THE DAILY CLIPS

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Teaching Fellows may be phased out

By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, May 28, 2011

A state scholarship program long praised for its innovation and one that routinely sends high quality teacher candidates to East Carolina University is on the state Senate's budget chopping block.

The prestigious North Carolina Teaching Fellows program, launched 25 years ago, would be phased out beginning with the 2012-13 school year under the Senate's proposed state budget.

The Senate's $19.4 billion proposal released Tuesday would continue to fund scholarships for education majors in the four-year program — including next year's freshmen — but would not recruit any further, ending the program when that group graduates in 2015.

The House budget proposal, released earlier, would cut the program's administrative costs by approximately 25 percent or $200,000, but not reduce funding to students. The Senate is expected to approve its final budget next week.

“We're devastated by this news,” Jo Ann Norris, state administrator of the Teaching Fellows program, said Friday. “For 25 years we have been recruiting talented high school seniors willing to prepare to be teachers and to teach for four years in North Carolina.”

Members of the Senate were not available for comment Friday. Sen. Louis Pate, R-Wayne, and Sen. Jean Preston, co-chair of the appropriations committee on education, did not return calls. Sen. Clark Jenkins, D-Edgecombe, said he was not involved with the budget proposal.

The program accepts 500 top students each year out of thousands of applicants to receive a $26,000 scholarship, Norris said. Fellows must maintain higher academic standards and participate in leadership, service and travel opportunities. Fellows start helping in classrooms as freshmen, instead of their junior or senior year in the standard education major, Norris said.

Upon graduation and certification, fellows are required to teach in the state's public schools for four years.

“It's very competitive. It's the only program of it's kind in the U.S.,” Norris said. “It's a program like no other.”
Five private and 12 public universities have active programs with 15-45 fellows per year. East Carolina University, which typically has one the largest groups each year, has about 200 fellows in the program overall.

“It would be a big loss to us to not have this program,” Vivian Covington, director of teacher education at ECU, said. “I worry that we'll lose a way to entice the best and brightest to be teachers. If they don't have the financial means, it makes it very hard for us to compete with other fields.”

Fellows also support and recruit other teachers and serve the community, including offering $58,000 in free tutoring, according to Covington.

“They are very much community and university engaged. They really are the best and the brightest,” Covington said. “The districts that accept our fellows want to take every one they can.”

The Teaching Fellows program has produced a number of state teachers of the year as well as one national teacher of the year, and “literally hundreds” of school and district teachers of the year, Norris said.

“There's no basis, no discussion (for the cut),” Mike Priddy, chair of the commission for the program, said. “Why consider cutting a program that has been nationally recognized as the best in preparing teachers?”

Priddy, a former Pitt County Schools superintendent, has been involved since the program was established in 1986 under the nonprofit N.C. Forum for Public Schools.

“I've watched it over that time produce some outstanding teachers for our schools,” Priddy said. “This program has added tremendous value to our school districts, and anything that has added that much value, eliminating it has to have a negative impact. It's going to be detrimental to our classrooms.”

East Carolina University Teaching Fellow Kathryn Frazier wrote a letter to the Senate this week.

“This scholarship has given me the opportunity to attend a four-year university and pursue a degree in something I love and am extremely passionate about,” Frazier wrote. “Without this scholarship I would not have been blessed with the many opportunities I’ve received. Please do not dismantle our family, don't deprive an aspiring teacher from entering the education field due to financial difficulty, and more importantly do not take away every child's opportunity to learn from the best and brightest teachers in our state, North Carolina Teaching Fellows.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
To hear N.C. Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger explain it, the budget proposal unveiled in his chamber this week ushers in a new era for North Carolina. The plan advanced by Senate Republicans closes the $2.4 billion revenue shortfall through a variety of spending cuts, including to public education, without imposing any additional tax increases.

In a letter released on Friday, Gov. Beverly Perdue offered support for the GOP's plan to include tax relief in the budget as a way to create jobs. However, her starkly different vision for education will be due some deference from legislative leaders as negotiations between the Democratic governor and Republican lawmakers unfold in the coming weeks.

In outlining the highlights of the Senate's budget proposal, Berger extolled several accomplishments that are without question. The chamber's plan does balance the budget without additional taxes and while letting the so-called temporary tax expire as scheduled. Senators have produced a budget in a remarkably brief time frame, a feat that Republican leaders could not have learned from their sluggish Democratic predecessors. And the spending proposal does radically reform public education in North Carolina.

On that final point, however, the president pro tem invites the governor's dissenting opinion. Reform typically intimates a positive change and the public education provisions cannot wholly be argued as such. It does eliminate jobs and lower per-pupil spending in order to cut taxes in an effort to create jobs. While lowering unemployment should be a legislative priority, doing so at the possible expense of students seems a risky gamble.

For this community, the Senate's protection of funding for East Carolina University's new dental school is something to cheer, but it is mitigated by the huge cuts to the state university system that threaten the school's academic mission. North Carolina has emerged from previous recessions by investing in the UNC system and would do well to follow that model once again.

One must appreciate the difficult work being done in Raleigh by all those involved in this process. Republican leaders have control of the Legislature for the first time in a century, and Perdue is the rare governor with an opposition party in control of the General Assembly.
As such, North Carolina is in uncharted waters and all will be asked to compromise to find a budget solution. For the future of this state, that must mean an investment in public school, in the university system and in community colleges.
Civil rights pioneer, Garrett, dies
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 29, 2011

A pioneering black businessman and Civil Rights leader in Pitt County died Saturday at the age of 96.

Denison Dover “D.D.” Garrett died shortly before 7 a.m. from a heart-related condition, his son, Michael Garrett, said.

“She's been struggling for the better part of 18 months,” the younger Garrett said. “But he was still going into work, he was still driving, still teaching Sunday school and he was still active in as much as he could.”

Garrett was the first black man elected to the Pitt County Board of Commissioners. He lead the Pitt County chapter of the NAACP for nearly 20 years.

He was Greenville's first black Realtor and certified public accountant. He opened the community's first black-owned insurance agency and was the first Realtor to sell a black family a home in a white neighborhood, said Calvin Henderson, president of the Pitt County chapter of the NAACP.

“Mr. Garrett was a strong leader, a man who wasn't afraid to stand up and speak up for what was right,” Henderson said.

“One of the most important lessons Mr. Garrett taught me was all men were created equal and no one had a right to look down on someone because of their color or economic status and no one had a right to look down on anyone,” he said.
Born May 6, 1915, Garrett was working as a grounds keeper at East Carolina Teacher's College when he met a student who was working his way through college. Armed with this example, Garrett returned to high school, graduated and entered North Carolina College for Negroes, now North Carolina Central University. He had nearly completed his junior year when he enlisted in the Navy during World War II.

While stationed in Puget Sound, Wash., Garrett and 24 black servicemen engaged in a strike of silence to bring attention to poor food and living conditions. When the war ended, he returned to college, graduated and opened his insurance business in Greenville.

He ran for a seat on the Greenville Board of Aldermen in 1944, receiving 44 votes, according to previous reports in The Daily Reflector.

“It took a lot of courage,” Henderson said. “He was one who was not afraid to step out and challenge the laws of the Jim Crow era. He was willing to say he wanted to begin the fight for change.”

Those years were difficult, but Garrett persevered, his son said. “Getting people to vote was a struggle,” Michael Garrett said. Jim Crow laws were in full force and even middle-class, professional blacks were afraid to vote. “Daddy struggled for years to establish voter registration in the black community,” his son said.

Garrett made two more unsuccessful runs for Greenville city council before the Reverends John Taylor and Clarence Gray became the first African-Americans elected to city office in 1974.

Garrett inspired the generations who followed him. “D.D. Garrett is the reason why I became a county commissioner,” Pitt County Commissioner Melvin McLawhorn said. “I watched him through the years and he inspired me to become a commissioner because of his concern for the community.” McLawhorn said when he won his seat on the Board of Commissioners Garrett told him that honesty, telling the truth, being concerned and listening to his constituents were the most important things he could do. Garrett said McLawhorn should always remember that he was speaking for his constituents, not himself.

“D.D. Garrett had such a strong will to do and to serve,” McLawhorn said. “You would never see D.D. down and out.”

Greenville Mayor Pat Dunn said Garrett's passing is a great loss. “All of eastern North Carolina has lost an outstanding community leader and servant,” she said. “He fought to right some of the wrongs and to bring about unity in a great spirit of good will for all of humanity. I've lost a very good friend.”
Mitchell's Funeral Home is handling arrangements for the Garrett family. Garrett had two sons, Michael and Denison D. Garrett Jr. Garrett and his wife, Clotea, celebrated their 69th anniversary in April.

“We would like to solicit the prayers of the community and offer thanks to the people in the community who have so quickly responded,” Michael Garrett said.

“He was a pioneer in the area of Civil Rights and minority business. Things that people take for granted, voting, employment in the retail industry. These are hard fought battles that he lead,” Michael Garrett said. “There is no area of life that his advocacy didn't touch.”

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.
More in Triangle without jobs

BY JOHN MURAWSKI - Staff Writer

After a strong start this year, the Triangle economy took a turn for the worse in April with an increase in the jobless rate and nearly 9,000 fewer people with jobs.

Economists offered a bleak assessment for May, saying it will likely be another downer.

The N.C. Employment Security Commission reported Friday that the Triangle's unemployment rate for April rose to 7.9 percent from 7.5 percent, after the data were adjusted for seasonal effects.

An increase in the jobless rate is not necessarily a bad sign - if the economy also creates more jobs during the same period. But in April, the number of people with jobs was down by about 1 percent in the Triangle.

Meanwhile, the number of unemployed people went up by about 4.7 percent, to 68,970, the single biggest one-month increase since the recession.

The economic indicators are "all going in the wrong direction," East Carolina University economist James Kleckley said. "To me it's troubling, but we have to wait until the next month to see if it's a trend."

Economists noted that the monthly numbers are estimates and could be skewed by sampling error, especially since April looks so anemic after four months of improvements.

"That said, there's no question the economy slowed in April," said Mark Vitner, a Wells Fargo economist who expects May to look similarly weak.

Vitner attributed the reversal to the rise in gasoline prices and food prices that have sent ripple effects through the economy.

"That's basically sapped any gains in purchasing power consumers have managed to eke out over the last few months," Vitner said.

Gas prices have tapered off, but it remains to be seen whether that translates positively to the region's economy.

N.C. State University economist Michael Walden issued a forecast Friday projecting that May also will be sluggish, based on trends in housing, labor and earnings. Walden's index shows that the state's economy slumped in
April and in May - an indication that the economic recovery will not take off until the housing market improves.

Even at 7.9 percent, though, the Triangle's jobless rate is well below the national average of 9 percent.

North Carolina's jobless rate for April was 9.7 percent, reflecting the severe economic aftershocks in the state's rural counties.

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Former dean recognized by College of Nursing

Dr. Phyllis Horns received the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award from East Carolina University's College of Nursing.

Dr. Phyllis Horns has been a student, faculty member, department chair and dean of the East Carolina University College of Nursing.

Recently, she added something else to her ECU affiliation. Horns received the 2011 Distinguished Alumni Award in the College of Nursing.

“It's a huge honor, very special and something I will treasure for the rest of my career. It means an awful lot,” said Horns, vice chancellor of health sciences for ECU.

Dr. Sylvia Brown, dean of the College of Nursing, said it is fitting that the college honor Horns during the 50th anniversary of nursing education at ECU. “The college achieved many significant milestones during her 19-year tenure as dean,” Brown said. “Dr. Horns is an exemplary leader who has helped our College of Nursing build a legacy of excellence over its 50-year history.”

Over the past two decades, enrollment increased from 500 to more than 1,100 students. Degree offerings expanded, prompted by the state's health and workforces needs. The college became a national leader in distance education and technology integration, accommodating working nurses in rural areas wanting advanced degrees. A doctoral degree was initiated along with the East Carolina Center for Nursing Leadership.
The college's growth, contribution and service continue, Horns said. “Our graduates have a strong reputation for being clinically prepared. They work all over the world, doing the kind of work we want them to do,” she said.

The award was presented during the college's anniversary gala on April 9 at Rock Springs in Greenville.

Horns is the longest serving dean in the history of the college as well as an eastern North Carolina native and nursing alumna. She joined the ECU nursing faculty in 1970 as an instructor of parent-child nursing and became an associate professor before joining the graduate nursing faculty at the University of Alabama in Birmingham in 1979. She returned to ECU in 1988 as professor and chair of parent-child nursing and was selected dean after a national search.

“It certainly gave me some good leadership training and the opportunity to work with colleagues across the campus,” Horns said. “We have some of the finest faculty who have their eye on the ball relative to excellence.”

Now as vice chancellor of health sciences, Horns oversees a division that comprises the Brody School of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Allied Health Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine, the East Carolina Heart Institute and Laupus Health Sciences Library.

She is busy preparing for the first class of dental school students who will arrive this fall and the expected completion of the dental school building in 2012. “That has been a major undertaking for this division and all of ECU,” Horns said. “It will be a real hallmark.”

In addition, there is need to move forward with expansion of medical education that would allow more students to enroll in the Brody School of Medicine. “We were moving along well when the economic crisis hit,” Horns said. “We have begun to strategize how to move forward. The needs for medical care are not going away. They are only growing. The number of new providers is not keeping pace with retirements.”

The new ECU Family Medicine Center is almost complete and physicians should begin seeing patients there in July. “It will be a huge asset to our education and clinical practice. It is a welcoming, desirable place for patients and for growth of primary care,” Horns said.

Other initiatives include executing the provisions of the Affordable Care Act and readdressing how the university is attending to public health issues in eastern North Carolina.

Horns served as interim vice chancellor of health sciences in 2001-02, and again in 2006 until her permanent appointment in 2009. She also served as interim dean for the Brody School of Medicine.
Horns received her doctorate in nursing in 1980 from the UAB School of Nursing, where she was named one of 60 Visionary Leaders last year.

**Joyner Library reaches $100,000 archive goal**

J.Y. Joyner Library at ECU has announced that the $100,000 goal for the Donald R. Lennon University Archives Endowment Fund has been met.

Larry Boyer, dean of Academic Library and Learning Resources, said on May 19 that the endowment, named in honor of Donald R. Lennon, longtime director of the East Carolina Manuscript Collection and Coordinator of Special Collections, had been established with support from private donors and supporters, Friends of Joyner Library, and with funds from a bequest to the library.

As the institutional memory of East Carolina, the University Archives assumes the vital work of collecting and making available to researchers the official records of the university. Interest from the endowment will provide funds needed to process the extensive holdings of the archives, including correspondence, minutes, student records, rare film footage, and nearly 500,000 images of the university dating from 1909 to the present. This will provide students, faculty, scholars, alumni, and community patrons access to items that for now remain unavailable.

“A major endowment to support the work of the ECU University Archives is both exciting and vital to the program's future. I am honored beyond words to be associated with this wonderful endeavor,” Lennon said.

Fundraising efforts began more than a year ago with support from former U.S. Sen. Robert Morgan of Lillington, who previously donated papers to the Special Collections Department, and from the Friends of Joyner Library who coordinated a raffle of Bob Pittman's oil painting, “Harbor Reflections.” The raffle raised nearly $6,000 with the winning ticket purchased by Linwood M. Sawyer of Winston-Salem. Pittman, a highly respected regional artist, painted a scene of the harbor at Oriental and donated it to the Friends of Joyner Library.

“We are delighted to establish this endowment in honor of Don Lennon, who devoted his career to building the Special Collections Department, including the University Archives, into an important research repository,” said Maury York, assistant director for Special Collections. “The income derived from the endowment will be instrumental in preserving the heritage of ECU and in making it accessible to the public.”

The bequest was made to Joyner Library by Mamie P. Daniel of Grimesland. For more information, contact Dawn Wainwright at 328-4090.

**Women honored for achievement**

The General Federation of Women's Clubs of North Carolina recently honored 18 women, including several with strong ties to ECU, for their contributions to the state of
North Carolina. The Women of Achievement award winners were recognized for their achievements in government, business and nonprofits in the state.

The 10th Women of Achievement banquet was held May 11 at the Sheraton Hotel in Atlantic Beach with Dr. June Atkinson, N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction, as the keynote speaker.

The six ECU 2011 Women of Achievement honorees follow:

Sabrina Bengal, alderman, president of tourism, managing partner of the Birthplace of Pepsi, ECU alumna and 2008-09 chair of the East Carolina Alumni Association.

Patricia Dunn, mayor of Greenville, ECU alumna and former faculty member.

Honorable Janice Faulkner, former N.C. Secretary of State, Secretary of Revenue, Commissioner of the DMV, and ECU alumna and former English professor.

Honorable Marian McLawhorn, N.C. House of Representatives member and ECU alumna.

Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs, ECU.

Linda Staunch, president of a public relations firm and television personality, Pine Knoll Shores Aquarium Advisory Board, and ECU alumna.

The WOA awards were first given by GFWC-NC in 2002. Recipients are nominated and selected by a committee and must be from or currently residing in North Carolina.

GWFC-NC is a nonprofit organization composed of about 5,000 members across North Carolina who are committed to making their communities, the state and nation a better place to live and work. For more information, visit www.gfwcnc.org.

Riley Philpot was born June 15, 2000, to Kirk and Kelly Wempe Philpot and is the oldest of four children. Riley was diagnosed with Wilm's Tumor in May 2006 and strongly battled cancer six times in her life. Although she lived half her life fighting cancer, she never viewed herself as sick. She remained active and left a lasting impression on the Greenville area.

Wednesday, May 25, 2011 while having a great day at home, she walked to her mother with her hands raised high. As her mother lifted her into her arms, Riley passed immediately into the arms of Jesus.

Riley's favorite color is pink. She was active in Future Stars Soccer and she attended Wintergreen Intermediate where she was a student, but taught many. She enjoyed school and she continues to love her friends. Her family is her greatest gift on earth and she enjoys and loves her brother Jon Paul and her sisters Ella and Ashlyn. She brightened this world with her smile and she continues to bring joy to all.

She had a special love of life and lived with unwavering faith. She knew God's plan and was here for a purpose - to please The Father. She shared her faith by living life. Many who knew her have grown stronger in faith because of her example. Many have been saved because of His story of her. She continues to be thankful for all of God's blessings.

She worried about others more than herself. She led many and even in death she helped lead her Grandfather to heaven just five hours after her own transition into His arms. She inspired many to help others and inspired the formation of Riley's Army. Riley's Army will continue to help children with cancer and their families.

As Riley has reminded us His plan is so very easy to understand - it is simply to do what is best for all of us. Although at times it does not seem to be what is best for Riley or our family, we know that this path is what is best for us all. We pray this story will bring many people closer to God and we thank Him for our blessings along this path. We hold on strongly to His plan, constant presence and perfect love knowing that He alone can give us the peace we desire.

Without God none of this would have been possible nor tolerable.
We love you always and forever, Mom and Dad.

The family will receive friends Sunday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the church. A rosary will be said at 6 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Riley's Army Fund/GGCF, P.O. Box 20154, Greenville, NC 27858.

Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory, Greenville.

Published in The Daily Reflector on May 28, 2011
Pals on Paws a perfect prescription
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, May 29, 2011

Carol Sawyer had spent nearly a month in a hospital bed before a nurse came around with just what she needed.

A dog.

A small, soft King Charles Spaniel seemed to work like a tonic for the Beaufort County woman, who smiled as she stroked the curly brown hair on his ears. Lucky lay contentedly on her bed, wagging his tail as she spoke.

“It's very soothing when you pet an animal,” Sawyer said. “It just made me feel so good because I miss my dogs and cat. It's just like having one of them here.”

There was a time when seeing a dog in a hospital would have been an indication that the security guard wasn't doing his job. But Lucky wasn't smuggled in inside a large handbag; he strolled right through a main entrance. He works here. He wears a uniform, adheres to a weekly schedule, is assigned to a designated area and abides by the infection control policy, (which in this case means he must have a bath, wipe his paws before a visit and have patients use sanitizer before and after touching him.) Lucky is among half a dozen dogs that are members of the volunteer staff at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.
“The four-legged volunteers bring diversion to the word ‘volunteerism,’” Jennifer Congleton, director of volunteer services for PCMH, said. “... It's one of those uncommon volunteer opportunities that's becoming more common.”

Nurse Mary Sours, who volunteers as coordinator of Pals on Paws animal-assisted therapy program, estimates the six dog-and-owner teams gave a total of 1,000 volunteer hours last year.

“We have purebreds to mutts, from little King Charles Spaniel to golden retriever,” Sours said. “There's no size or shape (required). There's no breed.”

Sours' mixed-breed terrier Jitters is a fixture in pediatric rehabilitation. Even patients recovering from traumatic brain injury, who may struggle to recall their therapist's name, call to Jitters as she comes down the hall.

At first, seeing Jitters in action may look like a performance in a dog show. But getting this 4-year-old to jump through hoops is hardly the point. The real trick is getting the patients moving.

“Sometimes they like to perform for the animals,” Jennifer Brown, recreation therapist and child life specialist, said. “They're going to work hard to do what the dog wants, to make the dog wag its tail or do something silly like jump through a hoop.”

Seemingly simple tasks, like unhooking a leash, giving the dog a treat, tossing a ball or even painting the dog's toenails can help young patients improve motor skills. Though the therapy tasks may be similar, Brown said, the dog can provide a welcome distraction, making it seem less like work.

“I think the dog does add a lot of energy to the room,” she said. “You definitely see a lot more smiles. You hear kids that are talking for the first time.”

After a visit from Jitters, Tia Beamon, 11, who is usually quiet, could not stop talking about her dog at home.

Dr. John Norbury III sees much older patients who fixate on their dog's well being while they are in the hospital.

“You'll interview patients in the hospital, and they'll have these terrible, debilitating strokes or medical problems, and the only thing they're worried about is getting home to their dog,” he said. “They're worried about taking care of their dog.”

The intimate connection between patients and their dogs is one reason Norbury and his wife, Amy, began to explore the Delta Society's Pet Partners program, which trains and registers animals and their owners for animal-assisted therapy programs.

To qualify, dogs must not only pass a basic obedience test, they must demonstrate the ability to maintain composure in an unpredictable environment.
“Lucky had to be able to sit on command, lie down on command, ... have a clipboard dropped behind him, leave a piece of food on the floor. I mean I couldn't pass this test,” Dr. Norbury said, laughing. “Lucky just loves it.”

So does Amy Norbury, a geriatric nurse practitioner who finds that volunteering with Lucky gives her opportunities to interact with patients on a level that her job has not generally afforded her.

“When you're working in this profession, that's all you do is, ‘How are you feeling? What's your pain?’ instead of, ‘What trips did you used to take with your dog? What's your dog's name?’” she said. “It's a nice release for everybody to have a different focus than just being sick.”

Numerous studies have suggested that animal assisted therapy can promote healing. Long associated with helping to lower a patient's blood pressure, animal assisted therapy has recently been reported to help reduce anxiety among patients preparing to undergo an MRI.

“I think it's terrifically therapeutic,” Dr. Norbury said. “We've seen patients who haven't smiled the whole time they are here, who are profoundly depressed, and Lucky will just get the first smile.

“Lucky can do much more than we can in some cases,” he said. “It's humbling for sure.” Sours said research has shown that patients instinctively trust animals and will even talk to them about things they may not have told their health care providers.

“Animals just have a way of being completely nonjudgmental,” she said. “Animals will just sit there and listen. They're all so soft and sweet and gentle,” Sours said. “There's just something calming and enjoyable about having an animal around.”

For more information about the Pals on Paws program, contact Mary Sours at liv42dy@earthlink.net.
Heels, Pack, Pirates are in NCAA tournament
BY ROBBI PICKERAL AND CHIP ALEXANDER - Staff Writers

CHAPEL HILL—N.C. State's baseball team is headed to Columbia, S.C., for its NCAA regional. East Carolina is traveling to Charlottesville, Va.

And North Carolina, as expected, will stay home at Boshamer Stadium to host for the fifth time in six years, as a reward for earning the No. 3 overall national seed.

"Everybody's doubted us the whole year, and people still doubt us," Tar Heels senior pitcher Greg Holt said. "They say we're too high of a national seed, that we didn't deserve it, all this, all that. But now is the time to show people why we are the No. 3 national seed - we've won 40-plus games this season, and our trip to Omaha starts now."

UNC (45-14) - which didn't look like a contender for a national seed at the beginning of the season but finished seventh in the USA Today Coaches' Poll - will play Maine (32-22), the America East champion and No. 4 regional seed, at 6 p.m. Friday.

No. 2 regional seed Florida International (40-18) will play No. 3 seed James Madison (40-17) in Friday's 1 p.m. game. Saturday and Sunday games in Chapel Hill will be played at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., as well.

If the Tar Heels win the double-elimination regional, they would host the winner of the Cal State Fullerton regional - which consists of Cal State Fullerton, Illinois, Kansas State and Stanford - in a best-of-three super regional the following weekend.

UNC coach Mike Fox, whose teams advanced to the College World Series from 2006 to 2009, said "there's no question in my mind" that this squad has the ability to return to Omaha again.

"I think we've proven over the course of the year, with playing the teams in the ACC - as good as our league was this year - we've got to hang our head on that," he said. "And our kids know that, that we've played against some of the best teams in the country all year long, and we've been able to hold our own."
N.C. State (34-25) - which put together a strong second half of the season after starting 10-10 - earned a No. 3 regional seed and will play No. 2 seed Stetson (41-18) at 1 p.m. Friday.

No. 1 South Carolina (45-14), the No. 4 overall national seed led by former Wolfpack coach Ray Tanner, and Georgia Southern (36-24) round out that regional.

"We were optimistic but didn't know for sure if we were in," Wolfpack junior pitcher Cory Mazzoni said after his team gathered in its locker room at Doak Field to watch the NCAA selection show.

"It will be challenging, but I think we're up for it," Mazzoni said. "We like to play the best teams and feel we can beat any team in the nation. We'd like to win and show we can compete with anybody and show what we're made of."

NCSU coach Elliott Avent hoped the Pack would warrant a higher seed but said it did not matter that much.

"I think we're definitely a 2 seed with what we've done, but there's not much difference," he said. "We're happy to be in and going to Columbia."

Meanwhile, East Carolina (39-19) earned a No. 2 seed in a region with the top national seed - Virginia. (49-9). ECU will face No. 3 St. John's (35-20) at 6 p.m. Friday in Charlottesville; No. 4 Navy (33-23-1) plays the Cavaliers at 1 p.m.

The only other team from North Carolina to make the 64-team field, announced Monday, is Charlotte (42-14). It earned a No. 3 seed in the Tempe, Ariz., regional and will play No. 2 Arkansas (38-20) at 5 p.m. Friday. Arizona State, the top seed in that region, plays New Mexico (20-39) in the other game.

In all, seven ACC squads made the tournament.

**Friday's Games**
North Carolina (45-14) vs. Maine (32-22)
When: 6 p.m. Where: Chapel Hill

N.C. State (34-25) vs. Stetson (41-18)
When: 1 p.m. Where: Columbia, S.C.

East Carolina (39-19) vs. St. John's (35-20)
When: 6 p.m. Where: Charlottesville, Va.

Charlotte (42-14) vs. Arkansas (38-20)
When: 5 p.m. Where: Tempe, Ariz.
Treasured Pirate Awards are presented to John Williams, John Palmer and Katherine Burney, from left, by Bryan Tuten, interim director of Dowdy Student Stores.

**Dowdy Student Stores employees presented Treasured Pirate Awards**

Monday, May 30, 2011

Three employees of Dowdy Student Stores at East Carolina University have received the Treasured Pirate Award.

Katherine Burney, John Palmer and John Williams were recognized for their contributions to the store. Each received a certificate, Treasured Pirate pin and gift. Burney received her award for delivery of service. As textbook manager, she makes sure that students and faculty have the textbooks and course materials they need. This process involves constant communication with faculty and publishers.

“I would argue that Katherine is the best college textbook manager in the country,” Bryan Tuten, interim director of Dowdy Student Stores, said. “She has so much knowledge about the textbook industry and its trends. We are fortunate to have had her in this position for so many years.”

Burney has been with the store since 1979, when she was hired as a cashier. She also served as customer service manager and assistant textbook manager before assuming her position of textbook manager 23 years ago.

A native of Bladen County, Burney is a 1968 graduate of ECU with a degree in art. Palmer was recognized for effective leadership.
“He is exceptional at overseeing stadium sales at football games and other ECU athletic events,” Tuten said.

As merchandise manager, Palmer selects and orders apparel and gifts for the store and supervises the staff in the customer service, apparel and gift departments.

Originally from Michigan, Palmer earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Atlantic Christian College (now Barton College) in 1991.

Williams received the Treasured Pirate Award for Display of Initiative or Creativity. He has worked at the store since 1998, serving as customer service/night manager. His duties include supervising student staff on nights and weekends, maintaining the point-of-sale system, training new employees on cash register sales, and coordinating the textbook reservation program.

“John is very creative with promoting the textbook reservations program every summer during orientation,” Tuten said. “The signs, window displays, brochures and promotional table he uses have really helped increase our reservations.”
NCSSM students place 8th at National Ocean Sciences Bowl

A team from the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics earned its way to the top tier of the National Ocean Sciences Bowl competition.

The team - Dong Wook Yoo, Kali Xu, Tina Zheng, Amin Krunal and Morton Gaskill - won eighth place at the national competition in Galveston, Texas, this spring.

Previously, they won the regional Blue Heron Bowl at East Carolina University, qualifying them to compete against 24 other regional champions in Galveston.

The competition, sponsored by Washington-based Consortium for Ocean Leadership, challenges students with buzzer-style, round-robin multiple choice questions and longer team questions on ocean-related topics.

In addition to the competition, the students went on field trips around Galveston and heard presentations from ocean scientists on the competition's theme, "Human Responses to Ocean Events."
Documents show USC officials take pride in multimillionaire Darla Moore's support, but the emails show there is more than a little fear of her, too. Brett Flashnick - AP

USC officials tried not to give Gov. Nikki Haley, a graduate of archrival Clemson University, the impression they were coordinating opposition to her ouster of Moore. RICHARD SHIRO - AP

'I'm sure Darla ... will not forget'

By Wayne Washington

University of South Carolina officials were shocked into silence in March when they learned that multimillionaire donor Darla Moore had been replaced on the board of trustees.

But that silence quickly gave way to repeated efforts by USC officials to let Moore know how much they appreciated her support of the university,
according to documents obtained by The State newspaper through the Freedom of Information Act.

Those documents -- requested by The State on March 29 and released Wednesday -- underscore the challenge that USC officials faced in the wake of Moore's ouster. How could USC stay in Moore's good graces while not angering the woman who removed her from the board, Gov. Nikki Haley?

They also peel back the curtain on the Moore-USC relationship. USC officials take pride in Moore's support, but the emails show there is more than a little fear of her, too.

For example, USC official Thomas Stepp relayed to provost Michael Amiridis -- the school's No. 2 executive -- that a Moore associate, Jim Fields, predicted "Darla will be explosive" over the news of her removal by Haley.

"It will be interesting to see Darla explode to someone else :))," Amiridis responded, using the digital symbol for a smiley face.

Stepp, secretary of the board of trustees, emailed back to Amiridis. "I predict that if the Governor runs for re-election, she will face a well-financed opponent."

"I'm sure Darla considers it a slap in the face and she will not forget," Amiridis responded.

'We really need another lawyer'

It was Stepp, on March 11 at 4:41 p.m., who officially broke the news to USC officials that Haley had replaced Moore.

It was tough news for USC, particularly for those in the business school, which bears Moore's name.

"Spoke with Harris (USC President Harris Pastides) earlier on this," emailed Hildy Teegen, dean of the Darla Moore School of Business. "I'll reach out to her next week. Ugh."

Stepp responded by pointing out what angry USC students and alumni already were complaining about - replacing Moore with attorney Thomas Cofield would cut the number of women on the board to one and boost the high number of lawyers.

"We really need another lawyer," Stepp wrote in an email to Pastides. "We've only got eleven now! The Lawyers Committee can be the Board and deal with its surfeit of minorities and women. OK, I'll hush."
As was the case with Haley's office, USC officials seemed slow to grasp the attention Moore's removal would get.

Initially, USC tried to limit its response to a statement from board chairman Miles Loadholt. But angry responses kept pouring in, forcing officials into the uncomfortable position of explaining someone else's decision.

The brouhaha bubbled for several days before Moore said anything about it publicly. If she ever reacted "explosively," she did not do so in public.

As anger over Moore's ouster grew, USC students and alumni decided to hold a rally at the State House, a move that put university officials in a bind.

Students and alumni were angry; the school's biggest donor had been dumped in favor of a Haley campaign contributor. But USC officials tried not to give Haley, a graduate of archrival Clemson University, the impression that they were coordinating opposition to the governor's move.

"In terms of our response, we plan to thank students who have shown interest and support," Carolyn S. Jones, associate dean of the business school, wrote to Teegen. "Otherwise, I think we do not want to be in a position of encouraging or discouraging a march on the Statehouse."

'We need a huge crowd'

But USC officials later came to see a large showing at the students' March 23 rally as a measure of support for Moore.

Pastides and Teegen went to see Moore at her Lake City home on March 19. At the suggestion of a USC staffer, Pastides took along pro-Moore newspaper clippings. "Think she might be amazed at how much she is loved!" the staffer had suggested in an email.

Almost immediately, USC officials began expressing a desire for a large turnout at the students' rally.

"We need a huge crowd," Luanne Lawrence, USC's vice president for communications, wrote to the university's State House lobbyists on March 19, urging them to spread "the word among staff and legislators."

Ultimately, about 150 people showed up, including USC administrators. No administrators spoke.

Word spread at the rally that Moore would hold a town-hall-style meeting the next day, on March 24. The meeting was billed by USC officials as an opportunity for Moore to thank students and alumni for their outpouring of support.
President Pastides "has spoken with the Governor whose staff had inquired if this is an official University event and the Governor understands it is not an event sponsored by the University," Stepp emailed the trustees. "Clearly if the Governor or Darla Moore ever ask to... speak from the campus they would be given that courtesy."

That was not the whole truth.

USC officials had been in talks with Moore for days to discuss her plans. Emails show officials carefully had crafted a statement by USC - Pastides dictated some talking points - and prepared press materials to match Moore's announcement.

That was because the USC officials knew Moore was about to parry Haley's thrust, and USC's coffers were about to swell.

Moore announced a $5 million donation to pay for an aviation center -- the same center Haley successfully had argued against in budget discussions with legislators.

At the town-hall meeting, Moore charmed her audience, who greeted her with enthusiastic applause. She delivered a couple of subtle jabs at Haley, took a few questions from students - none from the press - and walked away.
Quillen

**Davidson College names its first female president**

By David Perlmutter

Breaking from tradition, Davidson College on Thursday introduced Carol Quillen, a Rice University vice president, as the school's 18th president - the first woman to run the once all-male school and the first president since 1957 who is not a Davidson graduate.

Quillen, 51, a historian who starts Aug. 1, will replace Tom Ross (class of 1972), who left his alma mater in December after nearly four years as president to become president of the UNC System.

She has been a teacher, researcher and administrator at Rice, a private research university in Houston. She was appointed last October as Rice's vice president for international and interdisciplinary initiatives.

In Davidson's quaint, dimly lighted theater, trustees Chair Mackey McDonald began to introduce Quillen as "this person," then slipped in the pronoun "she," delighting many in the audience, particularly female students and graduates.

Quillen told about 600 students, graduates, faculty, staff and town residents that she felt privileged and grateful for the opportunity to lead Davidson, but, as an outsider, was still learning about it.
"I come to you, I know, from outside the Davidson family," she said. "I have much to learn, and it would be beyond presumptuous - as well as unwise - for me ... to talk too long, when what I most want and need to do is listen."

She said she'll work to promote Davidson's liberal arts values to an "increasingly skeptical public" as the best way to build the next generations of "service leaders."

"Davidson creates a distinctive culture of inquiry and trust within which students grow as humane thinkers and perceptive leaders," Quillen said. "Davidson graduates morally courageous persons who are not afraid to take intellectual risk. More important, Davidson somehow enables each student to discover the remarkable human being he or she can become."

'A new day at Davidson'

Her appointment elated - yet surprised - some female students and graduates in the crowd.

Until trustees voted to make Davidson co-educational in 1973, the school was all-male for its first 136 years. Of its 17 previous presidents, the first seven weren't graduates, but since 1888, only three presidents didn't have Davidson diplomas. Of those, two were interim heads.

"I fully expected to see a man and a Davidson graduate announced as the new president," said Meagan Madden, a rising senior from Richmond, Va., on the swim team. "I know she's been through an exhaustive process, so I'm sure she is as capable as anybody."

Meg Kimmel graduated in 1977, the first graduating class after women were admitted. She called Quillen's election "a new day at Davidson" and a sign of "a new future" for the school.

"We have a new president, and I can't ignore the fact that she's a woman," Kimmel said. "But she's clearly ready for the job, and I know she'll lead with intelligence and great heart."

Quillen was picked after an eight-month search from a list of roughly 100 nominations, McDonald said.

He told reporters that the 18-member search committee wasn't necessarily looking for a woman, "just the best person to lead this school. We think we found her."

**Honors for teaching**
Quillen grew up in New Castle, Del. Her father, William Quillen, is a former justice on the Delaware Supreme Court and Democratic candidate for governor in 1984.

She earned a bachelor's degree in American history from the University of Chicago, where she graduated Phi Beta Kappa, and a doctorate in European history from Princeton University.

Before Davidson, Rice is the only school where she's worked, in jobs on the academic and administrative sides. She joined the Rice faculty in 1989 as a history instructor, specializing in early modern European history and U.S. women's and humanist history. She was awarded Rice's George R. Brown Award for Superior Teaching three times, along with other teaching awards.

In 2004, Quillen was appointed the first director of the school's Boniuk Center for the Study and Advancement of Religious Tolerance and helped win a $2.5 million gift for the center's distinguished scholar endowment. Two years later, she was elevated to vice provost for academic affairs, but continued to teach.

In her latest job, she was responsible for developing Rice's global outreach, including research partnerships, recruiting strategies, curricular revisions and international opportunities for students.

Her daughter, Caitlin, will be a freshman at UNC Chapel Hill in the fall.

After Thursday's announcement, Rice Provost George McLendon said Davidson made "an inspired choice of a new, transformational leader. ... She will be missed, but she leaves a remarkable legacy."

Quillen said she has spent the past several months learning about Davidson from people who know the college best.

"I have learned from these conversations ... that Davidson people are thoughtful and smart," Quillen told those gathered Thursday. "They are respectful and open in debate. They are humble yet quietly firm in their convictions. They are not, generally speaking, big Duke fans."

Staff writer Shane Ryan contributed.
Coaching and Much More for Chinese Students Looking to U.S.

By DAN LEVIN

BEIJING — In December 2009, a rejection letter from Columbia University found its way to the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen. It was addressed to Lu Jingyu, a top student and member of her school’s student government. As she read the disheartening words, Ms. Lu immediately began to panic. Where had she gone wrong? How could she fix this?

For answers, she turned to ThinkTank Learning, a college admission consulting company from California that had recently opened an office in Shenzhen, next door to Hong Kong.

“I wanted American professionals to look at my application and shed some new light on how I could make it better,” she said.

The price was steep: 100,000 renminbi, or $15,000. But it came with a 100 percent money-back guarantee — if Ms. Lu was rejected from the nine selective U.S. universities to which she applied, her family would get a full refund.

Ms. Lu brainstormed with a ThinkTank consultant on ways to redo her admissions essay, which had originally been about playing badminton. The new version she came up with focused on a cross-strait dialogue conference that Ms. Lu had organized with high schoolers in Taiwan.

Happily for Ms. Lu and for ThinkTank, the approach worked. She has just completed her first year at the University of Pennsylvania.
As a record number of students from outside the United States compete for a limited number of spots at the most selective American colleges, companies like ThinkTank are seeking to profit from their ambitions.

In the United States, students have long turned to independent college counselors, but in recent years, larger outfits have entered the market, offering full-service designer courses, extracurricular activities and focused application assistance. These services have spread to the fast-growing and lucrative market in China.

With China sending more students to American colleges than any other country, the competition for spots at the top schools has soared. During the 2009-10 academic year, 39,947 Chinese undergraduates were studying in the United States, a 52 percent increase from the year before and about five times as many as five years earlier, according to the Institute of International Education, a U.S. organization.

But students from China can find themselves ill-prepared for the admissions process at American colleges. The education system in mainland China focuses on assiduous preparation for the national university entrance exam, the gaokao, often at the expense of extracurricular activities.

About 400 overseas education agencies — including joint Chinese-foreign schools, language training centers and college application consulting agencies — are certified by the Chinese Ministry of Education. The ministry is affiliated with the two largest application consulting agencies in China, the China Center for International Education Exchange and Chivast Education International.

Some of these agencies offer to write their clients’ college essays from scratch, train them for alumni interviews and even modify student transcripts, consultants have said.

Capitalizing on the increasingly globalized education system, ThinkTank Learning has tapped into the market in the United States and China.

The founder of the company is Steven Ma, 32, a former Wall Street analyst who started the company as a business for preparing students for college entrance tests in 2002 before expanding into application consulting in 2006, starting with seven students. In 2010, that number had risen to 300, including 75 from China. The company said it made about $7 million last year, with 50 percent from admission consulting.

ThinkTank said it was able to distill the college admissions process into an exact science, which Mr. Ma compared with genetic engineering. “We make unnatural stuff happen,” he said.

Students, whose parents often pay tens or even hundreds of thousands of dollars, are molded by ThinkTank into well-rounded, socially conscious overachievers through a regimen often beginning as early as the year before entering high school.
The company designs extracurricular activities for the students; guides them in essay writing; tutors them for the SAT, the U.S. college admission exam; and helps them with meet-and-greet sessions with alumni.

“There’s a system built by colleges designed to pick out future stars and we are here to crack that system,” Mr. Ma said.

LuShuang Xu provides an example of that approach. Ms. Xu, who was born and raised in China before emigrating to suburban California at age 9, had high hopes that she would be the first in her family to go to college. But poor results on a practice SAT and a dearth of extracurricular activities convinced Ms. Xu, 17, that she needed a scholastic makeover if she were to make it into a school her parents could brag about to relatives.

ThinkTank sent her to a public speaking camp, helped her improve her college essay and gave her the e-mail addresses of all the members of the Stanford University history department. At the company’s prompting, she found two internships with department professors. She also enrolled in ThinkTank’s college prep courses, which helped improve her SAT score 410 points to 2160 out of 2400. Next autumn, she will start at Harvard University.

ThinkTank’s success with students in California’s Asian-American community, which accounts for 90 percent of the company’s American clients, has drawn interest from wealthy parents in China. Mr. Ma opened an office in Shenzhen in 2009 and another in Beijing last year.

The company entered China at a time when the college consulting industry on the mainland was booming, with numerous agencies promising to make Chinese student’s academic dreams come true, often through questionable practices.

One company, Best Education, has offices across China and charges clients an average of 500,000 renminbi for writing clients’ essays, training them for the visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing and providing career guidance.

“The students just supply their information and we do all the work,” said one representative, who requested anonymity to protect his job. Best Education offers a 50 percent refund if an applicant is rejected by the student’s chosen schools.

Chinese agencies may not want to alert colleges to their involvement, because applications that clearly appear to come from agencies are rejected by U.S. colleges, but the agencies promote their success in Mandarin. The Future Boshi Overseas Education Agency in Beijing gives a tally on its Web site of clients admitted by each university, including two to Harvard in 2010 and one in 2011.

Reached by telephone, an agency representative said the company did a lot more than just polish résumés. “If a client’s English is poor, our trained professionals can write the essay to make sure it looks perfect,” she said, speaking on the condition of anonymity to avoid repercussions from her employer.
The industry’s aggressive practices have been condemned by many American colleges, which say they disapprove of students’ families hiring consultants.

“Students have a responsibility to identify their own path toward future goals, rather than keying in how to get into a certain school,” said Barbara Knuth, the vice provost at Cornell University in New York State, who oversees undergraduate admissions.

Harvard said in an e-mail that it “reviews every application individually and has no interaction” with college admission consulting firms, “though we are certainly aware of their existence.” The University of Pennsylvania, which accepted Ms. Lu from Shenzhen, did not respond to requests for comment.

Despite the universities’ unease with these practices, application consulting has proved too profitable to ignore.

Mr. Ma said that out of 110 mainland students, only one has needed a refund, though two clients have been granted admission only if they pay full tuition.

Helping students from China clear the college entry hurdles has presented ThinkTank with a fresh set of challenges. Often they have poor English language skills and have done little with their free time beyond homework. Yet their parents often demand the Ivy League.

“We really have to hold their hand and do everything along with them,” Mr. Ma said, including deliberately leaving spelling mistakes on college essays so they look authentic, training them for the Test of English as a Foreign Language and building extracurricular activities from the ground up.

ThinkTank has founded Model United Nations groups, built a Web site for a Shanghai student’s photography project to get news media coverage and helped another obtain funding to build a hydroelectric generator. For ambitious Chinese parents, ThinkTank’s sales pitch is difficult to resist. Li Manhong, a homemaker from Beijing, has planned for years to send her 17-year-old son to an American college, going so far as to enroll him in a private high school in Portland, Oregon, for the past two years to improve his English and his résumé.

After learning about ThinkTank from a neighbor, Ms. Li persuaded her husband to sign a contract for 90,000 renminbi, which focuses on nine selective U.S. schools. ThinkTank will train her son for the SAT and help him pick internships and even college courses once he becomes a freshman. Ms. Li sees the cost as an investment in her son’s future.

“Whatever it takes to reach his maximum potential,” she said. “It’s worth it.”