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Will UNC turn away some?

BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

Not long ago, the notion that North Carolina's state's public university system might limit access to its campuses was at best far-fetched. To limit enrollment was to fracture one of the core tenets upon which the University of North Carolina system has been built.

But now, as budget cuts continue to chomp away at campuses, system leaders are starting to make the case for capping or even lowering enrollment.

"It's the elephant in the room," said J. Bradley Wilson, a former chairman of the UNC system's Board of Governors. "We've always said we want to keep the doors open as wide as we can. The question is, can we afford that anymore?"

The system was built on the inextricably linked ideals of access and affordability. But after four years and $620 million in budget cuts, the public university system is scrambling to temper proposed cuts to its 2011-12 budget that could approach $500 million.

A cut that big would change the game, university officials say. No longer able to nibble around the edges, the UNC system and its campuses say it would prompt significant structural change and some very hard, undesirable decisions.

"If we end up with 14 or 15 percent cuts this year, we'll have to decide whether protecting quality is more important than growth," said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system's Board of Governors. "The only thing that makes sense is to consciously say 'we can't grow anymore.'"
The state subsidizes the cost of every North Carolinian's education at a public university, and the UNC system requested $45 million in additional money to accommodate enrollment growth next year. Though the House budget would meet that request, Gov. Bev Perdue's spending plan counters with just $23 million.

The Board of Governors hasn't formally discussed the notion of capping or reducing enrollment. But now may be a good time to do so. After a decade of rapid growth at many public universities, expansion is slowing, and some campuses already are reducing enrollment strategically in hopes of improving the quality of graduates.

And the number of expected graduates from the state's high schools is expected to plateau for the next couple of years, which may help UNC officials justify the change in enrollment philosophy.

Making 'sacrifices'
The public university system, which emphasized aggressive growth at many of its campuses throughout much of the 2000s, has seen a slowing of late.

Enrollment across the system grew just slightly: a 1.2 percent increase to about 211,000 students whose educations receive state subsidy. Twelve campuses grew from the previous year, but by no more than 557, or 1.6 percent, at N.C. State University. Fayetteville State University, UNC Greensboro, Western Carolina University and Winston-Salem State University reduced enrollment. UNC-Chapel Hill's total enrollment grew by 474 last year; UNC Charlotte added 362.

Those that are growing are doing it differently. The total number of new freshmen dropped 1.9 percent in fall 2010, but the number of transfer students swelled as campuses targeted better-prepared students.

Consider the current strategy at N.C. Central University in Durham: In the fall, that campus expects to enroll about 100 fewer freshmen than the 1,350 it welcomed last year - a move officials hope ultimately saves money and boosts graduation rates.

Enrolling fewer freshmen eases a campus housing crunch and relieves some stress on remedial programs that many first-year students need.

While reducing its freshman enrollment, NCCU is partnering with local community colleges to find students with two years of college and better study skills. In an era of limited funds, it makes sense to focus on students who are better bets to graduate, NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms said.
"Fundamentally, I'm opposed to limited access to education," he said. "Pragmatically, if there are limited resources, you have to make some sacrifices. I'd rather maintain a modicum of success while retaining some level of quality."

Access is being restricted for some UNC-CH graduate students as well. There, the nursing school is cutting next year's enrollment by 25 percent, and the school of social work has decided not to accept two new classes of master's degree students to an online program serving the western part of the state.

**Community colleges**

Of course, if fewer students can attend public universities, they have to go somewhere. For many, a likely destination is one of the state's 56 community colleges, a system already straining under a staggering increase in demand over the past several years.

Even as its budget was being cut, the state's community college system saw enrollment increase 25 percent over the last three years. And because community colleges have an open-door policy, some campuses have scrambled to keep up with demand.

Edgecombe Community College, for example, had to rent 100 extra chairs last year because demand was so high, said Sharon Morrissey, vice president of academic affairs and student services for the community college system. "Students were pouring in," she said.

If the UNC system turns students away, the community colleges may need to rent more chairs. They may need more rooms, too.

"I think capacity will be an issue," Morrissey said. "We'll keep trying to do everything we can. Eventually, you reach a breaking point."

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Ed King, left, with O’Neal Construction and Gerry Gable, ECU project management, look over renovation plans on the third floor of Laupus Library. Photo by Cliff Hollis, ECU New Services

**ECU Notes: Laupus Library adds space**

Drills and dust will give way to more study, counseling and event space in Laupus Library come fall.

The $300,000 renovation, the first since the library moved into the Health Sciences Building in 2006, is a sign of the times for libraries nationwide.

“We moved about 110,000 physical volumes into this building, and it took us two weeks to do it,” said Dr. Dorothy Spencer, director of Laupus Library and associate vice chancellor of communication and information resources at ECU. “Easily, one-third of those volumes have been retired due to digitization.”

A digital revolution has transformed libraries from warehouses for print collections to gathering spots for users to work collaboratively — and with the latest technology such as online access for e-books and streaming video.
“More and more students come in and they need to plug things in,” Spencer said. “Students come in every night and rearrange furniture. Literally, all day long our rooms are full. We have two odd tables stuck in the corners and they're full too.”

More than 130 seats are being added, and the third floor is being transformed. Books and shelves have been moved to make way for nine group study rooms and 10 tables in open floor space with wireless Internet access. An existing group study room will be expanded into a 14-seat conference room that can be reserved.

On a recent end-of-semester morning, Hannah Fuhr, a second-year Brody School of Medicine student from Chapel Hill, focused on an assignment as contractors worked on the other side of a plastic partition outside her usual study room. She said she likes the light-filled rooms with windows.

“The students have been extraordinary and cooperative in this process,” Spencer said. “If it gets too bad, they get up and move.”

Keeping the existing design theme and airy feel of the library was important, Spencer said. The renovation was designed by Larry Robbs of Walter, Robbs, Callahan & Pierce, who was the original architect for the building. A second 30-seat technology classroom will be added by reconfiguring the technology services office, which doesn't require as much space in a more paperless environment, Spencer said.

The library has been able to buy a stable electronic back file of journal collections, which frees space and provides a richer, wider scope of offerings than before, Spencer said. “We own access to that material, and that has revolutionized libraries,” she said. “For the companies, it has taken time to digitize all that material. While the transition has happened quickly, it was not doable until about four or five years ago after we had moved to our new facilities.”

Student affairs will move from partitioned offices on the first floor up to the third floor where new private offices will be used for counseling and advising health sciences students.
In the former office suite, a special events room will be added, available by reservation and managed by Kelly Rogers, head of communications and development for the library. Adjacent to it, a teleconference room will receive more functional furniture.

“We expect much greater use of these rooms after these changes are completed,” Spencer said.

Furniture will be recycled and repurposed where possible, and $100,000 in additional furniture is being ordered for the expansion.

“All available furniture that can be recycled is being recycled,” Spencer said. “Our goal was to re-use because it's only five years old.”

Renovations should be completed in July before the fall semester begins. Prime contractor is O'Neal Construction. Others are Eneco East heating and air contractors and Watson Electrical.

The addition of an entrance canopy, originally planned in the current renovation project, will be postponed until after July 1 due to technical and budget issues.

**Lifelong Learning kicks off May 21**
A new program focused on serving the over-50 aged population of eastern North Carolina will kick off Saturday with a free program at the Murphy Center on ECU's campus.

Sponsored by the Continuing Education Program of ECU, the new Lifelong Learning Program will hold its first event at 1 p.m. with Dr. Elliot Engel, a scholar, performer and storyteller, presenting “A Light History of the English Language.” Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

Dr. Lolita Harbit, associate director of continuing professional education, said many universities offer this type of program, including N.C. State University and the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, and ECU leaders thought it was time to launch a similar course.

“We have an older population here and in most parts of the country that demographic is growing. Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, our provost, had an interest in
starting a program here and thought it would be a good addition,” Harbit said.

The Lifelong Learning Program will have an annual membership fee of $35 with some individual classes or outings costing a small extra fee, such as if a bus has to be rented for transporting the group.

Upcoming summer off-campus programs are as follows:
June 11, tour of Bentonville Battlefield in Four Oaks;
June 21, “Satori: Jack Kerouac's Carolina Road” in Rocky Mount, led by Alex Albright, director of ECU's creative writing program;
June 30, Pilobolus, a dance troop, at the Durham Performing Arts Center, led by Patricia Pertalion, retired faculty member from the ECU School of Theatre and Dance;
July 20, art appreciation tour in the N.C. Museum of Art's new wing, led by Michael Duffy.

On-campus classes will begin in August and will include topics such as Facebook, new library technology with a tour of ECU's Joyner Library, aging related topics and issues, environmental studies, and a writing course taught by James Clark Jr., N.C. State professor emeritus.

The Lifelong Learners Program will not have a limit on the number of members who may join but some classes may be limited by the number of seats in a computer lab or classroom, Harbit said.

“Intellectual stimulation is important as we get older. The more we stimulate our brains, the better it is for our health,” she said. “This program will also be a way to meet new friends and develop social networks, especially for people who are living alone.”

For more information, contact Harbit at 328-9198 or harbitl@ecu.edu or visit the program's webpage: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/cpe/llp.cfm.

**Free oral cancer screening Tuesday**
Dentists with East Carolina University will conduct free screenings for oral cancer Tuesday before the ECU-Old Dominion baseball game at Clark-LeClair Stadium.
Dental chairs will be set up outside the stadium. Screenings will be from 4:45-5:45 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Patients will be seen on a walk-up basis. The screenings are free, painless and take about 10 minutes.

Oral, head and neck cancers claim approximately 12,000 lives per year, according to the Head and Neck Cancer Alliance. Many Americans do not recognize the symptoms of these life-threatening diseases, which include cancers of the oral cavity, larynx and pharynx, and by the time they are diagnosed, for some, it's too late.

The event is sponsored by the UNC Cancer Network, Cancer Services at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center. May 8-14 is Oral, Head and Neck Cancer Awareness Week. For more information about oral, head and neck cancers, visit http://www.OHANCAW.com.

For more information about the event, call Michelle Sagraves at 744-5544.
A hundred school children honored Thursday at East Carolina University for academic success learned more is expected of them than high test scores.

The students, mostly seventh graders from schools in Pitt and surrounding counties, qualified to take the SAT early and scored well on the test. The Duke Talent Identification Program gave them all medals.

Michael Bassman, distinguished honors professor, and Marilyn Sheerer, ECU's provost, used the ceremony in Hendrix theater to tell the students about the university's Honors College and the pursuit of academic excellence.

Here are some of the ways Sheerer and Bassman suggested the students proceed:

They urged the students to read books, Bassman putting in a word for traditional paper and ink volumes. “Read books, gather books, start your own library,” said Bassman, who came to the university as a language professor and served as the honors college's first director.

Reading expands knowledge and requires nothing more than some planks and bricks for shelving to store the tomes and information they contain, he said.

Sheerer praised computer technology that allows readers to access entire libraries from the palm of their hand with devices such as iPads.

Education is a lifelong endeavor, she said. “Never think you are there. Keep reading, exploring and learning.”

People who hire and recruit ECU graduates expect them to know about the world around them Bassman said. Students should read newspapers to stay abreast of events. He encouraged them to study a language and consider programs such as the Honors College that help students study in countries outside the United States.

Employers demand that graduates work well in team settings, Sheerer said. “Graduates have to be able to collaborate and be able to work with people who are different than they are.”

Instead of wondering why someone doesn't talk like you, take time to know that person and find out what there is to like or admire, she said. Think about the characteristics they possess “that you would like people to see in you.”
Colleges and employers want students who have embraced community service. “Look for ways to improve the world around you and use your talents to do it,” Sheerer said. The best students have compassion and courtesy, Bassman said. “We are our brother's keepers.”

Some employers have complained about the work ethic of some ECU graduates, Sheerer said. “That's something we have to work on.” Be the first on the job, turn in work on time, be punctual and dress for success. “People are watching,” she said. When your car is first in the parking lot, the boss will notice.

Bobby Burns is associate editor Internet news and information. Contact him at baburns@reflector.com and 252-329-9572.
Letter: Event helps in fight against cancer

Each time I finish our weekly multi-disciplinary LJCC Thoracic Oncology Clinic, I am very tired and emotionally spent from looking patients and their families in the eye and telling them about their lung and esophageal cancers, describing their treatments and, for some, talking to them about their deaths. Soon, I will return to do the same thing again.

Today and every day at the Leo Jenkins Cancer Center we battle for every individual, so they always know everything that can be done, has been done, is being done and will always be done in the treatment of their cancer and in their medical care. That is the reason for the LJCC Coach Rock Roggeman Cancer Research Fund and the fundraising effort of this first Coach Rock Golf Classic on May 20, with registration ending on May 16.

There is no purpose or agenda other than expanding and enhancing our cancer research at the LJCC for our patients of eastern North Carolina. As we honor and carry on Coach Rock's fight through this cancer research fund, all patients with cancer in eastern North Carolina and beyond will benefit. Coach Rock's fight will be an enduring and inspiring legacy to all with cancer, as it was to all on the football field — to “Play every down!”

Thank you to everybody for your efforts and energy to achieve something that has never been done before at ECU and eastern North Carolina.

PAUL R. WALKER, M.D., FACP
associate professor of medicine
director of Thoracic Oncology
Department of Internal Medicine
Brody School of Medicine
East Carolina University
WINTERVILLE — Gov. Beverly Perdue used the planned expansion at an industrial company that relies on community college trained employees as a platform Friday for her stance against education cuts in the House budget passed last week.

Perdue blasted the $19.3 billion plan that cuts education funding by more than $1 billion following a tour of The Roberts Company's Winterville facility.

Company officials announced they have purchased another site in the town for a three-year expansion that will add 29 jobs and require a $3.25 million investment. The company provides steel plate fabrication services, along with engineering, construction and plant startup services.

Pitt Community College President Dennis Massey said the school has a long history of training people for jobs at The Roberts Co. as welders and for other industrial jobs.

Perdue said she refused to be the North Carolina governor who backed away from education and she called upon the public to lobby legislators to reverse the cuts.

In the Senate, leaders have said the budget process under way would trim more money from education than the House's plan.

“Y'all we can't afford to go backwards,” Perdue said of the state's education system. “I will be doggone if North Carolina enters a race to the bottom.”
She said it was too early in the process for her to threaten to veto a budget that's yet to be hammered out, but she wants people to “stand up to legislators.”

“If we want to be the worse funded state” for education, she said, “we are well on our way.”

Chris Bailey, president and chief executive officer of The Roberts Co., said, “A lot of guys we have today have been through the various programs,” at PCC.

Perdue said the state's 58 community colleges were central to creating a trained workforce to make it possible for companies to grow.

She met PCC students in the welding program, and talked to welders at The Roberts Co., noting that it's a job that is passed through the generations.

One example of that familial pull is the company's only female welder, Ulli Smith, who trained at Edgecombe Community College.

“I've always been around welding and metal in my family,” Smith said. “Both of my brothers are welders.”

She agreed with the governor's assessment that she has a good-paying job that she also loves.

Perdue also spoke about the importance of East Carolina University and said she supports the new dental school at a news conference.

State Rep. Bill Cook, R-District 6, said after the governor's speech that he disagreed with her criticism of education cuts in the House budget.

“If you look at our budget, about 60 percent is for education,” he said. “So if you've got so much of your budget that's education, you've got to cut education.”

The governor and area legislators toured the facility and observed welders at work before the governor's news conference.

In an interview, Bailey said the expansion at The Roberts Co. will result in new jobs for welders and fabricators.

The Roberts Company received an $80,000 incentive state grant from the One North Carolina Fund, which uses General Assembly appropriations to help fund company expansions or recruit new companies. Matching grant funds have come from Pitt County, Winterville, North Carolina's Eastern Region, an economic development agency, and the Pitt County Committee of 100, whose members pledge funds to encourage industrial growth.
Bailey said the company will provide most of the funding for its expansion into the former 90,000-square-foot Fullarton Manufacturing facility, but another $420,000 contribution is expected to be made from entities contributing matching funds.

Renovations to the new building are expected to be complete in about two months.

“We ran out of space here,” Bailey said. “We've had so much work over the past year. Our projections for this year will be triple what they were for last year.”

The Roberts Co. was founded in 1977 and has been in Winterville since 1986, according to the Pitt County Development Commission. The facility has 460 employees in North Carolina.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
Dr. Jasper Lewis and Parker Overton present Walter Williams of WilcoHess and Trade Oil Company the Pitt County Distinguished Citizen Award Thursday night at the Hilton. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

**Scouts honor Walter Williams**

The Pitt District of the Boys Scouts recognized Walter Williams of WilcoHess and Trade Oil Company Thursday with its 2011 Boy Scouts of America Distinguished Citizen Award. The awards dinner, held at the Hilton Greenville, was part of the Friends of Scouting campaign which raises money to support the East Carolina Council that serves 12,000 scouts across 20 counties.

A native of Pitt County, Williams grew up on a tobacco farm off County Home Road near Winterville. In 1947, he enrolled at East Carolina Teachers College where he earned a bachelor's degree.

Following graduation he was drafted during the Korean War, and while in the Army he became engaged to Marie Stallings. Upon discharge from the Army he used his GI benefits to obtain a Masters Degree in Education Supervision from ECTC in 1955. His first job was teaching eighth grade in Farmville.
Williams' brother, Arthur, recruited him into the oil business through his wife's family business, Taylor Oil. He worked with Taylor Oil for 29 years until he retired, and started Trade Oil Company with two stores, both former Taylor Oil stations. Over 20 years Trade Oil grew to more than 100 stations and was the nation's 74th largest convenience store chain when he merged with Amerada Hess in 2005. Amerada Hess had already merged with brother Arthur's oil company and the new business created in 2005 was named WilcoHess.

Through his success, Williams gave his first million dollar gift to East Carolina University in 1993 to renovate Minges Coliseum. He chaired the campaign that built Clark-LeClair Stadium and has many endowed sports scholarships. He has served on many fundraising campaigns and on the board of trustees at Pitt Community College.

In 2008, Williams received an Honorary Doctor of Letters degree from ECU. He also has received many awards for his service including the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce Legends Award.
The East Carolina University Medical & Health Sciences Foundation announced the addition of six board members — E. Bradley Evans from Greenville, William A. Ferrell from Cary, Clyde A. Higgs from Kannapolis, Garrie W. Moore from Greenville, Suzanne Pecheles from Greenville and Tom Robinson from Salisbury.

Robinson is the senior vice president of merchandising for Food Lion LLC in Salisbury. He graduated from ECU in business management in 1983.

Robinson serves as chairman of the Georgia Food Industry Association and vice president of the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

Evans is a member of the Ward & Smith Law Firm in Greenville. He graduated from Wake Forest University and serves on a number of organizations including the Greenville Chamber of Commerce, Greenville Rotary Club and Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church.

Ferrell is the founder and president of Pharmaceutical Calibrations & Instrumentation LLC in Cary. He received a bachelor's degree from ECU in 1990 and a master's degree in 1993 from the industrial technology engineering program.

Ferrell serves on ECU’s Engineering Advisory Board and Advancement Council for the College of Technology and Computer Science.

Higgs is vice president of business development at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis. He graduated from ECU in 1999 with a master of public administration (MPA) degree from the College of Arts and Sciences.

Moore retired as vice chancellor for student life at ECU. He graduated in 1985 from the School of Social Work and Criminal Justice Program.

Moore received his doctorate from North Carolina State University and resides in Greenville.

Pecheles has been a community service volunteer in Greenville for many years. She has served on many boards, including the Pitt County Educational Foundation Mini Grant Committee, Family Violence board, Greenville Museum of Art and Boys and Girls Club.
boards. She also helps sponsor the Winner's Circle Scholarship Breakfast and is a member of the Williams Distinguished Professorship Committee.

The East Carolina University Medical & Health Sciences Foundation serves the College of Allied Health Sciences, Brody School of Medicine, College of Nursing, Laupus Library, Leo Jenkins Cancer Center, East Carolina Heart Institute, School of Dental Medicine and East Carolina Diabetes & Obesity Institute with financial support, scholarships, education and research.
Arendell Parrott Academy, ECU graduate named eighth president of Meredith College
Monday, May 16, 2011
WorkWeek

Jo Allen, a 1976 graduate of Arendell Parrott Academy, has been named the eighth president of Meredith College, effective July 1.

Allen, who graduated from Meredith in 1980, is the first Meredith alumna to assume the leadership of the 120-year old institution.

Allen replaces retiring president Maureen A. Hartford, who became the first female president of the college when she was selected by the Board of Trustees 12 years ago. Meredith College, which offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, is one of the largest private women's colleges in the United States with more than 2,100 students.

A native of La Grange, Allen earned a master's degree from East Carolina University and a doctorate from Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla. She has served as tenured associate professor of English at ECU and tenured associate professor at North Carolina State University.

In addition to her duties as a faculty member, Allen has served in a number of leadership positions universities, including special assistant to the dean and vice chancellor, as assistant dean and interim vice provost.
Allen is senior vice president, provost and professor of English at Widener University in Chester, Pa., where she oversees academic and student affairs at Widener's main campus and for satellite campuses in Harrisburg and Exton, Pa., and Wilmington, Del.

“It's both an honor and a privilege to be selected as the next president of Meredith College,” Allen said. “This is a position I've aspired to and prepared for my entire career. As an alumna, I know first-hand that Meredith is a special place, one that for more than a century has produced women leaders who have made their mark in education, business, government and, perhaps most importantly, with their families and communities.

“It's often said, ‘If you want to change the world, educate a woman.’ I look forward to working with the faculty, staff, alumnae and the extended Meredith family to create the next generation of world changers.”

Allen said one of her priorities would be to expand Meredith's partnerships with business, government and not-for-profit organizations throughout the state and nation.

“If the last two decades of the 20th century were about ‘women's ways of knowing,’ the first two decades of the 21st century are clearly about ‘women's ways of leading.’ We have the skills, knowledge and passion to help solve many of the challenges currently facing our country while providing an unparalleled academic experience for our students,” Allen said.
Graduate takes another step forward

By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, May 14, 2011

Angela Goody's graduation from Pitt Community College on Friday is another stride away from her difficult childhood.

She's left behind a past that included drug-addicted parents who she said mistreated her and her two older brothers.

The 22-year-old is poised to begin the second stage of her educational plans, working towards a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Eventually, Goody, who spent her teen years in foster care, plans to become a social worker and help others facing what she once faced. She compares her determination to work with youth from troubled homes to a mission of deliverance.

“They don't understand that because they had a hard life and they've had it so bad that they can stop the cycle of violence and succeed with a good education,” she said.

Goody understands how hard life can be. Although an investigation into their home lives led to foster care for Goody and one of her siblings, rescue came too late for her oldest brother. He committed suicide.

Once in foster care, Goody said she realized that she didn't have to follow in her parents' path.
“You don't have to be like your family,” she said. “I mean do you really want to be like that?”
Her grades quickly rose from Ds to As and Bs. She became active in chorus and sports at Farmville Middle School.

“I realized there were other things (in life) and if I hadn't been placed in foster care, I probably never would have finished school,” Goody said.

Social workers at the Pitt County Department of Social Services helped her and her brothers, she said, numbering them among the supporters that have given her strength. Goody said the message of hope is one she plans to instill in foster children someday.

“If someone goes and talks to them and says ‘I've been through what you've been through, I've had that life, you can do better,’” Goody said, it would have an effect. “It's like a passion for me to help kids,” she said.

Her other brother, who is 24, also graduated from PCC, but Goody will be the first in her family to aim for bachelor's and master's degrees.

She joked that her higher education will mark her as an “outsider” in her family.

Her associate's degree in criminal justice has laid the groundwork for her to pursue her bachelor's through a dual-enrollment program with PCC and Fayetteville State University. Her general studies will be taken at PCC and she will take criminal justice classes online through the university.

Goody's long-term goal is to earn her master's degree in social work from East Carolina University.

Goody is graduating from PCC with a 3.4 grade point average. She wasn't a serious student when she attended Lenoir Community College, but that changed at PCC.

“I didn't really think it was possible to graduate,” she said of her earlier educational endeavor. “I had to believe in myself that I could do it.”

Goody said scholarships helped her pursue her degree, including a $500 John Minges Criminal Justice scholarship.

PCC instructor Altrice Gales said that Goody was a standout student.

“She is a very bright student. She's very motivated. She has a wonderful personality,” Gales said. “And she's a student that from the beginning has had a very clear vision and she's just seen that vision through. She's worked very hard.”

If it was possible to run across the stage, Goody said she would do so to be handed her diploma.

“I'm happy. It's a blessing to have the opportunity just to come to Pitt,” she said.
Another milestone follows graduation. She plans to marry Matthew Simpkins on Aug. 13.
She met Simpkins at the pharmaceutical company where she works full-time as a security guard.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
Better times help UNC, N.C. State get more donations
BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer
RALEIGH–The two largest state universities are getting more private donations than last year, and officials at both N.C. State University and UNC-Chapel Hill say the modest improvement in the economy is likely one reason.

The jump is particularly sharp at NCSU, which, with a month and a half left in the fiscal year, already has blown past the goal for its annual appeal to alumni, raising $1.25 million, more than $400,000 ahead of the same period last year. The number of donors to that campaign has jumped 53 percent.

Success in individual gifts also is up sharply. All told, the university has received about 52 percent more in private donations for the period, nearly $91 million. Waste Industries founder Lonnie Poole announced an NCSU-record $40 million gift in December. Even without counting the portion of that gift included in this year's total, giving is still up 20 percent.

All of that is good news, since giving was off about 15 percent in 2009-2010. Some of the rebound is likely due to improvements in the economy, but the university also has boosted efforts to solicit gifts, said Nevin Kessler, vice chancellor for university advancement.

"We've added additional fundraisers, and we've been focusing our efforts not only in state, but out of state," Kessler said.

The university has begun using a more comprehensive effort to reach alumni for the annual campaign, concentrating particularly hard on reaching those who haven't donated previously, using phone banks, email and direct mail, said Ken Sigmon, the associate vice chancellor for development.

And it's working harder to attract major gifts, with face-to-face meetings with potential donors up more than 70 percent, he said.

Much of the push is coming from Chancellor Randy Woodson, who said upon taking the job last year that NCSU needed to boost fundraising to help
reduce its reliance on shrinking state allocations. He has thrown himself into the effort by doing things such as flying to NCSU alumni-rich Silicon Valley for an alumni event this spring.

NCSU's alumni base is smaller and known for giving less than alumni for UNC-Chapel Hill, which perennially ranks among the top public universities in private fundraising and has less room for dramatic improvement.

Still, giving is up at UNC-CH so far this fiscal year, too, after a slight decline last year. Total gifts and pledges are up about $1 million to about $235 million in the first 10 months, and giving to the main annual campaign is up about 7 percent, to $6.13 million.

Given the still-tentative economy, that's not bad, said Scott Ragland, director of development communications at UNC-CH.

"We think we're doing well, all things considered," Ragland said. "Our donors are showing a tremendous sense of support, and that's a real testimony that they believe in what we're trying to do."

A response to cuts
Officials at both universities said some donors are giving specifically because of the state's repeated cuts in the university system budget. The House and Senate are putting the finishing touches on a budget that would cut more than 15 percent of the university allocation, the fourth year in a row with a cut in state support.

"I think donors understand that private giving is more important now than ever," Ragland said.

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Reshaping a state: Less funds for college educations
BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer
Second in a weekly series
As each semester passes and his debt grows larger, N.C. Central University student Kenneth Crockett becomes less convinced that college was the right decision.

The sophomore from Winston-Salem started college with a financial aid package composed entirely of grants. But as tuition increased, that morphed quickly into a combination of grants and loans. Two years in, Crockett now has about $5,000 in debt - with more on the horizon.

After years of steady growth, the need-based grants the UNC system offers to in-state students such as Crockett are in peril. For the first time in the fund's 11-year history, legislators want to reduce the state's contribution to the program, which could mean more debt for students.

"If they cut it, not only would I have to pay it, I'd have to work more," said Crockett, who receives at least $1,000 a year through that grant program. "I think about that all the time."

The reduction would follow a four-year spate of budget cuts that has forced universities to scale back considerably, with the budget year that starts in July promising to be the roughest yet. The state House's budget proposal would cut
nearly $472 million from the 17-campus university system, a 15 percent reduction in current funding.

Cuts at that level would force a dramatic change in the way public universities operate, UNC leaders say. Among other reductions, 3,200 jobs would be eliminated. That would include 1,500 faculty slots, about 10 percent of the system's full-time faculty.

Republicans, in charge of the legislature for the first time in more than a century, say they will cut taxes, increase user fees, reduce health care for the poor, cut personnel in schools, and force college students to pay for more of their education. They have questioned longtime Democratic priorities and promised to use the budget to reshape North Carolina.

Though Republicans are targeting universities for significant cuts, the UNC system was hit hard as well during the last four legislative seasons under Democratic rule: $620 million was shaved from its annual budget in that time.

Crockett and other students may face higher costs, and it may take them longer to graduate as class sections get eliminated and some students take lighter class loads so they can work part- or full-time jobs. Over the past decade, tuition for public universities has grown as much as 200 percent. Last year alone, NCCU tuition rose 24 percent.

The tuition increases and budget cuts run counter to the state constitution, which says that higher education should be free for North Carolinians "as far as practicable."

**Students' aid in trouble**

All of this forces Crockett to contemplate what might have been. The product of a single-parent home, the 20-year-old considered community college before enrolling at NCCU. He chose that path in large part to please his mother; he's the first in his immediate family to attend a four-year university.

"I sometimes think college is unnecessary," he said of the four-year university plan. "If I go to community college, I'll have a degree quicker and won't owe as much."

But after two years at NCCU, Crockett says he's committed to going the distance. His debt likely will grow.

With tuition rising, university officials see a need for more financial aid. But budget plans for 2011-2012 proposed by both Gov. Bev Perdue and the state
House would provide far less than the $71 million in new money the UNC system has requested for the need-based grant program.

Perdue's plan would add no new funding to the $162 million in this year's budget, while the House plan would reduce it by $35 million. The Senate's view of the need-based aid program is not yet clear.

"I do not recall a time that they have come under threat before," Elizabeth McDuffie, director for grants, training and outreach with the State Education Assistance Authority, said of the UNC need-based aid funds. "It has (previously) been funded generously by the General Assembly, so it's a change."

The assistance authority administers financial aid programs for students attending public and private colleges and universities in North Carolina.

Federal lawmakers also have taken a tough look at financial aid. The Pell Grant, the most common source of federal need-based aid, was the subject of a contentious negotiation this year. It provides as much as $5,550 a year, a ceiling that won't go up next year but, after significant squabbling on Capitol Hill, won't be reduced, either.

But a second Pell Grant that helped students pay for summer courses was eliminated as part of the budget deal brokered recently for the rest of the fiscal year.

Across the nation, states are cutting need- and merit-based grant programs, driving up the cost of college, said Daniel Hurley, director of state relations and policy analysis with the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The higher costs prevent some from enrolling, and force some out of college. Others simply pile on the debt, Hurley said.

There's no standard solution to this, and students need to evaluate whether the product they're going to get will be worth the money, Hurley said.

"All education has some type of return on investment, but that return can vary dramatically," he said. "Each student has to be his or her own judge."

Nationally, college costs haven't yet saddled students with too much debt, said Terry Hartle, senior vice president with the American Council on Education. But as states like North Carolina continue making sizable cuts to public university budgets, that could change, he said.
"As the price of college continues to climb, the danger will grow that students will borrow more money than they can afford to pay," Hartle said. "It doesn't make (any) more sense for a 20-year-old to borrow too much money for college than for a 40-year-old to borrow too much for a home."

**A job at the gym**

At NCCU, campus jobs are tough to come by, so when some came available last semester, Crockett got in line three hours early. The result: a gym monitor position that offered $7.25 an hour for six hours a week. It was pared to four hours, or $30 a week. "Unless there's a holiday," Crockett said. "Then it's less."

With summer break looming, Crockett plans to head home to Winston-Salem in hopes of scoring a part-time job for at least half the summer. "Gotta get in early before the high school students get out of school," he said.

For extra spending money, Crockett said he plays video games or basketball with fellow students with a few bucks riding on the result. He buys candy, soda and chips, and re-sells them from his dorm room. All this for spending money as he works his way through college.

He's studying criminal justice, and he wants to be a detective, his way of righting some of the wrongs he so often saw as a kid in a rough part of Winston-Salem.

"Growing up in my neighborhood, I've seen drugs mess up a lot of homes," he said.

As he goes forward, he'll continue to ask why he's doing it. In one breath, he says college is a waste of time and money. In the next, he says he's too invested to make a change.

"I'm torn, right down the middle," he said with a sigh. "I'm still trying to figure out why I'm here."

Next Sunday: Squeezing savings from health care for the poor

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**Cut the sales tax, Republicans say**

A core element of the budget debate is an expiring 1-cent sales tax. Democrats say it should be extended, pointing to the roughly $1 billion in revenue it would provide a state that sorely needs it.

But Senate leader Phil Berger said legislators promised the tax would be temporary when it was enacted in 2009.
"When it was put in two years ago, the governor, the Democrats in control, all said it's temporary," Berger said. "They made a promise, and at that time, we said, 'Just wait: Two years from now, they'll want to extend it.' Here we are, two years later. They've not cut spending, and now they're saying we've got to extend the tax. If you say you're going to do something, you ought to do it."

The 1-cent tax costs a family of four about $85 a year, Democratic leaders say.

Doing away with the tax means more money for residents, Berger said.

"The expiration of that tax will leave over a billion dollars in the hands of individuals and small businesses throughout North Carolina," Berger said. "That in and of itself will be a significant aid to job creation in our state. When government raises taxes, pulls money out of the private economy, it depresses economic activity. Letting that tax expire is beneficial to what everyone says is priority one: job creation."

**UNC financial aid: Who wants what?**
The state provided $162 million in the current budget year for a need-based financial aid grant program for students at public universities in North Carolina.

Of that, $127 million is recurring money, and about $35 million was a one-time appropriation. The UNC system has asked the state to make all $162 million recurring and add about $36 million more to the pot, citing rising numbers of needy students.

In contrast:
Gov. Bev Perdue's budget proposal would keep the fund at $162 million but wouldn't add to it.

Leaders in the N.C. House countered with a budget plan that would cut funding to $127 million. The House budget also eliminated funding for the Education Lottery Scholarship Program, which provided about $15 million annually for public university students. If those plans are approved, at least 5,500 fewer students would receive need-based grants next year, and the average award for recipients would be $333 lower, UNC officials say.
Duke confers degrees on 4,521
BY COLIN CAMPBELL - Staff Writer
The ceremony: 10 a.m. Sunday, Duke University's Wallace Wade Stadium, Durham.

Number of graduates: 4,521, including graduate students and students who wrapped up their studies in September or December.

Main speaker: John T. Chambers, chief executive of Cisco, who spent a year at Duke's engineering school before pursuing business and law degrees instead.

What he said: Chambers encouraged graduates to always look out for friends, family and co-workers, and to never take life too seriously.

"I ended up at my company because of how I treated somebody 10 years before," Chambers said. "Your friends and family need you most when you're in trouble, and that's when you build lasting relationships."

Those relationships are what keeps one grounded, he said. "Get somebody around you who balances you," he said. "Get somebody who, when something gets out of kilter, smacks you in the head."
He said the era of social networking will give graduates a chance to work more closely with their peers than ever before. Worldwide, people spend 700 billion minutes a month on Facebook, he noted, and that's likely where the next great ideas will sprout.

Chambers also asked the graduates if they liked change. Most raised their hands before he listed changes like finding a new job or breaking up a relationship. "Feeling uncomfortable with change is OK," he said. "The only constant is change."

Potty break: "Before you make an important decision, go to the bathroom," Chambers advised graduates. He said he got that tip from a world leader. He explained what it means: At key meetings, "don't go in with any stress - prepare well for the next session."

The weather: Cloudy with a few breaks of sun as the ceremony wrapped up. Duke avoided the threat of rain, which would have meant a shorter ceremony with just one speaker.

The student speaker: Michael Lefevre, a public policy major from Philadelphia. Rather than hear from the class president, Duke invites students to submit speeches, and a committee of students, professors, administrators and alumni picks the speaker.

What Lefevre said: Duke students are a close-knit bunch. Lefevre said he discovered that in an improvisational acting class.

He'd been assigned to create a flash mob - a seemingly random, but carefully planned, gathering of people doing something odd. He followed a random student off a bus, and his classmates were to fall in line behind them. After crossing campus, he turned around.

"The line was now 30, but there were only 22 people in the class," Lefevre said. "Here was a line, and they weren't about to lose their spot in it."

Joke most likely to make Duke leaders cringe: Lefevre briefly mentioned Duke's recent appearances in national news, which included a student's Power Point presentation about her sexual exploits at the school.
Lefevre said Duke students will always fill a void, whether it be an empty bulletin board on campus or a more important need. "And if there's a void in the national media, well, we're good at filling that void, too," he said.

**Shout-outs:** The crowd of family and friends proved they can fill voids too - anytime there was a pause in the proceedings, people took advantage of the silence to yell out the name of their grad.

**Most enthusiastic:** Graduates of the Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, who celebrated their degrees by breaking out a beach ball and air horn during the ceremony.

**Best excuse for skipping:** Divinity School graduates. Most of them couldn't attend because they were already out serving churches.

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Former Davidson College president Tom Ross speaks at the college's commencement ceremonies. Ross left Davidson in December to become president of the UNC system. Robert Lahser - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

4 presidents on hand for Davidson graduation
By David Perlmutt
There must be something special about Davidson College's class of 2011.

In the school's rich, 174-year history, it's had only 17 presidents. Four of them were on campus at Sunday's graduation to see off the class' 436 members.

Sam Spencer, Davidson's 14th president, and its 16th, Bobby Vagt, sat under towering oaks among the crowd of graduates, relatives and friends.

On stage was number 15, John Kuykendall, and number 17, Tom Ross.

Kuykendall is now interim president (he called himself the "recycled" president) as a search committee finds the 18th president to replace Ross. He took over Davidson during the class of 2011's freshman year but left in December to become president of the UNC system.

On this day, Ross wanted to be with the class.

Leaving Davidson, he told the graduates, was hard. "But the factor that weighed heaviest on my heart was knowing I would not be able to finish the year with you," Ross said.
"You are my class."

In an interview, Ross said several members of the class had asked him to be at the graduation. It was Kuykendall who invited him to give remarks and help present diplomas.

Four years ago, on their first day at Davidson, Ross talked to them about freedom and responsibility.

"I told you the two go hand in hand," he said. "They cannot be learned in isolation."

Their caps and gowns, he added, were evidence they'd taken his advice.

Yet now they must learn to responsibly use the opportunities that are sure to come with a Davidson diploma.

"You have a personal responsibility," Ross said. "But equally important is the responsibility you have to your fellow human beings, to your community and to the world.

"You must put this education to use for more than just selfish gains."

As each graduate walked to the stage to receive a diploma, Ross stood at the end of the reception line, shaking hands and receiving an occasional hug.

Graduate Alison Rauh of Trier, Germany, met Ross even before classes started her freshman year, when he spoke to international students.

"We're all excited to see him back," said Rauh, who tied for the highest grade-point average in the class and was co-captain of the Davidson women's tennis team. "It shows he's very committed to Davidson."

Ross' return "makes our graduation that much more special," said graduate Kyle Sanders of Ocala, Fla. "I admire his love for this place."

Their class represented 36 states and 10 foreign countries. Four graduates will spend next year on Fulbright fellowships; 110 graduated cum laude, 54 magna cum laude and two, Rauh and Daniel Martin, summa cum laude.
Ross, a Davidson graduate (class of 1972), said he may return to subsequent graduations to see off the other classes that started during his tenure but likely would sit in the audience.

By next graduation, he said, Davidson will have a new president. "The first commencement for a new president is an exciting day," he said.

He misses Davidson, but after 41/2 months at the helm of the state's public university system, he still feels "in my heart that I am doing what I've been called to do."

"I am serving the state of North Carolina that has always been so great to me. What a privilege that is."

Yet as he tackles the system's issues, such as a shrinking budget, he still takes time to return calls from Davidson students.

"Some have called for advice; job advice, graduate school," he said. "So I stay in touch with people at Davidson, alumni and students. Davidson is an amazingly special place. I was privileged to be a part of it. It's held a special place in my life."
'Heart' is coming to Centennial Campus

BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer

RALEIGH—By many measures, N.C. State University's massive public-private Centennial Campus is a success, with more than 2 million square feet of classrooms, labs and corporate offices, dozens of corporate and government tenants and more on the way.

But more than 26 years after it was started, the vibe is still more sterile, 9-to-5 business park than vibrant college campus. Two construction projects now in the pipeline, though, will change that for good.

The hyper-modern James B. Hunt Jr. Library is now clad in about half of its reflective metal-and-glass skin, and workers are beginning to make strides on the interior. It will feature spaces for digitally enhanced collaborative study and research, and robot-infested "black box" stacks where books are automatically pulled and shelved.

Meanwhile, a design team is fine-tuning plans for a 1,150-bed, six-building student housing complex, complete with a 20,000-square-foot dining center and a workout facility. The university's trustees recently approved the site plan for the dorm complex, and construction bidding is scheduled for late fall.

It can't come too soon for students with classes on Centennial, who must grab little bits of tranquil campus where they can find them.
Travis Eason of Raleigh, a sophomore in biomedical engineering, had plopped down one morning this week after an exam to read his Bible in a semicircle of grass and young trees beside engineering classroom buildings that one day will help frame a long quad called The Oval. At the other end, to the south, will be the library, with the dorms in between.

Eason raved about the Centennial engineering buildings, where he has some classes, and said he just needs a few amenities to feel at home.

"Right now, it feels like this campus is just starting to come together, but they're implementing all these things that will be great," he said. "As soon as they finish the library and the food court, I'm pretty sure I'll be spending the majority of my time on Centennial."

The unusual campus, taking shape on a rolling, 1,120-acre tract just south of the main campus, is part research park and part university. The goal is to bring government and private industry together with students and faculty for joint research projects.

As governor, Jim Hunt led the initiative to give NCSU state land for the project. After getting a sense of the growing importance of high technology while he was on trade missions to Europe and Japan in the 1980s, Hunt said, he came to believe the state needed to take bold steps to avoid being left behind in fields such as microelectronics and biotechnology.

Michael Harwood, the associate vice chancellor in charge of the Centennial Campus Development Office, said the housing in particular will change the feel.

"That will bring a real 24/7 energy on campus because students will be there around the clock and be involved in all kinds of activities, not just attending class there, then leaving," Harwood said. "Both projects, taken together, will really bring a kind of completion, give the campus a heart and stitch some disparate parts into a whole."

Until the past few weeks, when a temporary modular dining facility opened, the thousands of students and workers on the campus had to pack their lunches or go off-campus to eat, so the permanent dining options will be a critical addition, Harwood said.

The library comes first, with completion expected late next year. Housing will follow in 2014.
Among other projects under construction on Centennial is a new residence for the chancellor, which is expected to serve as a hub for fundraising events. Also, university trustees have approved site plans for a $5 million clubhouse for the Arnold Palmer golf course, and they got their initial look at the clubhouse design.

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TIGHT MONEY, BIG PROJECTS
At NCSU, as on many major university campuses, at least some renovation and construction is always under way. But with the state about to make its fourth cut to university budgets in as many years, several big projects are on hold, and even badly needed renovations for the iconic Bell Tower are stalled.

So it's a sign of the times that many of the most prominent projects now in the pipeline are being built without taxpayer help.

The $129 million student housing complex being designed for Centennial Campus will be paid for entirely from dorm rent, Associate Vice Chancellor Michael Harwood said.
Also on Centennial, private donations will pay all of the $3 million-plus for the nearly complete chancellor’s residence. A planned hotel and conference center, which is expected to be done in mid-2014, would be privately developed.

Donations account for nearly half the funding for the new $72 million veterinary teaching hospital dedicated last week at the Centennial Biomedical Campus near the N.C. State Fairgrounds, including a $20 million gift from the estate of High Point businessman Randall B. Terry Jr.

And the Centennial golf clubhouse will be named for Carol Johnson Poole, wife of Waste Industries founder Lonnie Poole. In December, the couple gave NCSU its largest-ever gift, $40 million, with most earmarked for the NCSU management school but $2.5 million to help build the clubhouse. Lonnie Poole earlier gave $3 million to build the golf course, which, like the management school, is named after him.

Over on the main campus, the Talley Student Center’s $120 million expansion and renovation will be funded mainly by student fees and vendor leases.
COMMENCEMENT is a special time on college campuses: an occasion for students, families, faculty and administrators to come together to celebrate a job well done. And perhaps there is reason to be pleased. In recent surveys of college seniors, more than 90 percent report gaining subject-specific knowledge and developing the ability to think critically and analytically. Almost 9 out of 10 report that overall, they were satisfied with their collegiate experiences.

We would be happy to join in the celebrations if it weren’t for our recent research, which raises doubts about the quality of undergraduate learning in the United States. Over four years, we followed the progress of several thousand students in more than two dozen diverse four-year colleges and universities. We found that large numbers of the students were making their way through college with minimal exposure to rigorous coursework, only a modest investment of effort and little or no meaningful improvement in skills like writing and reasoning.

In a typical semester, for instance, 32 percent of the students did not take a single course with more than 40 pages of reading per week, and 50 percent did not take any course requiring more than 20 pages of writing over the semester. The average student spent only about 12 to 13 hours per week studying — about half the time a full-time college student in 1960 spent studying, according to the labor economists Philip S. Babcock and Mindy S. Marks.

Not surprisingly, a large number of the students showed no significant progress on tests of critical thinking, complex reasoning and writing that were administered when they began college and then again at the ends of their sophomore and senior years. If the test that we used, the Collegiate Learning Assessment, were scaled on a traditional 0-to-100 point range, 45 percent of the students would not have demonstrated gains of even one point over the first two years of college, and 36 percent would not have shown such gains over four years of college.

Why is the overall quality of undergraduate learning so poor? While some colleges are starved for resources, for many others it’s not for lack of money. Even at those colleges where for the past several decades tuition has far outpaced the rate of inflation, students are taught by fewer full-time tenured faculty members while being looked after by a greatly expanded number of
counselors who serve an array of social and personal needs. At the same time, many schools are investing in deluxe dormitory rooms, elaborate student centers and expensive gyms. Simply put: academic investments are a lower priority.

The situation reflects a larger cultural change in the relationship between students and colleges. The authority of educators has diminished, and students are increasingly thought of, by themselves and their colleges, as “clients” or “consumers.” When 18-year-olds are emboldened to see themselves in this manner, many look for ways to attain an educational credential effortlessly and comfortably. And they are catered to accordingly. The customer is always right.

Federal legislation has facilitated this shift. The funds from Pell Grants and subsidized loans, by being assigned to students to spend on academic institutions they have chosen rather than being packaged as institutional grants for colleges to dispense, have empowered students — for good but also for ill. And expanded privacy protections have created obstacles for colleges in providing information on student performance to parents, undercutting a traditional check on student lassitude.

Fortunately, there are some relatively simple, practical steps that colleges and universities could take to address the problem. Too many institutions, for instance, rely primarily on student course evaluations to assess teaching. This creates perverse incentives for professors to demand little and give out good grades. (Indeed, the 36 percent of students in our study who reported spending five or fewer hours per week studying alone still had an average G.P.A. of 3.16.) On those commendable occasions when professors and academic departments do maintain rigor, they risk declines in student enrollments. And since resources are typically distributed based on enrollments, rigorous classes are likely to be canceled and rigorous programs shrunk. Distributing resources and rewards based on student learning instead of student satisfaction would help stop this race to the bottom.

Others involved in education can help, too. College trustees, instead of worrying primarily about institutional rankings and fiscal concerns, could hold administrators accountable for assessing and improving learning. Alumni as well as parents and students on college tours could ignore institutional facades and focus on educational substance. And the Department of Education could make available nationally representative longitudinal data on undergraduate learning outcomes for research purposes, as it has been doing for decades for primary and secondary education.
Most of all, we hope that during this commencement season, our faculty colleagues will pause to consider the state of undergraduate learning and our collective responsibility to increase academic rigor on our campuses.

Richard Arum, a professor of sociology and education at New York University, and Josipa Roksa, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Virginia, are the authors of “Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses.”