THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU honors grads, notes years of change
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, May 7, 2011

East Carolina University celebrated the achievements of the graduating class of 2011 and marked years of change at commencement ceremonies on Friday.

“What a great day to be a Pirate,” said Chancellor Steve Ballard as approximately 3,500 degrees were conferred to students in six areas of advanced study and nine undergraduate colleges.

Returning members of the class of 1961 led the processional into Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, marking the first time those celebrating their 50th reunion formally participated in graduation.

“I'm thrilled to death to be here,” said Donna Langley Brown, class of ’61. Her grandson, Shawn Roberts, was in the stands with her as he graduated with a business degree. “The whole family is so proud of him,” she said.

“It's great to be back, it brings back lots of memories,” said Patricia Roberson, who earned her education degree in 1961.
“I'm very impressed with the improvements the university has made, especially in the medical and athletic fields,” Patricia's husband and classmate Elton Roberson said.

“We're the first golden alumni class to come back for graduation, so I hope we set the precedent,” said Jim Hardee, who earned his business management degree from ECU in 1961. “I'm certainly impressed with the university and how far they've come.”
The class of 2011 also has seen many changes in its academic careers. Senior class officer Daniel Thornton remarked on the new Chili's restaurant, the Trustees Fountain rededicated in 2009, this season's addition of the “boneyard” student section to the stadium and the rushing of the field after the defeat of West Virginia in 2008.

The College of Nursing celebrated 50 years — the famously celebratory college was even more jubilant than usual — while the Honors College sent its first graduate across the stage. This year ECU dedicated a new Freedom Wall and Military Walk for all students and staff who have died or served in the armed forces, the first such specific place on campus since the 1950s.

“I want to thank ECU for its constant support of the military,” said commencement speaker Ray Mabus, U.S. Secretary of the Navy. “It's a real honor to be asked to speak to you. I have been really impressed by ECU.”

Mabus took a moment to comment on the recent killing of Osama Bin Laden, the terrorist behind the attacks of September 11, 2001.

“Most of you graduates would have been in middle school on 9/11,” Mabus said. “For you, this is a conflict you have grown up with. I am glad that chapter has been closed.” Mabus closed by telling the graduates to do something bigger than themselves.

“In my world, the Navy takes out pirates, so this is the only time you will ever hear this — Go Pirates! Argh!”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Grad: From devastation to celebration
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, May 7, 2011

In three weeks, Renee Diodonet has moved from devastation to celebration.

The Fayetteville native, whose family home was destroyed by a tornado on April 16, will graduate with honors today from East Carolina University. Her parents, who escaped injury by crouching in a closet under the stairs, will stand and cheer as their youngest reaches her goal of receiving her bachelor's degree in hospitality management.

“There was no way a tornado is going to prevent us from coming to her event,” said Hector Diodonet, who was in town to attend today's departmental ceremony with his wife, Renee. “We just have to be here for Renee's graduation because she's such an important part of our lives.”

Two dozen people were killed and more than 100 seriously injured in the series of nearly 30 tornadoes that touched down statewide. One of them leveled nearly every home on the Diodonet family's street in the Fairfield Farms subdivision.

As the Diodonets watched weather reports and prepared to take cover, their daughter was more than 200 miles away, spending a day on the Outer Banks with friends before beginning her final week of classes.

“I was kind of cut off from everything,” Renee said. “None of us were watching the news. We didn't know what was going on in the rest of the state.”

When she received word that the storm had struck her family's home, she began a treacherous drive back, sometimes stopped by torrential rainfall and other times dodging trees that had fallen on the road.
After spending hours in traffic on the interstate and making her way through a police barricade at her parents' subdivision, she found a neighborhood so ravaged by the storm that she could not even recognize the homes.

“There were no street signs. There was nothing,” Renee said. “I didn't know where my house was. I parked my car a street down and just started running in the general direction I knew my house was in and saw my dad out in the yard with my brother, picking things up.”

With the roof ripped off and rains pouring through the center of the home, little could be salvaged. Renee would spend the next four days helping to recover keepsake photos, including her parents' wedding picture (blown out of its frame) and one of her mother's kindergarten class that landed in a neighbor's car.

As Renee worked to save what memorabilia she could, she thought of friends making memories at ECU. Members of her pledge class at the Rho Zeta Chapter of Chi Omega had a number of end-of-the-year events planned for seniors, but her sorority sisters opted to postpone them until Renee could participate.

“For us it was just really important that she get to participate,” fellow Chi Omega member Karyn Guidry said, “so we ended up changing the dates. ... It was about letting her know we were thinking about her.”

The sisters also showed their support by collecting donations for the Diodonets, who plan to rebuild their home.

“We've never actually had a situation like this,” Guidry said. “As corny as it sounds, these girls are my best friends.”

On Friday, friends from Renee's pledge class gathered downtown for a dinner that she had helped plan. Thoughts of celebrating the weekend were, at times, difficult for Renee, who had considered skipping graduation altogether after her family's loss.

“It's kind of hard to realize, how should I feel about this?” she said. “Should I still want to participate at graduation? My parents would kill me if I said, ‘No, I'm not going to walk,' but it's kind of hard because you feel selfish in a way. .. Should you be so excited about graduating?”

Her family believes it is perfectly appropriate to celebrate. They are thankful their lives were spared and grateful for signs — including a rose bush that bloomed three days after the storm — that life goes on. Renee's graduation is such a symbol.

“I think it's a positive step in our rebuilding process,” Hector Diodonet said. “We see Renee's graduation as a marker in the path forward to rebuild our lives.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or 252-329-9578.
Journey ends for ECU graduate
By Mary Schulken
ECU Director of Public Affairs
Saturday, May 7, 2011

When Tremayne Smith arrived at East Carolina University in 2006, he brought with him a challenge.

No one on either side of his immediate family had a college degree. None of the men in his family even attended college.

Now, that's history.

Smith, 23, president of ECU’s Student Government Association, drum major in its marching band and homecoming king in 2009, received two bachelor's degrees in commencement exercises Friday. He majored in music education and stayed an extra year to get a second degree in political science.

Reaching that milestone is significant to him.

“I wanted to take away any excuses and doubts for subsequent generations,” Smith said. “The bar has really been raised for my younger cousins. This is very significant because they can't say it can't be done.”

A family project
Approximately 10 members of his family traveled from Salisbury to Greenville to share the moment, including his mother, Patricia Watkins, his twin brother, Dewayne, his grandmothers, “Grannie” Shirley Smith and “Grannie” Libby Blackwell and his aunts.
Tremayne bought extra copies of his diploma and is having them framed to present to each member of his family.

He is making that gesture because completing his college education was a family project, Smith said. His great-great-grandmother was a slave and his mother, his grandmothers and his aunts have stressed education as the path to a life of success.

“A lot of them did not have the opportunity to do this, and every step I took, they held their breath,” Smith said. “They have been beside me all the way.”

The latest tracking numbers from the U.S. Department of Education show that nationwide, 36 percent of African-American men who enroll in college in NCAA Division 1 schools complete a degree in six years.

The low rank of that completion rate helped feed Smith's determination, he said

“On a very personal note, being an African-American, and especially a male, there's a lot of ‘I'm a victim' attitude out there and I think that's the wrong point of view,” Smith said. “The attitude should be ‘I am succeeding in spite of’ … fill in the blank: numbers, attitudes, whatever.”

“I approached college in this way,” he said.

Smith said he also has taken advantage of opportunities when they arose. “I was not afraid to go outside of my comfort zone and do things I've never done; join the band, get involved in student government,” he said.

‘Tomorrow's leader'

Smith offers three pieces of advice for students struggling, as he has, to reach a milestone.

The first, he said, is trust in God. The second: Surround yourself with people you want to be like. The third: “Just know you can do it and get to working and do it,” he said.

Smith has been visible as SGA president for ECU's 28,000 students, urging students to involve themselves in diverse aspects of campus life. His next stop is Capitol Hill, where he will work for the office of Sen. Kay Hagan as an intern. He plans to give law school a hard look.

Smith's strong core values, his hard work and his undergraduate education have positioned him for success, said Steve Ballard, ECU's chancellor.

“ECU prides itself in being the leadership university and training tomorrow's leaders,” said Ballard. “Tremayne Smith is the best example I know of tomorrow's leader.”

Meanwhile, Smith is enjoying his family's moment of pride. “They are beside themselves,” he said. “It's been a long journey.”
ECU initiative, churches addressing obesity

By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Monday, May 9, 2011

During the week, personal trainer Haywood Parker preaches physical fitness. In Sunday sermons, Bishop Haywood Parker doesn't change that message.

“Obesity is plaguing America like never before,” said Parker, senior pastor of Truth Tabernacle Ministries in Rocky Mount. “This is a cultural issue, and the church has an obligation to respond to the issue.”

One way Parker's church has sought to respond is through participating in the Prosper Project, a three-county initiative conducted by the Department of Public Health at East Carolina University's Brody School of Medicine. The project, launched in the summer of 2010, aims to wage a spiritual as well as a physical battle against diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

More than 500 members of a dozen primarily black churches in Edgecombe, Duplin and Lenoir counties have been involved in Prosper, an acronym for “Preparing Ourselves for Spiritual and Physical Enrichment and Renewal.”

“To make a connection with people, it's effective to work through their churches with people they know,” said Dr. Lloyd Novick, chairman of Brody's department of public health and co-principal investigator of the project. “We believe that we're going to be
able to demonstrate that a faith-based project like this, working from churches, actually can be successful in impacting on these individuals' health.”
Participants in the six-month project attend three sessions each month during which they weigh in and have their blood pressure and blood sugar levels checked. Groups meet at the church not only to learn about nutrition, physical activity and overall wellness but to study Scripture pertaining to health. (The project's motto comes from 3 John 1:2

“Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers.”)

“Eastern North Carolina is known as the stroke belt but also the Bible belt,” said Nancy Little, a clinical associate professor in the Department of Public Health and co-principal investigator of the project. “We go to where the people are.
“The church is more than just a place to come on Sunday and on Wednesday night,” she said. “In the minority community, the church is really a consistent place where you spend a lot of time and an integral part of your life.”

Theodore Thomas was practically raised in the church. Growing up with a father as a pastor, Thomas remembers being at church not just for worship on Sundays, but for meals as well.

“Growing up we used to eat at the church all the time,” said Thomas, now a dentist in Clinton and pastor of First Baptist Church in Warsaw. “They did a lot of cooking at the church, and the cooking they did through the years was they fried a lot and they ate a lot of fatty foods.”

The Prosper Project employs a registered dietitian and a nutritionist to show participants how to find new menu options and how to prepare old favorites with less fat and sodium. Kathy Flowers, whose husband, John, is pastor of Greater Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Kinston, said she has seen lower-calorie foods at church dinners since the church began participating in the Prosper Project.

“Whenever we have gatherings now, I notice that our food menu has changed,” said Flowers, who serves as a lay-health adviser for the project, funded by the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and the North Carolina Health and Wellness Trust Fund. “We have a lot more vegetables; they're getting away from the big meal.”

Since the church began Prosper, Flowers said her husband's blood pressure has been lower. One participant has lost 40 pounds.
Thomas, who lost nearly 70 pounds after being diagnosed as borderline diabetic several years ago, is trying to encourage his congregation to do the same.

“I know it's hard to lose weight,” he said. “I've been through that; I was almost 300 pounds.
“A lot of times we want to give up,” Thomas said. “That's just a lack of faith. God wants us to lead a healthy life.”
Faith has been linked to a number of positive health factors, including lower rates of tobacco and alcohol use and even longevity. But a study released this spring indicated that young adults who regularly attend religious activities are more prone to obesity in middle age than their nonreligious peers.

While Little points out that “there are plenty of Christians who aren't fat,” she acknowledges that some churches have been hesitant to discuss their congregation's diets.

“Eating has been one of the more 'pardonable' sins than others,” she said. “But it is killing our communities.”

The Bible cautions against gluttony. Readers of Proverbs are warned against the vice at least three times. Chapter 23, verse 20 reads, “Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat.”
“The Bible says this (body) is God's temple,” Thomas said. “Sometimes we get a little lax in taking care of our temple.”

Parker has been interested in health maintenance since college. But 15 years ago, he stepped it up a notch, becoming a certified aerobics instructor and personal trainer at the local YMCA. Now, in addition to pastoring Truth Tabernacle, he teaches as many as eight classes a week in step aerobics, kick boxing, Pilates, cycling and weight training. When he and his wife heard of the Prosper Project, they thought it would complement the emphasis that the church already had begun to place on health.

“We might be spiritual; we might love Jesus, but are we also healthy?” Parker asked.
“That's part of the foundation of the Prosper Project.
“Now people are starting to rethink what they do,” he said. “It's late, but it's good that the church is rethinking.”

Parker has taken a little ribbing from members of his congregation about his health stance. Some refer to his church breakfasts, which often feature more fruit than bacon or sausage, as “Bishop breakfasts.”
Parker is not deterred. He plans to continue to advise his congregation, both spiritually and physically.

“My job is to speak truth to people,” he said. “Sometimes they'll like it, and sometimes they won't.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or 252-329-9578.
Exhibit focuses on art, medicine
ECU News Services
Sunday, May 8, 2011

Images from routine medical tests, X-rays and diseased cells have been transformed into art for an exhibit opening on Tuesday at Laupus Library at East Carolina University.

The exhibit, “Wearing Our Insides Out: Women's Health and Art,” is a two-woman show of digitally-printed, medically-related textile work that will be on display on the fourth floor of the library through Aug. 11.

The artists, Catherine Billingsley and Maria Modlin, are graduates of ECU's fine arts program in textiles in the School of Art and Design, where Modlin is a technology support technician. They will talk about the making of their art at an opening reception 4:30-6:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Billingsley has used images from her own routine medical tests — eye, mammogram, ultrasound, and bone density tests, and dental, chest, hand, hip and knee X-rays — to transform them into different art forms.

She made a purse, which she calls her “hand bag” because the imagery is from an X-ray of her hand. Her eye tests and dental X-rays are woven with hundreds of beads, but most of her images have been manipulated in Photoshop and printed on fabric, then pieced and quilted. Except for a skirt and vest, Billingsley has done all her printing on her desktop Epson printer. She has about 20 pieces for the exhibit.

“I am drawn to the abstract quality of these images, or the abstract quality I can create by repeating or manipulating the images whole or in part,” Billingsley said. “I became aware of the beauty within each of us when I saw the digital image of my eye. What you see here is the result of my efforts to show the inner me.”
Modlin has concentrated on family-related health concerns and has printed microscopic images of cancer, heart disease and diabetes in repeating patterns on fabric to make clothing. Images of destructive cells have been turned into something beautiful.

“Considering this dichotomy is what we as human beings deal with in our everyday lives, seeing both the beautiful and the ugly,” said Modlin, who printed her fabrics on an Epson 9800 Stylus Pro, which can print up to 44 inches in width. She has eight items that will be displayed on dress forms.

In conjunction with the exhibit, Laupus Library will be sponsoring a panel discussion by local doctors who will speak about women's health issues on July 26. The discussion will be held 4:30-6 p.m. and is free and open to the public. Panelists will be Dr. Laura Surles of Medical Park Family Physicians, Dr. Christopher Hasty of Orthopedics East, Dr. Jan H. Wong of East Carolina Breast Center, and Dr. Rachel Raab, assistant professor of hematology/oncology in the Brody of School of Medicine.

**Nursing class gives well to Guatemala village**
A village in Guatemala will have safe drinking water thanks to a class gift from graduating seniors in the ECU College of Nursing.

Students raised $5,000 to pay for the construction of a well through Living Water International, a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing clean drinking water to those in need.

According to the group's website, 884 million people or about one in eight worldwide do not have access to safe water. Approximately 5,000 children die daily from diseases caused by unclean water and poor sanitation, resulting in 1.8 million deaths each year. Providing safe water and hygiene education reduces the number of deaths caused by diarrheal diseases by 65 percent, according to the World Health Organization.

Each year, seniors get to decide where to focus the class gift. This year, the students chose an international effort for the first time. The gift was presented Saturday during the college's convocation at Wright Auditorium.

“Our class really wants to leave behind a legacy at the College of Nursing for decades to come. What better way to do this than by providing an example of nursing students reaching out internationally to help those most in need?” said Kaitlyn Whitlock of Charlotte, president of the spring 2011 class. “I think it's really special and signifies how we feel about our role.”

Other officers helping to raise funds were vice president Rachel Steeb of Mooresville, secretary Paige Ray of Tabor City, treasurer Natalie Tyson of Greenville, and historian Logan Monroe of Robbins.
The effort extended beyond class members, as staff, faculty and family members gave too. Students raised money in a variety of ways including selling Valentine's care packages to parents to send to their nursing student.

“It was such a widespread contribution because of the global impact,” said Dr. Kim Larson, assistant professor of nursing, who for the past few summers has led a study abroad class to Guatemala where students have seen needs up close by working in health clinics, schools and nutrition centers in the Mayan community.

Larson and nine undergraduate nursing students, and two psychology, two biology and four public health graduate students will be leaving May 22 for Guatemala where they will work until June 10.

**Students broadcast aerial lift techniques**
A graduate project by two ECU students resulted in safety recommendations for aerial lift videotaping by athletic programs that have been broadcast to universities in the Big XII, Conference USA and the University of Virginia.

The presentation, “Aerial Lift Safety and Football Practice,” was broadcast April 20 from ECU’s global classroom. It addressed a crucial collegiate sports issue in the spotlight since October 2010, after a 20-year-old Notre Dame student was killed while videotaping football practice. The student was standing inside a 40-foot scissor lift toppled by a wind gust exceeding 50 mph.

Scissor lifts are used for obtaining aerial video of outdoor practices in many collegiate sports, including the ECU Pirates football program.

Chris Bland and Landon Hoefer, both graduate assistants for the football team, recommended classroom and hands-on instruction to ensure each lift operator has sufficient knowledge on precautions, visual inspections and workplace hazards.

“Users must demonstrate that they can safely operate the machine before they go up there,” said Hoefer.

Bland and Hoefer also recommended attaching an anemometer to the lifts' railings to measure wind speeds and shutting down the lifts if wind speeds exceed 35 mph.

ECU head football coach Ruffin McNeill supported Bland and Hoefer's findings. “When that wind blows, safety overrides everything,” he said.

McNeill said the Notre Dame incident has made everyone in collegiate athletics more aware of the dangers associated with aerial videography. “I tell every video guy about Ruff’s rule,” he said. “If you're nervous or scared, you come down. That's Ruff's rule and they all know it.”
The student research was completed as part of a graduate occupational safety course taught by associate professor Michael Behm. Behm said he chose to broadcast the program to fellow universities because the students' recommendations were so important.

“If content from a unique, well-researched class project stays within our classroom at ECU, then we lose an opportunity to help others,” he said.

“Football personnel know about the Notre Dame incident but may not be sure how to prevent it from happening in the future through specific safe work practices,” Behm said. For more information, contact Behm at 252-328-9674 or behmm@ecu.edu.

**Centennial Award winners recognized**

ECU marked its 104th year by celebrating teaching, research and service during its annual Founders Day and University Awards Celebration held April 26 in Hendrix Theatre.

Among the awards presented were the Centennial Awards for Excellence recognizing four areas: service, leadership, ambition and spirit. These awards replace previous university honors — Founders Day, Chancellor, and Synergy awards.

This year, 49 nominations were received for the 12 Centennial Awards for Excellence, which are given with up to three recipients per category, representing staff, faculty and others. Marianna Walker, chair of the faculty, and Phil Hulsey, chair of the Staff Senate, announced the winners.

**Service:** Linda Mooney, Department of Sociology and faculty advisor for ECU Friends, faculty; Johnnie Turner, Health Sciences Campus Grounds supervisor, staff; Clayton Sessoms, director of Division of Continuing Studies and Summer School, other.

**Leadership:** Todd Fraley, coordinator of undergraduate studies in the School of Communication, College of Fine Arts and Communications, faculty; Jan Foust, accountant with ECU Dowdy Student Stores, staff; Deborah Moody, assistant director of the Lucille Gorham Intergenerational Community Center, other.

**Ambition:** Dr. David Collier, director of the Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center, Brody School of Medicine, faculty; Dr. Gregory Chadwick, associate dean for the School of Dental Medicine, other.

**Spirit:** Carl Billingsley, School of Art and Design, College of Fine Arts and Communication, faculty; Dee Bowling, director of Student Financial Services, staff; and members of the ECU Pirate Summer Read Committee, other. Members of that committee are Michael Brown, Mary Beth Corbin, Tom Douglass, Karen Kus, Dionna Manning, Lauren Piner, Wendy Sharer, Karen Slough Smith, Jan Tovey (posthumous), Karen Warren, and Carol Woodruff.

**Geography professor honored for work**

ECU geography professor Derek H. Alderman was honored April 16 with the 2011 Meredith F. Burrill Award, presented by the Association of American Geographers at the organization’s annual meeting in Seattle, Wash.

The national award recognizes exceptional work that integrates research and practical application while connecting with the community.
Patricia Solís, director of AAG Outreach and Strategic Initiatives, notified Alderman of
the award. She said the award honored his commitment to research and teaching, along
with his “national reputation as a public intellectual with expertise in landscape
inscription and the politics of street and place naming, which helps to raise the visibility
and relevance of geography to matters of importance to society.”

Alderman has focused much of his research on street re-naming to commemorate Martin
Luther King Jr., which has led to his active involvement with dozens of communities
struggling with controversies related to the street re-naming process.

Since joining ECU's Department of Geography in 2000, Alderman has received several
awards, including the UNC Board of Governors Excellence in Teaching Award in 2009.

Alderman holds a doctorate and master's degree from the University of Georgia, and a
bachelor's from Georgia Southern College. He serves as a research fellow in cultural and
heritage tourism for ECU's Center for Sustainable Tourism.

**Upcoming Event:**
**Tuesday:** Screening of “Tuesdays with Morrie,” sponsored by the End of Life Care
Coalition of Eastern North Carolina, 6 p.m., at The Tipsy Teapot, 409 S. Evans St. Free
and open to the public. Call 847-3599 for more information.

See [www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these
events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Students supporting students is heartwarming. At East Carolina University that happens a lot. This spring my husband and I hosted an end-of-the-semester reception for Shipmates, a group that truly exemplifies this characteristic.

Shipmates is a Student Government Association (SGA) mentoring program for first-year students designed to offer guidance, provide introductions to issues and events and generally encourage networking and familiarity with campus life. Within a collegiate environment, effective communication, interpersonal skills, social responsibility and lifelong learning traits are introduced and reinforced. The ultimate goal is to contribute to development of future leaders at the university and beyond.

At a follow-up lunch last week I quizzed outgoing SGA president Tremayne Smith and one of our yell leaders, Mickey Quidort, about all the ways SGA supports Shipmates. I learned that the students tapped to be in Shipmates participate together in orientation, the plunge into purple at Pirate Palooza, the challenges of a ropes course, area tours of campus like athletics, socials and dinners intended to promote etiquette, enjoying special speakers, lessons on time management and organization, and the freshmen experience course.

The freshmen experience course is designed to ensure a successful transition to college life. Students learn essential study and life skills. They are introduced to key campus resources and cover topics such as dealing with change, effective interactions with faculty, appropriate classroom behavior, self awareness and self esteem, motivation, goal setting, learning styles, test-taking tips, issue solving, understanding their grade point average (GPA) calculation, wellness education, and speaking skills.
On the day of our reception, the downstairs was filled with students supporting students and enjoying food and lively conversation. Ira Larson said, “ECU is home.” Another student claimed to have figured out “having fun and getting ahead” while another said he sees “ECU as a university on the move and all about leadership development.”

Meredith Shaw, from Raleigh, first in her family to attend a four-year college, and a double major in psychology and political science, was articulate about her ambition “to work in the NYC Innocence Project” criminal defense program.

As I listened to the students, I realized how poised and confident they were becoming. They all seemed to have focus and determination. I feel certain some of them will follow in the steps of their SGA mentors and, perhaps, run for a student government office before they graduate.

As commencement approaches our house often is filled with special guests celebrating another year of accomplishments, many preparing to graduate and apply their well-earned educations.

This week included welcoming GLBT Center students and allies organized to support our gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students who courageously contribute to cultural diversity valued within our campus community. Student members support each other and promote understanding through outreach, information and identifying resources.

SGA, Shipmates and GLBT student groups are just a few of the many at ECU who remind us of the Pirate spirit that we celebrate.

Nancy Ballard, a former public relations professional, is married to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard. Her column about ECU and community people and events appears on an occasional basis.
Editorial: Review police resources, strategy
Monday, May 9, 2011

Three suspects arrested in connection with a string of armed robberies in Greenville should provide at least some small measure of comfort to residents fearful of rising crime in the city. Despite the good work, however, there is ample reason for public officials to take a long look at the strategies in place to deter criminals from operating in this community.

As a regional hub of commerce and relative wealth, Greenville will consistently be a target for criminal activity, more so at a time of economic desperation such as this. But with limited resources available to the police department, the margin for error has grown ever smaller and it is absolutely critical that every dollar is spent in a way to maximize effectiveness.

In April, a string of at least 15 armed robberies gave reason for alarm among small businesses, especially convenience stores and cell phone retail outlets. There were similarities to the crimes, including a description of the suspects and the weapons involved, prompting attention by the Greenville Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit. Information gathered by that unit, along with surveillance and patrols near suspected targets, led to a narrowing of focus to individuals who were stopped by Pitt County Sheriff Neil Elks and his wife, Greenville Det. Connie Elks, in a traffic stop.

While local law enforcement is confident of having solved those cases, the crimes are indicative of a larger problem in the city. The most recent statistics indicate that criminal activity has dropped sharply, but several high profile events — the kidnapping of an East Carolina University student, among them — have given rise to fears about the safety of this community.
Since the shooting deaths of two men downtown in June 2009, city officials have devoted tremendous attention and significant resources to law enforcement there. Last year, that led the police department to far exceed its overtime budget. Since this community is not insulated from the economic recession, all must recognize that resources are finite and precious.

It therefore stands to reason that, as has been encouraged before, elected and appointed officials should reconsider their overall approach to crime prevention in this community. While the assurance of downtown safety is critical, especially in how it continues to serve East Carolina and the related economic interests of the city, each resident of Greenville should enjoy equitable protection. It is important to regularly review strategies and tactics to make certain that is the case and to make changes as needed.
A monumental step for West grad at ECU
By Mary Schulken
ECU Director of Public Affairs

GREENVILLE — When Tremayne Smith left Salisbury five years ago to attend East Carolina University, he carried with him a challenge.

No one on either side of his immediate family had a college degree. None of the men in his family, period, went to college.

Now, that’s history.

Smith, 23, president of ECU’s Student Government Association, drum major in its marching band and homecoming king in 2009, received two bachelor’s degrees in commencement exercises Friday. He majored in music education and stayed an extra year to get a second degree in political science.

Reaching that milestone is significant to the Rowan County native and 2006 graduate of West Rowan High School.

“I wanted to take away any excuses and doubts for subsequent generations,” Smith said. “The bar has really been raised for my younger cousins. This is very significant because they can’t say it can’t be done.”

A family project

About 10 members of his family traveled from Salisbury to Greenville to share the moment, including his mother, Patricia Watkins, his twin brother, Dewayne, his grandmothers, “Grannie” Shirley Smith and “Grannie” Libby Blackwell and his aunts. Tremayne bought extra copies of his diploma and is having them framed to present to each member of his family.

He is making that gesture because completing his college education was a family project, Smith said. His great-great-grandmother was a slave and his mother, his grandmothers and his aunts have stressed education as the path to a life of success.

“A lot of them did not have the opportunity to do this, and every step I took, they held their breath,” Smith said. “They have been beside me all the way.”
The latest tracking numbers from the U.S. Department of Education show that nationwide, 36 percent of African-American men who enroll in college in NCAA Division 1 schools complete a degree in six years.

The low rank of that completion rate helped feed Smith’s determination at West Rowan High School and at ECU, he said.

“On a very personal note, being an African-American, and especially a male, there’s a lot of ‘I’m a victim’ attitude out there and I think that’s the wrong point of view,” Smith said. “The attitude should be ‘I am succeeding in spite of’ … fill in the blank: numbers, attitudes, whatever.”

“I approached college in this way,” he said.

Smith said he has also taken advantage of opportunities when they arose.

“I was not afraid to go outside of my comfort zone and do things I’ve never done; join the band, get involved in student government,” he said.

‘Tomorrow’s leader’

Smith offers three pieces of advice for students struggling, as he has, to reach a milestone.

The first, he said, is trust in God. The second: Surround yourself with people you want to be like. The third: “Just know you can do it and get to working and do it,” he said.

Smith has been visible as SGA president for ECU’s 28,000 students, urging students to involve themselves in diverse aspects of campus life. His next stop is Capitol Hill, where he will work for the office of Sen. Kay Hagan, (N.C.-D) as an intern. He plans to give law school a hard look.

Smith’s strong core values, his hard work and his undergraduate education have positioned him for success, said Steve Ballard, ECU’s chancellor.

“ECU prides itself in being the leadership university and training tomorrow’s leaders,” said Ballard. “Tremayne Smith is the best example I know of tomorrow’s leader.”

Meanwhile, Smith is enjoying his family’s moment of pride.

“They are beside themselves,” he said. “It’s been a long journey.”
Jewelry maker and metalsmith Mitzy Jonkheer sits in her craft shop recalling her passion for art and the techniques she uses.

Making a gift for Mom led to a career in jewelry design
By Cece Nunn
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In the fall of 1987, Mitzy Jonkheer was looking for a special present for her mother when she made a discovery that would change her life.

Then a college student, Jonkheer wanted to melt old gold and turn it into a ring to give her mother for Christmas. As it turned out, the jeweler she found to make the ring had a degree in metalsmithing from the school Jonkheer was attending, East Carolina University.

“I was going to be an English teacher when I first got there,” said Jonkheer, a Wilmington resident and metalsmith known for gold, silver and copper jewelry designs influenced by nature.

A lifelong lover of art and jewelry, Jonkheer decided to change her major and let her mother know about the decision when she gave her the ring.
“My whole family was very supportive,” said Jonkheer, who graduated from ECU with a bachelor's degree in metal design.

For the past two years, Jonkheer has created jewelry and sold her work and that of other local artists at Jonkheer Jewelry Art Studio, an art studio at 4410 Wrightsville Ave. In addition to pieces that reflect her love of nature, including gold, silver and copper pendants made from the wings of dragonflies, butterflies and cicadas, she makes customized jewelry such as rings and necklaces that bear the fingerprints or birthstones of customers and their children.

“I like for people to connect with the pieces that they wear,” she said of her customized and one-of-a-kind creations. “I think it has a lot more meaning.”

Jill Peleuses, owner of Wild Bird & Garden in Hanover Center, owns some of Jonkheer's jewelry and sells some at her store in a glass case.

“I like that it's all one-of-a-kind, and she really puts a lot of care into every piece,” she said. “Customers like it. We've got a couple of people who come in to see what new stuff she's got.”

Peleuses, who has one child and a baby due in June, said she's thinking about commemorating the birth of her second child with a customized piece of Jonkheer jewelry. She said she's hoping to one day own one of Jonkheer's rings that will preserve the fingerprints of both children.

“I think those are really cool,” Peleuses said.

Family is important to Jonkheer. Her grandparents raised flower bulbs on a farm in Holland before moving their operations to Pender County. Her grandfather was active in the Dutch resistance during World War II, helping to hide Jewish families from the Nazis.

“I'm very proud of my family history and that's why I put my name on the door,” Jonkheer said.

She pays homage to the Jonkheer tradition of working with plants by maintaining an enclosed garden behind her studio with native plants and birdfeeders.
Mother's Day is a little bittersweet for Jonkheer, who lost her mother 10 years ago to cancer. She couldn't work for two years after her mother's death, she said.

“My mother and I were best friends.”

Her mother recognized Jonkheer's talent early, when at age 4, Jonkheer was drawing three-dimensional people rather than stick figures.

“I always knew you were going to be an artist,” her mother told her once.

Jonkheer has passed that talent on to her own son, Aidan, 7. Aidan has his own little studio in the back of his mother's studio. Among other mediums, he makes art out of recycled materials, paints and draws and sells some of his work at art openings his mother holds. Aidan comes to work with Jonkheer after school and on Saturdays.

“I would like to take some of his drawings and turn them into pieces,” Jonkheer said. “He makes these amazing little dragons he's done for years.”

She plans to teach Aidan the art of metalsmithing. And while she never became an English teacher, Jonkheer is able to express her love of teaching by holding art and jewelry-making classes for children and adults. She teaches young people at the DREAMS Center for Arts Education in Wilmington. And this summer, starting in July, she is offering three summer camps at her studio for children ages 7 to 12 (see box, 1D).

Jonkheer said she believes children's creations are special.

“I love that early art,” she said. “I think it's the best art.”

And children don't have to worry about marketing and bottom lines when it comes to their art.

“It's a tough time to make a living as an artist, but we are fortunate that there are a lot of people in this town who go out of their way to support local artists,” Jonkheer said. “It's important to them. And not just local artists, local merchants also.”

Her latest idea is the creation of copper tags for pets. Customers can bring in pennies (those made before 1982 are solid copper, but any penny will do),
pay $5 and Jonkheer will use her equipment to roll them into a tag and stamp the pet's name and phone number on them. The money will go to a local animal charity. Animals are important to Jonkheer and Aidan.

“My son and I foster dogs,” she explained.

The best way to find out the studio's hours is to call Jonkheer at 409-8758, but for now they are usually 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

“What I like best about this place is meeting the people who buy my work, that one-on-one contact,” Jonkheer said.

Cece Nunn: 343-2310
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Lebos share a basketball bond
By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector
Monday, May 9, 2011

Jeff Lebo started going to basketball camps before he could even participate in them.

As a very young child, Lebo would tag along with his dad, Dave, to camps that the elder Lebo, a legendary Pennsylvania high school coach, would conduct in the offseason. It's a tradition that Jeff Lebo, East Carolina's men's basketball coach, is hoping dads and sons will continue this summer in Greenville.

Like most schools, ECU will be hosting camps in June and July, but the one scheduled for June 17-18 has special meaning for Lebo. The Father/Son Camp started in the mid-2000s when Lebo was the head coach at Auburn and Dave Lebo was a member of his son's coaching staff.

“We didn't know how it would go, but each year more and more people showed up until we had to stop it,” the ECU coach said. “We didn't want it to get too big. “The thought process was basketball as a way to bond with your son, like my dad and I bonded through the game.”
The ECU Father/Son Camp is open to fathers of all ages and sons through the eighth grade. While basketball instruction is obviously a focal point, Lebo said experience and ability levels of the participants aren't important.

What is important to Lebo is building relationships with and between the paternal pairs and if they glean some basketball knowledge along the way, all the better.

“The biggest thing for me is the chance to teach the game and be around the game and utilize that in a lot of different areas,” said Lebo, who's entering his second season in charge of the Pirates after leading them to their first winning season since 1996-97 last.

“Camps are where I got started with the game. ... Hopefully they learn something they can take back with them. It's a fun way to interact.”

If nothing else, Lebo is expecting the fathers' wardrobes to perhaps provide some comic relief.

“The kids usually get a kick out of their dads' clothes and shoes,” the coach said. “You'll see some stuff you may not have seen for 20-25 years.”

East Carolina's summer basketball camps begin on June 13. Visit ecupirates.com for dates, times, prices and more information.

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Travius Barrett, left, goes up for a shot as he plays basketball with others inside the gymnasium in the South Greenville Community Shelter Friday, May 6, 2011. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

Trouble is my competition, coach says
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Monday, May 9, 2011

It seemed that Troy Smith's field of dreams would be Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, home of the NFL team that drafted him out of East Carolina University in 1999.

Fate — or something bigger — relocated his dream to a sandlot behind South Greenville Recreation Center and a carpeted basketball court inside.

A standout receiver at J.H. Rose High School and ECU, Smith played 10 games for the Eagles. A quadriceps muscle tear ended his pro career. The loss of his pro football career didn't faze him, he said.

“Coaching and teaching have been my real dream. I know God put me here,” he said between pickup basketball games at South Greenville last week.

Smith, 33, is in his fifth year as the only full-time employee at the recreation center on Howell Street in a clean but often dangerous neighborhood. In stature, the former pro is not your typical NFL big guy. But he is big in his neighborhood — very big.

“I grew up in this gym, too,” Smith said, relating to the children who also seem to inhabit the gym nearly full time.

After his pro career snapped with the muscle in his leg, Smith came home to work at Sprint but soon realized it wasn't the job for him.

South Greenville supervisor Robert Johnson was retiring and suggested Smith would be a perfect fit. The city felt the same way, and Smith got the job, weekdays from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.
Smith didn't just like the job. He came to believe so strongly that he needed to work there that he recently left positions as football and basketball coach at Hope Middle School because they detracted from South Greenville.

“I was staying here until 3 or 4 o'clock in the afternoon, then going over to Hope to coach,” he said. “It was good for me to see the incredible family support they have out at Hope, to compare with what I was dealing with over here.”

The youth living around the center pick up something there far more valuable than a game of hoops, Smith said. They are vulnerable to the dangers that typically befall low-income, latch-key kids, including gangs, drugs and school performance issues, said Smith, who grew up near the facility on Kennedy Circle.

Kids of all ages and grades arrive after school and do not go home until the gym closes.

“Man, this is all these kids have to look forward to, all they have to do after school,” Smith said. “I hate to say it, but parents around here are just not involved in their kids' lives. I can put up a sign here saying we have our basketball program signups next week, and I won't see one parent here. It's just the kids who come.

“If they didn't come here?” he asked. “I guess my competition is trouble — gangs and any other type of trouble they might find waiting for them outside.”

In addition to Smith, Ty Riddick manages the center for the city, and volunteer staff help provide football and basketball clinics as a way to spend time with the children.

The Greenville Police Athletic League shares the center with Smith and provides after-school tutoring and educational services from student interns from East Carolina University. It also provides a summer camp program.

No one had to explain to Smith how important the gym is to the neighborhood's youth. He knows first-hand.

“I was coming here since I was 5 years old,” he said. “If the gym opened at 9 a.m., I was here at 9 a.m. If it closed at 9 p.m., I left at 9 p.m.”

Smith explained the similarities between his healthy gym environment and the more dangerous gangs to whom his young athletes might otherwise turn.

“When you get in these gangs, you're hanging with a crew and you're tight, just like here,” he said. “I can see how easy that can happen when you have nowhere else to turn. The streets will take anybody in. Just like we give kids structure and discipline here, gangs give them that and the attention they seek.”

Smith pointed through the glass separating his office from the basketball court and talked about the players he watched over.
“See that kid with the Shaw University shorts on?” he asked. “That's my brother, Raheem. He played CIAA ball, and he'll be playing overseas next year. That little kid in the red shirt playing with him is an eighth-grader over at Eppes. We've always had college kids playing here with middle school kids, but we need more of that right now.”

South Greenville begins its eight-week summer camp session immediately after the school year ends, and Smith and his staff will be there, where he knows he belongs. And that is what makes him big to the children of South Greenville. He is there.

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Event offers a combined effort
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 8, 2011

A bond much greater than football was palpable at Saturday's Big Show football combine at D.H. Conley High School.

In addition to the few dozen local high school players who attended the one-day workout designed to help players prepare for the college game and understand what recruiters and scouts want to see from them, some very recognizable football faces also followed event organizer Brian Rimpf onto the field.

Rimpf, a former East Carolina and Baltimore Ravens offensive lineman, brought with him some trusted friends who also starred at ECU.

Like Rimpf, they weren't out there just because they understand the Xs and Os, the stances and the footwork of football, but because they share the passion of wanting to impart their experiences from the big stage at the Big Show.

“Showing these guys things they don’t know, putting them through drills they don’t know and just them meeting guys that have been where they want to go is really what is enjoyable about this,” said Rimpf, who finished his playing career at ECU in 2003 before being drafted by the Ravens in 2004. “It's things for them to learn and to work on to become better football players, so they can get to the point they want to.’’

Rimpf's coaching staff included former Pirate standouts and lettermen like running back Scott Harley (1995-97), linebacker Richard Koonce (2002-05), quarterback Paul Troth (01-03), safety Kyle Chase (03-06), wide receiver Phillip Henry (05-07) and defensive lineman Josh Smith (08-10).
For guys like Chase and Henry, giving back has become a part of daily life. “It's something that you were fortunate to do, playing Division I football, and they look up to us because we played at East Carolina, so when you give them hands-on techniques and fundamentals that the kids want to grasp, when they go out and succeed it's just an awesome thing,” said Chase, an Atlanta native who is an assistant coach with the South Central High School team.

Henry, who spends his working hours with special needs children at Greenville's Alpha Center, said the Big Show Combine was another chance for the former walk-on from Elizabeth City to make a difference. “Playing for the Pirates was something that was very high on my list of things that I really enjoyed, but coming out here and helping these kids, I really enjoy that more to be honest,” Henry said. “Somebody helped me out. I had to walk on, and I came and worked hard, and I have a good appreciation for people who work hard.”

Rimpf and his coaches guided the players through individual and position-specific work in the weight room and then on the field before assembling them for a full team session. Rimpf constantly reinforced to his pupils the idea that players need to be seen to be signed.

In order to do that, he said, they need to combine good grades and strong character with their speed and athleticism. All of the times, numbers and measurements for each player are downloaded onto bigshowcombine.com, where they can be viewed and reviewed by players and, more importantly, potential college coaches.

“As a former captain at ECU, I always wanted to be influential over people, and that's one of the things with these kids that I enjoy,” Rimpf said of the combine. “One of the reasons we do this is that this wasn't available when we were coming out of school. “All we're doing is legitimizing they're how fast they say they are.”

Awards were handed out to the players who turned in the biggest days in the eyes of the coaches. They included: Jaquel Daniels, D.H. Conley, Fastest Man Award (4.65-second 40-yard dash); Jordan Butler, D.H. Conley, Jump Man Award (34-6 vertical leap, 10-1 broad jump); Saig Skeen, Central Davidson, Strong Man Award (25 repetitions at 185 pounds); Jaquan Durham, South Creek, Lineman MVP Award (7-2 broad jump, 5 reps at 185); Reggie Parker, South Creek, Defensive MVP Award (4.9 40-yard dash, 4.6 in pro agility drill, 31-6 vertical); Shaton Basnight, Creswell, Offensive MVP Award; Danvonta Phelps, Creswell, Overall Combine MVP (4.78 40-yard dash, 4.35 pro agility, 29-0 vertical).

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Alamance Battleground anniversary will unveil new exhibits, artifacts
Chris Lavender / Burlington Times-News

It’s been nearly 240 years since the Regulators fought Royal Governor William Tryon’s forces at the Battle of Alamance. The issues sound familiar even to modern-day residents: Taxation and local control.

The Regulators were made up of settlers from western North Carolina led by Herman Husband, James Few and James Hunter. The battle fought on May 16, 1771 ended the War of Regulation with the Regulators in defeat, but the colonies took notice of their efforts, paving the way for the American Revolution.

The Alamance Battleground site was later used by other military campaigns during the American Revolution and Civil War for encampments since a well-traveled road passed through it. Through the years, items used during wartime were left at the site by the soldiers who fought there.

Historians, re-enactors and the public will celebrate the 240th anniversary of the Battle of Alamance and the 50th anniversary of the Alamance Battleground N.C. Historic Site on Saturday (May 14) through May 16.

A new exhibit will be dedicated at the historic site’s visitor’s center at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Among newly discovered artifacts to be displayed at the exhibit is a button from a Continental soldier from Delaware, a button from a Civil War Confederate soldier, and a musket tool made by a blacksmith that suggests a Regulator soldier had trouble with his weapon.
New archeological evidence recovered at the 300,000-square-foot search site last year confirmed that the Battle of Alamance occurred where pre-colonial maps showed it took place.

Nearly 150 artifacts have been discovered on the battlefield since September 2009 as part of the state’s Alamance Battleground Research Project. About 2,000 volunteer hours were used to conduct the work with help from the Old North State Detectorists. It was the first time that the Alamance Battleground was systematically searched inch by inch for historical items linked to the 18th century.

Additional items found included grapeshot from Tryon’s 3-pound swivel cannons, musket and rifle balls both fired and dropped during battle, a bayonet tip, a top jaw cap for a flintlock musket and a tool used to adjust a flintlock musket for firing.

These items will be among those included in the new exhibit at the visitor’s center.

Bryan Dalton, Alamance Battleground site manager, has worked at the historic site for 32 years. A week before the battleground’s scheduled anniversary celebration, Dalton reflected on what the site has meant to him and the local community.

“For people living in Alamance County, the site represents an important part of our state and national history,” Dalton said. “Local residents know they have history right in their back yard.”

Dalton said he would like to see more local support for the battleground’s efforts during the next 240 years and beyond. The battleground averages about 10,000 visitors annually and Dalton said about 50 percent of these visitors are from out of state.

“We try to be a destination site,” Dalton said.

**DALTON SAID** the first monument was placed at the battleground in 1880 by a group that had gathered at Graham and followed a wagon carrying the monument to the site.

Between 1900 and 1910 the Alamance Battleground Co. organized to develop the site into a park or historic site. Dalton said in the 1930s there was a local push to develop a national park, but the site didn’t meet the necessary criteria.

In 1952, the Alamance Battleground Co. purchased 40 acres at South N.C. 62 where the Battle of Alamance occurred and the land was deeded to the state.
Dalton said that in 1955 efforts began to prepare the site to open as a N.C. Historic Site.

With help from local funding, the Alamance Battleground opened on May 16, 1951 as a N.C. historic site.

In 1966, the Allen House was moved to the historic site. The house was built in 1780 by John Allen. Allen’s sister, Amy, was the wife of Herman Husband, who was one of the leaders of the Regulators.

The house shows how people lived during the 18th century. Dalton said a new interpretive sign was placed at the house in February to allow visitors a way to learn more about the house’s history.

More wayside interpretive signs are scheduled to dot the battleground’s landscape during the next two years to provide visitors with more information about what occurred at the site in 1771 and after.

Since the battleground opened in 1951, Dalton said about 750,000 visitors have walked its grounds.

“Visitors take pride in what took place here,” Dalton said.

The historic site also receives support from The Alamance Battleground Friends Inc., a nonprofit group formed about four years ago. Dalton said the organization supports, enhances and promotes the battleground’s efforts.

Alamance Battleground Friends remains involved in the site’s long term planning efforts.

“We want to develop better programs to draw the public,” Dalton said. “The walking interpretive tour will be a nice addition.”

The Society of Colonial Wars has offered to help fund the walking tour project. Funding for the historic site, which has three full-time employees, remains tight for fiscal 2011-12.

**THE BATTLEGROUND’S** 240th anniversary celebration begins at 8:30 a.m. Saturday with a symposium at a historic brick church about two miles from the site.

The symposium “Revisiting the Scene: Archaeological and Historical Investigations at Alamance Battleground State Historic Site” will feature presentations by Dalton, Lawrence Babits of East Carolina University, Carole
Troxler of Elon University and a panel of historians and archaeologists with Marty Matthews, John Mintz and Josh Howard from the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources.

The morning program will present the sessions “Battlefield Archaeology – Archaeology as Revealed Truth,” “The Regulators and Us: Two Centuries of Wondering” and “Battle of Alamance.”

Following the symposium, The Sons of the American Revolution will share a Patriots Day celebration at 2 p.m., and costumed interpreters will reenact domestic and military life from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Living history demonstrations will continue on Sunday from 1-5 p.m. The celebration’s conclusion will take place on Monday from 6-9 p.m. that will feature a wreath-laying ceremony along with a covered-dish picnic with the Alamance County Historical Association.

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Breach costly for researcher, UNC-CH

BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer
CHAPEL HILL A prominent cancer researcher at UNC-Chapel Hill spent at least $350,000 fighting for her job.

It wasn't enough.

Bonnie Yankaskas, an epidemiologist in the medical school, retires at the end of 2011, as stipulated in a settlement that restores her rank and full salary.

UNC-CH officials wanted to fire Yankaskas, whom they blamed for a security breach that endangered personal information of 180,000 women whose mammogram data had been part of a university research project.

The university subsequently scaled that punishment back to a demotion and pay cut, which Yankaskas appealed, leading to mediation and the eventual settlement.

It was a protracted and costly process.

Under the terms of the agreement, which was provided to the News & Observer through an open records request, UNC-CH agreed to reimburse her $175,000 - an amount the agreement notes is "less than one-half" of her legal costs.

Her attorney, Raymond Cotton, declined to say exactly how much Yankaskas spent defending herself.

Her rank as a full professor was restored under the agreement, as was her full, $178,000 salary. In demoting Yankaskas, UNC-CH officials had chopped that salary almost in half. The salary restoration may have affected Yankaskas' retirement, since retirement payments for many state employees are based on a salary average for the four highest-paid years of service.

Social Security numbers
Yankaskas spent the past 16 years running the Carolina Mammography Registry, which analyzes data to improve radiology techniques and breast cancer detection.

The dispute centered on what university officials said was the scientist's failure to secure a server housing much of that data, including about 114,000 Social Security numbers.

UNC School of Medicine officials discovered in 2009 that the server had been infiltrated two years earlier. It held data for the mammography registry, a 15-year project that compiles and analyzes mammogram data in an effort to improve breast cancer screening.

Although the university doesn't think any personal information was removed, it nonetheless notified all 180,000 women with data on the server and set up a call center to answer questions once word of the breach got out. Doing so cost roughly $250,000, officials say.

Yankaskas, the project's principal investigator, argued she shouldn't be expected to have the level of information technology expertise necessary to secure the computer server.

**Funding cycle**

Since 1995, the Carolina Mammography Registry has compiled and analyzed data submitted from radiologists across North Carolina.

It is also one of five such registries contributing to a national effort whose collective findings have helped shape federal policy related to breast cancer screenings.

Its future is now cloudy.

It has received at least $8 million in federal grants since its inception, but its most recent funding cycle just ended and the university has applied for a new round of funding.

With Yankaskas preparing to retire, she is transferring the registry and its responsibilities to a new investigator, Louise Henderson, according to the settlement agreement.
Henderson said she'd prefer not to discuss the matter until the project's future is clearer.

It isn't uncommon for research projects to transition from one leader to another, and the new UNC-CH funding request will be evaluated on its merits, said Rachel Ballard-Barbash, associate director for the National Cancer Institute's applied research program, which funds the registry project.

But the dispute between Yankaskas and UNC-CH may hinder that transition, she said.

"Given the circumstances of what's been happening with Dr. Yankaskas, I'd think it is quite difficult for her to plan for a transition," Ballard-Barbash said. "I'd think that would make it much more complicated to ensure the transition happens well."

Yankaskas' appeal was covered by national higher education publications, drawing the university a great deal of attention and criticism from faculty members in radiology and related fields.

Earlier this year, 127 university professors from UNC-CH and elsewhere signed a petition supporting Yankaskas.

Many viewed the university's attempt first to fire Yankaskas and later to demote her as unnecessarily heavy-handed.

"Looking at how UNC responded, it didn't seem the best approach to trying to manage this issue," said Ballard-Barbash, who did not sign the petition. "It seemed very surprising to me. ... It's a very unfortunate string of events."

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Whitney Venable acknowledges her family during commencement. The sun peeked out and shone on the stands just as the graduates moved their tassels.

'Just something about' Carolina
BY KATELYN FERRAL - Staff Writer

The ceremony: UNC-Chapel Hill, 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Kenan Stadium, Chapel Hill

Number of graduates: 5,780: 3,597 with bachelor's, 1,278 master's, 307 doctoral and 598 professional degrees

Weather: Early morning rains held off during the ceremony. Just as graduates moved their tassels, the sun peeked out from behind the clouds and shone on the stands where graduates were assembled.

Graduates distinguished themselves with colorful umbrellas and balloons.

Commencement speaker: Edward O. Wilson, university research professor emeritus, Harvard University, honorary curator in entomology, Museum of Comparative Zoology.

What he said: Wilson framed his remarks with some of the big questions that confound scholars in religion, philosophy and science: "Who are we?" "Where did we come from?" "Where are we going?" Wilson said students need to be aware of how the world is changing, and asked graduates to
preserve the earth and fight against threats to country's natural resources and environment.

"The rate of species extinct is about 1,000 times higher than before humans entered the scene. That loss of so much life is going to inflict a heavy price on you," he said. "The torch is passed to you. Here, please take the torch in this fundamental time."

He encouraged students to continue to learn and seek advanced degrees so they can continue to better society.

"We need as many highly educated citizens in this faltering country as we can get," he said. "... Go forth. Think. Save the world."

Thanks, mom: It was Mother's Day, and Chancellor Holden Thorp asked graduates to stand to thank their mothers.

With signs, hoots and whistles graduates stood; clapping and blowing kisses to mothers sitting in the bleachers around them.

A Carolina family: Elizabeth Deane, president of the class of 2011, reminisced on the good times her class enjoyed and thanked her classmates for always stepping up to serve the community and the world especially after the disasters in Japan and Haiti.

"We did not give in to defeat," she said. "We stood together through struggles and failures. And for that, we are a family. We have left an indelible mark on this great institution, and it has marked us."

"Made something": For first-generation college student Brittany Travis, her Carolina degree is a gateway.

"I feel like I've been made something," she said. "I've had this experience to pass down. I feel special."

The 22-year-old Greensboro native studied psychology and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in child psychology at The City College of New York in the fall.

"I can't believe I'm a grown-up," she said. "But Carolina prepared me well."
Tears: There were many. Groups of graduates cried after the ceremony. Brittany Morgan of Seagrove was one of them.

"It means a lot to be able to say I went to Carolina," said Morgan, 21, who studied psychology and plans to pursue a master's degree in school counseling. "... There's just something about it. It has an atmosphere you can't find anywhere else."

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