THE DAILY CLIPS

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Nancy Jenkins brought considerable experience in public service and an intimate knowledge of this city to the mayor’s office when she was elected in 1989. Over the next 12 years, she helped oversee Greenville’s unprecedented growth and its emergence as the economic engine of eastern North Carolina.

Jenkins, who died Friday at age 75, retired from public life in 2001, departing with a laudable record of service that helped shape present-day Greenville and which should inspire future leaders of this community.

The call to public service is not an easy one to answer. Those who heed it submit themselves to the scrutiny of the voting public and lands squarely in the crosshairs of public opinion. That is never a easy or welcome place to be.

Jenkins accepted that responsibility and its related obligations for more than 20 years. Her work in education led her to seek a seat on the Greenville Board of Education in 1977, where she would later serve as chairwoman. In 1985, she won election to the Greenville City Council. After two terms, she sought the mayor’s seat in 1989, where she would serve for 12 years.

City residents during that time know quite well the tremendous changes that occurred on her watch. Greenville added more than 16,000 residents between 1990 and 2000, and the management of that growth occupied much of the council’s time and energy. That development would see the city become the hub of the East and one of the most important in the state.

Jenkins clearly enjoyed her role as mayor, relishing the opportunity to represent the city in that capacity. But it is a difficult role, one made clear during Hurricane Floyd in 1999, when the city was beset by disaster. Her performance in those dark hours spurred newly elected council members to strip her office of many duties that year and ushered in an era of division on that board.

Jenkins departed on her own terms in 2001, choosing not to seek re-election that year and ushering in a new era on the council. But the former mayor was justifiably honored as the Citizen of the Year in 2002 for her tireless service to this community.

It is a challenge to enter the public arena, but one that Nancy Jenkins willingly accepted. Her years of service and devotion to this community continue to serve as an inspiration, and will be remembered as her legacy.
Other Voices

Economic life after college

THE NEW YORK TIMES

Commencement is a time for idealism.

But economic reality is lurking everywhere, and new college graduates are vulnerable to ambush. They have been told repeatedly that a college degree is an open sesame to the global economy. But that's not necessarily so, according to new research by two economists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Frank Levy and Peter Temin.

It is true that people with college degrees make more money than people without degrees. The gap has narrowed somewhat in recent years, which is disturbing. But the earning power of college graduates still far outpaces that of less-educated workers.

The bad news, though, is that a college degree does not ensure a bigger share of the economic pie for many graduates. In recent decades, Levy and Temin show, only college-educated women have seen their compensation grow in line with economywide gains in productivity. The earnings of male college graduates have failed to keep pace with productivity gains.

Instead, an outsized share of productivity growth, which expands the nation's total income, is going to Americans at the top of the income scale. In 2005, the latest year with available data, the top 1 percent of Americans — whose average annual income was $1.1 million — took in 21.8 percent of the nation's income, their largest share since 1929.

Administration officials, and other politicians and economists, often assert that income inequality reflects an education gap. But Levy and Temin show that in the case of men, the average bachelor's degree is not sufficient to catch the rising tide of the global economy. They argue that the real reason inequality is worsening is the lack of strong policies and institutions that broadly distribute economic gains. In the past, for example, a more progressive income tax and unions fostered equality.
Duke expects bigger freshman class

BY JANE STANCILL STAFF WRITER

DURHAM — Duke University is planning for a larger freshman class than projected, because more prospective students accepted Duke’s offer of admission — one more sign that the university is moving beyond the lacrosse controversy.

The university’s yield — the percentage of students who took Duke’s offer of admission — inched up from about 41 percent last year to 42 percent this year, Duke officials said Monday. Duke had been aiming for a freshman class of 1,665 students, but the Class of 2011 is now expected to number between 1,687 and 1,710.

The higher yield was not unexpected. Last spring, applicants were making decisions about Duke in the midst of a national media blitz surrounding allegations by an escort service dancer that she had been gang-raped at a lacrosse team party. This year, applicants’ decisions were happening around the time that Attorney General Roy Cooper dropped charges in April, declaring three former players innocent.

Dean of Undergraduate Admissions Christoph Guttentag said the more favorable media coverage probably made a difference.

“I think it had an effect,” he said Monday. “It balanced what had been almost a full year of fairly relentless media coverage that changed its tone over time. It was certainly different than a year ago.”

In the past 11 years, Guttentag said, the yield was higher than 42 percent in seven years and lower than that in four years.

Duke received 19,206 applications for fall and admitted 21 percent — an admissions rate that Duke described as its lowest ever.

The new class is also the most diverse class in Duke’s history. A record 44 percent of the incoming class are students of color, including 500 Asian students, 105 Hispanic students and 156 African-American students. Ten years ago, students of color made up only 24 percent of the freshman class.

Last year, the university had 159 black students, a slightly higher number, but Guttentag said final totals may grow during the summer.

Months ago, Duke began an image makeover that included a cross-country tour by President Richard Brodhead, national surveys and new recruiting techniques. The effort apparently helped.

“This was not a normal year,” Guttentag said, “so I’m pleased with the results.”
Sandy Basnight, wife of senator, dies at 59

She ran family cafe, avoided spotlight

BY LYNN BONNER
STAFF WRITER

Sandy Tillet Basnight, 59, wife of Senate leader Marc Basnight of Manteo, died Sunday night after a long illness.
Basnight took a leave of absence from the Senate last week to be with her husband who was being treated at UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill.

Though married to one of the most powerful politicians in the state, Sandy Basnight maintained a low public profile. At her husband’s swearing-in ceremonies every two years, one of their daughters would hold the Bible.
She never tried to impress people by mentioning that her husband was the leader of the state Senate, said Sen. David Hoyle, a Gaston County Democrat who rooms with Basnight during legislative sessions.

“She was one of the most genuine people I’ve ever met in my life,” Hoyle said.

Democratic Sen. Clark Jenkins of Tarboro, one of Marc Basnight’s longtime friends, said Sandy Basnight encouraged her husband’s political work.

“She was very supportive of Marc,” Jenkins said. “Being right up there beside him all the time was just not her bag. She never wanted the spotlight.”

The Basnights were married in March 1968. Two daughters, Vicki, 38, and Caroline, 27, survive her.

While her husband ran a successful political operation from a corner office in the Legislative Building, Sandy Basnight ran the family business, the Lone Cedar Cafe along the Nag’s Head-Manteo causeway. The Basnight daughters and the senator worked there, too, but Marc Basnight referred to the business as “my wife’s restaurant.”

Her title as the restaurant’s chief financial manager masked the breadth of her duties, which included working in the kitchen, supplying recipes and decorating the restaurant with antiques.

The restaurant burned May 1. Reconstruction is under way.
Sandy Basnight was a loyal fan of Tar Heel basketball, attending games when she could. She also followed the New York Yankees.

ARRANGEMENTS
The family will receive relatives and friends today from 5 to 7 p.m. at their home at 381 Mother Vineyard Road in Manteo. The funeral service will be held at noon Wednesday at Bethany United Methodist Church, 101 Wharf Road, Wanchese.

SHARE MEMORIES
& Share your condolences or remembrances of Sandy Basnight at our guestbook. Go to newsobserver.com/politics.
When Dale Steele rolls out of bed each morning, he hoists a heavy load onto his 51-year-old back with a big grin.

Steele, a career assistant in his first college head coaching position, is reconstructing the Campbell football program, which hasn’t seen the sunlight since 1950.

A year into the job and more than a year before its first game, Steele’s mug has been the face of Campbell football.

Steele’s staff officially started work June 1. On June 2, the staff hosted the first big football gathering — A Day for the Camels: Touchdown 2008.

The fundraiser allowed Steele to push the bricks another few feet forward. Let him tell you how it’s going...

"It wasn't what [Campbell president Jerry M. Wallace] said but how he said it.

Steele was an assistant head coach at Elon when Campbell announced in April 2006 that it would reinstate the football program as a non-scholarship, Division I-AA sport.

Steele liked the idea of building a program from the ground up. Campbell athletics director Stan Williamson said Steele was a candidate from the start.

Steele, a 30-year coaching veteran, already had recruited in the state (East Carolina, Elon) and coached at a state high school (Northern Nash). He'd worked with Kansas State's Bill Snyder and Georgia's Mark Richt. He'd recruited in a big conference (Big 12) and worked at private schools (Elon, Baylor).

Wallace said Steele was a good match for a school that last played football as a junior college before the Korean War forced it to disband the sport.

Wallace, who joined the Campbell faculty in 1970, never let the idea of a return to the gridiron fade. In March 2006, the school completed a feasibility study that favored bringing football back.

"Every year I've been at Campbell, students say to me, 'When is football coming back?" Wallace said. "... We're moving into a new convocation center this winter. But the football program has inspired the biggest smiles I've seen at Campbell in all my years."

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"When I was a kid, maybe 5 or 6, my dad took me to see Auburn play. It was so exciting to be there. I'll never forget it." Steele thinks of that seminal moment when he tells his players how they, too, could create one for a local child.

Steele's dream took root because the Alabama native grew up around football. His father, Pete, played in college and coached in high school. His mother, Margaret, wanted to play. With her brother Tommy playing for the legendary Bear Bryant, she says cheerleading was a second choice.

Steele and brothers Kevin and Jeff were always at the field, dragging a medicine kit and water bottles as they chased Pete on the sidelines. As a player, Steele would follow sweaty practices with hours of drawing up and studying plays.

A perfectionist streak — he got it from his dad, Steele says — showed vividly in high school when Steele was playing for coach Jim King in Prattville, Ala. Noticing that their eldest son looked a little down, Steele’s parents asked King to speak to him.

After a long chat, King told the Steeles that nothing was wrong. "Dale just wants to be the best," he said. "It's a great trait. ... He'll be OK."

Building from scratch at Campbell suits Steele, said his brother Kevin, the defensive coordinator at Alabama. (Youngest brother Jeff is an assistant AD at Auburn).

"With an AD and president who have invested so much to make it go, you've got the ultimate support," Kevin Steele said. "No one has an inherent idea about how to do Campbell football the Campbell way. So everyone jumping on board is working to make it perfect. When you're a perfectionist like Dale, that's a great thing."

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"I didn't just want someone who wanted a job. I wanted someone who wanted a job here."

While hiring a staff, Steele first called the one man he knew would tell him when he was wrong without offending him — 30-year coaching veteran Lonnie Hansen.

With his consigliere in place, Steele thinks he has a staff that has embraced working at a private school. Tony Grantham (recruiting coordinator/linebackers),
Jerrick Hall (defensive line), Hansen (offensive line), Art Link (defensive coordinator/defensive backs), Landon Mariani (quarterbacks), Oscar Ołęniczak (wide receivers), and Penny Benjamin (graduate assistant).

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"I remember coaching in high school and having players who I thought could play somewhere but not being able to get anyone to look at him. Here, we'll look at him. We'll give him a shot."

Eighteen Campbell students already have signed up to play for Steele. Another 103 — all 121 will redshirt in 2007 — report for practice on August 19.

Signing 103 players for one class took some doing. Having never recruited more than two quarterbacks or five linemen in one shot, he and Hansen had to find six QBs and 18 offensive linemen just to start practice in August.

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"I had filled out forms to order equipment and had them all done when the guy I'm ordering from says, 'Coach, did you forget anything?' I say, 'No, not that I can think of.' He says, 'Do you think you might need some footballs?'"

Forgive the boo-boo. Building from scratch means just that.

To keep track of the details, Steele has filled two full-size notebooks — keeping a smaller one bedside in case inspiration hits at 3 a.m. — with lists on everything from details about the practice field to lists of alumni to call.

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"Do I feel responsible to the people of Harnett County? Yeah. This isn't about me. It's about the kids, the coaches, the university, the people... I want people to take ownership of this program. It isn't mine. It's theirs."

Steele, husband to high school sweetheart Pam and father to daughters Meghan and Kelsey, looks focused on this big job. But listen to him talk to Campbell operations manager Mike Collins about the new practice field or a professor about the program, and you can hear he's having a blast.

In 446 days, the Camels will run into a new $10 million football stadium to face Birmingham Southern in their first game.

Steele hopes that members of the last Campbell team, such as Bob Rouse, Red McDaniel, and 91-year-old former coach Earl Smith — will be there on Aug. 31, 2006, in a packed house. He wants the day to feel as joyous and as much like a big event as the one he witnessed when Elon opened its own new stadium in 2001.

Steele wants Campbell football fans to leave saying, "I was there."

Guiding the program to that spot has been a hard climb but Steele says he's blessed.

Why? He'll be there, too.