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Mother shares special delivery of ECU degree

BY DOUG BOYD
ECU News Service

When East Carolina University senior Britney Massey marches in commencement exercises today with her classmates, it will be the second time she’s worn her purple cap and gown. The first time was Monday, in a special celebration that included her mother.

In a wheelchair, breathing from an oxygen tank and draped with a purple blanket, Brenda Brown smiled through her tears at her daughter’s accomplishment. “She’s a fabulous young woman,” Brown said.

See DEGREE, A9

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On Monday, in a hospital classroom, Brown’s husband, her parents, her sister-in-law, her 14-year-old son, Drew, and other friends listened as remarks praised Massey’s accomplishment: a bachelor’s degree in elementary education. Many of those in the room wiped away tears.

“We know you’re going to make a lot of children in a lot of classrooms very happy and make us very proud,” said Dr. Vivian Covington, presenting Massey with her diploma. Covington directs the Office of Teacher Education in the College of Education. She and Associate Provost Chris Locklear led the ceremony.

The past year has been a difficult one for the family. When Massey learned her mother was sick, school was not her priority. “I wanted to quit when I found out. I wanted to stay with her,” Massey said.

Her mother disagreed. “I said, ‘Brittney, no way. We’ve come too far to stop now,’” Brown said. “It’s been a chance of a lifetime to see her fulfill her dream. I just hope we can find her a job out there.”

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House budget would irreparably harm East Carolina

Commencement weekend should be a time of celebration for the entire East Carolina University community. Thousands of young women and men who arrived on campus as children will receive their degrees in front of family and friends, entering the next stage of their lives as educated adults, ready for the challenges of the world.

For the administration and many faculty members, however, the weekend will be a time to pore over details of the state budget, approved by the N.C. House this week, which includes deep cuts to the university system. Should it become law, it promises to undermine the mission of East Carolina and compromise the school’s ability to provide a quality education to future classes of students.

The $19.3 billion budget crafted by Republican leaders in the House won approval in a series of votes this week over the objections of university officials across the state. It seeks to impose a 15 percent cut in spending as part of an effort to close a $2.4 billion revenue shortfall. The budget now moves to the Senate, with GOP leaders there eager to further reduce spending, perhaps bringing the overall funding reduction to 20 percent.

East Carolina Chancellor Steve Ballard has already said that cuts that deep would directly affect the university’s ability to fulfill its academic mission. Positions would be cut, programs would be eliminated and entire schools would be asked to operate on a shoestring. A preliminary report on the effects of a 20 percent cut indicates ECU would be forced to dramatically alter and downsize its academic offerings.

There exists a misconception that schools in the University of North Carolina system are ripe with waste and unnecessary expenses. Critics ridicule research efforts that they consider frivolous and without merit without recognizing the fact that some of the most important discoveries are made through the rigorous examination of the unexplored. As the minority, Republican leaders repeatedly assailed the protection of university funding extended by the Democratic majority.

However, the university serves as the hub of communities like this. In addition to providing an exceptional education to an ever-growing student population, it is the economic engine the powers the region. East Carolina’s mission of service extends far beyond the city limits and the county line, and cuts to its resources have far reaching implications.

While all of state government must tighten its belt amid grim economic circumstances, this budget would harm one of the state’s most important resources and demands relentless opposition.
Richmond transferring to East Carolina

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, May 5, 2011

Akeem Richmond is returning to his North Carolina roots after East Carolina confirmed Thursday that the 6-foot-1 guard is transferring from Rhode Island to play for the Pirates’ men’s basketball team.

Richmond, a Sanford native, will have to sit out the 2011-12 season per NCAA rules, but he’ll have two years of eligibility remaining beginning with the ’12-13 campaign.

“We are extremely excited to have Akeem coming back to the state of North Carolina,” ECU coach Jeff Lebo said. “He had a storied high school career and is a proven college player. We are delighted to have him become a Pirate.”

His first two collegiate seasons at URI solidified Richmond’s status as a 3-point sharpshooter who can score in bunches. He hit a Rhode Island freshman record 81 triples in the ’09-10 season en route to making the Atlantic 10 All-Rookie team and connected on a team-high 75 3s last season while playing in all 34 games for the Rams, including 26 starts.

While noting that shooting from distance is undoubtedly his strong suit, Richmond said in a phone interview that developing more point guard skills and expanding his offensive attack will be key to his success at the Division I level, and possibly beyond.

“I’m taking guys off the dribble and coaches have told me that my change of speed and change of direction are both pretty good,” Richmond said. “I’m not strictly a (shooting guard) and since I’m undersized, if I want to play at the next level, I’ll have to play the point guard position.”

In four seasons at Southern Lee High School, Richmond scored 2,846 points — the second-highest career total in N.C. High School Athletic Association history — and led the state in scoring during each of his final three prep seasons. He poured in 29.2 points per game as a senior.

South Central High School boys’ hoops coach Chris Cherry, who coached Richmond for three seasons at Southern Lee, sang Richmond’s praises.

“He’s a tremendous offensive player,” Cherry said in a phone interview. “He can shoot with unlimited range and he’s just an explosive scorer.
“He could always shoot even at a young age, but he put in work on his game too. He learned to use screens and create space off the dribble.”

Although Richmond’s scoring average increased from 8.7 to 9.3 ppg in his second season with Rhode Island, Richmond’s decision to return to the Old North State wasn’t solely based on basketball.

“I think he was homesick more than anything,” said Cherry, who maintains a close relationship with Richmond. “It’s a different type of cold up there (in Rhode Island).”

Richmond, who chose East Carolina over N.C. State, College of Charleston, Tulane and South Carolina, concurred.

“I was kind of homesick,” he said. “It snows like every day up here and, being from the South, I’m not really used to that. It played a big factor in me coming back.”

Richmond, whose father Eric was a member of the Pirate football program under Ed Emory, is the fifth player to commit to ECU, joining junior college transfers Shamarr Bowden and Maurice Kemp along with prep signees Paris Roberts-Campbell and Paul Stone.

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@reflector.com or 252-329-9591.
NCSU opens new veterinary center

BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer

RALEIGH Many humans would be thrilled to have their relatives treated at a hospital as modern and well-equipped as N.C. State University's new veterinary medical center.

In a sense, that's why it was built and stocked with state-of-the-art equipment and organized around clinics in specialties that didn't even exist in the early 1980s when the building it will replace was built.

"There has been a major change in the attitudes of pet owners in the past few decades to view their pets more as family and not just backyard pets," said Michael Davidson, director of medical services and an associate dean at the College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Owners have come to expect and be willing to pay for high-quality health care, and that's what's driving this."

University leaders will dedicate the new Randall B. Terry Jr. Companion Animal Veterinary Medical Center in a ceremony today. At 110,000 square feet, the $72 million animal hospital is as large as a shopping center and about twice the size of the old hospital next door.
The old hospital, which will eventually become a wellness center, was designed to accommodate up to 12,000 cases a year. Last year it handled 20,000. The new hospital is designed for up to 35,000.

It's not only one of the nation's largest animal hospitals, it's also among the most advanced. The equipment includes a powerful new linear accelerator for cancer radiation treatment in a room that itself cost $1 million to build and features a 14-ton lead door.

There is a CT scan machine more powerful than those in many human hospitals to generate high-resolution images of internal organs; a "biplane fluoroscopy" machine to allow surgeons to visualize internal structures in three dimensions as they work; four ultrasound stations for additional noninvasive imaging; and special rooms shielded with copper to protect delicate equipment used for diagnosing problems with sight and the brain.

There are special areas to isolate animals with highly-contagious illnesses from the rest of the hospital, and other areas that do the opposite: isolate animals with weak auto-immune systems, such as those undergoing marrow transplant therapy, from common illnesses.

'The gold standard'
"I'm confident that it will be the gold standard for academic veterinary medical centers for many, many years to come," Davidson said.

University officials say the hospital is an economic engine, drawing pet owners from across the state and nation. It plays a critical role in educating veterinary students, and a less obvious role in research to fight human diseases such as cancer.

Help for humans
Indeed, a large number of major breakthroughs in human medicine have their origins in veterinary medicine, said David Green, a spokesman for the college.

"So this is a cheap way to help humans," Green said.

Scientists in the vet school and an adjacent research building use what they learn at the hospital in projects at places such as Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill's Lineberger Cancer Comprehensive Center.

The hospital is a huge asset for a veterinary college that is one of the nation's youngest but already among its best, ranked third by U.S. News & World Report.
That's how it was envisioned by Terry, a High Point businessman who considered his nine golden retrievers his family. When he proposed the hospital, Terry said he wanted it to be a national model.

That vision started with a single sick dog. Like many of the college's major donors, Terry was impressed with the way one of his pets, a golden named Nike, was treated there.

He became a major fundraiser for the school, donating several million dollars himself before dying in 2004. He left $20 million to help pay for the hospital, then the largest gift in the university's history. University leaders secured $38 million from the state and continue to raise more money to cover the rest.

Three of Terry's dogs are expected at the dedication.

Another dog - or at least a 1,200-pound statue of one - will have a more prominent role in the ceremony Friday. In a place of honor out front is a bronze of Hannah, a rescued Newfoundland. She was treated at the college in 1999 for a heart condition, and a cutting-edge procedure that involved implanting an artificial heart valve added five years to her life.

Her grateful owners, Randall and Susan Ward, donated $1.5 million to help build the hospital's heart pavilion, one of just nine in the nation. Susan Ward also has contributed more than 80 pieces of animal-themed art, most of which are already hanging throughout the building.

Despite the futuristic equipment and what seems like acres of stainless steel, the building comes across as inviting rather than clinical, in part because of Ward's donated art. Other touches include ample natural light, important not just for the humans who work there but for the animals' health.

There is a coffee shop with WiFi, snacks and sandwiches, where pet owners can pass the hours while their animal is being treated. Outside, there's a "contemplation garden," where owners, and pets, can go for quiet.

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**VETERINARY MEDICAL CENTER DEDICATION TODAY**

The Randall B. Terry Jr. Companion Animal Veterinary Medical Center will be dedicated at 2 p.m. today on NCSU’s Centennial Biomedical Campus on Blue Ridge Road, across from the State Fairgrounds. The center will be open to the public Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. for informal, self-guided tours. Students of the NCSU College of Veterinary Medicine will be on hand to answer questions about the facility and its high-tech equipment and veterinary medicine in general.
FBI: UNC student enticed young boys to send explicit photos, videos
Posted: 05/06/2011  11:10 a.m.

A University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill student arrested Tuesday on child sex charges was posing as a teen girl online to get young boys to send pornographic images and videos of themselves to him, according to the FBI.

FBI agents arrested Corey Gallisdorfer, 19, of Lewisville, at the Granville Towers South residence hall and charged him with sexual exploitation of children. He was being held Friday in the Durham County jail without bond.

According to an affidavit filed to support an arrest warrant, Gallisdorfer posed as a 14-year-old girl on Facebook and contacted 12-, 13- and 14-year-old boys at various schools near Atlanta. He persuaded them to send sexually explicit images and videos, and he then told them he would share the items with their friends unless they sent more photos and videos, the affidavit states.

FBI agents traced the online accounts used in the scheme to websites where child pornography is often traded, the affidavit states.

Agents also were able to obtain an instant messenger account and a cellphone number from some of the alleged victims in the Atlanta area that they traced back to Gallisdorfer, according to the affidavit.
When Gallisdorfer was arrested, the FBI seized his laptop computer from his dorm room, and a preliminary examination of it found an explicit video and some photos of young boys, according to the affidavit.

Web Editor: Matthew Burns
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Editorial - Only time will tell, but new leader looks to be good match for UNCW

He wore a teal tie to his press conference to show his enthusiasm. But who wouldn't be excited about trading in midwestern winters for Southern charm and a coastal climate?

On paper, at least, Gary Miller appears to have all of the qualities that the UNCW Board of Trustees were looking for in a replacement for Chancellor Rosemary DePaolo, who is retiring.

Time will tell if he has what it takes to handle the demanding role that will define him not only as administrator of one of the state's fastest-growing universities but also as a leader in the community. There is reason for optimism, however. He's been a researcher, a professor, an administrator and, most recently, provost -- the chief academic officer -- of Wichita State University.

The student and faculty members on the search committee seemed to think the native Virginian can relate to them because of his varied experience. His 19-page curriculum vitae attributes a number of accomplishments to him, from diversity efforts to fundraising to campus expansion to innovative community partnerships, and so on. Did we mention it was 19 pages?

He is well spoken and appears to be comfortable with public appearances; he has a Twitter account and, according to insiders, has a keen if quirky sense of humor. And a penchant for spiders, his academic specialty.

When he takes the helm at UNCW in July, Miller will face the difficult task of administering a budget that is likely to contain significant cuts. Although he had no hand in creating it, the trustees, faculty and students will look to him to continue honing UNCW's academic reputation with a lot less money. He'll be asked to step up fundraising, to help restore confidence in UNCW's athletic program, which has taken a beating in recent years, and to continue the academic, community outreach and administrative efforts DePaolo has overseen.

Change is always disruptive, and that is especially so in the cloistered universe of academia. Miller's success will depend on his skill at building trust and credibility while making his own mark on UNCW.
He must be accountable to the public, and when possible he should be the face and the voice of UNCW. During his time at Wichita State, Miller has been a visible presence, which bodes well for his ability to handle that part of the job, anyway.

He has a lot to live up to, and he'll get the chance to prove that he's as capable in person as he is on paper.

On a related note, a web search turned up about half a dozen top university jobs for which Miller has been a finalist recently. That's because the finalists at those schools were named, profiled and in some cases, interviewed in public.

Given that the University of North Carolina Board of Governors considered him the best choice for the job, that debunks the argument that good candidates won't apply unless the search process is secret. It apparently didn't stop Miller from going after other high-profile positions. That should be a consideration for future chancellor searches.

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UNCC education college gets $3.3 million in gifts
By David Perlmutt
Celebrating its 40th anniversary, UNC Charlotte's College of Education announced this morning its largest gift to date, a $2 million bequest from the estate of the late Nicholas Goudes.

The gift joins a previous $1 million donation by Goudes, a Charlotte entrepreneur and philanthropist who immigrated from Greece in 1947. It will go to the Alma and Sharon Goudes Education Scholarships Fund, providing scholarships to UNCC students who want to be mathematics or English teachers.

The announcement was made by UNCC Chancellor Phil Dubois, who announced two other significant gifts to the college as well.

Goudes, who died April 5, 2010, was a native of Sparta, Greece. He and wife Alma founded Charlotte's former Sharon View Country Club and ran it for 40 years.

"Mr. Goudes chose to support future teachers out of great love and respect for the teaching profession, and out of a clear understanding of how education can open doors of opportunity," said Mary Lynn Calhoun, the college's dean. The UNCC college produces the second highest number of teachers of any school in the UNC System.

His respect for teachers was obvious. Goudes once told education honor students: "I always say when a teacher enters the room, you should stand up."

The education college was hatched during the 1970-1971 school year. During the celebration today, Dubois announced two other significant gifts.

The first came from Irwin Belk, who donated a lead $1 million gift to create the Carol Grotnes Belk Distinguished Professorship in urban education. The new professorship will focus on a doctorate in curriculum and instruction and provide leadership for the college's commitment to supplying successful teachers in urban schools.
The second is a $300,000 gift from the Cato Corporation and CEO John Cato, a UNCC graduate, for what will be the Cato Teaching Discovery Mural. The piece will be an architectural mural in sculpted brick, installed next year outside the education college building.

The mural will feature images of the power of teaching and include elements of N.C. history and heritage. Donors who give $1,000 or more may supply the name of an influential teacher that will be inscribed on the mural. The college will collect stories of those teachers. And money generated through the mural will establish an endowment to benefit work of the college and students.

"UNC Charlotte has a historic commitment to the preparation of outstanding educators," Dubois said. "Over the last four decades, the College of Education has increased the scope and size of its mission."
U-Va. issues new sexual misconduct rules
By Daniel de Vise

Students alleging they were raped or sexually assaulted at the University of Virginia would no longer have to meet the high standard of “clear and convincing evidence” under new rules proposed by school officials Thursday.

The new standard in such cases would be a “preponderance of the evidence,” which essentially means it is more likely than not that the assault occurred.

U-Va. was already working on new sexual misconduct rules and regulations when the federal government last month issued a Dear Colleague letter that specifically asked colleges to adopt the “preponderance” standard, which makes it easier for victims to prevail.

The university is one of many around the nation that have been accused of ignoring sexual assaults, minimizing them, ruling against victims or trying to make them go away.

And now U-Va. is among the first to revise its rules to meet the federal directive. School officials say they hope their regulations can become a national model.

An investigative report by the Center for Public Integrity in 2009 focused on a case at U-Va. Former student Kathryn Russell spoke of the university’s attempts to shroud her case in confidentiality, telling her she faced disciplinary action if she went public. That stance, the article said, is one reason why only 33 people had reported rape at UVA in the previous 10 years.
New U-Va. President Teresa Sullivan, the university’s first female president, said from the beginning she intended to revisit the school’s sexual misconduct rules.

Among the draft revisions:
1. The proposed rules emphasize where victims can go to get help and support.

2. The definition of sexual misconduct is significantly broadened to include sexual harassment, including stalking and relationship violence, as well as sexual exploitation, including transmitting sexual images and voyeurism. (U-Va. last year drew national attention for a case of alleged relationship violence that ended in the death of senior Yeardley Love.)

3. Better definitions of “effective consent” and “incapacitation,” terms that are key to many sexual assault cases.

4. Geographical limitations on misconduct cases are removed.

5. Time limits on reporting cases are removed.

(In 2007, a former U-Va. student admitted to an assault 20 years earlier; that, too, became a national story.)

6. Mediation is removed as an option in sexual misconduct cases; the federal letter said it was inappropriate.

By Daniel de Vise | 11:17 AM ET, 05/05/2011
On the Lesson Plan: Feelings
'Soft Skills' Business Courses Aim to Prepare Students for Management Roles
By MELISSA KORN And JOE LIGHT
MAY 5, 2011, 1:27 P.M. ET

Business schools are tapping into their "soft" side.

This fall, students at Columbia Business School will be invited to learn the art of meditation. Emotions will run high in Stanford Graduate School of Business' long-running "Touchy Feely" course. And professors at the University of California at Berkeley's Haas School of Business will try to teach students to rein in their type-A personalities, lest they upset fellow classmates.

It's all part of a continuing push by business schools to teach "soft skills"—such as accepting feedback with grace and speaking respectfully to subordinates—that companies say are most important in molding future business leaders.

Although business schools have traditionally excelled at teaching "hard skills" like finance and accounting, those skills become less relevant as an employee ascends the corporate ladder and moves away from crunching numbers to overseeing employees, companies and experts say.

However, with classes often resembling a group therapy session, it is hard to quantify what students actually learn in the softer classes.

A recent study by DePaul University researchers found that managing workers and decision-making—two subjects that require softer skill sets such as being sensitive when delivering feedback—were most important to acting managers. However, those subjects
were covered in only 13% and 10% of required classes, respectively, in a study of 373 business schools, said DePaul professor Erich Dierdorff, one of the study's researchers.

"Business schools are falling short where it matters most," Mr. Dierdorff said. Part of the difficulty might be that soft-skill classes aren't respected as much as "hard" courses, like finance, according to professors and students.

"[They're] very easy to parody," said Michael Morris, director of the Program on Social Intelligence at Columbia University, which started in 2006 and coordinates the business school's soft-skill classes.

Mr. Morris said the Program on Social Intelligence deliberately doesn't brand itself on classes and keeps a low profile to avoid turning students off from the courses.

One such class is a course on "personal leadership," in which students are tasked to set goals, spend time on introspection and even use meditation techniques to alleviate stress, he said.

Columbia also requires students to take a class on determining their leadership style, teamwork and "self-awareness" during their first year. They're also paired with executive coaches to assess their problem areas and how to improve them over the course of the next year.

Part of the restructuring at many top programs is in response to feedback from recruiters, who say that business school students have always been good at technical aspects of managerial jobs but unrefined in leadership areas.

In recent years, BASF Corp., the North American unit of chemical company BASF SE, has trained managers who interview M.B.A. candidates to assess soft qualities like leadership capability, customer focus and creativity, said head of staffing Michael Kannisto.

Previously, the company looked for expertise in functional areas, like engineering and chemistry, but found that job candidates with proficiency in softer skills ended up leading better, no matter their functional background, he said.

When interviewing job candidates, managers from Deloitte LLP assume that M.B.A. candidates have technical prowess and focus almost exclusively on assessing candidates' soft skills, said Kelly Marchese, a principal in Deloitte's strategy practice.

In one round of interviews, for example, Deloitte has candidates work in groups to solve a business problem and monitors how they interact with each other and deal with disagreements.

"Those are tough things for an MBA program to teach," she said. "Some of it you just have to learn through experience."
In response to recruiter feedback, this fall the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California plans to double the length of its mandatory Management Communication for Leaders class, which currently lasts eight weeks. Employers want to see that prospective hires are comfortable presenting to a large group or working one-on-one with peers or subordinates, said James Ellis, the business school's dean.

So far, the redesigned course has paid off, Mr. Ellis said. Recruiters say that the students come across well in interviews, which he thinks is helping them land jobs and internships earlier than in previous years.

The Haas School of Business also has beefed up its course catalog to focus on skills, such as the importance of influencing subordinates, peers and outsiders without pulling what Dean Richard Lyons calls "the authority card."

To be sure, soft-skills training isn't new everywhere. Stanford introduced its optional interpersonal communications class, affectionately nicknamed "Touchy Feely," more than 40 years ago. It is now one of many soft-skill classes at the school.

In the Touchy Feely course, small groups of students learn how to give and receive constructive feedback and control emotional responses to conflict.

Rather than use role-playing activities, Carole Robin, a lecturer in organizational behavior at Stanford, has the students learn from actual interactions. Starting with casual chats on topics of the students' choosing, they get to know one another's strengths and weaknesses, such as who dominates a conversation too aggressively or who comes across as weak for being too deferential.

They are then taught methods for identifying and critiquing those characteristics, and ultimately improving them. Tears are commonplace, and even hugs, as students accept feedback and share their feelings.

Former Touchy Feely student Arnulfo Ventura, who received his M.B.A. from Stanford in 2008, filled his schedule with classes about exerting influence, marketing messaging and leadership development. He said those courses were key to his success in launching Cobá, a Los Angeles-based natural beverage company.

"The real reason why I chose Stanford over other schools was the leadership aspect of it," said Mr. Ventura, 32 years old. "The analytical side, you can get anywhere."

Mr. Ventura said his deeper understanding of interpersonal dynamics helps him connect with prospective customers, distributors and financial backers.

Still, not everyone is enamored of formal soft-skills training.
"Having a professor that's never led an organization teach me leadership out of a book, really doesn't do anything for me," said Mike Marchak, a program manager at Google Inc. and 2008 graduate of Columbia. Mr. Marchak, 32, said he learned more from interacting with classmates in study groups and leading team projects than in classes intended to teach leadership strategy. "I felt like they were too abstract," Mr. Marchak said.

And perhaps that's because soft skills are some of the hardest to teach.

"At the end of the day, it's relatively easy to teach people how to run financial models," said Eric Hirst, associate dean for graduate programs at the McCombs School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. "What's challenging is to lead change, to manage."

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