THE DAILY CLIPS

May 5, 2010

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Fowler out as N.C. State athletics chief

N.C. State gave athletics director Lee Fowler six weeks to find another job.

That window of opportunity closed Tuesday when the university announced its decision to part ways with Fowler after nearly 10 years at the school.

Fowler, 58, will work through June 30 and will be paid through the remainder of his contract, $280,000 annually, until September 2013.

His exit has been in the works since before Chancellor Randy Woodson joined the school in April from Purdue. By March 23, Woodson said, then interim Chancellor Jim Woodward had told Fowler that he needed to be looking for a job and that the university would help by not announcing his departure until May.

This was surely not what Woodson would have wanted as his first major act as chancellor. It is more turmoil at the top at an institution that in 2009 lost its trustees chairman, chancellor, provost and director of alumni affairs.

Now it must replace an athletics director who, while failing to keep pace with a fan base's expectations for on-the-field success, oversaw significant improvements to the university's infrastructure.

Under Fowler, the Wolfpack made upgrades totaling more than $120 million to the football stadium, baseball complex and several other on-campus venues. But football and men's basketball, the school's main revenue sports, stagnated in the second half of his tenure. State hasn't had a winning season in football or made the NCAA tournament in men's basketball since 2006.

"It has been a challenge," Fowler said. "For 10 years, I've always tried to do what's best for this university and all of our athletic programs."

Fowler had contact with Mississippi State via a search firm in Atlanta about its vacant athletics director position, Woodson confirmed. But Fowler's chances of a soft landing at another major university were hindered by talk all over the Internet last week that the university was planning to push him out, Woodson said.

"I do know that the intensity of the conversations out there last week had an impact on how searches viewed Lee," Woodson said. "And just from common sense, if I were searching for an AD - and reading all that kind of stuff about a candidate - I'd say it's just too risky."

Woodson said he hopes to fill the job by the end of the summer. There was enough money in the athletics department to handle the buyout, he said. The first step will be sending out proposals to search firms.

"This is one of those things that needs to move along aggressively," Woodson said.
'A clean program'

Others on campus praised Fowler for his tenure.

Paul F. Williams, an accounting professor and member of the faculty athletics council, said Fowler made academics a top priority and many professors admired him.

"He's run a clean program," Williams said. "The faculty senate actually passed a resolution acknowledging that."

The main issue, Williams said, was pressure from fans outside the university over the mediocre records in football and basketball in recent years, pressure exacerbated by back-to-back national basketball championships by NCSU's rivals in Chapel Hill and Durham.

"People are patient for only so long," he said.

The final decision

Fowler met with Woodson on Monday, and the final decision was made Tuesday morning. Fowler flew to Phoenix in the afternoon with football coach Tom O'Brien for a coaching seminar. He is also scheduled to attend the annual ACC meetings next week on Amelia Island, Fla.

"It's not like I'm cleaning my desk out today," Fowler said.

Fowler was hired as Les Robinson's successor in September 2000, the same month that then football coach Chuck Amato was starting the first of four straight winning seasons and four bowl trips, a stretch that included a Top 15 ranking for Amato's team after the 2002 season.

The men's basketball program was in its fifth season under Herb Sendek, who would lead the Wolfpack to the NCAA tournament five times in the next six years.

Fowler's primary impact, though, may be measured in improvements to the school's athletics facilities. In particular, the Carter-Finley football stadium complex grew tremendously.

During his tenure, the football stadium's growth included:

The 103,254-square-foot Murphy Center complex, which includes coaches' offices, locker rooms and weight rooms.

Fifty-one luxury suites and 955 club seats in the four-story Vaughn Towers addition.

A 7,100-seat addition to close the stadium bowl in the north end zone.

However, N.C. State's record in many sports - including football and men's basketball - was far from spectacular.

From 2000 to 2009, the football team posted a record of 65-58 overall, 34-46 in ACC games. Among the nine schools in the ACC during that entire period, only Duke, North Carolina and Wake Forest posted worse conference records.

"I'm always going to look at the whole organization and say, 'OK, where are we in terms of our peers?' "
Woodson said. "This isn't about winning a national championship every year, but it's about being competitive."

The modest success on the football field and the basketball court proved unacceptable to at least some donors to the program who'd been asked to give generously to the school's building campaigns.

'A lose-lose situation'

N.C. State professor Donn Ward, chairman of the food, bioprocessing and nutrition sciences and a former faculty athletics representative, said Woodson was caught in a tough situation. In proceeding with the plan to encourage Fowler's departure, they lose a great athletics director, he said. But if Woodson had decided to keep Fowler, he would have gone against the wishes of vocal and active members of the university's board of trustees who have been eager for a change.

"He was in a lose-lose situation," Ward said of Woodson. "It's just a regrettable situation all the way around, and I worry that in the long run, I don't think it's in the best interests or health of N.C. State's intercollegiate athletic program."

Fowler said he was too young to retire.

"I'm going to take some time off and re-evaluate my life," Fowler said. "I still want to work."

Staff writer Ken Tysiac contributed to this report.

jp.giglio@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8938
Who's next?

N.C. State will hire a search consultant to assist in finding a replacement for departing athletic director Lee Fowler. Here are some administrators with ties to N.C. State and the ACC who could become candidates for the job:

**JIMMY BASS**
East Carolina senior associate AD served as Wolfpack Club associate executive director from 2000 to 2005 and is an N.C. State graduate.

**CHARLIE COBB**
Former second-team All-ACC center for N.C. State has served as AD at Appalachian State since 2005 and was a senior associate AD for the Wolfpack.

**NORA LYNN FINCH**
ACC associate commissioner is a former N.C. State senior associate AD who served 31 years at the school.

**DAVID HORNING**
N.C. State senior associate athletic director was a member of the Wolfpack's last ACC championship football team in 1979.

**JOE HULL**
College of Charleston athletic director is a former N.C. State golfer and served as a Wolfpack Club fundraiser in the mid-1980s.

**JON LECRONE**
Horizon League commissioner has held important NCAA committee roles and spent nine years as assistant commissioner of the ACC.

**JIM MILLER**
A former associate athletic director at N.C. State, he has been AD at Richmond for 10 years.

**STEPHEN PONDER**
Arizona State senior associate athletic director served 16 years with the Wolfpack Club and is an N.C. State graduate.

**BOBBY PURCELL**
Has received national renown for his fundraising as the Wolfpack Club's executive director and was a finalist for the athletic director job when Fowler was hired.

**GARY STOKAN**
Chick-fil-A Bowl president and CEO is a former N.C. State basketball player.

KEN TYSIAC
UNC selects firm for presidential search

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - The UNC system will pay a Dallas consultant $100,000 to help search for its next president.

R. William Funk & Associates ran the search at UNC-Chapel Hill that resulted in the hiring of current Chancellor Holden Thorp. The firm also was involved in a recent provost search at UNC-CH.

Universities routinely hire consultants to assist with searches. Funk, who has led searches at dozens of large universities and university systems, including a recent search at the University of Virginia, will help find candidates, compile resumes and coordinate interviews.

Funk’s flat-fee contract runs from April 23 to Dec. 31 or until the next leader is chosen.

The $100,000 was the most the UNC system was willing to spend, said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system’s Board of Governors.

“Some people might look at it like it’s a waste of money,” said Kelley Eaves-Boykin, a UNC Charlotte employee and head of the UNC system’s Staff Assembly. “But when you’re hiring someone for this job, I would think we would want the best of the best.”

State funds will not be used.

The money comes from interest gleaned from unrestricted donations to the university system over the years, said Joni Worthington, a university spokeswoman.

A UNC system committee interviewed five firms before picking Funk; he pledged not to work for any other university system while he was under UNC’s employ, Gage said.

Gage said Funk was a good candidate in part due to his prior work in North Carolina. “He understands North Carolina and has worked closely on searches for our system,” Gage said.

President Erskine Bowles has announced that he would retire at the end of the year or when a successor is named.

Besides taking part in recent searches at UNC-CH, Funk was enlisted by the UNC system to speak last summer at a workshop during which campus chancellors defended retreat rights. The policy gives campus leaders payouts, with few strings, when they leave their jobs. The UNC system has scaled back the policy.

Funk said this state’s retreat rights policy was not unusual and that many public universities have one.

eric.ferreri@newsobserver.com
or 919-932-2008.
Gunman kills woman at Duke clinic
Man shot later in police gunfight

FROM STAFF REPORTS

DURHAM - A woman was shot and killed Tuesday at the Duke Health Center at 3116 N. Duke St., according to Durham police.

The shooting occurred about 2:45 p.m. After a 40-minute search, a possible suspect was shot after he "engaged in a gunfight with police," Police Chief Jose Lopez said.

The suspect was found near the intersection of Broad and Carver streets, two blocks from the clinic. He was seriously wounded and taken to Duke Hospital; his condition was not announced.

Lopez said the fatal shooting of the woman did not appear to be a random act and that she is believed to have been the intended target.

However, he said he was not certain whether the man who was shot was also the gunman at the Duke clinic.

"We don't know what happened," Lopez said. "The whole incident is unfolding."

Officers training nearby were the first to respond, Lopez said. A police K-9 unit tracked the suspect to the 500 block of Carver Street, immediately west of the Duke Street intersection. Police cordoned off a house there, as well as the Duke clinic area.

The shooting of the possible suspect is under investigation by Durham police and the State Bureau of Investigation, according to a release from Durham Police spokeswoman Kammie Michael.

It was the fourth shooting involving law enforcement officers in Durham in three months.

On April 17, Joseph Cameron Pence, 44, was shot and killed by police after officers responded to a report of an overdose and suicide threats in the 600 block of East Geer Street, according to police. Pence confronted an officer and was shot twice, according to police.

On March 13, a Duke Hospital police officer shot and killed Aaron Lorenzo Dorsey, 25, who had reached for an officer's gun, according to a Duke spokesman.

In a nonfatal incident, Durham police shot a man Feb. 27 after officers responded to reported gunfire near Juliette Drive and Rosaline Lane in southern Durham, according to police.

Duke Medicine has canceled all of today's appointments at the North Duke Street clinic. Patients who have questions about their appointments can call 919-613-7650. Duke expects to reopen the clinic Thursday.

Staff writers Anne Blythe and Jim Wise contributed to this report.
UNC vows to end coal use by 2020

Students had lobbied for change

By Eric Ferreri
Staff Writer

CHAPEL HILL — UNC-Chapel Hill has pledged to phase out coal use by 2020.

The decision, announced Tuesday, echoes a key recommendation of a campus energy task force and the pleas of a very active student group that has urged UNC-CH for months to stop burning coal at its power plant.

The change would move UNC-CH closer to its goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.

But there are potential obstacles.

The move hinges on the ability of the cogeneration plant's boilers to burn the new, cleaner fuel. It will be biomass, first dried wood pellets and eventually torrefied wood, a product similar to charcoal. The university will soon begin testing the boilers.

If the cogeneration plant was at the end of its lifespan, it could simply be scrapped in favor of a new technology, said UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp. But it has 30 to 40 years left, a long enough lifespan that it makes sense to continue using it.

"We have perfectly good boilers," Thorp said. "Our challenge is how to make a new fuel work in it."

Assuming that it works, the use of the cleaner fuel will be possible only if there is enough of it available eventually and it's affordable.

Moving away from coal can be costly.

At Duke, coal-fired boilers heated campus buildings for 50 years until a plant on that campus closed in 1978. It opened last year after a $25 million renovation and now burns gas, which is cleaner.

At UNC-CH, ending coal use by 2020 was one of six recommendations made by a task force that is still studying campus energy issues.

The cogeneration plant on West Cameron Avenue burns coal and natural gas to produce one-third of the university's power, and it accounts for at least 60 percent of UNC-CH's greenhouse gas emissions each year.

The Sierra Club is in the midst of a national "Beyond Coal" campaign, and on the UNC-CH campus, students working with that project have spent much of the year lobbying for the move away from coal.

That Sierra Club campaign is on about 40 campuses, and UNC-CH is the first to commit to ending coal use.

It is a "remarkable step," said Bruce Nilles, the campaign's national director.

"For the university to say it's going to do its part is a huge step forward," Nilles said.

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

Martha Alligood, Ph.D., a faculty member in East Carolina University’s College of Nursing, has been named to a three-year term on the Board of Trustees at Johnson Bible College in Knoxville, Tenn.

Alligood, a Johnson Bible College alumna, is professor and doctoral program director in the ECU College of Nursing.

Alligood has co-authored two nursing textbooks which have multiple editions and have been printed in many languages. She has contributed more than 40 book chapters and written more than 85 articles for journals and professional publications.

Alligood has been a consultant to numerous organizations including Cape Fear Health Systems, the University of Tennessee Medical Center, the Department of Defense US Army Medical Research and Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles.

She was selected as a Woman of Distinction by the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women at ECU in March 2009. She was inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Nursing Education in 2007, received a Distinguished Service Award from the Johnson Bible College Alumni Association in 2007 and the Leadership in Nursing Research Award from the Southern Nursing Research Society in 2006. She is a member of the American Nurses’ Association, North Carolina Nurses’ Association, Sigma Theta Tau International, Society of Rogerian Scholars, Southern Nursing Research Society, King International Nursing Group and Phi Kappa Phi. She has held elected or appointed offices with most of these organizations.

Alligood lives in Chocowinity with her husband, Charlie K. Alligood.
Avatars liven up lessons

Teens across the country are starting to play computer games in school - and their teachers encourage them.

It's called three-dimensional learning, and it has little in common with the 1980s video arcades parents remember.

In North Carolina, high school students who take an elective called "Computer Applications 2" get introduced to Second Life or ReactionGrid, 3-D virtual worlds in which each player has an avatar - like a digital sock puppet that the user controls. In at least one school district, middle school students sit down at computers to play 3-D games in math and language arts classes.

3-D learning makes immediate sense to anybody born after 1985, because the advances in computer technology that stripped video games of their less-than-wholesome image also made the Internet an integral part of everyday life. For teens growing up in a world of Twitter and Facebook and game consoles such as PlayStation and Xbox, it's no stretch to slip into an avatar and learn about prime numbers, creative writing or citizenship.

"Everybody knows about technology; 3-year-olds can navigate a laptop," said Brendon Schaumburg, a lanky senior at Northwest Cabarrus High School in Concord who has played video games since he can remember. To test ideas for his senior project - an aquaponic greenhouse in a 40-gallon fish tank - Schaumburg logs on to Second Life, where his avatar, Brendon Bilavio, can tinker on a virtual prototype of the greenhouse.

Simulated environments that are colorful, nuanced and lifelike require powerful and fast computers, but they are a key to 3-D learning. Students who enter these environments find themselves on islands, in castles or under water. They encounter healers, dragons, magicians or a guy with a mohawk. Playing requires taking on different roles, solving puzzles or going on a quest with other players who sit in front of their computers in the same room or thousands of miles away. Sometimes there's even money to be made that can be spent in-world or converted into U.S. dollars.

Immersion in the game blurs the line between virtual world and real life, and students become apprentices who gain hands-on experience. Mistakes are teachable moments without leaving behind real-life messes.

"The generation that's coming up is totally absorbed in [the virtual world]," said Julie LaChance, who is charged with integrating technology into classrooms in Cabarrus County schools. "The kids just pick it up. To them it is common, whereas when I talk to a 40-year-old teacher about having an avatar, they look at me like I'm crazy."

Crazy maybe, but effective. 3-D learning works up to 63 percent better than lectures and allows students to improve their math, science and language skills, according to a report the Kansas City, Mo.-based Kauffman Foundation published last year. Students using computer-generated games to learn algebra
were on average able to raise their test results by one grade.

The military, the government and large corporations such as IBM also have adopted 3-D learning. It has been used successfully with students who are deaf or autistic. This year, the New Media Consortium, which lists hundreds of universities, museums and research institutes among its members, identified computer games as one of a handful of emerging technologies that will affect learning, teaching, research and creative expression over the next three years.

The technique has support in the White House. First lady Michelle Obama recently challenged software developers to design video games that teach children about nutritious foods.

"The immersive Internet is the next wave of the net," said Tony O'Driscoll, a 3-D learning expert at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business who practices what he preaches. O'Driscoll co-authored the book "Learning in 3D" (Pfeiffer, 2010) with Karl Kapp, a professor of instructional technology at Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, Pa. The authors discussed it at the Virtual Worlds Best Practices in Education conference in March - a conference that took place on 20 virtual islands in Second Life. More than 2,000 educators from 69 countries attended. Like the other participants, O'Driscoll came in the body of a voice-activated avatar: Wada Tripp looks like O'Driscoll but has no specks of gray in his black hair.

What makes 3-D learning stick is a student's ability to manipulate dials and interact with others in a computer game, said Phaedra Boinodiris, serious games program manager at IBM in Research Triangle Park. "It's doing versus passive learning."

Boinodiris, who's a longtime gamer herself, is behind Innov8, an IBM computer game used by more than 1,000 business schools and companies nationwide. They include Kenan-Flagler Business School at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke's Fuqua School of Business. The game teaches teams of students how to overcome hurdles that can cause bottlenecks or other delays at a company. One version requires the team to collect information and solve puzzles based on real-life events, such as the situation a plywood supplier faces when a hurricane approaches. The students have to figure out, for example, how much plywood the supplier should stock to meet customers' demands and be profitable.

In Pender County schools north of Wilmington, middle school students sit down to play 3-D games in math and language arts class. At-risk students play World of Warcraft - with about 10 million users the most popular game worldwide - to practice online manners, writing and math skills after school.

Schaumburg, the Northwest Cabarrus High School senior, got hooked on Second Life because the virtual world was a place where he could test his idea of ending world hunger by using solar energy and sustainable farming methods. With the help of LaChance, his mentor and the owner of the EDTECH Retreat island in Second Life, he built a virtual four-story greenhouse with the same 1-acre footprint as the Empire State Building in New York.

The Second Life prototype allowed Schaumburg to test his business model for growing organic food in water that is fertilized by fish. He figured that his aquaponic method could produce 18 times as many tomatoes per acre than conventional agriculture.

To finish his project, Schaumburg has only one task left to do. Equipped with data from the Second Life prototype, research he did in botanical gardens and greenhouses in the Charlotte area and expert advice from gardeners, engineers and biologists, he will build a real-world greenhouse in his fish tank.
Private lenders edge back into student loans

but do homework on other options first to get best deal

Three years ago, if you were a college student with an internet connection, you could get a private student loan. Financial institutions were so eager to lend money, some didn't even check to make sure the funds were used to pay for tuition instead of a motorcycle.

The economic downturn and credit crunch changed all that. Last year, the dollar volume of new non-federal student loans plummeted 50%, according to the College Board.

Now, a healthier economic outlook and the loss of the federal student loan business have led lenders to creep back into the market. Increased competition could lead to lower interest rates and lower fees. But while rates on these loans may look very attractive, non-federal student loans have none of the consumer protections provided by federal student loans, says Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success.

If you're planning to apply for a non-federal student loan, here are some factors to consider:

► Whether you've fully taken advantage of federal student loans. Nearly two-thirds of borrowers who took out non-federal loans in 2007-08 failed to max out on their federal student loans first, and 26% took out no federal loans, according to an analysis by the Project on Student Debt.

Unsubsidized Stafford loans carry a rate of 6.8%. The rate for subsidized Stafford loans, which are available for borrowers who demonstrate economic need, is 4.5% for academic year 2010-11. Unlike non-federal loans, which have variable rates, these rates will remain the same for the life of the loan.

But the real benefits of federal student loans kick in after you graduate. If you're unemployed or experiencing economic hardship, you can apply to have payments reduced, based on your income. Under legislation enacted in 2007, borrowers who work in public service jobs for at least 10 years qualify to have the balance of their student loans forgiven.

Some lenders will negotiate with borrowers who are having trouble repaying non-federal loans, but they're not required to offer any relief, Asher says. "You're really at the mercy of the lender if you run into any kind of trouble."

► Credit crunch

The credit crunch led to a sharp decline in the volume of non-federal student loans¹.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Amount (in billions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2004-05</td>
<td>$15.1 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-06</td>
<td>$18.0 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006-07</td>
<td>$20.5 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007-08</td>
<td>$22.3 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>$11.0 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ - adjusted for inflation
Source: Trends in Student Aid

► Sallie Mae lowers loan rates, 1B

Sallie Mae's Smart Option Student Loan is up to 10 years, and the average borrower pays off the loan in seven years, says Charlie Rocha, senior vice president for Sallie Mae. Sallie Mae requires borrowers to make interest-only payments while they're in school. That allows borrowers to pay off their loans more quickly and reduces finance charges by up to 50%, Rocha says.

► Whether you can get a better deal from your bank or credit union. If you already have an account at a financial institution that offers student loans, you may qualify for a better rate, Kandianis says.

About 120 credit unions have joined the Credit Union Student Choice program, a group that helps credit unions offer non-federal student loans. The average interest rate for loans offered by participating credit unions is currently 6.2%, says Mike Weber, vice president of marketing.

For more information about your borrowing options, go to the website for the Project on Student Debt, www.projectonstudentdebt.org.

To suggest columns, e-mail: sblock@usatoday.com. Follow on Twitter: www.twitter.com/sandyblock
Sallie Mae lowers rates on non-federal student loans

Private lenders make changes after losing federal subsidies

By Sandra Block
USA TODAY

Private lenders, faced with the loss of billions in subsidies from the federal student loan program, are beefing up their offerings of non-federal student loans, which could lead to lower interest rates and fees for qualified borrowers.

Sallie Mae, the USA's largest private student lender, will announce today that starting May 10, rates on its Smart Option Student Loan will be 2.88% to 10.25%, based on the current London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR), the benchmark for the variable-rate loan. That's down from a range of 4.38% to 12.88%.

Families typically use non-federal loans to pay for college costs that aren't covered by financial aid and federal student loans, which are subject to annual limits. In academic year 2008-09, borrowers took out $111 billion in non-federal loans, according to The College Board.

The health care reform law includes a provision that ends subsidies for private lenders that provide federally guaranteed student loans. Starting July 1, students who get federal student loans will borrow directly from the government. Last month, Sallie Mae said the loss of that business will force it to cut 2,500 jobs.

The credit crunch led to a sharp reduction in non-federal student loans last year. Total volume of non-federal loans fell 50% from 2008, The College Board says.

But the loss of the federal student loan business, combined with a stronger economy, is reviving interest in non-federal loans, says Patrick Kandianis, co-founder of SimpleTuition, a website that allows borrowers to compare student loans. Up to 10 lenders are offering loans on the website, up from only two or three a year ago, Kandianis says. The company expects to add a few more this summer.

Likewise, the number of credit unions participating in Credit Union Student Choice, a group that helps credit unions offer non-federal student loans, has nearly doubled in the past year to 126 members, says Mike Weber, vice president of marketing. Some of the new members previously offered federal student loans and want to remain in the business, he says.

Student-loan advocates warn that rates for most non-federal loans are variable, which means they'll surge if interest rates rise. In addition, non-federal loans lack the consumer protections provided for borrowers with federal student loans, says Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success.