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Gulf oil spill may affect N.C.

By JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, May 22, 2010

The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which continues to gush thousands of barrels of oil into the ocean, could have significant economic and environmental impacts on North Carolina’s coast.

Joseph J. Luczkovich, associate professor of marine and fish ecology at East Carolina University, said it is possible that North Carolina’s beaches will be hit with oil in the coming weeks.

The loop current in the Gulf of Mexico could send a portion of the large oil slick to the Gulf Stream, which flows up the nation’s coast close to the state’s beaches.

“It may be highly dispersed or in big patches of oil that come ashore in a mass,” Luczkovich said.

“It is possible that we could see tar balls on the beaches of North Carolina in weeks or months.”

Luczkovich said the oil slick is not likely to have a major ecological impact on North Carolina if it reaches the state, but it could hold major implications for commercial fishing and the state’s beaches. He said the biggest impact on North Carolina likely will come in the form of political impact because offshore drilling is now seen as a bad idea.

“Nobody wants offshore drilling anymore,” he said. “For a while it looked like North Carolina was going to have to fight that battle again as the state has some potential reserves of gas and oil off the coast.”

The biggest ecological impact will be to the Gulf Coast where it may damage commercial fishing for years. Sea grasses may never recover, and marine animals like oysters, shrimp and fish may take decades to recover to the levels prior to the spill, Luczkovich said.

Because a significant portion of the nation’s seafood comes from the Gulf of Mexico, where about 20 percent of commercial fishing has been halted, the country’s other regions will have to pick up the slack, Luczkovich said. Oyster and shrimp prices are on the rise as supply is going down.

Ricky Nixon of Nixon Fisheries in Edenton deals in both the North Carolina and Gulf Coast seafood markets as a retailer and wholesaler of seafood. He said shrimp prices have jumped by a $1 per pound, and oysters have spiked by $10 per gallon at $60.

“People don’t realize how big this disaster is,” Nixon said. “It is not just going to affect 2010; it is going to affect us for years to come. There is a certain amount of oil going to the bottom, and as long as the oil is there, your production of fish and oysters won’t come back.”

Nixon said there is a breaking point for how much the public will pay for seafood.

“The public is going to quit buying if the prices get too high,” Nixon said. “They will say, ‘I am not paying those kind of prices.’ Anything can price itself off the market.”

A dry market is a problem that could leave many of North Carolina’s fisherman in a major bind. Scott Joyner, owner of Wimpies in Winterville, said he is considering some menu changes as prices for shrimp and oysters go up. He said the summer is slow for oysters because many people only eat oysters in the cooler months.
“You can only charge so much before you run your customers away,” Joyner said. “This is something that will face us for decades — it takes three years to grow a select oyster. I think it could really affect us for decades.”

Toby Boutilier, chef at Starlight Café, said he has not seen a seafood price increase since the oil spill in the Gulf, but he buys shrimp directly from a shrimper. Boutilier said he gets most of his seafood from North Carolina, including oysters in the winter. He isn’t buying oysters now, but he said he wouldn’t be surprised if prices go up by the time oysters come into prime season.

“I haven’t seen any price changes so far,” Boutilier said. “But I imagine the prices might go up, but my guy has a shrimp boat, and I get them straight from him.”

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Paul Damron gets his vehicle checked by Rick Dickerson and East Carolina University master of science and occupational therapy students Michelle McBride and Courtney Smith on Saturday at the Eastern Pines Church of Christ.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector

Brittni Mattocks gives Art Benitez instructions on how to get his vehicle checked Saturday at the Eastern Pines Church of Christ.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector

Paul Damron gets his vehicle checked by ECU master of science and occupational therapy student, Courtney Smith, Saturday at the Eastern Pines Church of Christ.
Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector
ECU program helps seniors drive safely
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 23, 2010
The increasing number of older drivers on U.S. and North Carolina highways underscores the importance of safe driving among mature drivers, said volunteers at Saturday’s Car Fit event at Eastern Pines Church of Christ in Greenville.

Faculty and students from East Carolina University’s occupational therapy department, led by professor Anne Dickerson, led more than a dozen drivers and their vehicles through the nearly 20-minute Car Fit process at staged checkpoints in the church parking lot. They worked with drivers to assure that they and their cars made as good a fit together as possible for safety and comfort.

“By 2030, one in five drivers will be age 65 or older, with more than 30 million older adults on U.S. roads,” Dickerson said. “Seniors have the highest crash death rate per mile driven, with the exception of teen drivers.”

One thing older drivers can do to adapt to factors that affect their driving is to make their vehicles “fit” better, Dickerson said.

This was the fourth event in the Car Fit program, a collaboration among the American Society on Aging, AAA, AARP and the American Occupational Therapy Association, Dickerson said.

The occupational therapy expert talked about some of the challenges older drivers face and how simple adjustments can improve comfort, control and safety on the road.

“You want to be sure you can see over the steering wheel,” Dickerson said. “A person might not know how to move the seat forward, or maybe the seat doesn’t move forward enough. That’s where an occupational therapist can help with advice about devices that can be purchased.

“We don’t want seat cushions to be the only option for visual improvement because that might not be the safest adjustment to make, but you certainly have to be able to see above the steering wheel.”

Distance away from the steering wheel is another important consideration.

“We know that air bags exploding out can be fatal for older adults whose bodies are more frail,” Dickerson said. “An older driver should be at least 10 inches away from a steering wheel, but that can put some drivers too far from the floor pedals. That’s where pedal extenders can be considered or some other adjustment that achieves proper distances.”

Newer model cars come off the production line with many more devices, gauges and accessories. It is important that drivers know where they are, how to use them properly, and can reach them comfortably and safely, Dickerson said.

The occupational therapy student volunteers made sure all the signals were known and accessible to drivers who pulled up in their cars.
Another obstacle to safe and comfortable driving for older people is the need to look behind them, usually requiring some amount of neck turning.

“We always tell people they should glance over their shoulders as much as possible when moving backward, but we also show drivers how to adjust mirrors to almost eliminate the blind spot and minimize the need for neck turning,” Dickerson said.

Paul Damron of Greenville brought his old truck to the event Saturday because he always wants to learn something new, he said.

Being 74 years old means having to make adjustments, and driving is part of that reality, Damron said.

“I know I’m slipping; it starts to happen even in your 40s,” he said.

“It’s unavoidable. My brain knows what my body wants to do, but my body doesn’t function like that now.”

Getting help from Dickerson and her team of occupational therapists is a smart move, Damron said.

“I’m more comfortable when I have more options,” he said.

For more information about the Car Fit program, contact a local AARP or AAA office or the American Society on Aging at www.asaging.org.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.

**Car tips**

The coalition that put together the Car Fit program said that a good fit between you and your vehicle means you have the following adjustments correctly made:

A clear line of sight above the steering wheel; you should be able to see at least three inches above the wheel.

Plenty of room between your chest and the wheel; the ideal distance is 10-12 inches.

A seat you fit in comfortably and safely; you should be able to adjust the seat for visibility and access to controls.

Properly adjusted headrests; this can save you from neck injury.

Easy access to gas and brake pedals; you should be able to completely depress the pedas and move your foot easily from one to the other.

A seat belt that holds you in the proper position and remains comfortable; the lower part should go across your hips and the shoulder harness should not be under your arm.

Easy entry into and exit out of the vehicle.
Two students cross campus during the first week of the summer session, which began Tuesday, bringing more than 11,000 students to campus — either physically or through distance education.

**ECU students receive Moldin scholarships**

Saturday, May 22, 2010

**ECU News Services**

A Pitt County native is one of two students named Moldin Scholarship recipients by the East Carolina University Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.
Sarah Howell Kinsley of Greenville, a chemistry major, and Isaac D. Morton of Onslow County, a dual-major in biology and chemistry, will receive the scholarships during the 2010-11 academic year.

The Moldin Scholarship, established in 2006 by ECU alumni Richard and Nancy Moldin, provides a $2,000 annual scholarship to two rising juniors enrolled full time in the Department of Chemistry or the Department of Biology who have a minimum 2.5 GPA and demonstrate a financial need. The $2,000 monetary award is available for one academic year — $1,000 each semester — and is renewable through the recipient’s senior year, upon maintenance of the eligibility criteria.

“I am extremely grateful for having received this award,” Kinsley, a graduate of South Central High School, said. “It’s a blessing to be rewarded for my hard work.”

While pursuing her chemistry degree, Kinsley has worked two jobs and maintained her involvement in ECU organizations and academics. She is active in ECU’s Pirate Tutoring Center and is a member of the ECU Chancellor’s List, Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, Golden Key National Honor Society and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

Kinsley received an EC Scholars Bookstore Scholarship during her freshman year. As a junior, she also will receive an ECU Alumni Scholarship.

Kinsley’s goal is to become an oral maxillofacial surgeon and open a bilingual practice in eastern North Carolina.

Morton, a graduate of Jacksonville High School who received the scholarship during his junior year, has been selected for renewal of the scholarship during his senior year.

“This is such a blessing to receive the Moldin Scholarship, and it means so much to me because it provides further encouragement to continue to do well in academia and in the community,” Morton said. “The inspiration that comes along with such an award provides all the necessary incentive to continue to fight the good fight. I cannot wait until later in life, where I hope to have an opportunity to return the favor to another young student in need.”

In addition to his studies in biology and chemistry, Morton is active in a number of clubs and organizations at ECU and in the community. He is involved with the Alpha Epsilon Delta Honor Society, the ECU Isshinryu Club and the S.G.A. Judicial Board and leadership team.

Morton has served as a member of AmeriCorps, providing more than 900 hours of service work to ECU and the surrounding community. He has acted as a moderator for an annual youth science fair held at ECU, and he is an undergraduate biology instructor through Project HEART.

Morton received the ECU Access Scholar Award his sophomore and junior years, and as a senior, he also will receive the Dr. Chia-yu Li Undergraduate Scholastic Award through the chemistry department.

“As the time for graduation draws closer, I have become more and more satisfied with the path I have chosen,” Morton wrote in his scholarship application.

The Moldins, who established the scholarship, reside in Wilmington.

Richard Moldin is an employee of Metrics Inc. in Greenville. He received his bachelor of science and master of science degrees in chemistry from ECU in 1970 and 1973, respectively, as well as a master’s in business administration in 1976.

Nancy Moldin is a 1973 graduate of the ECU School of Music with a bachelor’s degree in music education.

Planning program at ECU re-accredited

The ECU Urban and Regional Planning Program earned reaccreditation for six years from the Planning Accreditation Board (PAB) during its April 11 meeting.

Accreditation is a system for recognizing educational institutions for the quality of their program, their level of performance and their integrity and entitles them to the confidence of the
educational community and the general public. It also provides administrators, students and the public assurance that a program meets the highest academic standards of the profession. The accreditation process involves the preparation of a self-study report by the planning program, a site visit by a team of academics and professionals, and then a recommendation by the site visit team. In its report the site visit team characterized the ECU planning program as “a vibrant undergraduate planning program that enjoys the support of university administrators, students, alums, the communities of eastern North Carolina, and the planning profession through the state.” The ECU planning program is one of the 15 accredited undergraduate planning programs in the country and the only accredited undergraduate planning program in N.C. The accreditation will remain effective through Dec. 31, 2015.

**Cox president-elect for NCSHLA**

Dr. Kathleen T. Cox, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, is president-elect of the N.C. Speech, Hearing and Language Association. Her one-year term as president begins July 2011. The 1,000-member organization advocates for speech, language and hearing professionals, students and affiliates, and works to enhance the lives of communicatively impaired citizens statewide.

Cox was awarded the Honors of the Association in 2005 and has served in several leadership positions since joining the organization in 1996.

**Walker re-elected chair of faculty**

Dr. Marianna Walker, associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been re-elected chairwoman of the faculty at ECU for the 2010-11 academic year. Also re-elected were vice-chair Dr. Mark Sprague, associate professor of physics, and secretary Hunt McKinnon, assistant professor of interior design and merchandising. Walker re-appointed parliamentarian Dr. Brenda Killingsworth, associate professor of management information systems.

The officers were chosen at the faculty senate’s organizational meeting April 27.

**Trujillo named a fellow of AOTA**

Dr. Leonard Trujillo, associate professor and chairman of the Department of Occupational Therapy, has been named a Fellow of the American Occupational Therapy Association. The designation recognizes occupational therapists that have made a significant contribution to the continuing education and professional development of members of the association.

Scholarly contribution and organizational leadership in therapeutic practice, education, research and/or administration are considered for recognition. Trujillo was honored for “exemplary professionalism in research and education.”

**Upcoming Events:**

- **Wednesday:** Community Health & Information Fair, 4:30-7:30 p.m., Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center, 1100 Ward Street, Greenville. Health and hearing screenings will be available. This is a service project of the Brody School of Medicine Class of 2013. Call 328-5800 for information.

- **Thursday:** Blood drive, 10 a.m.—3 p.m., in the Old Cafeteria Complex, hosted by the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center. Call Jessica Gagne Cloutier at 328-2735 to make an appointment. 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.
Local

Maria T. Zincone

Maria Taylor Zincone, 69, born to Clarence Linwood Taylor and Elizabeth Foster Taylor, died May 21, 2010, after a courageous 12-year battle with cancer.

She will be missed by her husband, L.H. (Buddy) Zincone Jr.; Molly Zincone Richards and her husband, Rob Richards; Alice Zincone and her partner, Rick Lafleur; grandchildren, Mariah Richards and Michael Richards; sister, Laura Taylor and her husband, Dick Gagermeier, of LaCrosse, Wis.; and family dog, Pretty Polly.

Maria was born in Richmond, Va., and graduated from the Medical College of Virginia School of Physical Therapy in 1963. She and her husband moved to Greenville in 1966. In addition to being a devoted wife and mother, Maria practiced physical therapy from 1963-1995. She was the second physical therapist to practice in Pitt County and was the first home health PT to practice in Pitt, Beaufort and Hyde counties. In addition, she served for several years as clinical assistant professor of physical therapy at the ECU School of Allied Health Professions.

She was a talented singer and musician and enjoyed many jam sessions with family and friends. She was an avid nature lover, especially interested in bluebirds. She also liked playing bridge and was an expert seamstress and hostess.

The family will receive friends from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday at Wilkerson Funeral Home with a word of prayer and remembrance at 5 p.m.

The family will receive friends from 10-11 a.m. Thursday at the Joseph L. Bliley Funeral Home, Staples Mill Road, Richmond, Va., with a word of prayer and remembrance at 11 a.m. and a graveside service following in Westhampton Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center, 600 Moye Blvd., Greenville, NC 27834 or the Service League of Greenville Inpatient Hospice 920 Wellness Drive, Greenville NC 27834.


Nicole Aronson

Nicole Aronson quietly passed away Thursday, May 20, 2010, after a long illness.

There will be a private gathering to celebrate her life. Prior to her distinguished career as a professor of French at East Carolina University, Nicole taught at Marymount College of Tarrytown, N.Y., and at The American University of Washington, D.C. A brilliant scholar who specialized in 17th-century French society and literature, she published several books on the subject in the 1980s. An avid gardener, bridge player and swimmer, she worked for many years at the JOY Soup Kitchen and also was a passionate advocate for animal rights. She donated her time to the Pitt County Humane Society and later to Saving Graces 4 Felines.

She leaves behind her loving son, Philippe, and his wife, Emma, of Paris, France; and her ex-husband and major caregiver, Stuart.

Memorial contributions may be made to Saving Graces 4 Felines, P.O. Box 4307, Greenville, NC 27836.

Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Cre- matory, Greenville.

Wake Tech embraces high tech

RALEIGH -- People who still might think of Wake Tech as a last-century, vo-tech sort of operation should check in with a few of the 70,000 students who will take at least one class through the school this year.

About 450 people were expected to participate in Sunday's commencement ceremonies, roughly a third of the more than 1,300 students who make up Wake Tech's largest graduating class ever - 28 percent more than the class receiving diplomas and degrees last year.

That's a reflection of the school's overall enrollment explosion, partly because of the continuing bad economy and the desire of unemployed students to upgrade career skills. But in addition to the 40 percent of students who are out of work, thousands are drawn to Wake Tech by its job-focused approach to equipping graduates for the modern-day, tech-driven world of work - skills that can be tapped right now.

"They definitely weed you out if it's not for you," nursing student Jennifer Hunter, 26, of Garner, said Friday after a class. "They want to make sure that once you walk the stage, you're ready to care for patients."

Hunter and about two dozen other students were attending a mental-health nursing class at Wake Tech's Health Sciences Campus, next to Wake Med off New Bern Avenue. That campus, which caters to more than 700 students, will undergo a $35 million expansion during the next two years, adding both a parking garage and a new building.

"In health care, we have about 2,000 people that are trying to get into one of 300 slots," Wake Tech President Steven Scott said of the competition for the seats in the school's health sciences program.

All comers welcome

Wake Tech was chartered more than half a century ago as the Wake County Industrial Education Center, enrolling its first 34 students in 1963.

Known since 1987 as Wake Technical Community College, the institution has its main campus between Garner and Fuquay-Varina as well as locations in Northern Wake County, near I-540; an Adult Education Center on Capital Boulevard; the Western Wake campus in Cary; a Public Safety Education Campus and the Eastern Wake center in Zebulon. Other classes are held at local community sites or online.

Like other community colleges in North Carolina, Wake Tech has evolved and its programs have gotten increasingly sophisticated. All the expansion and demand for classroom slots results from the school's attention to market needs, Scott said.

"We have focused on clusters of innovations," he said. "Biotechnology is one of those clusters of innovations. Another is video gaming - there are over 30 video-game companies employing 1,500
people."

Executives from gaming companies came to Wake Tech asking the college to train people for the specific combination of skills they would need in the emerging field.

"Of the original class of 20 four years ago, we have 400 now," Scott said.

In addition, Wake Tech offers its graduates an economic gateway to four-year colleges and universities in the state. Thanks to a series of pacts with schools such as Campbell University, N.C. Wesleyan College and Mt. Olive College, Wake Tech graduates who hit a designated academic goal can transfer their credits to the four-year school.

Those pacts are similar to an arrangement between the state's community college system and the UNC system of schools, which allows Wake Tech students to transfer credits to schools such as N.C. State, UNC-Chapel Hill and East Carolina University.

This is an attractive feature in tough economic times: two years at a community college with cheaper tuition and costs followed by two years at a four-year college for a bachelor's degree.

Prepped for real world

In the nursing class, a group of students diverse in age, gender and background listened as instructor Deborah Farmer posed knotty problems of law and ethics to the future RNs. How would they know, Farmer asked, if a colleague were coming to work impaired, potentially endangering patients?

"If they came to work smelling of alcohol, or if you heard them breaching confidentiality," said Kebi Roger Vemba, 43, a former IBM employee who took a buyout from the company.

Farmer, who holds a master's degree in nursing, nodded, noting that it's necessary but not easy to inform on a colleague who's drinking or drugging.

"What if that nurse winds up killing a patient?" she asked.

The tough questions kept coming. If you restrain a patient without a doctor's order, or without a doctor's immediate, after-the-fact OK, what's the ramification?

"Assault and battery," several students responded.

Wake Tech students mostly expressed cautious optimism about their chances of getting a job straight out of school.

"In terms of hiring new grads, we are at the bottom of the pecking line," said student Alta Castellino, 23, who attended Broughton High School and East Carolina University before joining the nursing program at Wake Tech. Castellino has already earned her certified nursing assistant credential.

"At the same time, you have WakeMed, Rex, Duke Raleigh all right here, so if you really put yourself out there ... I'm hopeful," she said.

Wake Tech officials say more than 90 percent of graduates are employed within a year of graduation.

Shift in learning
Scott said Wake Tech is constantly trying to stay ahead of the market, realizing that skills such as auto repair have long been getting more tech-intensive with each passing year.

"There are 40 microprocessors in a Mercedes," he said. "I heard one of our graduates speak to a group of high school students about that.

"He told them what he learns to do is diagnostic, because in the cars today, it's the electronics that break down."

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AD salaries mirror rising college costs

RALEIGH -- Smedes York, who chairs the committee that will recommend a new N.C. State athletic director, has said that the school will offer a salary that will be "competitive" with those of athletic directors at other ACC schools.

If that's the case, having Lee Fowler step down with three years left on his contract and hiring a replacement will be a costly process for the university. N.C. State is paying Fowler $280,000 a year through September 2013.

Parker Executive Search, a talent recruiting firm based in Atlanta, is charging N.C. State $75,000 to help find a replacement. And if the university pays Fowler's replacement the ACC average salary of $357,936 a year, that will represent an increase of $77,936 per year more than Fowler made.

Fowler's salary of $280,000 and his total compensation of $400,560 both rank ninth among 12 ACC athletic directors in 2009-10, according to conference salary survey data provided by N.C. State in accordance with a public records request by The News & Observer.

William Friday, founding co-chair of the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics, said the cost of the Fowler decision is symptomatic of overall escalating athletic spending that concerns him.

"What you're talking about all of a sudden is a salary item that's in excess of a half a million dollars a year," said Friday, who was head of the UNC system from 1956 to 1986.

"That's the kind of thing that cumulatively speaking will drag sports down before it's through. No one is putting the brakes on it anywhere that I can see, and this is not a hypothetical question. It's just as real as tomorrow. How in the world is this going to be paid for?"

College athletic director salaries have soared in recent years. Maryland's Debbie Yow is the longest-tenured current ACC athletic director whose salary is public, exceeded in years in office only by Wake Forest's Ron Wellman.

Yow, who's from Gibsonville, was hired in 1994 for a salary of $130,000, according to a Baltimore Sun report. Now her salary is $382,575, according to the university's budget for fiscal year 2010.

That's a 194 percent increase. Over the same period, the inflation rate was 47 percent according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics calculator. North Carolina athletic director Dick Baddour's salary has increased 84 percent to $295,000 compared with 31 percent inflation since 1999.

Nonetheless, Baddour's salary is relatively small by ACC athletic director standards, ranking just eighth. And the ACC is low on the overall compensation scale compared with some other conferences. Average salaries of athletic directors in the Big Ten ($420,455) and Big 12 ($435,268) exceed that of the ACC; salaries of other conferences weren't available.

Mike Cleary, executive director of the National Association of College Directors of Athletics, said pay
for athletic directors has been pushed higher in part because college coaches' salaries have skyrocketed as well.

"Trust me, they earn them," Cleary said of ADs' salaries. "They're 24/7 jobs, and that phone call in the middle of the night is never good. Nothing good happens after midnight in a job like that."

When Cleary became executive director of NACDA 45 years ago, the landscape was vastly different. He said athletic directors often also served as directors of the physical education departments at their colleges and universities.

Now Division I-A athletic directors are thought of as CEOs of corporations with budgets of at least tens of millions of dollars.

The University of Michigan, one of the nation's largest programs, even hired former Domino's Pizza CEO Dave Brandon to run its athletic program.

Brandon, a former Michigan football player, reportedly took a pay cut of 84 percent to work for his alma mater in a decision that obviously wasn't motivated by money.

"There wasn't a lot of hesitation," Brandon said. "I love the university. My experience as a student-athlete at Michigan really opened up the doors that have given me the opportunities that allowed me to be successful."

At a reported $525,000 in salary, Brandon still is handsomely compensated. So are his colleagues throughout the nation.

The average 2009-10 total compensation (salary plus additional income) for athletic directors was $481,159 in the ACC, $500,743 in the Big Ten and $543,049 in the Big 12.

In the long run, paying a higher salary to a new athletic director actually could have some financial benefit for N.C. State. Donors who had stopped giving to the school might give again because the athletic department is heading in a different direction.

Alumnus Matt Kinney (class of '98) sent an e-mail to chancellor Randy Woodson the afternoon that Fowler's separation was announced.

"As promised, I just rejoined the Wolfpack Club," Kinney wrote in an e-mail provided to The News & Observer after a public records request.

Kinney had vowed not to donate to the Wolfpack Club until Fowler's tenure ended.

Nonetheless, the huge salaries that athletic directors command are just one part of the high cost of college athletics that concerns Friday. He calls himself "a Lee Fowler fan." He said he's sorry Fowler was forced to step down and is willing to have Fowler use him as a reference when he searches for another job.

But whether or not Friday had personal feelings for Fowler, he would find the financial cost of Fowler's ouster worrisome.

"What is really manifesting itself," Friday said, "not only in this but in everything else you see, is this business of financing college sports is out of control."
NCSU to get bell for its Bell Tower

RALEIGH -- N.C. State University is finally going to get the first bell for its iconic Bell Tower, though it will likely be a few more years before it's installed.

The Class of 2010, which graduated a week ago, has raised more than $53,000 to buy what would be the second-largest in a 54-bell carillon as its class gift to the university.

The students put up a booth at various prominent events and set up a Web site to collect donations. The revelation that there were no bells in the tower that has become the very symbol of the university struck a chord with alumni and students, and the campaign easily blew past its target.

"Our initial goal was $35,000, which, to be honest, made the class council a bit nervous," said class president Jay Dawkins, of Fayetteville, in an e-mail from Europe, where he's enjoying a post-graduation adventure. "We had no idea we would see such an outpouring of support."

It is still getting donations, said Matthew Robbins, the unofficial historian and cheerleader for the tower, whose digging into its past sparked the campaign.

Bells were part of the original plan for the tower 90 years ago, but since its dedication in 1949 it has had to make do with an audio system that mimics bells. Decades of fundraising by alumni and students to build the tower had fallen short, and it was never really completed.

The nearly 1,300-pound bell, which will bear the names of about 100 donors who gave $210 or more, should be on campus by this fall, said Robbins, who graduated from NCSU in December.

The plan is to mount the bell on wheels so it can be rolled out for events such as homecoming and big games. It will be a focal point for school spirit and act as a fund-raising tool to encourage the next few senior classes to raise money for more bells, Robbins said. The students hope to keep it in a prominent location in the library.

Once there are six bells, they can be mounted in the tower and tintinnabulated properly. The rest can be added later, and with relative ease because they're significantly smaller and less expensive.

Exceptional fundraising

The fundraising effort led by Dawkins was unprecedented, said university officials.

Typically, senior classes have raised a few thousand dollars for their gifts.

This campaign, though, was so successful it may have set a precedent for future class gifts and generally helped the university's efforts to boost the culture of giving among newly minted alumni, said Ken Sigmon, associate vice chancellor for university development.

Dawkins was student body president before becoming class president.
In interviews last year, he said that when he was running for student body president he had heard Robbins talk about putting a bell in the tower, and he made it part of his campaign platform. He eventually appointed Robbins to the student government's traditions commission, and they kept talking about how to make the bell happen.

Dawkins said he knew the fund-raising campaign could succeed because whenever a student or alumnus heard for the first time that there weren't bells in the tower, the reaction invariably was that this needed to change.

The donors included students and alumni. The construction company McDonald York - which built part of the tower decades ago - gave a matching gift of $5,000, Sigmon said. Also, the athletic department helped the effort by committing $17,000 in ticket sales from the homecoming football game and from the season homecoming finale against arch-rival UNC-Chapel Hill.

Students got an initial estimate for the full carillon of about $800,000, but metal prices plunged not long after that, and the cost now is substantially lower, Robbins said.

Leaving their mark

The largest bell, at perhaps $100,000 or more, was out of reach of even this senior class's abilities, Robbins said, but with luck a single donor can be found to sponsor it.

Several leaders of the Class of 2011 got a close look at the efforts of this year's graduates, and they were infected by the older students' enthusiasm.

"I told [Class of 2010 leaders] that they've raised the bar, and that this will really challenge the classes that come afterward," Sigmon said. "They have truly left their mark."

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May 21, 2010

Graduates’ First Job: Marketing Themselves

By PHYLLIS KORKKI

THIS spring, college seniors are entering a better job market than the class of 2009 faced. Unfortunately, that is not saying much because 2009 was one of the worst years in the history of hiring.

Still, hiring of this year’s crop of graduates is up 5 percent over the previous year, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

To employers the most desirable majors include accounting, engineering, computing and mathematics, according to Edwin Koc, research director of the association. Companies are also seeking evidence of communication and writing skills, analytical ability and teamwork, Mr. Koc said.

Whatever your strengths and weaknesses, you will need to “bring your A game” to this job market, said Katharine Brooks, director of liberal arts career services at the University of Texas at Austin and author of a career guide called “You Majored in What?”

Dr. Brooks has seen some evidence of an upturn. For example, Facebook just opened an office in Austin with many positions that would be appropriate for new college graduates. But over all, “we’re just talking a glimmer of hope in an otherwise bleak picture,” she said.

That means you can’t be casual about your job search, she said, and your résumé, cover letter and interviewing skills must be top notch.

Above all, “you need to be able to articulate the value of your degree,” she said, especially if you are in the liberal arts, and there isn’t a linear connection between what you majored in and the job you are seeking.

Take philosophy majors. There aren’t a lot of jobs for philosophers. But people use logic to formulate and weigh ideas and to reach conclusions, which can make training in philosophy very effective in the business world, Dr. Brooks said. Being able to spell that out concretely,
with specific examples, could be crucial to being hired.

English majors face similar hurdles. But in most fields, it is important to write and speak clearly and to see things from different perspectives. A graduate with an English degree who tailors those strengths to a particular job description can make a strong case for being hired.

An understanding of the human condition gained through great literature can be helpful in professions like social work, Dr. Brooks said.

Beyond your major, have stories to tell about how your experiences would make you a good employee, suggested Nathan Bennett, co-author of "Your Career Game" and a professor at the Georgia Tech College of Management. And it doesn't have to be work experience. For example, someone who has been a camp counselor will have leadership stories to tell, he said.

In this market, graduates need to be flexible about geographic location, job title and salary, Dr. Bennett said. And they should be willing to consider a smaller company rather than a marquee name.

Take full advantage of your school's placement office and alumni network, Dr. Bennett said. But "the trick is not to aim too high." If you are applying for a job at a bank, talk to a 25- or 26-year-old alumnus there rather than a 45-year-old, he said, because that person will have a better idea of how to get hired at the entry level.

Many new graduates are not sure what they want to do and are worried about taking the wrong job, Dr. Brooks said. Remember that no job needs to be permanent.

She uses the metaphor of chaos theory to explain the job search process. "It's a complex world, and you can't predict everything, so don't try to," she said. When you are starting in the work force, "Look for opportunities to learn, take a risk, try things out, see what you like, and always be open to the next opportunity," she said.

If you don't like your first job, at least you have learned what you don't like, and you can carry that knowledge to your next job, she said.

Graduates can fall victim to a sense of paralysis if they aren't sure what direction to take, Dr. Bennett said. People in their early 20s have plenty of time to take chances. After all, their working life is probably going to last at least twice as long as their current age, he said.

Some graduates with little or no work experience may wonder what they have to offer over an applicant with more experience. But recent college graduates are less expensive than more seasoned workers, and that can be an advantage (to the employer, if not the graduate's wallet)
in a tougher economy.

But mainly, businesses hire new graduates as an investment, said Dan Black, Americas director for campus recruiting at Ernst & Young.

For one thing, younger people tend to have a stronger grasp of the latest technology, Mr. Black said. In addition, this generation of students has been exposed to greater cultural diversity, he said, and they are using the Web and other technology to connect globally.

Add the energy and enthusiasm that new graduates tend to possess and their value is clear. As Dr. Brooks put it, “They may not have the experience, but what they have is potential.”

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