THE DAILY CLIPS

June 7, 2012

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252-328-6481
Kiara Stanley, 18, left, participates in one of the hands on activity Go Science offered for youngsters at their booth at the Umbrella Market on Wednesday, June 6, 2012. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

**GO-Science stirs interest in market**

“I’m interested in a health career, and that requires science skills.”

Kiara Stanley

By Michael Abramowitz
Thursday, June 7, 2012

The staff of GO-Science was at the Uptown Umbrella Market at Greenville’s Five Points Plaza on Wednesday, using straws to conduct experiments in sound, and testing the effects of water and air on sound waves.

The experiments attracted lots of children and parents to the GO-Science booth and stirred interest in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), exactly what Executive Director Roger Conner and educator Mary Louise Rothschild hoped for.

“We want to share the value of the STEM subjects with people through the entire eastern North Carolina region, especially economically disadvantaged youth,” Conner said.

Tiara and Kiara Stanley, graduating seniors from South Central High School, liked the idea of sharing the hands-on excitement of science. They said they always have had an interest in science and math.

“I’m interested in a health career, and that requires science skills,” Kiara said.
Tiara watched others do the experiments and smiled.
“T’m more of an observer, but I enjoy it,’ she said.
Young visitors to the science booth on Wednesday received take-home science kits and summer math activities from staffers.
The booth will be at the umbrella market from 5-8 p.m. each Wednesday through the summer.
The nonprofit regional science center focuses on enhancing the level of science and math literacy for residents of all ages in 19 eastern North Carolina counties, many of which are economically distressed. That will make for a busy summer activities schedule throughout the region, with more than 25 events occurring from Greenville to the coast, Conner said.
GO-Science will be introducing new technology aids to make its programs even more accessible, Conner said.
“We’ve just released the GO-Science Summer of Science mobile app and guide as a free download on iPhone, iPad, Android and other Internet connectors,” he said.
A regular feature of the GO-Science calendar is the Science Cafe, where discussions cover selected topics in a local cafe environment. The next discussion is at 6 p.m. on June 11 at the Tipsy Teapot, 409 Evans St., in downtown Greenville. Lisa Clough, interim associate vice chancellor for research at East Carolina University will cover science and change at the North and South poles.
Registration is also under way for the Summer Science Camp, where a range of activities will engage, entertain and educate children about the wonders of science. There will be four summer camp sessions with more than 20 individual sessions available to those who register, Conner said.
To register for individual events, the GO-Science mobile app or summer camp, visit www.go-science.org or call-565-0302.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
MLB comes calling for locals

“I’m super stoked about the opportunity. They asked me if there was any reason I wouldn’t sign, and I said, ‘No. I’m ready.’”

Kevin Brandt
Former ECU pitcher

By Nathan Summers and Ronnie Woodward
Thursday, June 7, 2012

As Kevin Brandt lined up a tee shot on Wednesday afternoon, he didn’t believe he’d been drafted.

“Corey Thompson told me when we were out playing golf with coach (Billy) Godwin,” the East Carolina left-handed pitcher said of hearing from his friend and senior ECU teammate he’d been picked by Tampa Bay while they were on the links with Godwin, the Pirates’ head coach. “In between the seventh and eighth holes (Thompson) turned around to me and said, ‘Congratulations.’ And I said, ‘Don’t screw with me. This isn’t funny.’”

But Thompson, who later got drafted in the 31st round by the Chicago White Sox, showed Brandt his phone, confirming he’d been drafted by the Rays in the 18th round. They joined catcher Zach Wright, who was nabbed by the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim in the 12th round Tuesday.

“I’m super stoked about the opportunity,” Brandt said, adding that he wasn’t sure when or where he would report to the Rays. “They asked me if there was any reason I wouldn’t sign, and I said, ‘No. I’m ready.’”
Also getting selected were junior ECU pitchers Jharel Cotton (20th round, L.A. Dodgers) and Tyler Joyner (35th, Kansas City), and junior infielder/outfielder John Wooten (37th, Oakland).

Cotton said on Wednesday he would weigh his options for a few days before making a firm decision on whether or not he’ll return to the Pirates for his senior season.

“I’ll probably decide in the next couple of days,” said Cotton, who was drafted by the New York Mets in the 28th round last spring. “It’s an honor. You work hard throughout the year and some good things happen, and that’s what happened to me. If I don’t (sign), I’ve been through it two times and let’s do it again next year. If I do take it, I’ll work my butt off to get to the highest level.”

The Pirates got good news when they learned that verbal commitment pitcher Justin Taylor (30th, Boston) out of Farmville Central High School will be reporting to ECU.

Taylor was ranked by Baseball America as the 313th best prospect in this draft class, but he was taken by the Red Sox with pick No. 931. As long as he stays at a four-year school, the hard-throwing right-hander will not be eligible to be drafted again until 2015.

“It’s an honor to be drafted, but I think it’s best for me to go to school,” said Taylor, who added that he is motivated by the fact that he fell to the 30th round. “I talked to my family and some of my friends and I just think that going to school is the best thing for me to do. ... Now I’m just going to work hard so that I can get better and see what happens in three years.”

Taylor said he talked with ECU’s coaches on Wednesday, including Godwin, to inform them that he’s going to be a Pirate next year. He struck out 126 batters in about 63 innings as a senior, and finished with a 7-3 record and 1.22 ERA.

Pirate prospect Quinn Carpenter (27th, Boston) was also selected.

**Cain picked by Giants**

When Andrew Cain left J.H. Rose High School four years ago, professional baseball wasn’t really on his radar.

But Cain, who graduated from UNC Wilmington this year, was drafted in the 24th round by San Francisco on Wednesday and he will fly to Arizona this weekend to begin his pro career.
“I didn’t have the passion for baseball in high school that I’ve actually
grown now, and now I’ve grown to love the game,” said Cain, who hit a
home run last weekend at the Raleigh Regional in his final collegiate at-bat.
“I don’t know what I’d do without it. I’m really thankful and blessed to have
the opportunity to play.”

Cain was picked by Milwaukee in the 12th round last year and he admitted
that he was frustrated as the rounds passed this year and his name was not
called. But he added that he’s excited about his opportunity with the Giants.
“I was just disappointed in not hearing my name but when I got to thinking
about it, I’m thankful for the opportunity and I think San Francisco will be a
great organization to get going in,” said Cain, who was a first-team All-
Colonial Athletic Association pick this season after batting .352 in league
play.

As a senior at UNCW, Cain recorded career-highs in home runs (12) and
stolen bases (23). In his final season at Rose, Cain hit .351 with 32 RBIs.

BASEBALL
GREENSBORO — Weapons charges against East Carolina men’s basketball player Shamarr Bowden have been dropped, according to a report by WFMY, a television station in Greensboro.

Bowden, who was arrested for possession of a loaded weapon and prohibited use of a firearm on April 30 by the U.S. Marshal’s Office, was accused of firing a gun in the air at a party in Rochester, N.Y., on Easter weekend. According to the WFMY report, Bowden received a letter from the District Attorney’s office last week notifying him that the grand jury had dismissed the charges.

A junior college transfer and Greensboro native who began his collegiate career at Charlotte, Bowden played in 28 of the Pirates’ 31 games last season, including 23 starts. He averaged 8.3 points per game and hit 146 3-pointers, second on the team.
Hundreds of people living in rural eastern North Carolina now will have access to the state-of-the-art medical diagnostic and clinical care offered by the physicians and medical staff at Greenville’s Vidant Health Center — without setting foot in the city.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan joined Vidant Health CEO Dave McRae and others Wednesday at the East Carolina Heart Institute to announce the award of a $161,047 USDA Distance Learning and Telemedicine grant to provide rural residents and their local general physicians crucial access to Vidant’s specialty services in real time through advanced audio and video technology.

“We know that grants like this help rural communities and high-need areas enjoy educational opportunities, improved health care services and greater economic development,” Merrigan said.

Dr. Mark Mazer, director of Vidant’s medical intensive care unit, said that in the first year of its use, the new technology is expected to serve 300-500 patients in rural hospitals at Vidant Duplin, Vidant Chowan, Vidant Edgecombe and Vidant Roanoke-Chowan in Hertford County.

“Our goal and mission is to improve the quality of life and health care services for every person in eastern North Carolina,” McRae said.
Dr. Clyde Brooks, a general internist at Vidant, told how the telemedical equipment brings everything that a patient needs without the constraints of distance. He recalled when he practiced at a rural hospital and admitted patients to the intensive care unit with no specialist present.

“We’d contact them by phone and try to describe what was going on,” Brooks said, “This technology makes things so much better. An intensive care physician specialist (at Vidant in Greenville) now can see the patients, listen to them with a stethoscope, look at lab work and monitors in real time, and surround the patients with a big hospital’s resources right at the point of care in a community. The result is safer patients rewarded with better outcomes.”

Mazer said, “This is a question of life or death and preventing infirmity. The mantra of the Society of Critical Care Medicine is, ‘Right here, right now.’ Getting the right care at the right time in a large geographic area can sometimes be problematic, though, requiring a multi-disciplinary team of experts directed by an intensive care physician.”

Vidant Medical Center in Greenville has 20 board-certified critical care doctors; some rural hospitals might have none on hand when a critical health situation occurs at a given moment, he said.

“We will optimize care and decrease length of stay at a critical care center by up to 30 percent by having care directed (at a rural hospital) by an intensive care physician (in Greenville). Very often, patients are best served by staying in their local communities, taken care of by their local physicians who they trust, with their families right next to them,” Mazer said. “Not everybody needs to be put in a helicopter and brought to Vidant Medical Center.”

To demonstrate the ease with which the new equipment brings rural patients and their doctors in touch with specialized care, Mazer spoke live with Chad Kornegay, a physician at Vidant Duplin Hospital, using some of the audio-visual telemedical communication equipment they will use to diagnose patients and consult on cases.

“We hope this type of care will bolster the confidence of patients and their families. This gives them the opportunity to stay at home with doctors they know and trust, and think of me here as the modern equivalent of going to a back room and picking up a medical textbook,” Mazer said.

Registered nurse Cheryl Ballance, administrative director of Ocracoke Health Center, also was at Vidant in Greenville to receive a $358,000 USDA
grant for that center. The two grants were among 52 awarded Wednesday in 29 states, totaling $14 million, Merrigan said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
The suitcase in which the cocaine was hidden. The shiny paper was the wrapping. Frampton said the drugs were concealed in the suitcase without his knowledge.

**UNC prof accused of smuggling drugs admits to being extremely naive**

By Jay Price - jprice@newsobserver.com

The UNC-Chapel Hill physicist being held in an Argentine prison after two kilos of cocaine were found in his luggage has been diagnosed with a personality disorder that – despite three Oxford University degrees – allowed him to be easily duped into carrying the drugs, say supporters and the scientist himself.

Paul Frampton, the Louis D. Rubin, Jr. Distinguished Professor of physics and astronomy, flew to South America after being tricked on the Internet into believing he would be meeting a young model, said his ex-wife and several friends and colleagues, including the Nobel Prize-winning physicist Sheldon Glashow of Boston University and Harvard University, with whom Frampton has written more than a dozen research papers.

Instead, when he got to Bolivia, he was asked by someone else to carry a suitcase to Argentina and, ultimately, the United States. Frampton, 68, was arrested in January at the main airport in Buenos Aires as he tried to fly back to Raleigh-Durham International. He faces up to 16 years in prison.

The drugs, he said, were in a kind of false bottom in a check-in-size suitcase that otherwise was empty.
In two telephone interviews this week from Villa Devoto prison in Buenos Aires Frampton admitted that a normal person would have been leery of accepting a bag under such circumstances.

“I’m an outlier in the naivety quotient as well as IQ,” he said. “I buy that.

“There were, of course, warning signs that most people would have viewed with great suspicion, and this diagnosis as a defense explains the foolishness,” he said. “But I certainly had no idea there were illegal drugs and certainly had no idea of smuggling drugs to make money.”

‘Like a child’

Frampton said his defense attorneys hired a forensic psychologist who met with him twice in prison and diagnosed a schizoid personality disorder that prevents him from making normal social connections and renders him unusually gullible, he said.

Friends and supporters say the outcome was hardly surprising.

“He is totally devoted to physics and to his students, but in the rest of his life he has always been like a child,” said his ex-wife, Anne-Marie Frampton of Durham.

Published reports in Argentina and Britain, where Frampton was born, say the eminent physicist told an Argentine judge that he got caught up in an Internet “honey trap” supposedly involving a well-known model.

In telephone interviews, Frampton has consistently declined to detail the chain of events leading to his arrest, other than to say that he had come to South America to meet a friend. It would harm his defense to say more, he said.

Some of the published stories were inaccurate, he said.

“I can say that I never personally met, spoke to or communicated with a model,” he said.

Asked whether he had been conducting an Internet exchange that led him to believe he would be meeting a woman, he declined to say more.

His ex-wife said the woman was probably fictitious, and that in any case he apparently met with an intermediary, not the woman he had expected to find.

Anne-Marie Frampton said that during one telephone call from prison she had asked him about a posting about his predicament on a physics-related blog that included a woman’s photo and name. Frampton dismissed it, saying that the woman in question’s name was entirely different.
Several friends said Frampton had a history of pursuing young women in foreign lands on the Internet, and that it was another symptom of his personality disorder.

Glashow, the Nobel laureate, said Frampton once persuaded a Chinese woman in her 20s to marry him, but when he flew to China she took one look at him and backed out.

A few weeks after Frampton’s arrest, UNC-CH Provost Bruce Carney wrote him to say he was going to stop Frampton’s $106,835 salary and put him on personal leave because he obviously couldn’t do his job from prison.

A copy of the letter, provided by Frampton, opens this way:

“Dear Paul:

“I was shocked and dismayed to learn that you had been arrested in Buenos Aires last month. I was also surprised that you had missed all the meetings of your General Relativity course prior to that.”

Frampton said that only one student had enrolled in the class and that he had planned to cancel it. He is required to teach two classes a year, and he could make it up by taking on two this fall, he said.

**Lawsuit over pay**

He filed suit last month in Orange County Superior Court to have his pay restored. He says he has been able to perform his research, has written two research papers, and has been properly advising his graduate students via telephone.

In an earlier interview, one of the graduate students he is assigned said that Frampton had indeed been able to properly advise him via phone.

Last week, though, Judge Allen Baddour turned down Frampton’s request for a preliminary injunction to prevent the university from stopping his pay. His attorney here, Barry Nakell of Chapel Hill, said he’ll keep pursuing the lawsuit.

A university spokeswoman declined Wednesday to discuss the lawsuit but provided copies of documents UNC had filed with the court.

Previously, university officials have said little about Frampton’s dilemma, citing state public records law that prevents them from releasing most personnel information.

The university says in its court filings that Frampton is not able to do his job because, among other things, he obviously can’t teach his classes, participate
in faculty committees or hold office hours to meet with students, and that his lack of access to the Internet hinders his ability to do research, collaborate with colleagues and communicate with students.

In court filings, it also said that Frampton hadn’t availed himself of the normal faculty grievance procedure.

It said the university has supported Frampton in various ways. It found a private attorney who would have been paid by Frampton, but whom he rejected in favor of free public defenders. Also, it offered to continue his benefits, including health care, if he paid for them, which he didn’t. And Carney wrote a letter in his support to Argentine authorities.

Faculty support

The university’s response to the suit also says that it sent an emissary to Argentina to discuss Frampton’s case with local officials. That’s partly true: University officials asked a faculty member who was travelling to Argentina for other reasons to meet with the judge and Frampton’s attorneys.

Glashow, who has known Frampton for at least three decades, said that it was outrageous that the university would quit paying Frampton. Harvard, he said, would never have done that to him unless he had been convicted.

The money, he said, is less important than presenting a united front to Argentine justice officials that Frampton isn’t guilty. If, at the end of the court case, the university feels it has grounds to fire Frampton, so be it, he said, but for now the life of an honest man and unusually valuable scientist is the most important thing.

By July or early August, he’ll run out of money and lose his car and apartment here, Frampton said. This week, supporters started a campaign to raise money to help him afford better food in prison, where he’s living in the same room with 79 other prisoners, and perhaps eventually hire a private attorney to replace his court-appointed ones.

UNC mathematics professor Mark Williams is leading the effort, though he said in an interview that that he barely knew Frampton. He felt compelled to help, he said, after months went by and no one else seemed to be stepping forward.

A few weeks ago, he and other friends organized a campaign to reach people who knew Frampton and have them write letters to Argentine authorities via Frampton’s attorneys attesting to his good character.
At last count, Frampton said, more than 40 people, many from the international physics community, had sent letters in his support.

Williams said he had communicated with at least 20 people who knew Frampton, and none believed the scientist was guilty of intentionally trying to smuggle drugs.

“Even people who aren’t particularly friendly towards him or who don’t want to help believe he’s innocent,” Williams said.

**A similar case**

Even if he is innocent of intentionally trying to smuggle drugs, he could be stuck in prison quite a while, if two recent cocaine smuggling cases there are any indication.

In one, an English woman who admitted her guilt jumped bail, and British authorities have refused to extradite her, saying she wouldn’t be treated properly.

That could hurt Frampton’s attempts to be released while he awaits trial. Despite formal offers of teaching positions with universities there, and the offer of a free apartment by a supporter, a three-judge panel recently denied Frampton’s request to be released until trial.

Worse still, a 55-year-old New Zealand woman who told the judge in her trial that she been duped into visiting by man she met on the Internet and then unwittingly given luggage with drugs hidden inside was convicted in March, even though the judge said he believed her story, according to published reports.

By that standard, said Glashow, the Nobel laureate, Frampton may be guilty, but it’s not even faintly possible that he would knowingly get involved in drugs, either for profit or personal use.

“He doesn’t even drink, except perhaps wine with dinner, and he’s concerned about his health and goes to a gym,” Glashow said. “He is completely dedicated to his research and his students, and for the moment, since his divorce, to chasing girls.”

His ex-wife said she’s particularly worried about what will happen if he is convicted and put among a tougher population of hardened criminals.

In an interview Monday, Frampton said that he remained upbeat about his chances of returning to teach by fall.
In regular calls, though, Anne-Marie Frampton said that she detects a deterioration in his confidence. “I think he has started to realize the gravity of his situation,” she said.

**Fears of prison**

His supporters conceded that Frampton is in some ways an unsympathetic figure. He is an unusually prolific scientist, and has written hundreds of research papers, many of them important. But he has a penchant for boasting about his academic accomplishments, and has an annoying habit of frequently tallying other scientists’ research output and comparing it unfavorably with his own.

But his supporters say that none of that, nor the unseemly behavior with young women on the Internet or the unknowing connection to drug smuggling, warrants the university dropping his pay, let alone the potential of years in a prison that could turn into a death sentence for a man who is nearly 70 years old and has high blood pressure and an impaired sense of how the world really works.

“OK, he was a lonely guy, he was interested in a woman, and he made a lot of stupid decisions,” Williams said. “But he doesn’t deserve to sit in an Argentine prison for years because of it.”

Price: 919-829-4526
Man accused of breaking sprinkler system at NCCU

By Amanda James

DURHAM—Police arrested a 21-year-old man Saturday and accused him of vandalizing the sprinkler system at N.C. Central University, causing hundreds of thousands of dollars of damage, after he was denied entrance to an SAT test.

Kenneth Drake, of 3805 Fig Leaf Court in Greensboro, was scheduled to take the SAT on Saturday but was turned away because he didn’t have proper identification, said Ayana Hernandez, a spokeswoman for NCCU.

As an act of retaliation, Drake broke a sprinkler head sending water through the first and second floors of the Mary Townes Science Complex, Hernandez said. Faculty offices, computers, and flooring were damaged.

A few of the classes meeting for summer school in the building have been relocated to other buildings, according to Hernandez. She said the damage was contained to part of the building, so some classrooms and offices that were not affected are still being used.

Drake was charged with a false fire alarm, injury to real property, and injury to a building. When he was arrested, police discovered that he had outstanding warrants for previous incidents in Greensboro, including attempt to break and enter a motor vehicle, according to the Durham County jail.

Drake is being held in the Durham County jail in lieu of $100,000 bail.

*Staff writer Sarah Mansur contributed to this report.*

*James: 919-829-4870*
Commencement at Craven Community College in New Bern, N.C. A new report stresses the importance of post-secondary certificates earned at community colleges. (Byron Holland — AP Photo/New Bern Sun Journal)

Are certificates the future of higher education?

By Daniel de Vise

Certificates, not degrees, are the future of higher education, a Georgetown researcher contends in a new study. Certificates are a relatively new and increasingly popular postsecondary credential, awarded typically by a community college or for-profit college for training in a particular occupation. Most certificates take less than a year to complete, although some “long-term” certificate programs can take as long as four years.

Since 1980, certificates have grown from 6 percent to 22 percent of all postsecondary awards, making them the fastest-growing credential, according to a new report from the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce. It is titled “Certificates: Gateway to Gainful Employment and College Degrees.”
Lead author Anthony Carnevale says certificates could be the key to delivering American higher education from its current college-attainment slump.

Certificates are a “stepping stone” to a degree, the report states, in that 20 percent of certificate holders go on to get two-year associate degrees and another 13 percent eventually earn bachelor degrees.

Many surveys of college attainment don’t count certificates. The authors estimate that if even the most economically valuable certificates were properly counted, the nation’s college attainment rate would rise from 41 percent to 46 percent.

“At a time when 36 million American workers who attended college did not complete a degree, certificates are piecemeal, attainable, bite-sized educational awards that can add substantially to postsecondary completion,” the report states.

The authors reason that this increase would theoretically lift the nation to 10th in international standing for college attainment, from 15th currently. The international survey, by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, includes degrees but not certificates.

In a recent article, I wrote that our rank in attainment had dipped from 12th to 16th, based on the current figure of 41 percent attainment. (Our analysis was based on a slightly larger group of nations than the Georgetown researchers considered.)

Carnevale contends certificates should factor into President Obama’s goal of regaining the world lead in attainment. Indeed, the president’s American Graduation Initiative focuses heavily on community colleges and professional training.

Certificate holders earn more in some fields than people with bachelor’s degrees in less-well-paying fields. Carnevale’s research focuses heavily on the notion that the American job market increasingly rewards field of study rather than level of degree. In other words: It’s more important what you study than how long you study.
(Chris Walker, Chicago Tribune) Sho Yano, left, and Dr. Darrel J. Waggoner, an associate professor of human genetics and pediatrics, look over a newborn patient at Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago. Yano already has a Ph.D. and this week will receive his medical degree.

**Paging Doogie Howser: 21-Year-Old Prodigy to Graduate from Medical School**

This 21-year-old makes virtually everyone else look like a slacker.

By Heba Hasan

While the rest of us were eating paste and building model volcanoes for elementary school science fairs, Sho Yano was on his way to becoming a doctor. The 21-year-old prodigy began college before he turned 10 and enrolled in University of Chicago’s Pritzker School of Medicine at age 12. He will graduate this week with an M.D. as well as a Ph.D. in molecular genetics and cell biology. He is the youngest student to receive an M.D. in the university’s history, according to the Chicago Tribune.

To say that Yano was an early bloomer is a bit of an understatement. He began reading at age 2, writing at age 3 and composing music at age 5. He entered Loyola University in Chicago at age 9 and graduated summa cum laude in three years. And science isn’t Yano’s only talent: he is also a black belt in tae kwon do and accomplished pianist.
But despite his obvious genius (at age 4 Yano’s IQ was too high to accurately measure), getting into medical school wasn’t easy. Many institutions automatically rejected him, worried that he wouldn’t be mature enough to handle the course load and that the program would rob Yano of a normal adolescence.

“I never understood that,” Yano told the Tribune. “Why would being allowed to challenge yourself be considered more damaging than being totally bored?”

It seems like the “genius gene” runs in his family. His sister Sayuri, 15, is also a child prodigy. She is currently pursuing a second bachelor’s degree in violin performance at John Hopkins University and is Yano’s closest confidant.

While Yano was teased at college because of his age, students at Pritzker, where he was accepted in 2003, have accepted him as part of their class. Classmates call Yano “sweet” and “humble” and describe him as loving to quote Greek literature.

After graduation, he will spend the next five years doing residency in pediatric neurobiology. Despite all that he has accomplished Yano remains modest.

“I’d love to make a great contribution,” he told the Tribune. “We’ll just have to see where life takes me, but really, I haven’t done anything yet.”
**Los Angeles Times**

“We are here to show you that there are options beyond the golden fence,” Gary Bednorz, a University of New Mexico recruiter, told students at the Mayfair High School college fair in Lakewood. (Luis Sinco, Los Angeles Times / May 23, 2012)

**Out-of-state colleges entice Californians**

As budget cuts plague the UC and Cal State systems, colleges in nearby states put more effort into attracting students from California.

By Stephen Ceasar, Los Angeles Times
June 4, 2012

Their pitches were simple and tailored to the audience.

Come to my college, the out-of-state recruiters recently told high school students in Lakewood, and you will be taught in small classes and you'll graduate in four years. We'll even throw in a few thousand dollars just for being from California. And at one school, you won't even be far from an In-N-Out Burger.

Their attempt at wooing California high schoolers was a not-so-subtle move in a state whose public universities have been hit with severe budget cuts — $1.6 billion in 10 years — leading to tuition hikes, enrollment caps and fewer courses.

Meanwhile, nearby out-of-state colleges have reaped the benefits.

Neighboring states have seen an influx of California students enrolling in
their universities, and colleges have significantly bolstered their recruiting efforts in the state. By enrolling Californians, not only do these schools receive non-resident tuition, they increase the diversity of their campuses as well.

Some schools have doubled the number of Californians in their freshman classes. Washington State University enrolled 132 freshmen from California in 2011, twice as many as the year before. The University of Arizona and Arizona State University each have boasted freshman classes with more than 1,000 Californians in recent years.

The University of Oregon, which enrolled about 500 California freshmen five years ago, has also seen that figure balloon to more than 1,000 in 2011. The university's increased presence in the Golden State, paired with the wandering eyes of frustrated parents and students, has led to a boon for the school, said Roger Thompson, vice provost of enrollment management.

"The gold rush is on, and in this case the gold rush is for college-going students," he said. "We've got a pioneer spirit at the University of Oregon."

At the Mayfair High School college fair, students listened to presentations from the out-of-state colleges, ranging from large state schools like Oregon State to small, private liberal arts colleges like High Point University in North Carolina. All the recruiters are based in California, and the membership of their organization, the Regional Admission Counselors of California, has tripled in size in the last three years.

"We are here to show you that there are options beyond the golden fence," said Gary Bednorz, a University of New Mexico recruiter.

The recruiter from Maryville University, a private school in St. Louis, touted the $5,000 scholarship automatically granted to Californians. The University of Arizona recruiter mentioned that Los Angeles is only an hour's flight away, and the recruiter from Southern Methodist University in Dallas mentioned the In-N-Out Burger a mile from campus, which drew "ooohs" from the students.

"You need money?… We'll show you the dough at New Mexico!" Bednorz said, to giggles from the students. Patrick Vidican, a 16-year-old sophomore, blurted out "Yes!"
The difference between the recruiter's pitch and what he has heard from his home state was not lost on Patrick. He's kept up on the rising tuition and enrollment limitations at state schools and is seriously considering leaving California for college.

"If all these out-of-state colleges are looking for me and want me to go to their college, and the California colleges are just like, 'eh' — they don't really care — I would rather go to the ones that really want me, that will pay me to go to their college," he said.

Kendall Williams, a senior at Mayfair, had his heart set on attending Cal Poly San Luis Obispo next fall. He and nearly 37,000 others applied.

With good grades and an interest in science, the school seemed to be a perfect fit. He was rejected. Just 11,533 made the cut. "I was really shocked," he said. "I really didn't think I wouldn't get accepted."

He soon began receiving emails from Northern Arizona University, asking him to apply. His friends encouraged him look at Arizona State University as well.

Quickly accepted to both, he visited the campuses with his family. He chose Northern Arizona on the spot.

"It's a small campus and the professors are a lot more personal with their students," Kendall said. "And it's not too much more expensive than California schools."

By taking advantage of a program called Western Undergraduate Exchange that gives students from select states lower out-of-state tuition — which will remain the same all four years — as well as scholarship money and lower housing costs, the price tag will be comparable to attending a Cal State and cheaper than attending a University of California school, said Christina Williams, his mother and a teacher at Mayfair.

The UC system has begun boosting controversial efforts to enroll more out-of-state and international students to help bridge budget gaps caused by funding cuts, displacing some would-be students from the state. UC offered fall entrance to 43% more out-of-state and international freshmen than last
year. This year, the share of freshmen from outside California was 12.3%; UC expects that number to rise.

The Cal State system may have to freeze enrollment at some campuses in spring 2013 and put applicants on wait lists for the following fall if a tax measure on the November ballot fails and the system faces more cuts.

A recent study by the Public Policy Institute of California found that the share of the state's high school graduates enrolling in UC and Cal State schools dropped by one-fifth — from about 22% in 2007 to less than 18% in 2010. The report also found that the number of Californians leaving the state for college was increasing.

Thompson, of the University of Oregon, said that his school does not poach these students, but rather that the troubles in California encourage families to consider out-of-state options. Once they learn about his university, he said, it sells itself.

"We may get some students who take a look because they're concerned about things happening in California," he said. "When they take a look, they find that Eugene is a quintessential college town, that students graduate in four years, that we help parents control costs, and they find that class sizes are smaller."

The beneficiaries of this trend, both those who leave the state and those who come in, are students with families who can foot the bill, said Patrick Callan, president of the nonprofit Higher Education Policy Institute in San Jose. "It creates even more advantages for students who have money," he said.

One of the goals of the California Master Plan for Higher Education, adopted in 1960, was to signal to California students that if they got good grades and scored well on tests, they would be able to enroll in one of the state's public universities, Callan said.

"Now we're saying, if you do all that and the economy is doing well and we're getting money — then we might have a space," he said. "That's a different message."

Williams wasn't thrilled about her son leaving the state, but after mulling over the troubles in California, Arizona didn't seem so far away.
"I would have liked him to stay in state," she said. "But he's only a seven-hour drive away, and the Amtrak goes right into Flagstaff. This is a good alternative for us."