THE DAILY CLIPS

June 9, 2010

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

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The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
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Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
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Time

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252-328-6481
Richardson hearing postponed
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, June 8, 2010

An administrative hearing was postponed Tuesday for a man facing the death penalty in the June 30 shooting of two people outside a downtown nightclub.
The hearing for James Earl Richardson was postponed until Aug. 3 because Richardson intends to retain a new attorney and dismiss his present attorneys, Thomas J. Moore and Damian L. Tucker of Rocky Mount, Assistant District Attorney Kimberly Robb told Superior Court Judge Russell Duke.
No reason was given for Richardson’s decision during proceedings at the Pitt County Detention Center courtroom. Moore and Tucker were not available for comment after the announcement. Richardson is accused of shooting and killing Andrew Kirby and Landon Blackley outside The Other Place nightclub on Fifth Street after Richardson was reportedly expelled from the club.
The incident is said to have followed a confrontation with club security personnel.
Charges were filed a day after the shooting, and Richardson surrendered to police July 4.
A standout athlete at J.H. Rose High School, Richardson went on to play minor league basketball in the U.S. and Europe. He was indicted Sept. 14 by a grand jury and has maintained his innocence since.
District Attorney Clark Everett announced at a December hearing that he intends to seek the death penalty if Richardson is found guilty of murder, based on aggravating factors he believes warrant capital punishment. He was being held on $5 million bond at Central Prison in Raleigh.
UNC bleeds faculty talent

The budget crisis means the school can't repel raids from richer universities.

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL -- With UNC-Chapel Hill hamstrung by budget constraints, more professors are leaving for higher pay elsewhere, often taking research projects or established programs with them.

The school has lost 53 of 77 faculty members recruited by universities during the last academic year, a retention rate of about 30 percent. Most years, it wins 55 percent to 60 percent of its recruiting battles by boosting pay or adding resources such as a coveted piece of lab equipment.

The losses are a gut shot for one of the nation's top public institutions, where leaders take pride in recruiting and retaining faculty members who might otherwise end up at elite private institutions. But this year, deep-pocketed elites such as Yale and Cornell are having their pick of Chapel Hill faculty.

And it's not just the Ivies. Michigan and Virginia have also lured faculty from Chapel Hill this year. Arizona State, a public university nowhere near Carolina's equal if you go

BY THE NUMBERS

53
UNC faculty members recruited away this year

30%
Success rate retaining faculty

$85,000
Yasmin Saikia's salary as a UNC associate professor in history

$150,000
Saikia's new salary as an Arizona State full professor

$175 million
Cuts to system proposed in House budget

Coach K's pay: Mike Krzyzewski earns $4 million from Duke. » 1C

by magazine rankings, has taken the university's sole South Asian history professor.

"It's a thorny problem," said UNC-CH Provost Bruce Carney, the school's chief academic officer. "We can rarely meet the offer. And these are among

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the best people. These are the people you don’t want to lose.”

At N.C. State, budget constraints haven’t yet resulted in a faculty exodus, said Warwick Arden, NCSU’s provost. But deep cuts last year in resources and support staff have led faculty to shoulder a greater teaching burden, and Arden thinks many are watching this summer’s state budget deliberations closely.

Both the state House and Senate have recommended significant cuts to public higher education this year, with the House plan most severe. If adopted, it would cut $175 million from the UNC system’s budget and force the elimination of an estimated 1,700 faculty and staff positions, UNC system officials have said. Last year, the UNC system eliminated more than 900 positions across the university system, including hundreds at NCSU and UNC-CH.

“Folks are very sensitive to it,” Arden said. “There’s no doubt we’re making it more difficult for folks to get their work done. I think if things get worse in the next six months, we may see more faculty losses.”

UNC-CH spends about $1 million a year boosting pay for faculty it persuades to stay. Doing so can be tricky since state employees can’t get paid raises now. And under state guidelines, universities can’t increase a salary with privately donated money unless it is specifically to counter a formal job offer from another university.

**Why they leave**

Yasmin Saikia came to UNC-CH a decade ago to start a South Asia history program. She was told the department would grow, but 10 years later she’s still the only faculty member in that discipline. So when Arizona State offered her a promotion to full professor, a $25,000-a-year research fund and nearly doubled her pay — to $150,000 a year — she didn’t find a reason to stay. UNC, where she was earning $85,000, offered a $10,000 raise and a $5,000 research fund.

“The money thing is honestly secondary, because I have a life, a house, friends here, and you can’t put a price tag on that,” said Saikia, 45, an associate professor. “But it was about what they were willing to do to keep me. It didn’t even compare.”

Saikia was one of four international history scholars to leave UNC’s history department, which has tried in recent years to beef up its global offerings.

**The system and the budget**

The state House and Senate each recommend deep cuts to the UNC system, with the House budget plan by far the harsher.

It recommends the system reduce its spending next year by $175 million. That’s on top of a $50 million planned cut approved a year ago. Taken together, that’s about $225 million in cuts, which UNC President Erskine Bowles has said would result in the loss of 1,700 positions.

Half of those would be faculty positions. Bowles has said. They wouldn’t all be filled positions, however. Universities routinely hold vacancies open to provide a cushion.

Though UNC provided the department the resources to try to retain those scholars, they each left for universities with stellar history programs in their respective disciplines, said Fitz Brundage, the interim chair of UNC’s history department. With four new vacancies, the department will be lucky to make two new hires next year under budget constraints, Brundage said.

“We’re trying to build up our [global] strength and don’t have the standing yet,” he said. “We’re running in place.”

Taxpayers account for just 20 percent to 25 percent of the total budgets at state universities in North Carolina.

**Private money fills in**

One way Carolina has found to combat raids is through private fundraising. For current faculty, the private money can be used only on counteroffers, but it can give the university an edge with new hires. That’s the thought behind a recent $5 million gift from the William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust that, along with a $500,000 gift from an anonymous donor, will let UNC-CH hire 18 new junior faculty members.

It would be tough for any new hire to fill the void Etta Pisano is about to leave at UNC’s medical school. The noted breast cancer researcher, at Carolina since 1989, is leaving to become dean of the medical school at the Medical University of South Carolina. Pisano sensed she’d hit a ceiling at UNC-CH, and the South Carolina position was inviting. Campus officials knew they couldn’t keep her, Carney said.

“I’ve been very happy here for all these years,” said Pisano, 52. “It was just the normal career path.”

Her departure will be a big blow. Pisano has pioneered the use of digital mammography to detect breast cancer in younger women. Her work led to her entry, earlier this year, into the prestigious Institute of Medicine. She’s taking three Chapel Hill colleagues with her, and plans to do research even while leading the Charleston-based medical school. If her research leads to more innovation in breast cancer detection, UNC-CH won’t benefit.

“I’m definitely taking projects with me to South Carolina that would have happened here,” she said.

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*From Page One*
Further budget cuts will likely mean reduced offerings at UNCW, CFCC

By Andrew Dunn
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Published: Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 5:23 p.m.

Students at UNC Wilmington and Cape Fear Community College are likely to find fewer classes and fewer instructors when they return to campus this fall.

Both schools are bracing for another rough year financially as the state legislature puts together its final budget plan.

This week, leaders of the state Senate and House of Representatives are meeting to begin cobbled together a compromise proposal. The state House passed its version of the budget last week, with the Senate version passed May 20.

Both plans call for significant cuts to the state's university and community college systems.

The University of North Carolina system was already slated for a $100 million cut based on last year's budget, but both the House and Senate plans call for more cuts.

The House plan would mandate another $129 million in cuts across the system, while the Senate plan cuts $50 million.

Splitting the difference, UNCW is preparing for a 5 percent, or about $5 million, permanent cut to its budget, said Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Charlie Maimone.

"We spent a lot of time really squeezing our operations," he said. "We just don't have that much room. We've made so many cuts already."

After two years of personnel cuts being confined to staff positions, Maimone said the school was preparing to eliminate 24 faculty positions - which likely will fall heaviest upon graduate assistants - and nearly 200 class sections.

Last year, about 95 staff positions were cut, including more than 30 administrators, and travel and supply budgets were slashed.

This year's budget cuts also would pose a problem for new building openings and financial aid, Maimone said. No money was provided to open the new nursing school building and oyster hatchery, so that mean another cut elsewhere, he said.

The budget might also make it more difficult to fully pay for financial aid, he said.

One relatively bright spot, though, is tuition. The state had originally planned to mandate a $200 increase to all students, with the proceeds going to the state's general fund.

Both House and Senate budget plans repeal that mandate. UNCW would now have its approved 2 percent tuition increase - $52 for in-state undergraduates - return to campus. That adds up to about $1 million, Maimone said.

UNC system leaders are hoping the final budget more closely resembles the Senate plan.
The House plan for the UNC system was sharply criticized by system President Erskine Bowles in a statement Friday. He said the plan would require the elimination of 1,700 jobs across the system and leave many students without financial aid.

"It takes generations to build a great university," Bowles said in the statement. "Unfortunately, a great university can also be destroyed virtually overnight if not properly sustained."

‘Noses above water’

Cape Fear Community College is expecting another year of large class sizes, vacant teaching positions and hundreds of hopeful students turned away — mirroring the dual problems facing the system at large: unprecedented enrollment growth and budget cuts.

"While the budget doesn’t solve our biggest problems, it at least keeps our noses above water," said Scott Ralls, president of the N.C. Community College System.

Both the House and the Senate proposals offer the system $85 million for enrollment growth, which Ralls and CFCC President Eric McKeithan called a huge help. But that money pays for the growth experienced last year, and will effectively keep the schools in the same financial position.

Both proposals also call for a systemwide budget cut. The Senate plan is $13.5 million, and the House plan is $22.75 million. These cuts will be distributed among the schools based on the number of students each has. CFCC is the fifth-largest community college in the state, with more than 26,000 students.

McKeithan said he expects a 3 percent to 5 percent cut — from $1 million to $1.7 million. That will mean larger classes, fewer instructors to alleviate overcrowding and less equipment for the classrooms.

That can translate into a lower-quality education, he said.

"If you’re teaching somebody to drive a truck, you can’t put three people behind the steering wheel," he said. "You don’t want a nurse working on you who has just seen pictures in a book."

Students will also likely be paying more tuition.

The Senate plan calls for a $5-per-credit-hour increase for in-state students, which comes out to $160 per year for full-time students. The House plan is an $8-per-hour increase, or $256 per year.

"Many students have been driven to us by the recession," McKeithan said. "These are kind of stiff."

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Greczyn gets spot on bank’s board

Robert Greczyn, the recently retired CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, has been named to the board of directors of Raleigh-based TrustAtlantic Bank.

"Since my retirement, I have been researching roles where I might continue my professional development and utilize the business experience I’ve gained," Greczyn said in a statement.

TrustAtlantic was formed in 2007 when it raised $40.3 million from investors, the second-largest amount by a new Triangle bank. Today it has two offices in Raleigh, one in Cary and one in Greenville.

Greczyn, 58, led the state's largest health insurer for more than a decade before retiring Feb. 1. During his tenure, Blue Cross expanded to 3.7 million members, up from 1.9 million at the end of 1999.

Staff writer David Ranii
Daring to Discuss Women in Science

By JOHN TIERNEY

The House of Representatives has passed what I like to think of as Larry’s Law. The official title of this legislation is “Fulfilling the potential of women in academic science and engineering,” but nothing did more to empower its advocates than the controversy over a speech by Lawrence H. Summers when he was president of Harvard.

This proposed law, if passed by the Senate, would require the White House science adviser to oversee regular “workshops to enhance gender equity.” At the workshops, to be attended by researchers who receive federal money and by the heads of science and engineering departments at universities, participants would be given before-and-after “attitudinal surveys” and would take part in “interactive discussions or other activities that increase the awareness of the existence of gender bias.”

I’m all in favor of women fulfilling their potential in science, but I feel compelled, at the risk of being shipped off to one of these workshops, to ask a couple of questions:

1) Would it be safe during the “interactive discussions” for someone to mention the new evidence supporting Dr. Summers’s controversial hypothesis about differences in the sexes’ aptitude for math and science?

2) How could these workshops reconcile the “existence of gender bias” with careful studies that show that female scientists fare as well as, if not better than, their male counterparts in receiving academic promotions and research grants?

Each of these questions is complicated enough to warrant a column, so I’ll take them one at a time, starting this week with the issue of sex differences.

When Dr. Summers raised the issue to fellow economists and other researchers at a conference in 2005, his hypothesis was caricatured in the press as a revival of the old notion that “girls can’t do math.” But Dr. Summers said no such thing. He acknowledged that there
were many talented female scientists and discussed ways to eliminate the social barriers they faced.

Yet even if all these social factors were eliminated, he hypothesized, the science faculty composition at an elite school like Harvard might still be skewed by a biological factor: the greater variability observed among men in intelligence test scores and various traits. Men and women might, on average, have equal mathematical ability, but there could still be disproportionately more men with very low or very high scores.

These extremes often don’t matter much because relatively few people are involved, leaving the bulk of men and women clustered around the middle. But a tenured physicist at a leading university, Dr. Summers suggested, might well need skills and traits found in only one person in 10,000: the top 0.01 percent of the population, a tiny group that would presumably include more men because it’s at the extreme right tail of the distribution curve.

“I would like nothing better than to be proved wrong,” Dr. Summers told the economists, expressing the hope that gender imbalances could be rectified simply by eliminating social barriers. But he added, “My guess is that there are some very deep forces here that are going to be with us for a long time.”

Dr. Summers was pilloried for even suggesting the idea, and the critics took up his challenge to refute the hypothesis. Some have claimed he was proved wrong by recent reports of girls closing the gender gap on math scores in the United States and other countries. But even if those reports (which have been disputed) are accurate, they involve closing the gap only for average math scores—not for the extreme scores that Dr. Summers was discussing.

Some scientists and advocates for gender equity have argued that the remaining gender gap in extreme scores is rapidly shrinking and will disappear. It was called “largely an artifact of changeable sociocultural factors” last year by two researchers at the University of Wisconsin, Janet S. Hyde and Janet E. Mertz. They noted evidence of the gap narrowing and concluded, “Thus, there is every reason to believe that it will continue to narrow in the future.”

But some of the evidence for the disappearing gender gap involved standardized tests that aren’t sufficiently difficult to make fine distinctions among the brighter students. These tests, like the annual ones required in American public schools, are limited by what’s called the ceiling effect: If you’re measuring people in a room with a six-foot ceiling, you can’t distinguish among the ones taller than six feet.

Now a team of psychologists at Duke University has looked at the results of tests with more headroom. In an article in a forthcoming issue of the journal Intelligence, they analyze the test
scores of students in the United States who took college admissions tests while they were still in the seventh grade. As part of an annual talent search since 1981, the SAT and ACT tests have been given to more than 1.6 million gifted seventh graders, with roughly equal numbers of boys and girls participating.

The Duke researchers — Jonathan Wai, Megan Cacchio, Martha Putallaz and Matthew C. Makel — focused on the extreme right tail of the distribution curve: people ranking in the top 0.01 percent of the general population, which for a seventh grader means scoring above 700 on the SAT math test. In the early 1980s, there were 13 boys for every girl in that group, but by 1991 the gender gap had narrowed to four to one, presumably because of sociocultural factors like encouragement and instruction in math offered to girls.

Since then, however, the math gender gap hasn’t narrowed, despite the continuing programs to encourage girls. The Duke researchers report that there are still four boys for every girl at the extreme right tail of the scores for the SAT math test. The boy-girl ratio has also remained fairly constant, at about three to one, at the right tail of the ACT tests of both math and science reasoning. Among the 19 students who got a perfect score on the ACT science test in the past two decades, 18 were boys.

Meanwhile, the seventh-grade girls outnumbered the boys at the right tail of tests measuring verbal reasoning and writing ability. The Duke researchers report in Intelligence, “Our data clearly show that there are sex differences in cognitive abilities in the extreme right tail, with some favoring males and some favoring females.”

The researchers say it’s impossible to predict how long these math and science gender gaps will last. But given the gaps’ stability for two decades, the researchers conclude, “Thus, sex differences in abilities in the extreme right tail should not be dismissed as no longer part of the explanation for the dearth of women in math-intensive fields of science.”

Other studies have shown that these differences in extreme test scores correlate with later achievements in science and academia. Even when you consider only members of an elite group like the top percentile of the seventh graders on the SAT math test, someone at the 99.9 level is more likely than someone at the 99.1 level to get a doctorate in science or to win tenure at a top university.

Of course, a high score on a test is hardly the only factor important for a successful career in science, and no one claims that the right-tail disparity is the sole reason for the relatively low number of female professors in math-oriented sciences. There are other potentially more important explanations, both biological and cultural, including possible social bias against women.
But before we accept Congress’s proclamation of bias, before we start re-educating scientists at workshops, it’s worth taking a hard look at the evidence of bias against female scientists. That will be the subject of another column.
College tuition discounts draw in students for summer

By Laura Bruno, USA TODAY
Jenna LaPlace saved $1,560 by not heading home after finals last month.
She's sticking around Hiram College's Ohio campus for a summer course in animal physiology at
the bargain price of $1,083 for the three-credit course. That's 40% cheaper than the traditional
school-year rate.
"It's so inexpensive to take the class, I'm actually able to pay for it out of pocket," says the 20-
year-old Bainbridge, Ohio, native, a sophomore at the small liberal arts college.

Competition arises
At least a dozen private and public colleges seeking to fill quiet summer campuses and bring in
additional revenue are making undergraduates — and in some cases high school students —
offers that are too good to pass up. In addition, as families look for recession-sensitive price tags,
some private colleges are trying to stay competitive by offering one-year tuition freezes or four-
year tuition guarantees.
"Clearly, the economy is prompting colleges to think and act creatively to maintain student
enrollment," says Tony Pals of the National Association of Independent Colleges and
Universities.
Hiram is offering both summer discounts and a tuition freeze, on top of its tuition guarantee,
which keeps tuition stable all four years of a student's education. The Sage Colleges, with
campuses in Troy and Albany, N.Y., also is offering a one-time tuition guarantee for any new
undergraduates entering this fall.
"I have no worries," says Brianna Valesey, 18, of Wappingers Falls, N.Y., who will attend Sage
in September under a four-year tuition guarantee. "I won't have to worry the next couple years
that my parents can't afford it."
Offering one-year tuition freezes: Culver Stockton College in Missouri, Fresno Pacific University
in California, Minneapolis College of Art and Design and Southern New Hampshire University.
A competitive market for returning summer undergraduates has five New Jersey colleges vying
for the business with offers of free housing, 50% discounts and "buy one, get the second half-off"
deals.
"We're looking at what the competition is doing and charging accordingly," says David Muha,
spokesman for Drew University in Madison, N.J.

Other perks abound
Drew is offering a 50% discount on its per-credit undergraduate tuition rate and a 70% break for
high school students who want a head start.
Rutgers University is offering $500 scholarships to 100 high-performing undergraduates with
financial need, which is more than half the $921 cost for a three-credit course. New Jersey's state
university is also giving an unlimited number of gifted high school students 20% summer tuition
scholarships.
Other colleges around the country are offering various summer deals as well — from 40% off
summer tuition at McKendree University in Lebanon, Ill., to 25% off first-level courses at
Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pa.
St. Peter's College and Centenary College, two New Jersey private colleges, saw how their
summer promotions made a difference last year.

Last summer, Jersey City-based St. Peter's offered the second course half off and was rewarded
with a 22% increase in summer enrollment. And after Hackettstown-based Centenary offered free
housing with the purchase of two courses, it saw enrollment nearly double.
"It was a no-brainer to do it again this year," says Terence Peavy, St. Peter's vice president for
enrollment.