selected as the ECU recipient of the annual UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The award was one of several presented during the ceremony. Thirty-seven faculty members from a variety of disciplines were nominated or presented with awards. Several faculty members were recognized in more than one category.

Chancellor Steve Ballard said, while the university provides many important services, teaching is “at the heart and soul of the institution.”

“I think what you all are doing makes all the difference in the world for our students and our future,” he told the nominees.

Alderman began his career at ECU in 2000 and, in 2005, became a tenured associate professor. He holds an undergraduate degree in history from Georgia Southern College and master's and doctoral degrees in geography from the University of Georgia. He has received the Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award, the Robert L. Jones Award for Outstanding Teaching and the Scholar-Teacher Award, in addition to other honors.

Alderman has authored a book, 12 book chapters and more than 40 journal articles. He has become a nationally known expert on the politics of naming streets and other public places after Martin Luther King Jr., and has been quoted in more than 90 interviews with the media.

“I'm truly honored to be recognized among all of my great colleagues,” Alderman said. “One of the reasons I enjoy this institution so much is its commitment to research, teaching and service.”

Alderman credited a mentor from his undergraduate days with his successful teaching model, which includes an open door policy, constant communication with students, the involvement of students in research, and the cultivation of a challenging and engaging classroom atmosphere.

“THe university is more than just a transfer of information,” Alderman said. “Our job as university professors is to create opportunities and environments in which we can put students in places where they can help construct their own knowledge.”

A member of the Board of Governors will present Alderman with a commemorative bronze medal and a $7,500 cash prize during commencement.

Other ECU nominees for the 2009 Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching were Kermit Buckner (Educational Leadership), Robert Carroll (Physiology), Ken MacLeod (Marketing and Supply Chain Management), Janice Neil (Undergraduate Nursing Science), Fred Schadler (Finance) and Douglas Schneider (Accounting).

Several additional awards were presented during the ECU ceremony.

Six faculty members were selected for the 2009 Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching
Awards. Recipients were Michael Harris (Management), Jeannie Golden (Psychology), Mark Richardson (Music), John Howard (Communication), Sue Steinweg (Curriculum & Instruction) and Linda Mooney (Sociology). Each recipient received $1,000 from the UNC system.

The Max Ray Joyner Award for Faculty Service through Continuing Education was presented to Shanan Gwaltney Gibson of the College of Business Department of Management. Gibson received a $1,750 cash prize and a plaque.

Eighteen faculty members were nominated for the 2009 East Carolina Alumni Association Awards for Outstanding Teaching. Three winners were selected for the association’s Robert L. Jones Award. Winners were Shanan Gwaltney Gibson (Management), Lisa Clough (Biology) and Todd Fraley (Communication).

New members joining Board of Trustees

Two new members have been elected to the ECU Board of Trustees by the University of North Carolina Board of Governors.

Steve Jones, an executive with RBC Bank in Raleigh, and Danny Scott, a marketing executive with Monsanto in St. Louis, are scheduled to join the ECU board at its meeting on July 23. Their appointments are provisional until they file forms required by the North Carolina State Ethics Commission.

Jones, market president for the Carolinas and Virginia for RBC, is a 1991 graduate of ECU. He currently serves as chair of the university Board of Visitors. Scott, who holds a degree in business administration from ECU, joined Monsanto this year after serving as vice president for diversity for Anheuser-Busch Companies.

Also joining the board in July will be Brad Congleton, the newly elected president of the Student Government Association, who serves ex-officio. He is a sports management major and has served the last year as vice president of the SGA.

The Board of Governors has reappointed Trustees Joel Butler of Greenville and Mark Tipton of Raleigh to new terms on the ECU board. Butler, chair of the board’s Audit Committee, is chief external affairs officer at University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina and president of the UHS and Pitt Memorial Hospital foundations.

Tipton, a member of the board’s Facilities and Resources Committee is chief executive officer of Whistler Investment Group, a real estate development firm.

Also, Robert V. Lucas, a longtime attorney and civic leader in Selma, has been appointed to a second term on the ECU board by Gov. Beverly Perdue. Lucas, founder of the Lucas, Denning and Ellerbe law firm, is a former president of the SGA. He is chair of the board’s University Affairs Committee. His new term on the ECU board begins July 1 and runs until June 30, 2013.

The student member of the board serves a one-year term; all other members are named for four-year terms.

Student receives Bunting Scholarship

David S. Laughlin of Salisbury, a master’s degree student in physician assistant studies at ECU, was recently awarded a Bunting Scholarship.

The $1,000 award is one of several given to ECU students by alumnus Michael L. Bunting of Julian. Criteria for selection are financial need and merit.

Laughlin is the son of Mark and Diane Laughlin and a graduate of East Rowan High School in Salisbury. He received a bachelor’s degree in hospital administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He will graduate from ECU in 2010 and plans to return home to work as a physician assistant in a community health practice.

ECU’s College of Allied Health Sciences has the only physician assistant studies program offered in the UNC system.

Colleges named in U.S. News annual listing

Two graduate programs at ECU have been named by U.S. News &World Report in the largest programs for distance education in the magazine’s annual best graduate schools edition.

The ECU College of Nursing is listed in the nursing programs section, and the ECU College of Education is listed in the library science programs.
According to U.S. News, it surveyed 473 programs with 409 responses to compile a list of the largest graduate-level programs measured by enrollment in business, education, engineering, library science, nursing and public health. The top programs appear in the May 2009 publication and www.usnews.com/elearning.

The College of Nursing was first named to the U.S. News list in 2004. The school offers seven online options in the master's of science in nursing program: adult nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, family nurse practitioner, neonatal nurse practitioner, nursing education, nursing leadership and nurse midwifery.

The College of Education's Department of Library Science offers a totally online, Internet-based Master of Library Science degree. The department has offered online courses since the late 1990s. For more information about the program, visit http://www.ecu.edu/educ/ibs/.

Upcoming events:

Monday — Lecture, “U.S. Economy and the Global Economic Crisis,” 7 p.m., Rivers Building-West auditorium. Dr. James W. Kleckley, ECU College of Business, will speak on the economy's implications for eastern North Carolina.

Friday — Commencement, 6 p.m., Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium. Lt. General Gary North will deliver the featured remarks. http://www.ecu.edu/commencement/

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.

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BPWN names recent ECU graduate most promising female entrepreneur

Monday, May 04, 2009

Amanda Janowski, a recent East Carolina University graduate, has been named the 2009 Most Promising Female Entrepreneur by the Business and Professional Women’s Network.

Janowski, a Greenville native, earned a degree in small business and entrepreneurship. She and her fiancé, Jacob Shepherd, are a part of Life Inc. Ministries and minister through conferences titled "Next Generation Husband," speaking to mothers of boys about raising Godly men who will become Godly husbands and leaders.

Each year, the BPWN collaborates with the ECU College of Business to honor a local woman. This year, Michael Harris, ECU’s director of the Small Business Institute, selected three women that excel in the classroom and the community. The BPWN awards committee consisting of Lisa Barber, Mary Hill, Wendy Anzulewicz, and Judy Breiner interviewed each candidate.

Other finalists were Nicole Flanary and Amanda Holloman. Flanary is a senior at ECU and will be graduating later this month. The Hobgood native is pursuing a degree in business management with a concentration in small business and entrepreneurship.

Holloman, a Walstonburg native, is part of the three-year program at ECU majoring in business administration with a concentration in small business and entrepreneurship.

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Letter: Training paramount to safer cycling

Sunday, May 03, 2009

First of all as a rider, I want to thank you for printing an article drawing attention to the recent motorcycle fatalities. Riders are often overlooked so writing the article may prompt drivers to look for us. However, there were a few inaccuracies.

First, the helmet portrayed is not DOT approved and, therefore, illegal in North Carolina. Without a doubt, helmets reduce injuries and deaths. Whether riders are legislated to wear helmets or not is another matter. Secondly, "Loud pipes do not save lives." They more likely just annoy people and result in negative legislation and attitudes toward motorcyclists. Literature on conspicuity demonstrates that white helmets and bright clothing do make riders more visible.

With regard to safe riding, statistically in multi-vehicle collisions, cars turning left in front of us are our worst enemies. In single-vehicle crashes, it is our own lack of skills on corners. I believe that we exert some semblance of control over these by optimizing lane position and modulating speed. Center-line crossers and animals impinging on our lane are some of the least controllable events. Luckily these occur much less frequently. Recent literature shows distractions and cell phones, in particular, are as bad as drinking and driving.

Car drivers definitely need to do their part but we cannot ignore our part. We need to wear proper gear and be trained adequately. I find it interesting that we focus on what other drivers are doing to us and not on what we can do ourselves to minimize these tragic events. Rider training is paramount. North Carolina now has a rider assessment course called BikeSafe taught by motor officers. Taking regular training courses can help but we also need to get impaired/distracted drivers off the road. My heart goes out to the families.

BILL PRICE, M.D.
ECU Emergency Medicine
Brody School of Medicine
East Carolina University

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Surviving cancer: Festival of Hope a taste of victory

By Tom Marine
The Daily Reflector

Friday, May 01, 2009

With a glass of wine raised, Dr. Gordon Koltis dedicated a toast to all cancer survivors who have “fought the battle and won the war.”

Pitt County Memorial Hospital’s Cancer Services held its first Festival of Hope on Friday night in an effort to raise money for the Raab Endowed Professorship, cancer awareness and survivorship programs. More than 200 people attended the wine tasting event, held at Yankee Hall.

Koltis, a radiation oncologist with Carolina Radiation Medicine/21st Century Oncology, said most fundraising efforts require formal dress and dinner.

But not this one.

“We wanted something that wasn’t the same old thing,” he said. “We wanted to have an event that might be totally unique. Where else can you taste so many wines without having to spend a fortune?”

Fifteen tables featuring samples from different wineries and distributors surrounded the crowd. Vintners offered more than 70 different wine selections, ranging from Merlot to Cabernet Sonoma.

Phyllis DeAntonio, administrator for PCMH Cancer Services, said all proceeds from the event will be directed to support services for cancer patients. Although she did not know the exact total, DeAntonio said the goal of the event was $100,000.

“There are more than 12 million cancer survivors in the U.S., and survivorship programs are on the top of our list of much-needed support services,” she said. “We need to focus on treatment and on how to help develop different programs, such as yoga, journaling, nutrition and exercise.”

Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, and Dave McRae, chief executive officer of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina, attended the event.

A wine enthusiast, Koltis explained the proper method of wine tasting before his toast — investigating its color and viscosity, smelling three separate times and then taking a sip.

“I’m sure you all know the purpose is to raise funds for patient cancer services,” Koltis told the audience. “This may pay for services that insurance companies may not pay for. Our mission is to enable people, not disable people, and allow them to enjoy their lives.”

Contact Tom Marine at tmarine@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9567.

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Profs: Don't count grants in pay cut

Scope of state's action in doubt

BY ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

Gov. Beverly Perdue's decision to shave a half-percent from state employees' salaries has public university researchers pondering this question: Can the state stake a claim to salaries paid by federal agencies or private foundations?

The answer appears to be yes. And no.

In the state's view, grant funding becomes state money when the universities get it.

But grants come with restrictions on their use, and researchers rely on the money to keep their labs running.

Three of the four graduate students who work in James Martin's N.C. State chemistry lab are paid entirely through Martin's three grants: two from federal agencies and a third from a private research fund. Martin, the NCSU faculty chairman, doesn't understand how their pay can be cut, even if they're considered state employees.

"If that is going to be enforced, we believe that, frankly, it's illegal," Martin said. "That is not state money."

In Tony Waldrop's office at UNC-Chapel Hill, the pay cut announced this week set the telephone ringing. Everyone wanted to know how grants might be affected, and Waldrop, UNC-CH's vice chancellor for research and economic development, doesn't have answers.

"There are a lot of questions right now," Waldrop said. "Grants are for a specific purpose and have to be spent for that purpose. I'd be concerned if the presumption is that the money can go back to the state."

David Brown, the state's deputy budget director, said while the state can't take grant money targeted for specific research, an employee set to receive it must still take the same cut that employees paid with state dollars take.

"It's about equity and fairness for all state employees," he said.

It is not clear how many state employees' salaries are funded entirely through external grants.

The pay cut will lower a worker's annualized salary by 0.5 percent through the end of June. Once the next fiscal year begins, employees will be given 10 hours of "flexible" time off to be used before the end of the year.

University budgeting can be tricky. Some faculty members are paid on a nine-month schedule, while others are paid for 12 months of work. Most scientists are paid at least in part by private funds, and their total compensation may include funding from three or four
different sources. Some graduate students and post-doctoral researchers are paid entirely through federal or private grants, but they are still considered state employees.

Funding from state and federal agencies and private foundations is the lifeblood of university research. At UNC-CH alone this year, researchers brought in more than $619 million in such funding. Grants fund research in a variety of ways, from salaries for researchers and graduate students to laboratory equipment and travel to professional meetings.

eric.ferreri@newsobserver.com or 919-932-2008

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Editorial: Connector - Business owners deserve full attention

Monday, May 04, 2009

Pitt County citizens are eager to see a final plan for construction of a long-awaited project to connect the region's primary economic engines. The four-lane 10th Street Connector is a necessary project that promises to ease the flow of traffic and improve the standard of living for thousands of citizens who regularly travel to East Carolina University and Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Citizens, students and visitors to Greenville stand to reap the eventual benefits of the 10th Street/Stantonsburg Road Connector project in the years to come. But transportation improvements in densely populated areas invariably carry negative consequences for residents and businesses established along the path.

Business owners who may be adversely affected by the plan are right to demand the full attention of the steering committee charged with choosing final parameters for the project.

Connecting the intersection of Stantonsburg Road and Memorial Drive with the intersection of Tenth Street and Dickinson Avenue will provide an important gateway to ECU and PCMH. The plan includes eliminating a critical railroad crossing at 10th Street — a primary component of the project that will increase the safety and efficiency of travel in the area for motorists and emergency vehicles. The finished thoroughfare will include bike lanes and sidewalks, though work on the $32 million project is not expected to begin before 2013.

The steering committee, whose members include officials with the city of Greenville, ECU, PCMH and NCDOT, has narrowed options for the project from 11 to three. The committee's difficult task of formulating a final plan must include the considerations of all those affected.

At a meeting last week with city officials and some members of the committee, business owners expressed frustration at their inability thus far to air their concerns before the full steering committee. While compensation and relocation funding is available for those affected, the business owners face a particularly uncertain future.

This project will play a key role in shaping and sustaining economic development for Greenville, and it must be completed. But it will come at a price for some who have established their lives and livelihoods in its path.

As fellow contributors to the economy of this area, they deserve nothing less than the full attention and consideration of those who are deliberating the final course of this critical project.

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NC college grads look to delay entering job market

The Associated Press

Monday, May 04, 2009

RALEIGH, N.C. — Seniors graduating from North Carolina colleges this week are looking for alternatives to job hunting in the dismal economy.

The News&Observer of Raleigh reported Monday that many students will head to graduate school to avoid trying to find a job. Others are entering community service programs.

Twenty-two-year-old Rachel McInturff of Mooresville is graduating from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill with a degree in environmental studies. McInturff says she's been accepted to graduate school in Wilmington, but doesn't want that additional debt.

UNC-Chapel Hill says graduate school applications are up 7 percent from 2008, while budget cuts are reducing admissions by 5 percent.

Officials at Duke University are encouraging students to consider jobs outside their planned choice.


May 04, 2009 - 05:53 a.m. EDT

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Recession casts shadow on graduation

With hiring chances dismal, degree candidates at Triangle schools explore graduate study or service work.

BY JANE STANCIll, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

The hooting and hollering may not be as jubilant this year as college seniors turn their tassels, smile for their parents' cameras and perhaps pop a champagne cork during commencement ceremonies.

Starting this weekend, Triangle colleges and universities will send thousands of graduates into a world that feels colder and crueler. Forgive members of the Class of 2009 if they prefer to
look backward at their college days rather than tiptoe into the Great Recession.

These new grads will find themselves hunting for work in the worst economic climate in generations, as hundreds of newly unemployed workers compete for each opening and job fairs draw lines around the block. Economists say starting a career in a recession can also have a long-term impact -- lower starting salaries that have graduates playing catch-up for at least a decade.

The recession has already taken its toll, with some graduates seeing promising internships and job offers rescinded. Many will seek shelter in graduate school or their parents' homes, as they resign themselves to any available job instead of a start on a career. Others are rushing to community service programs and nonprofit organizations, which haven't been hit as hard in the deep and long-running recession.

Employers expect to hire 22 percent fewer new graduates this year than last year, according to a March study by the National Association of Colleges and Employers, and starting salaries have dipped. Internship opportunities shrank by 21 percent.

"Most of my friends are still kind of up in the air about the immediate future," said Rachel McInturff, 22, UNC-Chapel Hill graduating senior from Mooresville with a major in environmental studies.

McInturff was accepted into a master's program in public administration at UNC-Wilmington, but she's planning to defer for a year. She's not sure she wants to immediately take on more debt for graduate school.

"I already have undergraduate loans in my name," she said. "It's weighing not being employed and borrowing more money. It's lose-lose, really."

Plan B: grad school

Graduate school is a popular Plan B. For four consecutive months, there have been substantial increases in the number of people taking entrance exams for graduate school, said David Payne, a vice president with Educational Testing Service, which administers the Graduate Record Examination, or GRE, to about 650,000 each year.

"It's a good time to go to graduate school and get the degree that will allow you to get to the next level," Payne said. "And when you come out, the economy is hopefully going to be better."

UNC-CH had a record 12,316 applications for graduate programs as of April 27, a 7 percent increase over last year, said Steve Matson, dean of the graduate school. At the same time, the university, facing its own budget problems and cost-cutting, has admitted 5 percent fewer to graduate school. That means the competition has significantly ratcheted up.

"We're not expanding ... we want to remain competitive and absolutely the same quality," Matson said.

Students are also having to adjust their job expectations and, in some cases, shift career course altogether. At Duke University's Career Center, students are being advised to branch out and consider new options, such as teaching or working for a nonprofit.

There are jobs out there, said David Lapinski, associate director of external relations at the center. "It takes networking," he said. "It takes getting your head out of the sand."

This year, for the first time, Duke put together a job fair that was focused on nonprofit and government sectors, with 44 organizations attending.

At N.C. State University's Career Center, students are advised to update social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter with their job search information, in case their contacts
hear of opportunities. And they're told to clean up those party pictures, which might not project a professional image.

Another tip dispensed at NCSU: "Follow the stimulus money." The federal recovery act might be providing new jobs in students' home states.

Nontraditional jobs beckon

Grads are more apt to take a nontraditional path in an economic downturn. Service seems to be surging in popularity. Applications for the Peace Corps increased 16 percent this past year, the largest jump in the last five years.

And Teach for America received a record 35,000 applications for 2009, a 42 percent jump over last year. The program places college graduates as teachers in low-income schools.

That mission appealed to Peter Allen, 22, of Rougemont, who will graduate from Duke on Sunday with a degree in civil and environmental engineering. He will spend the next two years teaching biology in the New Orleans area.

"There is especially a lot of work to be done there, and it could be a very worthwhile experience," said Allen, who was among 11 percent of the Duke senior class who applied to the program.

He found out he was accepted in January, as some of his buddies were hearing that their job offers had been withdrawn. "It made the spring much more relaxed," said Allen, who will go to a teacher training "boot camp" this summer.

McInturff, the UNC-CH student, is counting on her environmental studies degree to eventually lead her to one of those "green economy" jobs she keeps hearing about. And she's looking ahead to graduate school in 2010.

For now, she may head back to her hometown and wait tables unless she finds, as she puts it, "an adult job."

She's hoping the sun will shine over Kenan Stadium on Sunday despite a rainy forecast this week. She's still optimistic despite the Class of 2009's rotten economic timing.

"It's kind of a downer, and it puts a damper on graduation," McInturff said. "But you kind of realize that long term, we're going to be OK."

jane.stancill@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4559

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Ouch!

According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, graduating from college during a recession leads to large initial earnings losses that amount to about 9 percent of annual earnings, an effect that lingers for up to 10 years. Also, graduating in a recession leads workers to start at smaller and lower-paying firms, and they catch up by switching jobs more often than those who graduate in better times.

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Comment on this story

The courtship of doctors, hospitals and medical schools by the drug industry has been a not-always-glorious tradition, and the national Institute of Medicine wants to end it. That's good, since the millions spent by the companies on consulting deals and gifts have by some reckonings contributed to the rising cost of medical care.

Some professional groups already have moved toward curbing free resort trips and the like. And the institute believes full disclosure of relationships of any kind between companies and health care professionals is important. Doctors who have connections with some companies shouldn't be testing those companies' new therapies on patients, the institute says. And medical schools whose faculty members have connections to companies need to be transparent about that.

Most doctors and health-care administrators, public and private, are first and foremost dedicated to patients and understand how to avoid conflicts of interest. But the drug industry is highly competitive, and making strong connections with those directly involved in providing care is important. Indeed, there may be some benefit to patients from those relationships. Still, oversight is crucial. As in anything to do with their health and their care, patients need to know.

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Protester's granton the line

BY JESSE JAMES DECONTO, Staff writer
Comment on this story

CHAPEL HILL - Student activist Haley Koch will meet with the head of the Morehead-Cain Foundation Monday to discuss the fate of her prestigious scholarship.

Neither Koch nor Morehead-Cain director Chuck Lovelace would say whether Koch has been temporarily denied access to some of her funding, but Lucy Hanes Chatham, chairwoman of the Morehead-Cain Board of Trustees, said that's likely.

"That's nothing more than standard procedure when one of our scholars has been arrested," Chatham said.

Koch was charged with misdemeanor disorderly conduct April 23, nine days after she and another young woman disrupted an event sponsored by the student group Youth for Western Civilization. They held up a 12-foot banner that read "No Dialogue with Hate" and forced YWC president Riley Matheson, a fellow senior, to move forward into the aisles to address the audience. YWC opposes "radical multiculturalism," affirmative action and mass immigration.

Charges and hate mail

"The defendant held up a banner and refused to put it down, chanted and sang loudly whereby she did not allow the scheduled lecturer to speak at a school-group-sponsored event," reads Koch's arrest warrant.

The event ended when a protester broke a window and Tom Tancredo, a former Colorado
congressman, fled the building. Among hundreds who protested, dozens who pushed their way into a Bingham Hall corridor, several who shouted at the YWC speakers and four who held up banners in front of them, Koch was the only person charged with a crime.

"This investigation is still ongoing, and arrests of other individuals may occur based on that investigation," campus police spokesman Randy Young said.

Koch said she's received hate mail, but, so far, the criminal charge and the jeopardy of her scholarship are the only concrete repercussions of her activism. She declined to comment in detail on either one.

Funded by a private foundation, Morehead-Cain is the most competitive scholarship in the UNC system. It pays for full four-year tuition, fees, housing, meals, books, supplies and travel. It also covers four summer-enrichment programs starting before freshman year. For an out-of-state student such as Koch, the scholarship is worth about $140,000. John Motley Morehead III established the foundation in 1945 and started the scholarship program in 1951. In 2007, Gordon Cain donated $100 million to expand the program.

Exceptional background

Koch is a product of Sidwell Friends, the Quaker school attended by President Barack Obama's daughters Sasha and Malia and former presidential daughter Chelsea Clinton. Koch, of Cabin John, Md., was among 43 freshmen who received the Morehead scholarship in 2005.

Her parents are Susan and Christopher Koch, Emmy and Peabody award-winning filmmakers. Four of their relatives were killed on American Flight 77, which crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11, 2001. A year later, Susan Koch produced an ABC/Nightline special on how families were honoring those who died in the terror attacks.

On the day of her arrest, Haley Koch received the 2009 Undergraduate Excellence Award from the APPLES Service-Learning program for her work organizing United with the Northside Community Now. UNC-NOW works to preserve the identity of the historically black neighborhood north of downtown Chapel Hill. The group also received the 2009 Engaged Scholarship Award from the Carolina Center for Public Service for their work collecting oral histories from the neighborhood.

Most recently, UNC-NOW has made demands on the developers of Greenbridge, a 10-story, eco-designed condo complex under construction at the edge of the neighborhood, saying they should work with the town to provide more benefits such as affordable housing, jobs, training and tax relief to long-time residents.

Chatham would not say whether Koch would lose her scholarship. The chairwoman said the trustees are not scheduled to meet again until Aug. 2. They would have to schedule a special meeting to decide Koch's fate.

"We are still not fully informed of all the facts," she said. "It's very rare that we deal with one of our students who has been arrested."

jessedeconto@newsobserver.com or 919-932-8760

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Chancellor at NC university cutting back ceremony

The Associated Press

Monday, May 04, 2009

GREENSBORO, N.C. — The new leader at a North Carolina university says her installation ceremony will be leaner than those of years past.

Linda Brady will be installed Tuesday as the 10th chancellor in 117 years at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The ceremony comes at a time when the university system is cutting budgets and laying off employees.

The News&Record of Greensboro reported Monday that Brady said the last installation about 14 years ago cost about $100,000. Brady says her installation will cost about $22,000.

One savings will be changing a buffet lunch for 1,600 guests to punch and light desserts.


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