THE DAILY CLIPS

June 16, 2008

News, commentary, and opinion
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ECU to offer college credits for tech courses

By ECU News Bureau
Special to The Daily Reflector

A new partnership will focus on accelerating the preparation of students entering engineering and technology fields by eliminating high school and college classes with similar instruction.

East Carolina University's Department of Technology Systems has joined forces with the N.C. Department of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education in the initiative.

Prior to the agreement, students in North Carolina took courses like computer engineering technology while in high school. However, once in college they were required to enroll in courses with instructions and skills similar to the high school class.

"There was a level of academic redundancy that we believe could be avoided," said Phil Lunsford with the Department of Technology Systems. "This partnership with the Department of Public Instruction is a real win-win situation for the high schools, ECU and most of all, the students."

The program has the potential to affect a large number of high school students in the state. In 2006-2007, more than 8,300 N.C. high school students could have been eligible for this academic credit if it was available and they met the requirements.

The agreement allows for students to receive college credit at ECU if they complete all of the below requirements:
- 7991 CET I and 7992 CET II with a grade of "B" or higher
- Successfully complete the CompTIA A+ Certification
- Enroll in a Technology Systems Degree Program at ECU

The agreement was officially presented June 5 as a part of State Superintendent June

Atkinson's report to the board at the State Board of Education meeting. The agreement will be reviewed every two years for any necessary adjustments.

Brody to host summer camp

The Brody School of Medicine is hosting about 100 eastern North Carolina children with cancer, hemophilia and sickle-cell disease at summer camp this week.

Camp Rainbow, for children with cancer, hemophilia and chronic blood disorders, and Camp Hope, for children with sickle-cell disease, will be held through Saturday at the Don Lee Center on the Neuse River near Arapahoe.

The camps are being held simultaneously due to funding shortages.

The pediatric hematology/oncology staff at the medical school has developed these camps to provide children with a chance to learn more about themselves and their illness.

Children participate in traditional camp activities such as sailing, swimming, canoeing and crafts, and make new friends who share common experiences with cancer, hemophilia and sickle-cell disease in a medically monitored environment designed to meet their medical and psychosocial needs.

Approximately 100 campers are expected from the following cities: Beaufort, Chocowinity, Goldsboro, Greenville, Grifton, Havelock, Jacksonville, Kinston, La Grange, New Bern, Plymouth, Rocky Mount, Snow Hill, Washington, Wilson and Winterville.

Camps Rainbow and Hope were made possible this year by the Children's Miracle Network, the ECU Medical & See ECU, B3
ECU
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Health Sciences Foundation, the Optimist Club of Garner, Dr. Linda Willis and Calvenia "C.J." Moore, both of Rocky Mount, and individuals throughout North Carolina.

ECU to host Latino summit

A first-ever summit focusing on Latino issues will be held June 27 at ECU's Murphy Center.

The day-long summit includes a keynote address by ECU geography professor Rebecca Torres, who studies migration trends between Mexico and the U.S.

There also will be panel discussions focusing on the economic benefits of building Latino partnerships, and Latinos unifying with African Americans for social justice; and a presentation by Margarita Machado of the University of Texas, focusing on educational challenges for Latino students.

The conference is free but those interested in attending must register.

Contact summit organizer Juveocio Rocha Peralta at 258-9967 or 919-394-8218 or via e-mail at jrrocha@embarqmail.com to register.

LARRY DENNIS, left, chairman of the ECU Department of Physician Assistant Studies, presents student David Propst with an award from the American Academy of Physician Assistants Veteran's Caucus.

Student wins scholarship

David Propst, a physician assistant studies student at ECU, has received the American Academy of Physician Assistants Veteran's Caucus annual scholarship, which is valued at $1,250.

Eligibility for the award is based on student scholarship, service, need and the recommendation of Larry Dennis, chair of the physician assistant studies department. Propst is in his final year of the program and is doing clinical rotations.

Walker is fellow with ASHA

Marianna Walker, an associate professor of communication sciences and disorders, has been made a fellow of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

The status of fellow is retained for life and is one organization's highest honors. It recognizes professional or scientific achievement.

Fewer than one percent of the more than 130,000 members received the recognition.

Walker will ceremonially receive the honor at the annual meeting of the ASHA in November.
ECU partnership helps high school students earn credits

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University's Department of Technology Systems has joined forces with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Career and Technical Education in a partnership that will help accelerate the preparation of students entering the fields of engineering and technology by eliminating the redundancy of instruction in the fundamental skill of understanding the safe configuration, operation, and troubleshooting of personal computer components and systems.

Prior to the agreement, students in North Carolina took courses like Computer Engineering Technology (CET) while in high school. However, once in college they were required to enroll in courses which taught similar instruction as those in the CET classes.

The agreement allows for students to receive college credit at East Carolina University if they complete all of the below requirements: 7991 CET I and 7992 CET II with a grade of "B" or higher, successfully complete the CompTIA A+ Certification, and enroll in a Technology Systems degree program at ECU.

This has the potential to affect a large number of high school students in the state. In 2006-2007, more than 3,300 high school students in North Carolina could have been eligible for this academic credit if it was available and they met the requirements.

The agreement was officially presented as a part of State Superintendent Dr. June Atkinson's report to the board at the State Board of Education Meeting on June 5. This agreement will be reviewed every two years for any necessary adjustments.

Students earn scholarship

MOUNT OLIVE — Tiffany Fleming of Winterville and Rebecca Brooke Joyner of Fountain have been named to receive a $3,000 Leaders Scholarship at Mount Olive College. Both will enter Mount Olive College in the fall.

Fleming, daughter of Mary Ann and Johnny Fleming, is a senior at South Central High School and a member of Community Christian Church.

Joyner, daughter of Alan and Janet Joyner, is a senior at Wilson Christian Academy and a member of Free Union Original Free Will Baptist Church.

Leaders Scholarships are awarded to students based on acceptance, high school grade point average, SAT or ACT scores, and demonstrated leadership potential. The scholarship is renewable for up to four years provided the student is enrolled full-time and completes the components of the Leadership Program.

Fraternity celebrates anniversary

The Daily Reflector

The Epsilon Mu chapter of Pi Kappa Alpha Fraternity at East Carolina University recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its charter.

Dr. and Mrs. William Cox hosted a gathering for the event, and a dinner and dance were held at the Greenville Country Club. Pat Haynes of the fraternity's national headquarters in Memphis, Tenn., was the speaker.

Thirteen of the 34 charter members attended; six brothers were memorialized.
Community colleges’ failure

Winston-Salem Journal

It’s time to make North Carolina’s wisest investment affordable to those in whom we are investing.

Much is made of our many top-notch public universities and their first-rate, high-achieving students. It is hard to imagine a single other state in this country that has a public university system for which we would swap ours.

We can say much the same for our 58 community colleges. They are the envy of many other states, most of which are far more affluent than North Carolina.

The two systems, working in complementary fashion, prepare our work force and serve a major role in the recruitment of so much industry.

When it comes to the UNC system, there is a wealth of financial aid and other resources that make it possible for many low-income students to earn a bachelor’s degree and get working toward their American Dream. But that’s not so when it comes to the community colleges.

The N.C. Center for Public Policy Research says that the state’s educational and political leadership “put together haphazardly” the financial-aid programs that serve community college students. The result is a financial-aid plan that fails to serve their needs and most likely denies to many deserving people their shot at an education.

It is important to note that a financial-aid strategy designed for university students might be quite inappropriate to community college students. They are not the same demographic group.

The first thing legislators should do is read the center’s exhaustive report on the many technical problems that add up in the college system. Only 23 of the 58, for example, offer access to all of the federal government’s loan programs. Once they understand the problems, legislators should fix them, or demand that the colleges fix them.

Then the legislature should get rid of tuition for students seeking degrees and certificates, as was discussed in the recent gubernatorial primary campaign.

This century will require a highly trained work force, and North Carolina has the institutions to train our future workers.

We just have to help them pay for that training.
UNC governors tap first woman chair

CHAPEL HILL (AP) — The University of North Carolina Board of Governors has elected the first woman in its history to lead the university system board.

Hannah D. Gage is a retired Wilmington broadcast executive. She will start her two-year term on July 1.

The board said that government relations consultant Peter Hans of Raleigh was elected vice chairman and Roper Mayor Estelle "Bunny" Sanders was re-elected secretary. Gage is founder and the former owner of Cape Fear Broadcasting Co. She was first elected to the board in 2001. She is a native of Fayetteville and a 1975 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The Board of Governors makes policy for and oversees the 16-campus university system.
Fox has put UNC-CH back on top in baseball

BY ROGER VAN DER HORST
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — In the days before his baseball team left for the College World Series in Omaha, Neb., UNC-Chapel Hill head coach Mike Fox absorbed a rush of media attention typically experienced by big-name football and basketball coaches.

"I'm uncomfortable with it, for one," Fox said, sounding like a man who's being very careful what he wishes for.

Too late for that. Ten seasons into his UNC tenure, he has brought the program to a level of unprecedented success that strikes him as a bit unsettling. With every reminder of Carolina baseball's growth, he quickly recalls simpler pleasures and pains.

"First of all, I love practice. I like practices better than I like games," Fox said when asked to describe the coaching style with which he has guided the Tar Heels back to the college game's biggest stage for the third straight year. The Tar Heels will open series play tonight at 7 against Louisiana State.

"I relish that pressure," Fox said. "I like the competition, but probably not as much as I like just the solitude of a good practice, being out there hitting fungoes, throwing batting practice. It's the fastest three or four hours of your life."

But Fox can't escape that he has made Carolina baseball a bigger deal. In the six academic years before this one, both the annual cost of fielding the baseball team and the gap between expenses and revenue have more than doubled, according to figures provided by the athletic department. (Fox and Dick Baddour, the athletic director, say it's unrealistic to expect UNC baseball to break even or better.)

The latest indication of how seriously the university is taking baseball: a $25.5 million expansion project at Boshamer Stadium, an effort fueled in part by the fund-raising bump that followed the 2006 Series.

"I hear $25 million, and I can remember my first year at [N.C.] Wesleyan, and I was just trying to put a septic tank behind home plate so we could have a bathroom there," Fox said.

To the head coach, 52, it would be "extremely dangerous" to let this new, well-heeded reality affect how he sees himself.

"I mean, I'm just a college baseball

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coach," he said. "I'm not ... I just think you've got to be careful about putting you or your program up there on a level where they don't belong.

"I'm as concerned about why we're spending $25 million on a 4,000-seat baseball stadium — not 'concerned,' but if you look at it, I mean, it doesn't make sense. It really doesn't. I'm glad we're doing it, but it's not something I came in here and demanded."

A program in decline
Back then, North Carolina and Mike Fox were just happy to find one another again.
The idea of coaching had taken hold of Fox at the 1978 College World Series, when the former walk-on made the all-tournament team as UNC's starting second baseman. (Southern Cal won the championship.)

"I really felt, 'Wow, this is pretty cool, I'd like to maybe do that again,' and I knew the only way I was going to do it again was to coach," said Fox, the son of a sports-loving General Electric employee who helped him learn the game.

Aside from a summertime stint with the then-independent Birmingham (Ala.) Barons, "kind of a ragtag thing," Mike Fox knew he wasn't going to play professionally. "I wasn't very good," he said.

Two years at Millbrook High School in Raleigh as a coach and teacher convinced him that high school wasn't for him, and if not for the persistent urge to coach, he might have kept repossessing cars as a way up the GMAC ladder.

The opportunity to get back on the field came in 1983 at N.C. Wesleyan, where he built a Division III power and later served as athletic director. When he read about the Carolina job opening, he and his wife, Cheryl, looked at each other, "and I just kind of had this feeling in my stomach that maybe this is what was meant to be."

UNC's winningest coach ever, Mike Roberts, had decided to step down in 1998. The previous year, the Tar Heels had suffered their first losing season since 1975, and the players' passion for the program had waned. Associate head coach Chad Holbrook recalls:

"I think a lot of it was probably unfair, but the reputation we had from inside the program wasn't very good," said Holbrook, who worked for Roberts and was retained by Fox. "We had some kids getting in trouble. Our kids probably weren't performing in the classroom the way they should."

Greater expectations
Fox made clear that more would be expected of the players, starting with appearances.

"He wants us clean-shaven," said Kyle Seager, an infielder from Kannapolis. "He wants us to look the part. He wants us to act the part. He doesn't want any bad attitudes. He wants everything to be classy. That's the way he conducts his business, and he does it on and off the field."

Fox put the point another way: "that we're not these gym-shorts, tobacco-chewin' people that maybe sit in their office with their feet up on the chair and their socks. We look at ourselves as teachers and educators, that we can play an important role."

The UNC baseball team's academic progress rate ranks near the top of a sport that has been criticized for its poor classroom performance, according to the latest NCAA figures.

In the past few years, Fox has shown a willingness to lighten up. After the 2005 season, Holbrook says, the coaching staff started giving the players more ownership in how things were run.

"He's really become philosophical about his coaching and how he wants to treat his young men," said former N.C. Wesleyan assistant Billy Godwin, now East Carolina's head coach. "You hear people talk about some coaches being 'old-school.' I think we're all old-school, anybody over 40. What we have to do as coaches is change with the times, because the kids aren't the same, and Mike has done a good job of that.

Defining his mission — to maintain a stable program, based on a disciplined, organized and value-driven approach — remains as clear as ever for Mike Fox.

Defining himself proves more elusive.

"I don't know how to describe myself, I really don't," he said. "I don't know how others see me. I try to be calm. I try to stay intense, but you can't show your emotions as a coach. I probably do that a little too much.

"You've got to be the one they look to during a game that if things aren't going well ... who's going to get in the middle of the boat and keep it from tipping over? And I've got to be the first one to move toward the middle of the boat."

CHARLES MICHAEL FOX
BORN: April 16, 1956, in Asheville
FAMILY: Wife, Cheryl; 51, Wal-Mart pharmacist; son, Matthew, 21, UNC-Chapel Hill junior; daughter, Morgan, 18, East Chapel Hill High School (will attend UNC-Chapel Hill).


AS PLAYER FOR CAROLINA: Starting second baseman on 1978 team in College World Series; named to all-tournament team.

COACHING CAREER: 899-329-5 record in 24 seasons; 540-141-4 (.792 winning percentage), N.C. Wesleyan, 1983-98; 449-186-1 (.703), 1999 to present; leads nation with 162 wins over last three years; 2006 and '07 American Baseball Coaches Association Atlantic Region Coach of Year; 43 UNC players drafted since he became head coach.

SEE THE GAME
UNC-LSU: The Tar Heels play the Tigers at 7 p.m. today on ESPN.

MIKE FOX
ON HOW PLAYING IN THE 1978 COLLEGE WORLD SERIES TURNED HIM TOWARD COACHING
UNC may fill 'gap' on street

Foundation to buy University Square

BY JESSIE JAMES DECONTO
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL - University Square sometimes gets knocked for being one of Franklin Street's "missing teeth," a gap in the line of streetside shops that stretches from Henderson Street to Merritt Mill Road.

The six-story office complex just west of Columbia Street has its ground-floor retail: a late-night burger joint, a Chinese buffet, an eyeglass shop. But it's separated from the sidewalk by an asphalt parking lot and a short brick wall.

That may change, now that the UNC-Chapel Hill Foundation has announced a plan to purchase University Square and Granville Towers, with the express purpose of revitalizing Franklin Street.

Chancellor James Moeser said the university has no specific plans for the 12-acre site, other than possible parking decks at some date.

Moeser said university leaders will seek public comment. Chapel Hill Mayor Kevin Foy gave some after a news conference Friday afternoon.

"I don't think anything's off the table," Foy said. "But as a rule, up-to-the-sidewalk retail along Franklin Street is probably what would be preferable."

Foy pointed out that the property is directly across the street from 140 W. Franklin St., a municipal parking lot where the town and a private developer are planning an $80 million mixed-use project, including a public plaza.

Roger Perry, chairman of the foundation's board and a prominent local developer, said any major changes are several years off. The group must first gather public opinion and wait for current leases to expire. "Certainly, over time, this is a magnificent opportunity for some kind of redevelopment," Perry said.

The foundation, the university's fundraising arm that manages the endowment, plans to pay $45.75 million for the three Granville dormitory towers and University Square complex by July 1, 2009. Because the foundation is a private entity, the property will remain on Chapel Hill's tax rolls, to the tune of almost $870,000 a year.

"This will not become a property of the state," Moeser said. "That's how we can ensure we keep it in the tax base of the town."

Moeser said the private ownership will also make it easier for the university to partner with the town and private developers to rehabilitate the site.

"The vitality of Franklin Street and our downtown is critically important to our university," he said. "I think in all of our minds is a revitalized Franklin Street, including additional parking on Franklin Street, which is the most critical issue."

Once a school site

University Square and Granville Towers were developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s on the site of the former Chapel Hill High School. The late entrepreneur Frank Kenan, a major university benefactor, bought the complex in 1973.

US/CT, LLC, owned by the Kenan family trust, took ownership in 2001, a few years after Kenan's death. US/CT now will sell it to the university.

"That was always Frank Kenan's wish for this property,"
Woman to lead UNC governors

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — The state university system’s governing board has its first female leader.

Hannah Gage, 55, a member of the UNC system’s Board of Governors since 2001, was elected Friday to lead the board, which makes policy for the state’s 17 public institutions.

The selection of Gage, a retired broadcast executive from Wilmington, was far less contentious than a decade ago when Ben Ruffin was elected the board’s first black chairman.

Ruffin, who died in 2006, won the chairmanship in 1998 by a single vote in an election split largely along party lines. Since then, most board votes, including the election of past chairmen Brad Wilson and Jim Phillips, have been far less controversial. On Friday, Gage was the unanimous choice.

“For all the women who have served on this board over the years, I will say it’s about time,” said Priscilla Taylor, a board member from Chapel Hill.

Gage grew up in Fayetteville and received a journalism degree from UNC-Chapel Hill before moving to Wilmington in 1981. She founded three radio stations in that area and sold them in 2001 before being named to the UNC system board. Unlike Wilson and Phillips, her two immediate predecessors, she is not a lawyer and she has not worked in politics.

Gage said her life experience, more than her sex, will inform her work as board chairwoman.

“I think it’s significant symbolically,” she said. “But beyond that, I don’t know that gender differences are significant at all when it comes to decisions made on this board.”

Gage, who previously served on the board of trustees at UNC-Wilmington, is one of 10 female members of the 32-member UNC system board. Peter Hans, a government relations consultant from Raleigh, is the board’s new vice chairman. Estelle “Bunny” Sanders, mayor of Roper, retained her role as secretary.

Gage said Friday that the university has to refocus increasing its graduation rate. She doesn’t anticipate introducing any big new projects in the coming months.

The university is still pushing its UNC Tomorrow initiative, a statewide effort to more closely connect public universities to North Carolinians. Gage thinks her work in broadcasting will help her lead a university system intent on responding to the needs of the economy.

“You’re determining the needs of the people you’re serving,” she said. “If you’re not providing what your listeners want, they’re gone.”

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COMINGS AND GOINGS

If board meetings had movie titles, Friday’s get-together of the UNC system’s Board of Governors might be called “The Long Goodbye.”

The board spent much of its two-hour meeting bidding adieu to various board members, administrators and campus leaders.

Jim Phillips, a Greensboro lawyer with 11 years on the board, stepped down from the chairmanship, which he has held since 2006. His vice chairman, Craig Souza, did likewise. Robyn Render, the university system’s technology chief since 2001, is retiring.

Cody Grasty, the board’s student representative, said his goodbyes quickly, as did Brenda Killingsworth, the East Carolina University professor who has spent the past three years heading the UNC system’s Faculty Assembly.

Much of the praise Friday was directed to James Moeser, the retiring chancellor at UNC-Chapel Hill. Moeser came to Chapel Hill in 2000 from the University of Nebraska to fill the void left by the death of Michael Hooker.

“He took a very good university and, in his quiet but firm manner, demanded we make it great,” said UNC President Erskine Bowles, pointing to Moeser’s successes in leading a $2.3 billion fundraising campaign, shepherding a construction boom, and defending the university’s decision to select a book about the Quran as the summer reading selection soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Moeser’s successor is Holden Thorp, a chemistry professor and current dean of UNC-Ch’s College of Arts and Sciences. He begins July 1.