THE DAILY CLIPS

May 22, 2009

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

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

WASHINGTON, N.C. — Patricia McNutt Adams, nee Susan Patricia McNutt, passed away in peace Wednesday, May 20, 2009, surrounded by her family. A loving wife, mother, grandmother, world traveler, adventurer and environmentalist, she was a lover of “The River,” her gardens, literature and education, and a compassionate caregiver as a clinical psychologist to her clients, and friend to every animal, especially her pets and her backyard birds. The family will have a memorial service at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Greenville at 11 a.m. on Saturday and greet friends afterwards in the Parish Hall. A private family memorial will be held at a later date.

Patricia "Patsy" was born April 19, 1928, in Springfield, Ohio, daughter of Franklin Holbrook McNutt and Freda Gohlke McNutt. She grew up vacationing with her family at their lake cabin in Northern Indiana where she learned to love the outdoors. In 1941, her father accepted a professorship at UNC-Greensboro and the family moved to North Carolina. Dr. McNutt later became head of the school of education and dean of the graduate school at UNC-G and in 1954 became a pioneer of public television in North Carolina. The McNutt Education building was named for him in 1972.

Patsy was a brilliant scholar and student who loved her whole life and began her college education at UNC-G, later transferring to UNC-Chapel Hill where she met the love of her life, Charles Patrick Adams, a WWII veteran and son of a family with deep roots in southern history. She completed her first college degree and became a mother and schoolteacher, supporting her husband as he became a physician. Patsy and Charlie started a family and moved to Greenville in 1954 as he began his medical career, later becoming chief of staff at Pitt Memorial Hospital and a respected member of Greenville’s budding medical community. Charlie preceded Patsy in death in 1971 at the age of 46. Patsy later received a Masters in History from ECU, and developed a passion for psychology, attaining a Masters in Clinical Psychology as well as a degree as a registered nurse. She worked with Dr. Malene Irons at the Developmental Evaluation Clinic for many years and later began practice with Dr. Judith Yongue in Greenville. She was still in practice seeing clients until March 2009. Her clients will dearly miss her.

Patsy lived her life with adventure and gusto, traveling worldwide including visits to Central Asia and the Silk Road in western China, Russia, Africa, Hawaii, Bolivia, the West Indies, Alaska, a second trip to Eastern China and many trips to the Olympic Peninsula in Washington State. She lived on Broad Creek, Washington, independently for many years.

Patsy's family includes survivors, Charles Patrick Adams Jr. and wife, Jamie S. Jacobson, of Greenville, Jane Adams Price and husband, Chase D. Price, of Madison, Eleanor Susan Adams of Sequim, Wash., and Patty Adams also of Greenville. Grandchildren include Adam Warren Buck, Abe Albright, Margaret Anne Albright, Joseph Albright, Annie Maria Albright, and Elizabeth Patricia Albright. She is also survived by her dog, Toby Larry, and was preceded in death by dogs Bill, Dodi, Christy, Koko, Kayla and Sam as well as cats, Kinks, Precious Ruth, Harlow, Liddy Bett and Black Kitty. She was passionate in her love for her children, grandchildren and pets.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, P.O. Box 8454, Washington, NC 27889.

Attorney Marvin Schiller cited "undisputable evidence" that former first lady Mary Easley, right, had received her position at NCSU on her own merits and had performed admirably in the job.

SHAWN ROCCO, Staff photo by Shawn Rocco

Mary Easley stands her ground

The former first lady's lawyer does the talking, but she's fighting for her $170,000 NCSU job

BY JAY PRICE, Staff Writer

The dispute between former first lady Mary Easley and university leaders over her $170,000-a-year job at N.C. State exploded into full verbal combat Thursday, but Easley didn't say a word.

Instead, her attorney, Marvin Schiller, read one glowing performance review after another, including one from one of the very officials now calling for her to resign. She stood by his side, smiling tightly and silent.

The controversy around her is a "theater of the absurd," Schiller said.

About an hour later, the university and UNC system fired back. They released written statements from UNC system President Erskine Bowles and Bob Jordan, the new chairman of the N.C. State Board of Trustees, who had been elected less than a day earlier to replace Easley family friend McQueen Campbell.

Campbell, a confidant of the Easleys who benefitted from decisions made by the governor's administration, quit last week after admitting he had suggested hiring Mary Easley in 2005.

Bowles and Jordan in their statements reiterated calls for her to step down to quiet the controversy that has enveloped the Raleigh campus.

Schiller's news conference, though, made it clear that Easley is not leaving without a fight, or perhaps a buyout of the remaining four years of her five-year, $850,000 contract.
"Mary Easley plans to continue to make outstanding contributions to North Carolina State University and the state of North Carolina," Schiller said.

University and system leaders needed to "re-reflect on their initial reactions," which may be based on the uproar over a wide-ranging federal investigation of her husband, former Gov. Mike Easley, Schiller said.

At several points in the nearly hourlong news conference, Schiller referred to Easley's contract, and to how each side in a contract is obligated to keep its end of the bargain. He repeatedly declined to say whether she would accept a buyout, though, saying that he couldn't predict the future.

A buyout would be sure to anger faculty and staff at the university, which is in the midst of a round of layoffs and pay cuts because of a state budget that's $4.5 billion in the hole.

Easley was hired to a three-year contract in 2005 at $80,000 a year, then got a raise to $170,000 in a controversial process last year. She coordinates a speakers' series and is the creator of a public safety leadership center.

Easley's job returned to the spotlight May 10, when a News & Observer story revealed new information about the creation of her position in 2005. She was hired by Larry Nielsen, then the interim provost, who created a position, waived a job search and picked her for the job.

University officials consistently said that Nielsen, who later became the permanent provost, acted on his own. But Campbell, twice appointed by Gov. Easley to the N.C. State Board of Trustees, told Bowles last week that he played a role in the hiring.

About the same time that Easley was hired, Campbell got help from the Easley administration with key development permits, and the Division of Motor Vehicles set aside two investigations involving his vehicle inspection station.

Campbell and Nielsen resigned last week, and Chancellor James Oblinger called on Mary Easley to quit, too.

Schiller said Thursday that whatever Campbell did or said, Easley had done nothing wrong and intended to stay on the job.

"Friends do all sorts of things for friends, so I don't know what that information might mean." Schiller said, replying to a question about free flights the Easleys had received in McQueen's airplane.

Indeed, he said, if Campbell had told Oblinger that Easley was looking for a job, there was nothing wrong with that. Quite the opposite: As someone charged with looking out for the interests of the university, Campbell would have been remiss not to pass along information about a good potential hire to Oblinger, Schiller said.

Bowles' gushing review

He began his remarks by reading several formal and informal performance reviews from Bowles and Nielsen. Some were nothing short of gushing.

"Mary -- when do I get to vote for you!" Bowles wrote in a note dated Nov. 2, 2005. "You constantly inspire me. You go everywhere, you bring such positive energy, your judgment is respected, and you communicate. And Mary you keep up with everyone -- you always make me feel special."

Schiller also cited previous assertions by Oblinger and Nielsen that there was nothing improper about her hiring, and cited the review and approval of her contract by the board of trustees and board of governors.
"The indisputable evidence," he said, "is that Mary Easley received the position of Executive in Residence at N.C. State University on her own merits."

Easley, herself a lawyer and a professor, stood smiling throughout the news conference, breaking her silence only to quip that Schiller needed to step back in front of the microphones after he drifted away from the lectern.

Schiller said that he had decided it was better for her not to speak, at least not yet, but he didn't say why.

jay.price@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4526

Read The News & Observer print edition on your computer with the new e-edition!

**Nuanced opinions of Mary Easley**

Statement by UNC system President Erskine Bowles:

"It is absolutely true that I have liked and respected Mary Easley for years. I have said so numerous times -- publicly, privately, in writing, and verbally. I also do not question that when she was hired by N.C. State in 2005, prior to my arrival at UNC, that she was considered to be an asset to the University. Furthermore, when the UNC Board of Governors and I reviewed the salary associated with her expanded duties in 2008, it was unanimously approved after significant adjustments were made. I have said this repeatedly and released publicly the information that supports the salary she was offered.

"But, as Mrs. Easley's attorney said today, we are now at a time that is different from when Mary Easley was hired. And I do feel that it would be in the best interest of N.C. State for her to move on."

Statement by NCSU Board of Trustees Chairman Bob Jordan:

"One of the reasons N.C. State is a great university is that it is populated by people who put the institution first. N.C. State has treated Mrs. Easley with objectivity, dignity and fairness. We understand she feels she has performed her job well. But it's gone well beyond that issue. The ongoing distraction has obscured the university's accomplishments and mission and detracted from our day-to-day work. We respectfully ask that she reconsider her decision for the good of the university."

**Mary Easley's philosopher turned attorney**

Mary Easley has hired an attorney with an unusual former profession to help defend her $170,000-a-year contract with N.C. State University: Marvin Schiller holds a doctorate in philosophy and taught in the philosophy departments of Southern Methodist University and the University of Toronto before heading for Duke law school.

Schiller also once ran unsuccessfully as a Republican for the state Supreme Court shortly after switching from the Democratic Party.

He has won several major cases against the state on behalf of workers and also won a case that changed a 200-year-old state legal doctrine, paving the way for one spouse to testify against another in certain kinds of criminal cases.

During his 2000 judicial campaign, Schiller said that his training as a philosopher was good preparation for crafting legal arguments and reasoning. In the news conference Thursday in which he announced that Easley planned to keep her job, he cited his expertise in philosophy
again when asserting that he believed Easley had acted ethically in gaining her university job.

From staff reports

Related Content

- Christensen: Mike Easley's loner style comes back to haunt him
- Video: Easley attorney 'no connection' of conspiracy
- Join J. Andrew Curliss for a 1 p.m. live chat
- Read the series about perks of Mike Easley's power.

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
A black woman's journey to the rabbinate in North Carolina

- Story Highlights
  - Stanton will become rabbi next month, making her the first black female rabbi in U.S.
  - Stanton converted to Judaism more than 20 years ago during her college years
  - Stanton, 45, said she is happy to represent the diversity in Judaism
  - Michael Barondes, Bayt Shalom president, said Stanton "was quite impressive"

By Joe Sterling
CNN

(CNN) — When Alysa Stanton officially becomes a rabbi next month, she'll be walking into history.

She'll become the first African-American woman ever to be ordained as a rabbi and the first African-American rabbi to lead a majority white congregation, according to the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Stanton, 45, will be ordained June 6 in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she received her master's degree from the HUC-JIR, which is the rabbinical school of the Reform movement. Then in August, she will begin her new job at Congregation Bayt Shalom in Greenville, North Carolina — long a Conservative synagogue and now affiliated with both the Reform and Conservative movements.

She describes her new position with great enthusiasm, saying the congregation — while small — has a lot of children, a sign of a bright future. And she says the congregation is vibrant and the region, where East Carolina University and a major medical center are located, is dynamic as well.

"My goals as a rabbi are to break down barriers, build bridges and provide hope," Stanton told CNN. "I look forward to being the spiritual leader of an inclusive sacred community that welcomes and engages all."

The HUC says the milestone reflects the diversity that permeates Jewish life.

Citing numbers from the Institute for Jewish and Community Research, the HUC-JIR says at least 20 percent of American Jews — about 300,000 to 400,000 people — "are racially and ethnically diverse by birth ... conversion and adoption. Approximately 20,000-30,000 marriages between Jews and African-Americans grew out of the civil rights movement."

"This diversity, reflecting the variety and richness of Jewish heritage, is embraced by the Reform Movement of Judaism, with its commitment to inclusivity," the HUC-JIR said.

A Cleveland, Ohio, native from a Pentecostal Christian home who moved to Colorado at the age of 11, Stanton was first exposed to Judaism as a child and converted more than 20 years ago during her college days. She is a single mother of an adopted 14-year-old daughter and a psychotherapist.

How did she come to convert?

"It's been a journey, and it started when I was very young," she told CNN. "I was a seeker."

Judaism, she realized, fit her.

"People have asked me, 'was I born Jewish?' I said yes, but not to a Jewish womb."
She said she drove every week between Fort Collins and Denver to study with a Conservative rabbi in an Orthodox synagogue and eventually had a traditional conversion in 1987.

But why did she step from the role of an active congregant to pursue the arduous rabbinical education? The idea percolated in part in Denver, where she was active at Temple Emanuel. Among the factors that led her to rabbinical school, she said, were her appreciation of the role of cantors, the beauty of chanting Torah and learning of a middle-aged man who didn't let his age get in the way of entering rabbinical school.

As for Bayt Shalom, she said it's in an interesting part of the South — more transient and more diverse because of the college population. The congregation is small, made up of about 60 families, and the position for now will be part time.

"We're hoping for growth and outreach," she said. "There's a lot of opportunity."

Before her rabbinical training, she studied social psychology, neuropsychology and interpersonal relationships at Lancaster University in England in 1983-84, received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology in 1988; earned a Master of Education degree in counseling and multiculturalism in 1992 from Colorado State University; and received a professional counselor license in 1999.

Stanton worked as a student rabbi, served as a chaplain, had clinical pastoral training and promoted interfaith dialogue at Reform communities in the United States. She studied at the HUC-JIR campus in Jerusalem and then at Cincinnati, Ohio.

She said her daughter experienced racial bigotry in Israel, but that reality toughened her and did not deter her from her goals or her love for Israel and its people.

"I learned that my child and I are stronger than ever dreamed possible," she said of life in Jerusalem. "I learned the tenacity of the human spirit goes a long way. I learned there are some great people in this world."

Michael Barondes, Bayt Shalom president, said Stanton "was quite impressive" to the rabbinical search committee of the small, Jewishly diverse congregation in a "one-synagogue town" in the Bible Belt founded in 1975.

"Rabbi Stanton energized this community in a way that was really impressive, across all lines. I think that she's a special person," Barondes said.

"I think you would have to be a special person to unite a diverse Jewish community," said Barondes, saying it's rare to have one congregation affiliated with both the Reform and Conservative movements.

He said Stanton has a special interest in pursuing work in a small community.

"There's a different flavor of Judaism when you are in a small town. There's much more volunteerism, much more involvement. There's something very rewarding in that," he said.

The congregation at present doesn't have black members, but Barondes said a previous rabbi had converted several African-Americans. As for the rabbi's part-time role, Barondes said it's "more like two-thirds' time."

The present rabbi of the congregation, Steven J. Kirschner, said in a note to congregants in the synagogue's newsletter that "I know that you will welcome Rabbi Stanton with open arms, and I hope that she will be a dynamic force in the growth and spiritual development of the CBS community for many years to come."

Stanton said she's excited to be there and "they are excited to have me."

"I'm glad to be a visual presence of the diversity that is represented in Judaism," she said.

All AboutReligion • African-American Issues • Judaism

Find this article at:
http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/05/21/north.carolina.black.rabbi

Click to Print

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.

? 2008 Cable News Network
Stress, risk of depression high in college students

BY NANCY BENAC AND TREVOR TOMPSON, The Associated Press


The vast majority of college students are feeling stressed these days, and significant numbers are at risk of depression, according to an Associated Press-mtvU poll.

Eighty-five percent of the students reported feeling stress in their daily lives in recent months, with worries about grades, school work, money and relationships the big culprits.

At the same time, 42 percent said they had felt down, depressed or hopeless several days during the past two weeks, and 13 percent showed signs of being at risk for at least mild depression, based on the students' answers to a series of questions that medical practitioners use to diagnose depressive illness.

These students complained of trouble sleeping, having little energy or feeling down or hopeless -- and most hadn't gotten professional help. Eleven percent had had thoughts that they'd be better off dead or about hurting themselves.

Doctors say college is a natural time for symptoms of mental health disorders to emerge.

The AP-mtvU poll surveyed students at 40 U.S. colleges, exploring the students' state of mind and the pressures they face, including strains from the tough economy. The poll was conducted April 22 to May 4 by Edison Media Research and involved interviews with 2,240 undergraduate students ages 18 to 24 at four-year colleges. The poll has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be published, broadcast or redistributed in any manner.

Read The News & Observer print edition on your computer with the new e-edition!

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
Archaeologists begin search for Mars Bluff Naval Yard

By Lindsay Housaman - bio | email

MARION COUNTY, SC (WMBF) - Archaeologists from the University of South Carolina will begin work to map the Mars Bluff Naval yard in an effort to locate and raise three large Confederate cannons from the Pee Dee River.

State Archaeologist Dr. Johnathan Leader and a team of eight students from the University of South Carolina conducted a series of ground operations. They used two types of equipment, one of which used electric currents, and the other, magnetic currents. Leader says this equipment is used to find anything that may lie underneath the ground.

The size of the location for the ground operations is no larger than the area of a football field. Leader says though it may not look like a ship yard used to be there, he hopes the foundation lies underneath the ground and there is history to be found.

"The buildings are gone, and with any luck, we'll acquire the footprints and that will give us an idea of the layout of the shipyard," explained Leader.

Leader told WMBF News the Mars Bluff Naval Yard find will be a large piece of Civil War history uncovered. He says that ship yards along rivers are very uncommon to find because most were built along the coast.

University of South Carolina, East Carolina University, and Francis Marion University are all working with state archaeologists on the project.

In June, archaeologists will take to the Pee Dee River in search of three Confederate cannons.

©2009 WMBF News. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten, or redistributed.