THE DAILY CLIPS

June 22, 2010

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Thomas J. Roggeman II

Thomas John “Rock” Roggeman II, 47, of Greenville ended his relentless battle with cancer on Monday, June 14, 2010, with members of his loving family by his side. He was an inspiration to all who knew him.

Services will be held near South Bend, Ind., where Rock was born. Visitation will be in Bubb Funeral Chapel on Thursday, June 24, 2010, from 6 to 8 p.m. with a Rosary at 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be at Saint Pius X Catholic Church on Friday, June 25, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. followed by a prayer service at Fairview Cemetery. The family invites everyone back to Saint Pius X Catholic Church after the service for a luncheon gathering.

Rock was born on Feb. 28, 1963, to Thomas John and Florence Justine Roggeman.

He was a graduate of Sahuaros High School in Tucson, Ariz., where he played football and was named to the Parade All-America Team as a senior in 1980.

A devout Roman Catholic his entire life, Rock saw one of his dreams come to fruition when he graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor of arts degree in history in 1985. While at Notre Dame, he played linebacker and noseguard for the Fighting Irish and was a monogram winner.

He was known as a true Notre Dame man who had a sincere love for the Lady on the Golden Dome.

When he completed his undergraduate work, he committed himself to making an impact on the lives of young men by becoming a football coach. It was his mission to use coaching to teach his players not only the fundamentals of football, but more importantly the fundamentals of how to become better men.

Rock left a long lasting impression at every stop throughout a 24-year coaching career which he began as a graduate assistant for Notre Dame in 1985 and 1986.

Then he moved on to Murray State, Eastern Michigan, the University of Nevada Las Vegas, Louisville, Alabama A&M, Alabama State and concluded his career at East Carolina University.

At ECU, Rock coached the defensive line during one of the most successful stretches in Pirate football history. During his five seasons at East Carolina, the team went to four bowl games and won back-to-back Conference USA Championships.

During his final battle with cancer, Rock drew strength from the support of the ECU football family. All of the players, coaches, alumni and fans who constitute Pirate Nation offered endless prayers and buoyed Rock’s spirits as he fought relentlessly with all his heart and soul against the disease.

Throughout his life, Rock demonstrated how appropriate his nickname was by proving daily to be a loyal brother, son, and friend.

Rock was preceded in death by his mother Florence Justine.

He is survived by his father, Thomas John of Granger. He was a devoted brother to his four siblings, Karen Justine of Fairfield, Conn., Julie Ann King and husband, Michael, of Orefield, Pa., Pamela Mary Morrill and husband, Andrew, of Chandler, Ariz., and Timothy “Buck” and wife, Ginny, of Monterey, Calif. He was a fun-loving uncle to ten nieces and nephews: Brandon, Matthew, and Brittany King, Zack Kamp and Claire Roggeman, Andrew, Annie, Stephanie, Amanda, and Katherine Morrill.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be sent to the American Cancer Society or SECU Family House, 123 Old Mason Farm Road, Chapel Hill, NC 27517-4431. The home is a residential facility for cancer patients and their family members.
Rick Atkinson has won the 2010 Pritzker Military Library Literature Award

Tuesday, June 22, 2010; C10

Author and Washington Post journalist Rick Atkinson has been awarded the 2010 Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing.

The award, which includes a $100,000 honorarium, was announced Tuesday and is among the field's highest -- not to mention most lucrative -- honors. Atkinson, 57, is the fourth writer to be presented with the award, first given to Civil War historian James M. McPherson in 2007.

"This is a rare and well-deserved example of lifetime achievement by a young man," Gary T. Johnson, president of the Chicago History Museum and chairman of the award's screening committee, said in an e-mail. "Rick Atkinson has already put his mark on military history."

Atkinson is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner. He has worked as a reporter, foreign correspondent and editor at The Washington Post since 1983. He has written several books on military history, including "The Long Gray Line" -- a history of the West Point class of 1966 -- and is completing the third book in a trilogy about the American military's role in the liberation of Europe during World War II. (The first two books are "An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943" and "The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944.")

Throughout his work, Atkinson has tried to find a balance between literary voice and academic rigor. "I'm particularly delighted because the Pritzker is intended to encourage, nurture and highlight the literary aspirations of military history," he said.

-- Aaron Leitko
McNeill concludes first round of camps
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Monday, June 21, 2010

Ruffin McNeill is counting down the days until his status as East Carolina’s football coach is made official inside a sold out Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, but until then, he’s doing plenty of legwork to make sure his first head coaching gig is memorable for the right reasons. The Pirates’ first-year front man drew on 25 years of coaching experience when he staged his initial week of summer football camps for youth players and high school prospects, an important step for every head coach.

In doing so, McNeill renewed recruiting ties with state high schools, but he knows there is more to camps than just meeting and greeting prospects and their coaches.

“I think it plays a vital role in evaluating prospects, but also in getting your program and your brand out there, really, across the country,” said McNeill, who oversaw nearly 1,000 athletes in the eight days of camps, which concluded Monday morning at ECU.

McNeill said his first effort at holding his own camps — the 10-year veteran staffer at Texas Tech was hired in January to replace Skip Holtz at the helm of the ECU program — involved drawing from his experience with camps at every level from high school to Division I.

“The camps have always been a very vital need for a coaching staff, for one to evaluate athletes, but we also use it as a chance to get our philosophy out to different high schools,” McNeill said. Perhaps the most important benefit for McNeill personally is the chance to evaluate his own technique as a coach before the Pirates arrive for their own summer camp beginning Aug. 5.

“In my mind, I’m going through things I want the team to hear that first night and that second week of summer practice and into that mock week before game week,” McNeill said. “It really spurs that thought process.”

So when it comes to meeting his campers, the coach said he doesn’t treat them any differently than he plans to treat the players who will take on Tulsa to kick off the McNeill era Sept. 5.

“I treat them like a football team. I always have,” McNeill said of his camp attendees. “The first meeting we have with them is about telling them that for this time, they’re ours. They’re East Carolina Pirates, we’re their coaches and they’re our players. Once you get past that, everybody’s on the same page.

“We demand the same from them that we do from our guys, and we’d be cheating them if we didn’t.”

McNeill said summer camps have evolved during his coaching tenure. They’ve become the best opportunity each year for coaches to bring talent to their own campuses en masse and coach them, as opposed to the traditional means of traveling to watch each player individually. One single day last week, the Pirates amassed 24 teams of 400 players as part of their Beast of the East seven-on-seven camp.

In short, McNeill said he was pleased with the average athlete in his camps.
“I was impressed big time, we all were,” McNeill said. “I’ve been a part of a lot of camps, and there were a lot of college prospects that came through our camp.”

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
Project to build health database

BY ERIC FERRERI
STAFF WRITER

CHAPEL HILL — A research team headed by UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State scientists wants to speed up sharing of the medical data routinely collected by doctors, veterinarians and other health providers across the state.

Doing so could even stop a terror attack, the researchers say.

That's the idea behind the North Carolina Bio-Preparedness Collaborative, or NCB-Prepared. Announced Monday, the federally funded project aims to link reams of data gathered across North Carolina and to quickly look for indicators of disease, foodborne illness or worse.

Speed is the key, said Mark Hoit, N.C. State's vice chancellor for information technology.

"We need the ability to see the data and find the anomalies in days or hours rather than weeks or months," said Hoit, one of the project's two lead investigators.

Although health data is plentiful, much of it isn't shared. The new project will use high-level computing to tap these databases, look for common symptoms and make quick predictions about coming threats to public health.

"All this information is out there in file cabinets," said Andrew Weniger, project manager with the Research Triangle Park-based North Carolina Healthcare Information and Communications Alliance. "But different ones, and they're not even electronic in some cases. We're talking about moving a quantum leap. Finding a nugget in a big pile of data takes heavy machinery."

The project is funded by a one-year, $5 million congressional grant snared with the help of U.S. Rep. David Price of Chapel Hill, who chairs the House Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

The project could detect a bioterror attack — such as a poisoned water or food supply — early enough to minimize casualties. It would also have more routine applications. Vets could use it to better estimate the start of tick season, and doctors could use it to predict heart attacks by looking at a broad array of common symptoms, said Charles Cairns, chairman of UNC's department of emergency medicine, who is leading the project with NCSU's Hoit.

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The Washington Post

College graduates are less choosy as they launch into their work lives

By Jenna Johnson
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, June 19, 2010; A12

One year ago, the Class of 2009 left college and jumped into one of the worst job markets in history.

Cautionary tales about the real world were quickly passed down to younger students: Searching six months for a job, waitressing and bartending stints, moving home with mom and dad, racking up more debt.

"Many of my best friends graduated last year. One out of five has a 'career job,' " said Christina Haley, 21, who just graduated from Marymount University in Arlington County. "We all had seen a couple of years of people graduating and not finding jobs. It put the fear in us to start earlier, to pull strings so that we wouldn't be stuck."

Several career center directors from around the region say the vibe is different in the Class of 2010.

Instead of debating salaries and benefits, many students set their sights on simply getting a job. They begged for internships. They hyper-networked and filed dozens of applications. They often locked in on early offers rather than holding out for something better.

And some 2010 grads decided to wait things out. This academic year, more have taken the Law School Admissions Test than last year. Teach for America, which recruits for hard-to-staff public schools, received a record 46,000 applications for this year's class and was the top employer at some universities.

"People have not waited for the dream job because they don't think it will ever open up," said Beverly T. Lorig, the director of career services at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va.

A national survey of about 13,000 graduating seniors found that 39 percent had received job offers and 59 percent of those students accepted them, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. That's higher than last year, when 40 percent of seniors got offers but only 45 percent of them accepted. The result is that 24.4 percent of 2010 graduates reported having a job before graduation, up from 19.7 percent of the Class of 2009, according to the survey.

Several career centers saw record numbers of students at the beginning of the school year in September and October: More seniors wanted to start their job search early, more underclassmen wanted to find internships and more out-of-work alumni wanted help.

To keep up with the traffic, career centers had to be creative with resources -- after all, this is not a time when universities are bursting with extra cash. The University of Maryland at College Park moved some
of its career services online, shortened one-on-one appointment time slots and offered more clinics. Catholic University, in the District, upped its outreach to employers, added more walk-in and evening hours, shortened consultations to 30 minutes and reviewed more résumés by e-mail, usually from home on the weekends.

"Usually the fall semester, for us, is a little more relaxed," said Jen Spataro-Wilson, director of career services at Shenandoah University in Winchester. "From the very beginning, at freshman orientation, we're talking about after-graduation... I think now students are actually listening. They want to be prepared."

Simone Smith, 22, who graduated in May from George Washington University in the District, watched the unemployment rate her entire senior year and realized that she had to do something drastic to land a job in the California Bay Area, where her parents live.

Her dream job: Being a professional millennial generation trend-spotter.

Her plan of action: Apply for at least 100 jobs.

Backup plan: Live at home, do freelance work.

Smith created accounts on several career Web sites. She set up an RSS feed for relevant job listings that popped up on Craigslist. Then, she applied to everything she could find.

"It's hard to get used to rejection. It isn't just your experience and résumé that they are rejecting -- it's you," she said. "If I apply to 100 jobs, then I will get used to that rejection."

She easily hit 100 applications by the Sunday in mid-May when she graduated. She moved home that Monday, and started job interviews Tuesday.

Before the end of the week, she had an offer to be an online marketing and community coordinator for HubPages, a compilation of blogs from across the country. She canceled her other interviews and signed a contract.

"I just wanted to find something," Smith said. "I had no intention of finding something so soon."

Haley, the 2010 Marymount graduate, landed a job with a political fundraising and financing firm in the District after applying "for anything and everything" and tapping all of her connections, including the parents of children she once babysat. She had worried about being stuck in her retail job.

At her graduation party, no one talked much about jobs and job searches. Of the six grads at the party, only three had definite plans.

"Yeah, we're happy, but we're not going to make a big deal out of it," she said. "I was one of the lucky ones."

Right now, Kristin Parris is one of the unlucky ones. Parris was one of 20 honors students to graduate from Howard University's business school, in the District. Typically, those top graduates receive six or seven job offers each during their first semester of senior year.

Such calls during the past two years have become much rarer, and the director of the honors program
said some recruiters who once called her looking for students to hire are now calling to see whether she has heard of job opportunities for themselves.

This year, the offers didn't come until second semester. The most offers anyone had was three -- and Parris didn't get a single one.

"I never in a million years thought I would graduate and not have a job. I never, ever thought I would," said Parris, 22, who searched for months for a human resources position. "I was too narrow in my job search. I think if I had opened myself up a little more, I might have a job. Probably not my dream job, but a job."

Soon after graduation, she signed up for a two-week seminar that teaches the basics of media sales and began to learn the trade from scratch. She completed that program this month and hopes the connections she made will land her a job.

"I could do sales," she said. "I never thought that I would. But I could do it."
June 21, 2010

In Law Schools, Grades Go Up, Just Like That

By CATHERINE RAMPELL

One day next month every student at Loyola Law School Los Angeles will awake to a higher grade point average.

But it’s not because they are all working harder.

The school is retroactively inflating its grades, tacking on 0.333 to every grade recorded in the last few years. The goal is to make its students look more attractive in a competitive job market.

In the last two years, at least 10 law schools have deliberately changed their grading systems to make them more lenient. These include law schools like New York University and Georgetown, as well as Golden Gate University and Tulane University, which just announced the change this month. Some recruiters at law firms keep track of these changes and consider them when interviewing, and some do not.

Law schools seem to view higher grades as one way to rescue their students from the tough economic climate — and perhaps more to the point, to protect their own reputations and rankings. Once able to practically guarantee gainful employment to thousands of students every year, the schools are now fielding complaints from more and more unemployed graduates, frequently drowning in student debt.

They have come up with a number of strategic responses. Besides the usual career counseling measures, many top schools have bumped up their on-campus interview weeks from the autumn to August, before the school year even starts, because they want their students to have a chance to nab a job slot before their counterparts at other schools do.

Others, like Duke and the University of Texas at Austin, offer stipends for students to take
unpaid public interest internships. Southern Methodist University's Dedman School of Law even recently began paying profit-making law firms to hire its students.

"For people like me who have good grades but are not in the super-elite, there are not as many options for getting a job in advance," said Zachary Burd, 35, who just graduated from Southern Methodist University. A Dallas family law firm will receive $3,500 to "test drive" him this August.

"They'll get me for a month or two, for free, to try me out," he said. "It's safer for them, and it's a good foot in the door for me."

But the tactic getting the most attention — and the most controversy — is the sudden, deliberate and dubiously effective grade inflation, which had begun even before the legal job market softened.

"If somebody's paying $150,000 for a law school degree, you don't want to call them a loser at the end," says Stuart Rojstaczer, a former geophysics professor at Duke who now studies grade inflation. "So you artificially call every student a success."

Unlike undergraduate grading, which has drifted northward over the years because most undergraduate campuses do not strictly regulate the schoolwide distribution of As and Bs, law schools have long employed clean, crisp, bell-shaped grading curves. Many law schools even use computers to mathematically determine cutoffs between a B+ and a B, based on exam points.

The process schools refer to as grade reform takes many forms. Some schools bump up everyone's grades, some just allow for more As and others all but eliminate the once-gentlemanly C.

Harvard and Stanford, two of the top-ranked law schools, recently eliminated traditional grading altogether. Like Yale and the University of California, Berkeley, they now use a modified pass/fail system, reducing the pressure that law schools are notorious for. This new grading system also makes it harder for employers to distinguish the wheat from the chaff, which means more students can get a shot at a competitive interview.

Students and faculty say they are merely trying to stay competitive with their peer schools, which have more merciful grading curves. Loyola, for example, had a mean first-year grade of 2.667; the norm for other accredited California schools is generally a 3.0 or higher.

"That put our students at an unfair disadvantage, especially if you factor in the current economic environment," says Samuel Liu, 26, president of the school's Student Bar...
Association and the leader of the grading change efforts. He also says many Loyola students are ineligible for coveted clerkships that have strict G.P.A. cutoffs.

“We just wanted to match what other schools that are comparably ranked were already doing,” he said.

Nearby University of California, Los Angeles, made its grading curve more lenient in the fall of 2005, in part to keep up with “nationwide shifts in grading,” said Elizabeth Cheadle, the dean of students at U.C.L.A.’s law school.

The University of Southern California and the University of California Hastings College of the Law responded by increasing their own curves last school year.

What’s more, U.S.C.’s law school dean, Robert K. Rasmussen, said he was partly inspired by the school where he previously worked, Vanderbilt University Law School, which had also changed its curve a few years ago.

These moves can create a vicious cycle like that seen in chief executive pay: if every school in the bottom half of the distribution raises its marks to enter the top half of the distribution, or even just to become average, the average creeps up. This puts pressure on schools to keep raising their grades further.

Loyola Law School’s dean, Victor J. Gold, said he had already received a plea for advice from a student group at Chapman University School of Law, which will have the toughest grading curve in California after Loyola acts.

One notable school has managed to maintain the integrity of its grades through an idiosyncratic grading rubric. The University of Chicago Law School grades its students on a scale of 155-186, a system so bizarre that employers are unlikely to try to match it against the 4.0 scale or letter grades used almost everywhere else.

It is unclear whether grade inflation is particularly effective at helping students get jobs, especially because many large firms adjust their expectations accordingly.

Many hiring partners say they read Above the Law, a legal blog, that gleefully reports (and mocks) grade changing efforts — from leaked student memos — even when schools themselves don’t announce the changes.

Employers say they also press law schools for rankings, or some indication of G.P.A.’s for the top echelon of the class. And if the school will not release that information — many do not — other accolades like honors and law journal participation provide clues to a student’s relative
rank.

"Every year we do our homework," says Helen Long, the legal recruiting director at Ropes & Gray, a firm with more than 1,000 lawyers. "And besides, if a school had a remarkable jump in its G.P.A.'s from one year to the next, we receive a big enough group of résumés every year that we'd probably notice."

Smaller firms, however, may not have the resources to research every school's curve, and may see too few students from any given school to track changes from year to year.

James Wagner, the hiring partner at the 29-lawyer Boston firm Conn Kavanaugh Rosenthal Peisch & Ford, said he hadn't noticed any grade inflation in the last couple of years. But he has noticed something else new from applicants.

"About a third to half of the résumés I've been getting now profess a love of the Red Sox," he chuckles, wondering if the students had been coached by their schools.

"But I'll bet that if you compared résumés for those same candidates," he says, "when they apply to New York firms they love the Yankees, and for Chicago firms, it's the Cubs."
Iraqi students come to U.S. colleges to help rebuild country
By Didi Tang, USA TODAY

Iraqi and American educators are collaborating to bring Iraqi students to the USA, where they will study at American universities and then return home to help rebuild Iraq's higher-education infrastructure.

A 600-student pilot program, launched by Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Al-Maliki last summer, is bringing 400 students to U.S. schools this summer; 200 will go to the United Kingdom.

Also, a U.S. Embassy program to help Iraqi students enroll at American universities brought five Iraqi educators to Missouri in late May for a two-week tour of colleges and a national conference for international educators in Kansas City, Mo.

The first batch of the 400 Iraqi students arrives in the USA this month. They will attend 24 universities, including Michigan State, the University of Missouri-Columbia, the University of Kansas, the University of Colorado, the University of Iowa and Syracuse University, says Mary Maguire, spokeswoman for the non-profit Academy for Educational Development, based in Washington, D.C.

"The students want to go out to study, and we want them to be here," says Sabah Alwachi, director of international cultural relations at the University of Baghdad.

Adds Rund Ali Hammoudi, a geologist from the University of Duhok in Iraq's Kurdistan region: "We have been isolated for a long time. We want to know the opportunities outside in the world." Missouri college officials who hosted Iraqi educators in May say Iraqi students' arrival on U.S. campuses is a prime opportunity to diversify campus demographics while helping Iraq build democracy through its youth.

"We hope democracy will thrive in Iraq, and we will do our part to contribute to world peace," says Elizabeth Strong, director of the study-away program at Missouri State University in Springfield.

Todd Parnell, president of Drury University in Springfield, Mo., a private liberal-arts school, says the program is mutually beneficial: "It gives (Iraqi students) a look at the real America ... and Drury students get real-life exposure to have those students in their classroom."

The pilot program is the precursor to a five-year national scholarship program, by which the Iraqi government plans to eventually send 10,000 Iraqi students a year to study abroad with all expenses paid, says Suhailah Naser Harib of the Higher Committee for Educational Development in Iraq. Scholarship recipients must agree to return to Iraq after graduation and work for the government for the same amount of time they would spend abroad, Harib says.

To encourage more Iraqi students to enroll at U.S. colleges, the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad in May 2009 awarded a two-year grant to the Academy for Educational Development to develop the Iraq Higher Education Advising Network, says Stacey Bustillos, the project manager.

That project plans to help the Iraqi government carry out the five-year scholarship program and will bring more than 200 Iraqi faculty members and higher-education officials to the USA, Bustillos says.