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No vacation for education

Officials anticipate more than 1,000 students will take remediation and study courses this summer

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

A record number of Pitt County high school students are taking remediation classes this summer.

John Maye, assistant principal at J.H. Rose High School and principal of the summer remediation program, said officials faced several challenges with the large number of students enrolled in summer classes, including finding teachers and space for the more than 1,000 students.

Teachers began preparing for classes this week at Rose for the students who will begin classes this morning.

Last year, there were 285 students taking study skills courses and 105 students repeating courses.

This year, there are about 600 students repeating courses and about 400 students in study skills, said Bob Dailey, high school summer remediation program director.

“We planned for a larger number of students this year, but this number exceeded our expectations,” Dailey said.

Officials attribute the large jump in students to a recent state law that prohibits school districts from charging for summer remediation programs. Prior to this year a student had to pay $500 to repeat a course over the summer.

Now it is free.

Operating the program will require nearly every classroom at J.H. Rose and about 45 teachers.

Repeat courses will require 30 teachers, while the others will teach study skills and computer skills, Dailey said.

Study skills courses allow students who have missed too many days of school, but passed a course, to make up the days and receive the grade they earned, Dailey said.

Some students repeat a course entirely if they failed it. The study skills students often do not attend the session for the entire period because they can leave once they have made up their time, Dailey said.

The summer remediation program for high school students generated about $800,000 for the district in years past, said Michael Cowin, Pitt County Schools finance officer.

Summer programs are funded by several state sources set up for remediation, Cowin said. The primary

SCHOOL
Continued from B1

funding comes from the At-Risk Student Allotment from the state.

It will cost around $600,000 to operate the summer programs for grades 3-12 in Pitt County, Cowin said.

The High School Summer Remediation program runs from today to July 24 at J.H. Rose High School. The program is held at Rose because of its central location in the county, Dailey said.
CHAPEL HILL – New UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp spent his first day in office getting to know student leaders over breakfast, convening his Cabinet and meeting with top faculty and staff leaders.

“I can’t imagine anything more validating than having a bunch of college students get up at 7:30 in the morning,” Thorp told students at a breakfast at the Campus Y.

Student body Vice President Todd Dalrymple said Thorp, a former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, has shown he can work with students.

“There isn’t going to be that learning curve,” he said. “That’s why we’re so excited to have him. He just seems to fit right in here.”

Thorp, a UNC-CH alumnus and Fayetteville native, told the students he wanted the talk to quickly shift to action.

“You’re probably sick of people telling you we’re at this interesting point in history where we have globalization, the Internet and all that stuff,” he said.

“OK, we know all that. Now what are we going to do about it?” he said. “What are we going to do to make sure that your education is the one that helps you differentiate yourself in this competitive world that we have and gives you the tools to be successful not only in June after you graduate in May, but 10, 20, 30 years after that?”

“If we’re going to decide what the educational future is going to look like, we need to make sure students contribute to that vision.”
College wins brief reprieve

FROM STAFF REPORTS

Louisburg College will remain accredited on a probationary status for another six months, according to news posted Tuesday on the Web site of the Southern regional accrediting body.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools' action came after accreditors met in June with Louisburg officials to review the school's financial situation. The association is the regional organization that monitors quality and stability of academic institutions.

Last year, the association, concerned about Louisburg's finances, placed the college on warning that it could lose accreditation — a devastating blow that would force Louisburg to close because its students would lose access to federal financial aid.

In an effort to turn around the college's finances, Louisburg officials cut 20 jobs in February and made plans to raise tuition and reduce scholarships to its students. Since then, the president has resigned to take a job elsewhere.

The college must submit a report to the accrediting body in September and host a visit by accreditors in the fall. A decision on the college's future could come at the end of the year.
Should You Drink with Your Kids?

Our effort to stamp out underage alcohol use has failed, creating a culture in which young people binge in secret. There's a better way

BY JOHN CLOUD/SAN DIEGO

I was 14 the first time I got falling-down drunk. I was attending summer golf camp at the University of Arkansas. It was 1985, and a preternaturally talented young golfer named John Daly was my camp counselor. This was six years before Daly won the PGA Championship as a rookie. He would also become famous for his drinking, but in 1985 he was still just a big kid, five years older than I was but not especially more mature.

One night he acquired a bottle of Canadian whiskey, and somehow we persuaded three girls from the tennis camp to join us in his dorm room. Not bothering with glassware, we passed the bottle around until it was empty. I remember eating some watermelon Daly had bought. The evening ended when I regurgitated the whiskey and melon onto one of the girls. Daly and another player on the Razorback golf team deposited me into the well of a shower, where I fell into a dead sleep.

I hadn't thought about that incident in years—I don't think I suffered any lasting damage—but then I started looking into the current state of underage drinking. What was considered by some to be a rite of passage back then would now be considered cause for grave concern. That's because the U.S. seems to be in the midst of one of its periodic alcohol panics, this one focused on adolescents. In the late 1800s and again during the first decade of the 20th century, our alcohol panics focused first on what was called "frontier drinking" and then on drinking in slums. Pulp novels and newspapers carried lurid tales of violent drunkenness. Today news stories offer grim accounts of high school parties that end in gruesome wrecks and of college kids killing themselves by consuming, say, 100 shots in as many minutes. Last year the Surgeon General issued a "call to action" to prevent underage drinking; the National Institutes of Health issued a similar one in 2002.

The calls to action make it sound as if America's high schools have become one enormous kegger, but in fact alcohol use among high school students has fallen dramatically. The Monitoring the Future surveys conducted by the University of Michigan show that in 1991, 81% of eighth-, 10th- and 12th-graders had had at least one drink in their lives; by last year, the figure was only 58%. Roughly 47% of this cohort had been drunk at least once in 1991; in 2007 only 38% had ever been drunk. On college campuses, meanwhile, the ranks of nondrinkers are rising steadily. In 1980 only 18% of college students surveyed for Monitoring the Future said they had not had a drink in the past month; by 2006 the proportion had risen to 35%.

And yet the typical college president can offer sad anecdotes about students dead from alcohol poisoning. Those deaths are still so rare that it's impossible to prove they are increasing. But according to Henry Wechsler of the Harvard School of Public Health, 36% of college kids who drink say they have forgotten where they were or what they did at least once; the figure was 18% for college men in the late 1940s, according to the seminal 1953 book Drinking in College. We think of the midcentury as a gin-soaked era, but when the Drinking in College authors asked students whether

Illustration for TIME by Ellen Weinstein
they had suffered an "accident or injury" as a result of alcohol (without defining precisely whether that meant only physical injury or also alcohol poisoning), only 6% of drinkers said they had. The figure has now more than doubled, to 13%.

So the data indicate there are fewer young drinkers, but a greater proportion of them are hard-core drinkers. Parents have helped create this paradox. Many parents seem torn between two competing impulses: officially, most say in surveys that they oppose any drinking by those under 21. But unofficially many also seem to think kids will be kids—after all, not so long ago, they were themselves drinking as teens. A few of these parents have even allowed their kids to have big drunken parties at home.

But there is a better way. At first it sounds a little nutty, but you might consider drinking with your kids. Incongruously, the way to produce fewer problem drinkers is to create more drinkers overall—that is, to begin to create a culture in which alcohol is not an alluring risk but part of quotidian family life. Of course, that's a mostly European approach to alcohol, but there's reason to think it could work here. And it may be the best way to solve the binge-drinking problem.

RAY DICICCIO IS A WELL-TANNED, MILD, bespectacled 60-year-old who has served as executive director of the San Diego County Alcohol Policy Panel since its founding in 1994. The organization is a county-funded nonprofit whose main mission is to reduce underage drinking, although in pursuit of that goal DiCiccio often fights for policies that restrict adult drinking as well. For instance, earlier this year the panel helped persuade the San Diego City Council to ban drinking on city beaches. It was already illegal for those under 21 to drink in any public place, but on a crowded day, it was difficult for police to be sure that no minors were taking beers from coolers.

DiCiccio and his top deputy, Patty Drieslein, feel that the alcohol industry has become so powerful that American culture has turned into a binge-drinking culture. "Most of our holidays have become drinking holidays," says Drieslein, 47, a brassy woman with leopard-print eyeglasses and a smoker's voice. "Halloween used to be about trick-or-treating, and now it's about Elvira with a beer." Kids notice, she says.

Like many temperance activists, going back more than a century, both DiCiccio and Drieslein have had problems controlling their own alcohol use. DiCiccio, a Vietnam vet originally from Midland, Pa., says he quit drinking in 1988 and then switched careers, from selling cars to helping others get sober. Drieslein, who grew up in San Diego, started drinking at 12 and went into recovery 16 years later, after indulging in six to 12 beers a night for many years.

Like many other people in recovery, DiCiccio and Drieslein—and by extension the county organization they run—take an all-or-nothing approach to alcohol. The policy panel and many groups like it around the country now maintain that all kids should wait until they turn 21 before having their first drink. That may sound uncontroversial; after all, isn't underage drinking illegal? Actually, no. When Congress passed

1940s
6%
Percentage of college kids who suffered an accident or injury because of alcohol

TODAY
13%
Percentage who suffer injuries because of drinking; 26% black out
that drinking with your kids—no buying them alcohol for a party but actually drinking with them at home—is a good way to teach responsible drinking behavior.

A few years ago, a team of North Carolina researchers, led by public-health professor Kristie Long Foley, examined whether adults’ approval or disapproval mattered when adolescents were deciding whether and how much to drink. Foley’s team analyzed surveys of more than 6,000 people ages 16 to 20 in 243 U.S. communities. One predictable finding: Kids whose parents gave them alcohol for parties were more likely to binge drink. That discovery underscored years of research showing that the earlier people start to drink, the more likely they are to become alcoholics.

But another result was surprising: If kids actually drank with their parents, they were about half as likely to say they had drunk alcohol in the past month and about one-third as likely to say they had had five or more drinks in a row in the previous two weeks. As Foley and her colleagues wrote in a 2004 Journal of Adolescent Health paper, “Drinking with parents appears to have a protective effect on general drinking trends.”

How this approach would work in any individual case depends, obviously, on the kid and the parent. Pecie, the addiction expert, raised his own daughter (who is 20 and will be a junior at New York University) to drink a “few sips” of alcohol at family meals until she was about 16, when she could have a full glass of whatever the adults were drinking. “You give them sips as smaller kids, and you don’t make a big deal about it,” says Pecie. “Around 16, give them a glass of wine. A second glass probably doesn’t make sense, but making hard-and-fast rules creates the sense that alcohol is some magical potion.”

I was still curious to see how drinking with your kid might work in practice. Pecie recommended me to Tom Horvath, a past president of the American Psychological Association’s division on addictions and the father of a 17-year-old, Greg. Through his work treating at least 2,000 people with substance-abuse problems, Horvath has come to believe that the best way to teach your kids about alcohol is to demystify it. Horvath, 54, was never forbidden alcohol;

A glass of wine with Dad

Horvath and son Greg, 17, at home in La Jolla, Calif.

he recalls that his grandmother gave him his first sip of wine at age 4 or 5. He spat it out, but he absorbed the lesson that alcohol was part of family life. Growing up, he occasionally drank with his parents, and he now drinks a glass or two of wine or beer with Greg once or twice a month. (Tom and Greg’s mother are divorced.)

I met Greg and his dad at a restaurant in La Jolla, Calif., where Tom runs a profit treatment center. After we were seated, I ordered a bottle of cabernet sauvignon, and the server asked for Greg’s ID. “He’s 17,” Tom immediately said. He then asked the waiter if it would be O.K. if Greg drank with his approval. The waiter said no.

Greg seems like a typical teenager, which is to say he’s enamored of green causes and a bit cocky. He also seems to have learned some lessons from drinking with his dad. “I went to a party as a freshman with all juniors,” he recalls. “And there was one guy who was drinking, and he was chugging a bottle of Skyy. And they tried, ‘Let’s get the freshie drunk,’ all that sort of stuff, and it just didn’t seem that hard to me to say I wasn’t going to drink.”

Later in the meal, Tom raised the issue of how culture influences consumption. Kids from the Southern European countries of the Romance languages—France, Romania, Italy, Spain and Portugal—get drunk at about the same rate as American teens (or slightly less often) even though a typi-
The Southern European model of moderate, supervised drinking within families seems to be the most promising approach, on the basis of the North Carolina study. Italy and Spain report very low rates of alcohol dependence or abuse (less than 1% and 2.9%, respectively) compared with the U.S., where the rate is 7.8%, slightly lower than France's 8.7%. (All the figures are from the World Health Organization.)

The spread of social-host laws makes it harder to teach a European model here. True, it's unlikely that police are going to raid private homes when only parents and their kids are together. But social-host prosecutions can be quite aggressive; in 2002 a Virginia mom and stepfather were sentenced to eight years behind bars for serving their son and his friends for the boy's 16th birthday. The couple had collected car keys in advance, and no one was hurt. But after years of failed appeals, the mom and stepdad, now divorced, had to report to jail last year. (In the end, they had to serve only five months, not eight years.)

Most social-host laws give police expansive powers. According to data compiled by the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation, an organization based in Calverton, Md., that studies alcohol policy, only eight of 67 U.S. jurisdictions with social-host laws require that the homeowner have "actual knowledge" of underage drinking at the house to be charged with a crime. In other words, you can violate most social-host laws even if you are in another country when your kid decides to party. And under many social-host laws, a meal with wine served at a dinner table is treated no differently from a kegger if neighbors are present with your kids. In short, we are encouraging kids to leave their homes (presumably by car) and drink in parks or abandoned warehouses or anywhere else they think they won't get caught and their parents won't get arrested.

It's not surprising that social-host laws don't seem to work as intended. In 2003, San Diego, one of the first big jurisdictions to adopt a social-host ordinance (both the city and county of San Diego passed a social-host law that year). After some legal wrangling, a tougher version of the city's law was enacted in 2006. Yet according to the San Diego Police Department, patrol car responses to parties in the city increased from 7,765 in 2002 to 9,837 last year. (This figure includes parties with both underage and of-age drinkers, since it's impractical for cops to ID everyone once they arrive. But it is teen parties that get the loudest.) The period since the city's social-host law was first enacted has also seen an enormous increase in the number of kids going to hospitals with alcohol-related problems. According to data from San Diego County's health department, the number of minors presenting alcohol and substance-abuse problems at health-care facilities in the jurisdiction rose from 473 in 2002 to 892 last year. At one of the city's biggest hospitals, Sharp Memorial, 7.3% of underage trauma admissions involved alcohol in 2002; by 2005 the figure was 13.4%.

In other words, the social-host law appears to have broken up big house parties into many smaller ones. Possibly because fewer adults are present, the parties are less supervised, and more kids are getting so drunk they end up in the ER.

When I mentioned some of these arguments against social-host laws at the San Diego County Alcohol Policy Panel, Dr. Cicero offered another reason that kids shouldn't drink with adults: alcohol could hurt their developing brains. It is accepted as an article of faith in the prevention community that the "teen brain" should not be exposed to any alcohol. But the research on alcohol and the young brain is actually quite muddy. It has mainly shown that very high doses of alcohol given to adolescent rats (those roughly 40 days old) can alter how animals differently from the way alcohol affects adult rats. In one study, the rats are injected with 5 g of alcohol per 1,000 g of their body weight, often after the rodents have been deprived of food for 12 hours. Rats metabolize alcohol about 10 times as fast as humans, but in a typical rat, this 5 g/kg dose on an empty stomach still results in a monumentally high blood-alcohol concentration. "It's difficult to compare to humans, but it's about a case of beer," says Aaron White, an alcohol researcher at the Duke University Medical Center—that's a case of beer ingested all at once.

What these rat studies tell us is that exposure to very large amounts of alcohol (particularly repeated exposure) probably inhibits normal brain development. And yet there are signs that in certain ways the adolescent brain is better equipped to handle alcohol than the adult brain. Adolescent rats show less vulnerability than adults to alcohol's sedating effects (which is one reason kids can party so much longer than adults). Other studies have found that, as White writes, "adolescents may be less sensitive than adults to the effects of alcohol on motor coordination." None of this means you should let your kids get drunk with their friends. But there's little reason to think small amounts of alcohol consumed at family meals will be as harmful.

Because alcohol is harder to obtain now than in the '70s and '80s, more kids are delaying their first drink. But most people will drink before 21, and it's a reasonable goal for parents to be there when it happens. "What if a kid has never had alcohol and drinks for the first time at 22?" asks Peele, the author of Addiction: Proof Your Child. "If they haven't developed a capacity to regulate themselves with alcohol at all, you can be headed for trouble."
A Brief History Of:
Summer Vacation

This month millions of American kids flee the tyranny of the classroom bell for lifeguard stands, grandparents’ homes and sleepaway camps. But summer vacation hasn’t always been a birthright of U.S. schoolchildren. In the decades before the Civil War, schools operated on one of two calendars, neither of which included a summer hiatus. Rural schooling was divided into summer and winter terms, leaving kids free to pitch in with the spring planting and fall harvest seasons. Urban students, meanwhile, regularly endured as many as 48 weeks of study a year, with one break per quarter. (Since education was not compulsory, attendance was often sparse; in Detroit in 1843, for example, only 30% of enrolled students attended year-round.)

In the 1840s, however, educational reformers like Horace Mann moved to merge the two calendars out of concern that rural schooling was insufficient and—invoking then current medical theory—that overstimulating young minds could lead to nervous disorders or insanity. Summer emerged as the obvious time for a break; it offered a respite for teachers, meshed with the agrarian calendar and alleviated parents’ concerns that packing students into sweltering classrooms would promote the spread of disease.

But the modern U.S. school year, which averages 180 days, has its critics too. Some experts see its languorous summer break, which took hold in the early 20th century, as one of the reasons math skills and graduation rates of U.S. high schoolers ranked well below average in two international education reports issued in 2007. Others insist that with children under mounting pressure to devote their downtime to internships or study, there’s still room for an institution that sanctifies the lazy days of childhood. —by Alex Altman

Wasted youth? Students cool off in the water and bask in the sun on Arizona’s Salt River

SUMMER’S HEATED DEBATE
1837 Horace Mann becomes Massachusetts’ first secretary of education

1843 School terms, which include summers, exceed 240 days in some cities. Urban calendars soon shrink as rural ones increase dramatically

1906 First official study documents the “summer setback”—a long vacation’s alleged effect on learning

2007 At an average of 180 days, the U.S. public-school calendar is dwarfed by those of South Korea and Japan, where students attend class for 220 and 243 days a year, respectively

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Out of Mao’s Shadow
By Philip P. Pan
Simon & Schuster: 349 pages

China’s past 25 years have been the best in its 5,000-year history,” writes Philip Pan in Out of Mao’s Shadow, but it’s a schizophrenic sort of success: the country’s new prosperity and global clout have gone hand in hand with graft and repression.

Pan, a Washington Post correspondent, argues that China’s current woes reflect a desire by the Communist Party and ordinary Chinese to forget the lessons of its tragic recent past. Traumas like Mao Zedong’s Cultural Revolution left many cynical, disillusioned and willing to exchange freedom for stability and growth.

Pan makes his case through engaging portraits of those who have refused to forget—from causes célèbres like blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng to the villagers and workers who have demanded change in the face of corruption and brutality. As with its past, Pan writes, the Communist Party is still “winning the battle for the nation’s future.” But his book is a reminder that even in a nation of 1.3 billion people, individuals can make a difference—and that China still has plenty of heroes left.

—by Tim Morrison

READ
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Dorothy Joy Wilson Corbett

RALEIGH — Dorothy Joy Wilson Corbett, 78, a native of Pitt County and a Raleigh resident since 1954 passed away Sunday, June 29, 2008. As a long time member of St. Paul's Christian Church, she served in many capacities and was known for her delicious pies. She will be remembered by her many friends and generations of former students.

She held a Masters Degree from East Carolina University. Her 25 year career in education included various elementary schools in Virginia Beach and in Wake County—Boylan Heights, Lacy, York, Effie Green, Stough, Aversboro, Adams, Underwood, Cary, Brentwood, and Farmington Woods.

Dot was born March 10, 1930, to Clay and Myrtle H. Wilson and is survived by her husband of 48 years, James E. Corbett; her son, James E. "Jimmy" Corbett Jr.; her brothers, Richard C. Wilson and wife, Peggy, of Pensacola, Fla., C. Troy Wilson of Greenville; sister, Betty J. Fort and husband, William; nieces, Betty Roman of Cary, Sherrie Horne of Pensacola, Fla.; nephews, Billy Fort of Alabama, Rick Wilson of Newberry, Fla.; cousins, Trillis Batten and husband, Don, Margaret Early, and five grand-nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at St. Paul's Christian Church at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, July 19, 2008. In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate donations to St. Paul's Christian Church, 3331 Blue Ridge Rd., Raleigh, NC 27612.

Arrangements by L. Harold Poole Funeral Service & Crematory, Knightdale. Condolences to the family may be made at www.poolefuneral.com under Obituaries.
Cypress Glen Retirement Community Residents held its second East Carolina University Club quarterly meeting for the year on June 18. Featured speaker was Associate Vice Chancellor for Oral Health Dr. Gregory Chadwick, who currently is serving as the interim dean of ECU School of Dentistry. Chadwick, accompanied by his wife, Knox, was introduced by Dr. Jasper Lewis.

Chadwick spoke about the many reasons for the need for a dental school, particularly in our region. "The leading chronic disease in children in the United States and in North Carolina is cavities," he said. "North Carolina is ranked 47th out of 50 states in the number of dentists per capita and 40 percent of our dentists in practice today are 60 years or older and will be retiring in a few years."

"The new school should help ease the statewide shortage of dentists, especially in eastern North Carolina. Of the state's 100 counties, 15 counties have an average of five dentists per 10,000 population and the remaining 85 rural counties have only three dentists per 10,000 population. The North Carolina Board of Dental Examiners shows that five of the counties — all in Eastern North Carolina — have no dentist at all. Only nine of the counties meet or exceed the national average of dentists per capita."

Chadwick said the focus of the dental school will be pediatric primary care dentistry and the model for the dental school will be similar to the Brody School of Medicine. One major difference will be senior level students will be trained in eight 40-satellite sites at service learning centers across the state, rather than in classrooms.

"It puts them in an environment to deliver care," he said. "We'll be delivering care to the rural and underserved areas without access to good dental care."

The new school will aim to educate dentists who are North Carolina residents and want to stay in the state to practice, particularly in rural areas. Plans are for the first class of 50 dental students to begin in 2012.

Chadwick stated that the bill for the dental school has passed the House and is in the third reading in the Senate. "Very shortly, we will know if we have a dental school and a funded dental school," he said. The General Assembly already appropriated $38 million for the $59 million project last year, and ECU hopes to receive the remaining $22 million this year.

The new dental school is a joint effort of ECU and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The two universities are developing a plan that will draw on the strengths of both institutions to help offset the ongoing shortage and better distribute dentists across the state.

The curriculum is being developed now, partnerships with Pitt Community College are being explored and the expectation is to have "steel rising this year," according to Chadwick.

Attendees of the ECU Club meeting enjoyed a special music performance by Chris Bridgman, director of ECU School of Music, and Chris Uffiti, assistant director of the School of Music, while they dined.

The next ECU club meeting will be held on Sept. 17, with speaker ECU head football coach Skip Holtz.