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Diana Luckhardt, a student at the East Carolina School of Dental Medicine, has committed to being a dentist in areas that lack service.

**OPINION**

**Altruistic dentistry**

Monday, June 25, 2012

*By Doug Clark*

Staff Columnist

Diana Luckhardt is looking forward to next month’s one-week break in the summer term at the East Carolina School of Dental Medicine.

She’s going to the Caribbean. But the trip won’t be a vacation. She’ll work in a dental clinic in the Dominican Republic serving patients who rarely receive dental care.

It will be her third medical mission to that country, one of the poorest in the Western Hemisphere. Her first, after her junior year at UNC-Wilmington, solidified her desire to become a dentist, and particularly one who works in underserved areas.

It isn’t necessary to leave North Carolina to do that. This state ranks 47th in the country in dentists per capita, according to UNC-Chapel Hill research. In rural areas, the ratio is worse than that. In some counties, there are no
dentists at all.

The dental school at East Carolina was established to address that problem. It recruits students — all from North Carolina — who express an interest in practicing in rural areas and other places where access to dental care is limited.

The first class of 52 students enrolled last summer and will graduate in 2015. Selected from 369 applicants, the inaugural class includes Luckhardt, 23, a 2007 graduate of Northwest Guilford High School whose family lives in Summerfield.

She was a perfect candidate for the initial class. With a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry at UNCW, she’s strong in science. Ask her what she likes best about dental school and she narrows it down to just about everything — lab work, the curriculum, patient care, her classmates, the professors and the mission.

“After a year, I honestly feel even more strongly about the mission,” she said in a recent interview.

She’s demonstrated her commitment to service not only through her trips to the Dominican Republic but by volunteering with the N.C. Dental Society’s Mission of Mercy clinics, the “dental bus” in Greenville and other activities. And she plans to set up a general practice in a rural area after she graduates. Exactly where, she doesn’t know yet.

There is no shortage of need, according to Dr. Gregory Chadwick, the dental school’s interim dean. Not only are there fewer dentists in North Carolina’s rural areas — 3 per 10,000 residents compared with 5 per 10,000 in urban areas — they are also an average of three years older.

That happens because younger professionals are drawn to cities, and because dentists in small communities often delay retirement if there’s no one available to take their place, Chadwick said.

As a result, “there are a lot of people who never see a dentist.” That includes children. More than one-fourth of North Carolina children enter kindergarten with a cavity. Untreated, cavities get bigger and can lead to infections.
“Dental disease is frustrating because it’s preventable,” said Chadwick, who is a dentist.

Dental disease also is associated with other health issues, contributing to complex challenges that require comprehensive solutions. That’s how East Carolina is addressing them.

It is training practitioners for the particular challenges of working in rural areas or in poor urban communities.

“Do we need more dentists? Yes,” said Chadwick. “And we need the right dentists.”

The school is focusing on primary care — general and pediatric dentistry. It’s also aiming to give students “strong clinical and diagnostic skills,” so they can spot other health problems, such as diabetes, and refer patients for further care. They’ll have to collaborate with local health departments or physicians.

Partnerships may be important because a dental practice is expensive to start and has to run like a business. The best-trained dentist won’t succeed if she can’t pay the bills. So the school is also trying to teach students some business skills.

Rural practices tend to make less money, Chadwick acknowledged. Medicaid patients or others without insurance won’t be able to pay the full cost for basic treatment, let alone crowns, bridge work or root canals. They won’t get expensive cosmetic procedures that earn a lot of money for dentists with more affluent patients.

Those concerns don’t discourage Luckhardt, who asks, “How much money is enough for some people?” She adds that creating the right business model can make a rural practice work.

To Chadwick, the right business model could mean a young dentist joining an older dentist’s practice, “or maybe it’s a physician and a dentist sharing an office.”

Another key to the ECU strategy is the creation of 10 “community service learning centers” in small communities across the state, from Sylva to
Elizabeth City. One will be established at Davidson County Community College between Thomasville and Lexington.

The centers will be classrooms for dental students and clinics where dental professors and students will treat patients.

The students will complete their fourth year of dental school at these centers: nine weeks at each of three locations.

“We’re getting them out to the delivery system,” Chadwick said. “We will have our faculty out there. ... Our faculty will actually see patients and have students for nine weeks.”

In addition to helping treat patients, students will share in administrative and clerical chores, learning the business side of clinic operations.

For DCCC, it’s a windfall.

“It’s been quite the buzz,” said Jenny Michael Varner, vice president for external affairs who’s been working with ECU on the project for two years.

“The presence of a four-year university on this campus is a plus. ... We’re very excited. The best thing is it really is a win-win.”

A dental clinic is needed in Davidson County, where dental emergencies account for a large number of hospital ER visits, Varner said. The county’s ratio of dentists per 10,000 people is a low 2.6.

Because of the ECU facility, which will be housed in a new building, the college is considering adding dental hygiene or dental assisting programs, Varner said. And the presence of the clinic might inspire more local students to go into dentistry.

No firm date has been set for opening the DCCC learning center, but it appears to be at least two years away. The first center, in Ahoskie, opened this month, and a second, in Elizabeth City, should be operating by the end of the year, Chadwick said.

The centers will be supported by university funds, federal grants, private donations and earned income.
Luckhardt said she looks forward to her nine-week tours at service learning centers: “It will be a really neat experience that will help me decide where I want to practice.”

That’s what Chadwick hopes to hear. The school can’t require its graduates to set up practices where they’re most needed, but selecting the right students in the first place is a good start.

“I think we have an opportunity in this state to do something good,” he said.

Continue Reading
Doug Clark (dgclark@news-record) is a News & Record editorial writer.
Dental help is on the way
Posted by Doug Clark on Wednesday, June 27, 2012 at 10:47 am

My Ideas front story Sunday gave an overview of East Carolina University's School of Dental Medicine, which aims to train dentists to practice in underserved parts of our state. All of its students, like Northwest Guilford High School graduate Diana Luckhardt, are North Carolina residents.

By coincidence, the PBS program Frontline presented a report yesterday titled "Dollars and Dentists," the result of an investigation into "the shocking consequences of a broken dental care system."

Cost and access are huge problems. Many Americans lack dental insurance, leaving them unable to pay for expensive care. Medicaid and Medicare provide limited coverage for dental treatment. And in many places, there's a real scarcity of dentists -- the problem ECU is trying to address.

The ECU school also is opening 10 Service Learning Centers across the state. One will be at Davidson County Community College. Fourth-year dental students will study under ECU dental professors at these centers, which also will provide care for patients who don't have their own dentist. This is a great approach.

I was very impressed by Diana Luckhardt, 23, who graduated with a degree in biology and minor in chemistry from UNC-Wilmington last year and is part of the inaugural class at the ECU school. She is very much committed to the goal of practicing in an underserved part of our state, even though that means she probably won't get rich.

North Carolina doesn't fare so well on national indexes of dental care. For one: more than 21 percent of N.C. residents 65 and older have none of their natural teeth. That's not as bad as some of our neighboring states, but it's
twice as high as California. Lifelong dental care will help people keep their own teeth into old age and help prevent other dental and medical troubles. We have to do better and, in North Carolina, help is on the way.
Greenville Police Department investigator R.G. Mendenhall examines bullet holes in a Jaguar sedan Saturday morning following a deadly shooting at the corner of Fourth and Evans streets at approximately 1:30 a.m. Saturday. The sedan, parked in a public lot on East Fourth St. sustained three bullet holes in the late-night shooting that claimed one life and injured three others.

**One killed in downtown shooting**

“When you mix people with different temperaments with alcohol, it becomes an issue.”

Lt. Carlton Williams
Greenville Police Department

By Kristin Zachary
Sunday, July 1, 2012

A fight that started in a downtown nightclub led to an early morning shooting Saturday that left one dead and three others wounded, police said.

Police believe alcohol played a large role in the fight that ended in gunfire near the intersection of Fourth and Evans streets.

Dontae Montrel Haddock, 21, of 4437 S. Joyner St., Ayden, was shot and later died at Vidant Medical Center, according to Lt. Carlton Williams.

Williams said officers were in the area of East Fourth Street between Reade and Cotanche streets about 1:34 a.m. clearing the fight. Police are not releasing the name of the club where the fight began.

“That fight was on East Fourth Street,” Williams said. “Officers were dealing with that when they heard shots fired.”

Several shots rang out at Fourth and Evans streets, he said. Investigator R.G. Mendenhall was at the scene Saturday and said two vehicles were struck by bullets in the corner of a parking lot.

Williams said officers responded to that area and found four people had been injured, including Haddock.
An alert issued by East Carolina University said the other victims also were transported to the hospital. Williams did not provide the names of those victims but said they did not have life-threatening injuries.

“This is not the first time we’ve had altercations downtown,” Williams said. “Alcohol and tempers flare.”

Three people were wounded, one severely, in a shooting near Fourth Street and Reade Circle after a dispute in a club on March 12, 2011. Two men were killed in 2009 in a drive by shooting on Fifth Street after a dispute at a club there.

That incident occurred early the morning of June 30, three years to the day before Saturday’s shooting death.

“The downtown area is a melting pot of people,” he said. “When you mix people with different temperaments with alcohol, it becomes an issue.

“This particular group of people, they chose to fight,” Williams said. “And, ultimately, it led to a death.”

When the shooting occurred, there were 12 officers assigned only to downtown, he said. In addition, another 18 were on duty throughout the area, Williams said.

“Our police presence is real strong downtown,” he said. “But, in this case, even with our officers close, people still chose to take an action that caused someone’s death.”

Williams said the department planned to increase staffing in the downtown area Saturday night in light of the violence.

Since the shooting, investigators have been interviewing numerous witnesses, many of whom have been uncooperative, he said.

“Several of the ones interviewed were intoxicated,” Williams said.

ECU police also responded to the incident, and the alert was issued due to the proximity of the shooting to campus, Sgt. Ralph Whitehurst said. He did not know if any of the shooting victims are ECU students.

The alert said suspects were described as three black males who left the scene in a silver Grand Marquis. The vehicle reportedly was last seen traveling west on Fourth Street.

Williams could not confirm Saturday afternoon if the suspect information provided in the alert is accurate but said police are looking into suspects.
At this time, police have no reason to believe the shooting was drug or gang-related, Williams said.

Further information regarding this case is unavailable as the investigation is ongoing, he said.

Anyone with information is asked to call Greenville police at 329-4315 or Pitt-Greenville CrimeStoppers at 758-7777 or by texting “PITTGV” and their information to 274637.

Contact Kristin Zachary at kzachary@reflector.com and 252-329-9566.
Crime: Woman assaulted near campus
Monday, July 2, 2012

A woman was assaulted about 2 a.m Sunday at Fourth Street and Holly Road near the East Carolina University campus, according to an ECU alert.

The woman suffered minor injuries and was treated at Vidant Medical Center, the alert said. The man she said assaulted her ran in an unknown direction.

Further details about the assault were not available Sunday from the Greenville Police Department.

The alert advised residents to walk in well-lighted areas and to walk in groups of people.

Anyone with information is encouraged to call Greenville police at 329-4315 or Pitt County CrimeStoppers at 758-7777.
In response to the June 29 letter from the young professional living in a university neighborhood who wrote in support of changing the three-unrelated occupant ordinance, I have a different view on the crime aspect.

I have lived in my university neighborhood for 31 years, absolutely love living here and have witnessed a lot that informs my perspective. In my view, changing the ordinance with the strategy of bringing more students back into the university neighborhoods will increase crime.

I have observed that students often are the targets of crime here because criminals know they usually possess prime theft goods: video game systems, sound systems, computers, bicycles, jewelry, small appliances, cash and cars that are often left unlocked.

Multiply all those possessions — more easy stuff to steal. I have witnessed many rental properties that are not properly secured lacking windows and doors with good locks and storm windows/screens. Add to that lots of comings and goings round the clock my multiple house residents and you have great theft targets.

I do not trust that many rental property owners would use increased rent monies to make their properties more secure and attractive. Many owners do not even live in Greenville and do not seem to value the historic uniqueness of our university neighborhoods. My impression is that many property investors overextended themselves financially and are now scrambling for ways to keep things going. Let’s not let the bad real estate investment choices by others compromise our university neighborhoods further.

JOAN MANSFIELD

Greenville
An East Carolina University biology professor is leading a team of researchers hoping to get a rare peek at an elusive bird hiding in the marshes of Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge in Currituck County.

Susan McRae, a faculty member at ECU and the North Carolina Center for Biodiversity, is working with graduate student Carol Brackett and field assistants Chelsey Faller, Elizabeth Lesley and Alexandra Mankofsky. The team is tagging and tracking the rare King Rail to learn more about the birds’ migratory habits. The researchers have captured 10 birds and located 49 nests.

For two years, McRae and her team have been wading through muck and marsh in search of King Rail nests. In most places, a sighting is rare. The King Rail population is so sparse that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service consider it a priority.

McRae said bird-watchers likely are more to find the King Rails on the Knotts Island refuge than elsewhere in North Carolina. Visitors to the Mackay Island Refuge have a good chance of seeing the long-legged bird darting across the road.

“They do come out in the open in Mackay Island, and that’s a pretty rare thing to see,” McRae said.

“King Rails are secretive creatures and remain a hidden minority in the marshes. Yet there is a good chance of spotting one on Mackay Island. I don’t know anywhere else where you can pretty reliably see one without straying too far from the parking lot.”
“Little is known so far about the King Rails’ habits,” she said.

King Rails’ nests in the marshes are not easy to locate. A pile of crayfish shells may be a clue that a bird is nearby. The birds blend in with their surroundings — and when they turn tail, they are so narrow they are barely noticeable.

“That’s where the saying ‘thin as a rail’ comes from,” McRae said.

A new aspect to the study is the use of radio telemetry. Radio transmitters are attached to a small sample of breeders, allowing the researchers to monitor what parts of the refuge the King Rails use and whether they stay at Mackay Island year round, or if they migrate elsewhere for the winter.

Small samples of blood also are collected to assist in genetic testing.

McRae’s team is encouraging public participation in the research. A brochure at the refuge explains how visitors can contact the team if they spot a King Rail.

Funding for the research is provided by a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service until 2013. McRae’s team follows a study by N.C. State University that focused on what makes the Mackay Island site so attractive to the birds.

**Grant supports annual literary homecoming**

Joyner Library has received a $15,000 National Endowment for the Arts grant to support the Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, a program that celebrates and promotes the culture and literature of North Carolina.

With activities in five counties, the literary homecoming provides an opportunity for local residents to learn about and meet North Carolina writers.

This year’s event, scheduled for Sept. 21-22, marks the ninth literary homecoming. Themed “Litflix: Adapting North Carolina Literature into Film,” the event will explore how film can both enhance and distract from the written word.

The program will engage participants in panel discussions and writing workshops. Events are planned in Wilson, Rocky Mount, New Bern, Morehead, City, Beaufort and Greenville and will include a showcase of short films and programs presented by authors on the adaptions of their books into film.
Graduate students receive awards

Two ECU students in coastal resources management received 2012 Walter B. Jones Memorial Awards for Coastal and Ocean Resource Management. Michelle Covi and Jennifer Cudney-Burch were selected for the Excellence in Coastal and Marine Studies awards, presented by the National Ocean Service, a department of the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The Jones awards recognize “innovation, resourcefulness, leadership and a commitment to balancing the human use of America’s coastal and ocean resources with the needs of the resources themselves,” according to the NOAA award website.

Cudney-Burch is a doctoral student under the guidance of professor Roger Rulifson at ECU’s Institute for Coastal Science and Policy. She served as a Sea Grant Knauss Fellow in Washington, D.C., for NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service, where she connected fishermen and policy makers. Her research on spiny dogfish management and migration along the U.S. East Coast and Canada led to a new paradigm in management plans recognized at both national and international levels.

Covi’s work involves engaging rural communities in determining and planning for impacts of sea level rise on the region. Her research is addressing the significant need for citizen education, collaborative planning and effective policy making processes.

Covi also works as the director of communication and outreach for the RENCI at ECU Engagement Center.

The awards were named for Walter B. Jones Sr., who represented North Carolina in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1966-92, including many years chairing the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries.

Ten graduate student awards are presented nationally every other year. Of the 10, six recipients came from North Carolina universities. Also represented were Duke University, N.C. State and the UNC-Chapel Hill and UNC Wilmington.

Other winners hailed from the University of Virginia, Oregon State University and Florida Gulf Coast University.
Robert Spencer Hampton, 25, of Greenville, passed away on Friday, June 29, 2012 after a three-month battle with melanoma. The funeral service will be conducted on Sunday at 3 p.m. in the Wilkerson Funeral Chapel. Burial will follow in Pinewood Memorial Park.

Spencer was a graduate of East Carolina University and was a realtor with Aldridge and Southerland in Greenville. He was also the owner of Hampton Lawncare and Landscaping, a business which he began as a boy mowing lawns in his neighborhood and which was maintained during his illness by his friends.

"Against all Odds" was the motto by which Spencer lived his life. After graduating from D.H. Conley High School, where he played football and won two baseball state championships, his great hope was to play football for East Carolina University. He was repeatedly told, however, "You're not big enough or fast enough to play Division 1 Football." Spencer, with his great determination and passion, refused to accept this. After solidifying his spot on the team in his freshman year, Spencer had his motto tattooed on his right shoulder, as a reminder that he could always overcome any challenges that life might bring. During his illness, T-shirts, wristbands, and decals, all bearing the phrase "Against All Odds," began appearing throughout Greenville and across the state, as everyone who knew Spencer or of his fight joined together to support him and his family.

Lindsay and Spencer had been childhood sweethearts and were joyfully anticipating their April 21, 2012 wedding when, on March 21, 2012, they received the melanoma diagnosis. Despite this, Lindsay and Spencer decided to go forward with their marriage and celebrated the wedding of their dreams.

Spencer's brief life and his tragic death touched the hearts of thousands of people. Messages came from across the nation as word spread of his courageous battle, everyone praying for him and his family. In Spencer's three months of fighting, he touched more hearts and brought more people to God, than most people do in their whole lives. He will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife, Lindsay Styons Hampton; his parents, Sara and Bob Hampton, of Greenville and his sister Ashley Hampton Sarafino and husband, Jason, and nephew, Jayce all of Smithfield; grandmother, Mary S.
Hampton of Plymouth; father-in-law, Raymie Styons; mother-in-law, Denice Styons; brother-in-law, Trey Styons; and sister-in-law, Sarah Styons all of Greenville;
The family will receive friends today from 4 – 6 p.m. at Wilkerson Funeral Home and other times at the home of his parents.
Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, 930-B Wellness Drive, Greenville, NC 27834.

Published in The Daily Reflector on June 30, 2012
Stacy Warner prepares, adding ketchup before she digs into her burger at Christy's Euro Pub. This unique group of ECU Professors and friends get together in search of Greenville's best burger. Wednesday, June 27, 2012. (Aileen Devlin/The Daily Reflector)

Professors search for best burger
By Jane Welborn Hudson
Saturday, June 30, 2012

They come hungry and thirsty, wearing quirky shirts and armed with senses of humor and, possibly, antacids.

They are professors and staff of East Carolina University’s College of Health and Human Performance during the school year. But on Wednesday summer nights, they and their friends and families become The BBW — code for “Beer Burger Wednesday.”

Their mission: to uncover the best beer and burger in Greenville. It’s an assignment they take very seriously.

“We’re committed to undergraduate education,” BBW founder Mike McCammon of Greenville said.

The BBW bylaws are simple — eat a burger, drink a beer, laugh, enjoy the companionship, and support local restaurants midweek when the majority of ECU students are out of town. Wear a weird or wacky shirt, and you may win a prize for the “best” dressed.

The BBW is a sneaky lot, trying to throw a reporter off the case by being coy about the members’ real names and fudging their membership numbers.
For instance, member Paul “In a Gadda” DaVita said “Chuck the Survey Guy” is responsible for compiling the emailed survey results from the “300 or 400” BBW members.

In reality, as few as two and as many as 20 BBW members gather on any given Wednesday at the prearranged Greenville restaurant — from Starlight Café to Cubbie’s. Members order any burger they desire from the menu, drink any beer or beverage they prefer — and then send Chuck Tanner an email with their thoughts about the dining experience, including the tastiness of the burger and the temperature of the beer.

“One time I ordered a tuna steak sandwich and they wouldn’t serve it to me,” BBW member Tom Raedeke said. “I had to order a burger.”

Come on, Tom. Rules are rules.

There are no membership fees and admission to the group is easy— no rush or blackballing or hazing. If you know someone who is a BBW member and express an interest in participating, you’ll be added to the email that notifies the group of the secret location of the next dinner meeting. That’s it. You are a card-carrying member of The BBW. Well, if The BBW had cards.

For a short time, the group decided to broaden its focus by sampling pizza, but the BPW didn’t stick — so the group went back to good old American burgers.

That’s the BBW way.

Contact Jane Hudson at jhudson@reflector.com or 252-329-9577.
Uriel Alberto, who was charged on Feb. 29 with disorderly conduct after a demonstration at the Legislative Building.

Immigrant’s protest at NC legislature could lead to his deportation

By Kyle Jahner and Anne Blythe - kjahner@newsobserver.com

Uriel Alberto was born in Mexico 25 years ago, but after 17 years in North Carolina he thinks of himself as a “Southern boy.”

To Alberto, one of the many young immigrants brought to this country as a child by parents seeking a better life, his homeland is foreign. But in the United States, the place he considers home, he is foreign – and illegal.

Alberto, one of three undocumented immigrants arrested in February after interrupting a state legislative hearing on immigration, is scheduled to appear in Wake County district court on Monday to respond to those charges.

Alberto and his fellow protesters decided to step out of the shadows so legislators debating immigration policies could attach faces to issues that stir such fervent emotion.

As legislators talked about stricter laws at a Feb. 29 meeting of the House Select Committee on the State’s Role in Immigration Policy, Alberto, Estefania Mijangos and Cynthia Martinez rose from their seats.

They were all members of the NC Dream Team, an organization of undocumented immigrant youths and their allies working to raise awareness about the issues that vex a generation who consider themselves Americans in their hearts and minds, but without the rights of citizenship.
“I am undocumented and I am unafraid,” Alberto said when he stood. “I refuse to be bullied and intimidated by this committee and choose to empower my community.”

But his willingness to risk arrest to empower his community could result in him being sent back to a homeland he barely knows – even after President Barack Obama’s recent executive action that allows hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants to remain in the United States if their parents brought them here as children.

**Taking a risk with his past**

Under the change, the Department of Homeland Security will no longer initiate the deportation of illegal immigrants who came to the United States before age 16 if they have lived here for at least five years – and are either in school, are high school graduates or are military veterans in good standing. The immigrants also must have clean criminal records and cannot be older than 30.

Alberto’s past, however, falls short of perfect. His future, consequently, falls short of certain.

Alberto, a Winston-Salem resident who works as a paralegal, has had brushes with the law that caused Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers to begin deportation proceedings against him after his February arrest.

In January 2008, Alberto was pulled over by police, accused of driving while impaired. He said he registered 0.04 on a breath test at the scene; 0.08 is considered impaired in North Carolina. But Alberto, a few months short of his 21st birthday, was charged. He also was convicted of driving without a license on four occasions.

Alberto also has been charged with assault on a female after an altercation with his then-wife. The case was dismissed after she wrote a letter, pleading with authorities not to deport Alberto, calling him a “big-hearted individual” and a “kind, loving, generous man.”

Such crimes rarely draw federal attention, but for an illegal immigrant, they change everything.

Alberto’s decision to interrupt the legislative hearing could mean he is not only forced by immigration rules to leave the U.S., he also could leave behind his 2-year-old child, who lives in Orlando with his mother.
Alberto recently described why he and his cohorts decided to confront the lawmakers. He was upset that lawmakers were citing crime and employment statistics to bolster arguments for stricter regulations.

Many illegal immigrants who work in this country also pay taxes, Alberto contends, and yet can’t vote and have no access to Social Security or Medicare. They have access to free public school educations to set themselves up for college, he acknowledged, but often can’t afford to attend.

Alberto, a track star in high school, had hopes of going to college, maybe even landing a spot at East Carolina University. His immigration status prevented him from paying in-state tuition or getting federal loans, the only ways he could afford to go.

“I was trying to encourage him to come,” said Joe Catania, the then-ECU assistant that recruited him as a distance runner. “What I noticed about him was that he was a tough kid, very coachable, and I liked him. He seemed like he overcame a lot.”

Instead, Alberto took what work he could and decided to take a stand, even if it meant disrupting a legislative hearing.

“I know it’s been considered disrespectful. It’s been said I’ve been making a mockery of the system,” Alberto said. “But for someone like me it’s so significant. Those are moments of empowerment for me and my community, and I cherish them.”

‘A choice to break the law’

Ron Woodard, director of NC Listen, an organization lobbying for tougher immigration laws, said Alberto and others had been put in a difficult situation by their parents, but that did not warrant a loosening of laws.

“Theyir parents made the choice to break the law and come here. That’s put their dependents in a difficult situation,” Woodard said.

“There are consequences,” Woodard added. “They are not a child anymore, they are an adult. They can go back to their home country as an adult, legally get a university education and a job. It would be annoying for them to have to do that. But if they got an job or college slot here, isn’t that going to annoy an American trying to get that spot or job. Who do we want annoy?”

But Scott Holmes, the Durham lawyer representing Alberto in his Wake County criminal case, said he admired the young demonstrators trying to draw attention to a larger societal issue: “One of the extraordinary things
about these kids is when they come out of the shadows they’re running the risk of being arrested and a trip to a home they don’t even know.”

Jahner: 919-829-4822
The Wilmington Star News
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Foundation could save UNCW's Aquarius marine laboratory

By Pressley Baird
Pressley.Baird@StarNewsOnline.com

The newly formed Aquarius Foundation could be the saving grace for the world's only undersea laboratory and a key component of the University of North Carolina Wilmington's marine science program.

A federal budget that's holding up in the U.S. Congress doesn't include money for Aquarius, the federal undersea research program operated by UNCW. School officials said in May that the center would ultimately be pulled from its research space in the Florida Keys by 2013 unless funding was found elsewhere.

Enter the Aquarius Foundation.

The foundation, which was incorporated last month, is working toward a nonprofit designation, said executive director Debbie Illes. The goal is to create a place where individuals, corporations and other operations can help fund Aquarius, Illes said.

Using the foundation as a funding source for the research lab would eliminate the university's ties to the program, Illes said. But she said the foundation is looking for groups to partner with.

"We'll have a multitude of income sources no matter which business plan we choose," she said.

Regardless of the foundation's final decision, Illes noted that they'll have to work fast. If federal funding is not replaced, the capsule would be dismantled by December 2012.

"We're looking at raising a sizable sum of money between now and the end of the year" to keep the research lab running, she said. That sizable sum, which will fund the lab's operating costs, adds up to anywhere from $1.5 million to $3 million.

Funding troubles began when the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which manages the UNCW-based National Undersea Research Center, consolidated programs in its ocean exploration program. That eliminated the undersea research program that included Aquarius, said Bob Wicklund, the school's director of federal programs.
When Aquarius' funding has been threatened in years past, North Carolina's members of Congress have put earmarks in the budget to save it. But Congress banned those earmarks, making a Congressional intervention out of the question.

Illes, a Florida Keys resident, said she decided to start the foundation not only to support the research lab, but to increase public awareness of it.

"This is something we have here in the Keys, and people don't know and appreciate the value of this," she said. "I made it a personal mission that the public know more about it."

Pressley Baird: 343-2328
On Twitter: @PressleyBaird
Focus on Penn State Turns to Emails

By JOHN W. MILLER

Attorneys representing young men who accused Jerry Sandusky of victimizing them say email exchanges among former Pennsylvania State University officials indicate that officials chose not to report acts of alleged abuse and that the emails could be used in civil litigation against the school.

Mr. Sandusky, 68 years old, was convicted last month of 45 counts related to child sex abuse involving 10 boys over 15 years. The emails were exchanged among former athletic director Tim Curley, former vice president of business administration Gary Schultz and former university president Graham Spanier.

Messrs. Curley and Schultz await trial on one count each of perjury and failing to report an alleged instance of child-sex abuse in a school athletic-facility shower in February 2001 involving Mr. Sandusky and a boy believed to be about 10 years old. The men have pleaded not guilty.

The emails were discovered by investigators working for former Federal Bureau of Investigation director Louis Freeh, assigned by university trustees to examine the school's handling of the case, and given to the state attorney general's office, which is continuing its grand-jury investigation. A spokesman for the attorney general didn't return calls for comment. The
content of the emails, earlier reported by CNN, were confirmed by someone close to the investigation.

In one email obtained by investigators, Mr. Curley wrote to Messrs. Spanier and Schultz that "after giving it more thought and talking it over with [former head football coach] Joe [Paterno] yesterday, I am uncomfortable with what we agreed were the next steps." Among the next steps being discussed were reporting the incident to child-abuse officials, telling Mr. Sandusky he needed professional help and banning him from campus, according to the email.

According to the emails confirmed by the person close to the investigation, Mr. Schultz responded by email that not contacting authorities "is a more humane" way to handle the incident. Mr. Spanier agreed in an email to Messrs. Curley and Schultz, adding that "the only downside for us is if the message [to Mr. Sandusky] isn't 'heard' and acted upon, and we then become vulnerable for not having reported it," according to the person close to the investigation.

Mr. Spanier, who was ousted by trustees in November and continues to draw a salary, couldn't be reached for comment.

The emails are "reckless behavior that shows the type of liability that warrants punitive damages," says Michael Boni, a lawyer representing a man known as Victim 1, who said he has read the emails. None of the eight young men who testified against Mr. Sandusky in court have filed suit.

Tom Farrell and Caroline Roberto, lawyers for Messrs. Curley and Schultz, said in a statement the responsible response was to "carefully and responsibly assess the best way to handle vague, but troubling allegations. Faced with tough situations, good people try to do their best to make the right decisions."

Penn State said in a statement last month it planned to invite victims of Mr. Sandusky's abuse to participate in an effort "to facilitate the resolution of claims against the University arising out of Mr. Sandusky's conduct." Sunday, a university spokesman said the school declined to comment further "until the Freeh report is released." Mr. Freeh hasn't said when he would submit his final report.

The family of Mr. Paterno, who died in January, released a statement saying, "The emails in question did not originate with Joe Paterno or go to him as he never personally utilized email."
Judge Strikes Main Element of For-Profit College Rules

By TAMAR LEWIN

A federal judge in Washington has overturned a main component of the federal Department of Education’s “gainful employment” rules, which were applied to career-training programs and were hotly contested by for-profit colleges, saying that regulation was arbitrary.

The ruling by Judge Rudolph Contreras of Federal District Court was released on Saturday.

The gainful-employment regulations, which were issued last year and were scheduled to go into effect on Sunday, were devised to prevent for-profit colleges, which get the bulk of their revenues from federal student aid, from leaving students with huge debt loads and credentials that provided little help in landing them a job.

Under the regulations, programs had to meet one of three tests or lose their eligibility for federal student aid: at least 35 percent of graduates must be repaying their loans, the typical graduate’s estimated annual loan payments must not exceed 12 percent of earnings, or they must not exceed 30 percent of discretionary income.

But Judge Contreras ruled that the 35 percent debt-repayment standard had no basis. “No expert study or industry standard suggested that the rate selected by the department would appropriately measure whether a particular program adequately prepared its students,” the opinion said. “Instead, the department simply explained that the chosen rate would identify the worst-performing quarter of programs. Why the bottom quarter? Because failing fewer programs would suggest that the test was not ‘meaningful’ while failing more would make for too large a ‘subset of programs that could potentially lose eligibility.’ ”

The judge left standing the disclosure portion of the regulations, under which career-college programs must disclose to students their graduation rate, their placement rate and their students’ median debt load.

A spokesman for the Department of Education, emphasizing that the judge had not rejected the concept of such gainful employment regulations, said
the ruling would probably lead to another round of examination of where benchmarks should be set.

“The court clearly upheld our authority to regulate career-college programs while urging a clearer rationale for standards around repayment rates,” said Peter Cunningham, a spokesman for the department.

At the time the regulations were issued, even as the for-profit colleges said the department was overreaching its authority, many consumer and student advocacy groups said the benchmarks were set too low to ensure any real protection for students.

For-profit colleges, which tend to attract the poorest and least-prepared students and offer programs far more expensive than those at community colleges, account for about 10 percent of the nation’s college enrollment, but nearly half the defaults. And with student debt a growing problem, legislators and advocacy groups have become increasingly concerned about the role the for-profits play in leaving a generation of students mired in debt that they will not be able to repay.

The Department of Education issued data on Tuesday showing that 5 percent of career-training programs, all of them at for-profit institutions, failed all three requirements of the department’s new gainful-employment regulations. That initial report had no consequences, though, since the regulations are not yet fully in effect. No program will lose federal aid until at least 2015, and even then, schools will lose their aid eligibility only if they fail all three tests for three of four consecutive years.

Only about a third of the programs met all three tests. And while many of the programs with the worst numbers were small local operations, some large, publicly traded for-profit college companies, notably Corinthian Colleges and the Education Management Corporation, performed poorly as well, with a significant share of their programs failing the tests.
U-Va. upheaval: 18 days of leadership crisis

By Paul Schwartzman, Daniel de Vise, Anita Kumar and Jenna Johnson

The call summoning Teresa Sullivan arrives at 3:30 p.m. June 18, as she lingers on the edge of the Lawn at the University of Virginia, thousands of supporters massed between her and the Rotunda.

Inside, the university’s board awaits her farewell address.

Her husband and elder son trailing, the outgoing U-Va. president wades through the hordes on the sloping green, her steps slowed by outstretched hands.

“U-V-A! U-V-A!” they chant, the din so thunderous Sullivan can barely make out the shouted greetings.

Stay strong, they tell her. Fight back. We’re behind you.

The noise bleeds through the Rotunda walls and into the chamber of the Board of Visitors, where the woman engineering Sullivan’s ouster, Rector Helen Dragas, presides at a crowded oval table.

Sullivan is fortified by the outpouring. Yet she believes, as she takes a seat opposite Dragas, that her tenure is over.

Now is the moment to answer detractors and proclaim what she stands for. Now is the moment to say farewell.

What Teresa Sullivan fails to understand at that moment is that her revival as U-Va.’s leader has begun.

The 18 days of high-octane drama that enveloped the Charlottesville campus is a story of a raw power play gone awry. There were missteps and miscalculations, not just by Dragas and her allies, but also by Sullivan, who did not anticipate the backlash her ouster would ignite.

This narrative is based on scores of interviews with U-Va. officials, professors, alumni and students, as well as state officials. Most participants spoke for themselves. Sullivan and Dragas, who as rector chairs the governing board, declined to be interviewed but spoke through intermediaries.
At first glance, the showdown was between two pioneers — Sullivan, 62, U-Va.’s first female president, and Dragas, 50, the first female rector — with vastly different styles and approaches to education. If Sullivan, a sociologist, was the embodiment of the deliberative scholar, then Dragas, a real estate developer from Virginia Beach, personified the hard-charging business executive.

But the women came to represent something larger than themselves. They embodied two sides of a debate over the future of public higher education. In Sullivan, the Dragas camp — which included some powerful alumni and board members — saw a roadblock to the creation of the modern university. They believed that U-Va. needed to accelerate technological innovations and pay more attention to the fiscal bottom line.

In Dragas, the Sullivan forces — deans, professors, and many alumni and students — saw nothing less than an assault on the public university’s role in society. If the board could so easily vanquish Sullivan, they asked, what would stop it from going after, say, the German department?

At risk, they insisted, were values and traditions at the core of a classical education.

That impassioned debate uncoiled during a leadership crisis unlike any in the history of the university. “Palace coup meets grassroots rebellion,” Larry Sabato, a prominent politics professor, tweeted at its peak.

At the beginning, there was an e-mail.

At 9:06 p.m. June 7, a Thursday, Dragas sends Sullivan a message that she and Mark Kington, the board’s vice rector, hoped to meet with the president the next day.

“Are you free sometime after 3 pm?” Dragas writes.

Sullivan attaches no special significance to the request.

As recently as November, 15 months after Sullivan became president, the board had given her a favorable evaluation. In May, the board had applauded at a meeting in which one member praised her leadership.

Everything seemed to be going well.

At 7:01 a.m. Friday, Sullivan responds to Dragas, writing in an e-mail that she would be at a retreat for most of the day but could be in her office by 5 p.m.

“Is there anything you would like me to prepare,” Sullivan writes.
No preparation needed, Dragas responds.

What Sullivan doesn’t know is that Dragas has already begun choreographing the president’s exit. The rector had called Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) earlier that week to say the board was about to force Sullivan’s resignation. Dragas was named to the board in 2008 by McDonnell’s Democratic predecessor, Timothy M. Kaine, and her four-year term was to expire July 1.

At 5 p.m., Sullivan greets Dragas and Kington at her office, offering them cold soft drinks before they sit at a small conference table. Sullivan sits at the head of the table, between the rector and vice rector.

Dragas tells Sullivan that the board is unhappy with her performance and that there are significant problems with her management of the university. Why she has not raised these concerns before is unclear.

Sullivan is a good president, Kington tells her, but not a great one. She is moving too slowly to implement the kinds of changes the board seeks. Dragas cites a move to online education as an example.

The rector tells Sullivan that she needs to resign and presents her with a separation agreement to be signed within 24 hours. Dragas and Kington suggest that she speak with an attorney and her family. They have polled the board, Dragas tells her, and they control 15 of 16 votes.

Sullivan has never faced anything like this in four decades in academia. She remains composed but says little. She is in shock.

At the meeting’s end, she walks across the street to her home, the presidential mansion, and shows the resignation papers to her husband, Douglas Laycock, a U-Va. law professor.

They talk into the night about what to do.

Should she fight? Should she walk away?

What’s best for the university?

Dragas and Kington decamp to the rector’s farm outside Charlottesville. There, at 8 p.m. Friday, June 8, they break the news to Chief Operating Officer Michael Strine and Provost John Simon, whom Sullivan recently hired as her top deputies.

At 10 a.m. Saturday, Dragas and Kington sweep into the president’s personal conference room to meet with a handful of top officials. They tell
the group that Sullivan will be stepping down and have them sign confidentiality agreements.

“It’s going to rock the university,” university spokeswoman Carol Wood says.

That afternoon, Sullivan calls Dragas to say she will sign her resignation papers and have the document delivered to her.

At 10 a.m. Sunday, Dragas breaks the news to the university’s deans and vice presidents. At 11:19 a.m., she sends an e-mail to the wider community announcing that the board and Sullivan “today mutually agreed that she will step down as president” in August.

Word spreads quickly.

Gweneth West, a drama professor, is in her car at 1 p.m. when her cellphone rings.

“Terry resigned,” a friend tells her.

“Terry who?” West replies.

The idea that Teresa Sullivan could leave the university is incomprehensible. West rushes to call colleagues. The Faculty Senate’s executive committee calls an emergency meeting at 6 p.m. Professors trade anxious questions.

Why did Sullivan step down? Had she done something wrong? Scandalous? What was meant by “philosophical difference,” the reason Sullivan cited in a news release?

Over the next three days, speculation mushrooms. Campus organizations across the spectrum demand that the board explain the resignation.

“Unfortunately,” the Cavalier Daily student newspaper writes in an editorial, “this decision remains impossible to assess because, thus far, it has been justified in an oblique and opaque manner.”

Dragas remains silent.

In private meetings and telephone conversations, she is working to find Sullivan’s replacement. A candidate she had lined up for the interim presidency, Edward Miller, a medical school administrator, has backed out. But Dragas has identified other candidates and begun preparing Sullivan’s severance package. She divvies up presidential duties between Simon and Strine.

On Tuesday, June 12, Dragas speaks by phone with Carl Zeithaml, dean of U-Va.’s McIntire School of Commerce, who has just stepped off an airplane.
Does he have any suggestions about replacing Sullivan? she asks. Does he want to be the next president? At least on an interim basis?

“No,” Zeithaml answers. But he promises to “do what I can to help the university.”

On Wednesday, Dragas issues a public response to critics, saying the president’s departure came after “extended” deliberations. The statement does nothing to quell demands for more explanation. Questions are giving way to full-throttled criticism.

To counter the backlash, Dragas e-mails Simon and Strine at 9 a.m. Thursday. She wants a joint statement from them by noon. They must say that the board’s action “is authoritative and resolute” and that the two top deputies “will support the interim and the next president.”

“We need to see some joint leadership out of our team,” she adds.

Later Thursday, they issue the statement she wants. Many on campus take it to mean that Sullivan will not be coming back. Others see it as Dragas propaganda.

That afternoon, the executive committee of the Faculty Senate passes a resolution of no confidence in Dragas and the board.

At 8 p.m., Dragas and Kington hold a conference call with the faculty leaders, including West and law professor George Cohen.

For the first time, Dragas apologizes for how the resignation unfolded. She tells the professors, West recalls, that “it had been done the wrong way.”

The rector then reiterates that Sullivan must go.

On June 17, a muggy Sunday, the full Faculty Senate meets to ratify the no-confidence resolution. Faculty leaders hope the gathering will swell into a pro-Sullivan rally.

They get their wish: 800 people file into an auditorium and overflow rooms. Simon, the provost, takes the stage. No one knows what he will say. Until now, Simon has passionately defended Sullivan but steered clear of criticizing Dragas.

Today, Simon has had an epiphany. It is Father’s Day, and the provost, dressed in shorts and sneakers, wants to set an example for his children. He says he finds himself at a “defining moment” as he confronts questions about honor and integrity at the university.
“The board actions over the next few days,” he says, “will inform me as to whether the University of Virginia remains the type of institution I’m willing to dedicate my efforts to lead.”

Applause shakes the hall. His declaration is perceived as a threat to resign. Suddenly, the university faces the risk that the faculty might follow Sullivan out the door.

On the same day, major donors are threatening revolt. Some say they might withhold their funds because of the rising turmoil.

Sullivan’s supporters seize the momentum. John “Dubby” Wynne, a former U-Va. rector who led the board that hired Sullivan, telephones her husband, Laycock, that night to ask if she would consider staying.

Wynne, a retired communications executive with connections in Richmond, has been placing dozens of calls daily to board members and others with influence, spreading the message that the board’s decision was far from unanimous and that the group was wrong about Sullivan. Other ex-board members join his effort. Wynne is a mentor to both Sullivan and Dragas, partly responsible for both women attaining their positions. But in this matter, Wynne has chosen a side.

Laycock conveys the message. Sullivan is skeptical. She believes that her departure is in the school’s best interest. But her husband is her closest adviser, and Wynne has won him over.

Sullivan agrees to sleep on it.

Before 9 a.m. Monday, June 18, several cars gather in a Charlottesville parking lot. They belong to Dragas and Faculty Senate leaders, who have staged a ruse to throw off reporters. Dragas, who has hired public relations firm Hill+Knowlton, wants no media stakeout at their meeting.

They climb into two vans and drive 10 minutes to the university’s Republic Plaza, where they meet, by happenstance, inside a crisis-management center.

Cohen, the law professor, asks the first question: “Can you tell us anything you have not stated publicly about what has happened?”

No, Dragas says. It is a personnel matter.

Cohen asks how the rector can cite confidentiality if she is not accusing Sullivan of misconduct. Then he lists faculty demands: Sullivan must be reinstated, and the naming of an interim leader must wait. Dragas and Kington must resign.
The rector smiles and replies that she has heard these points already.

A couple of hours later, the faculty generals rally the troops ahead of a 3 p.m. board meeting to appoint an interim president and hear a statement from Sullivan. A mass e-mail commands, “FILL THE LAWN TODAY!!”

By 2 p.m., supporters are gathering. The campus radio station, WTJU-FM, sets up a booth and begins broadcasting live.

Before the meeting, Sullivan signs her resignation settlement, formalizing her departure on Aug. 15. Lawyer Raymond Cotton helped her negotiate it. Reinstatement, at this point, seems a long shot.

Dragas enters the Rotunda through a side door. Addressing the board, she expresses regret, not for the act of forcing Sullivan out, but for the manner of its execution. Dragas finishes her remarks, calls for a closed session and empties the boardroom.

About 3:30 p.m., an aide to Sullivan calls Laycock. The board is ready to see the president.

Sullivan enters the boardroom and sits down. In a measured tone, she reads a statement that takes an implicit swipe at Dragas and Kington.

“Corporate-style, top-down leadership does not work in a great university,” she says.

The board is silent when she finishes. Heywood Fralin, a Sullivan loyalist, thanks her for her service.

Sullivan walks outside. She has not planned to address the crowd. Her husband tells her she must.

The crowd quiets.

“You do great work here,” Sullivan says. “And I want to thank you for what you do and for making this a great university. At the end of the day, that’s the most important thing.”

Sullivan departs, but many supporters remain.

Inside, the board turns to naming a successor. The session quickly moves beyond who should lead the university to defining its mission. Board members speak in turn, and some grow emotional. The boardroom is cold and seems to grow colder as night falls.

The meeting stretches nearly 12 hours. Waiting in a hall outside, Cohen nods off in a chair.
At 2:30 a.m. Tuesday, the board votes 12 to 1 to appoint Zeithaml interim president. Two board members abstain; one is absent.

But the lopsided result conceals a deep division. There appears to be an 8-8 split on the board on the question of whether to keep Sullivan.

At 3 a.m. Tuesday, June 19, Zeithaml takes a call from Dragas. He is in London, where it is 8 a.m. She tells him the interim presidency is his. Zeithaml says he’ll take the job as long as the board “really wants me to do it.” Zeithaml agrees largely because he believes that Sullivan’s exit is irreversible.

That afternoon, Kington, the vice rector, resigns. “I believe that this is the right thing to do,” he tells the governor, “and I hope that it will begin a needed healing process at the university.”

His departure leaves the board with 15 voting members. Suddenly, it appears that Sullivan might have a majority.

“It’s not over,” Cohen tells a reporter.

In a conference call from Sweden, the governor tells reporters that the board has made missteps. “There are absolutely things they should have done differently,” he says.

William Wulf, a prominent computer science professor, announces his resignation. He blames the board for “dumb decisions.”

At 3 p.m., student journalist Krista Pedersen walks over to the Rotunda to collect a stack of documents the university released under public records law. The Cavalier Daily was the first publication to request the documents. Pedersen’s reward: a stack of e-mails written by Dragas and Kington.

The newspaper staff decides to release tidbits on Twitter. The e-mails show Dragas and Kington trading articles and opinion pieces as they mull over Sullivan’s removal.

On May 31, Dragas shared a Wall Street Journal editorial about an “online revolution” in higher education. She made a notation: “why we can’t afford to wait.”

In a June 11 e-mail, Kington pondered whether the university should answer a reporter’s questions, writing, “maybe a modicum of candor is called for.”

The e-mails trigger a torrent of criticism.

By Wednesday morning, June 20, Dragas’s hometown newspaper, the Virginian-Pilot, demands her resignation.
In a news conference that afternoon, Zeithaml, the incoming interim president, acknowledges “that some of you don’t trust me.” He claims “absolutely no intention” of seeking the permanent job. He says he does not support Sullivan’s ouster, and he compliments her “tremendous work.”

He predicts that the interim job will be his for a year.

In Richmond, a frustrated McDonnell has just returned from a nine-day trade mission to Europe. The first order of business: U-Va. He gathers aides for a 7 p.m. meeting. He is ready to jump into the fray. But how? He has insisted repeatedly that he can’t meddle in a university decision.

On Thursday morning, the governor arrives at his office with a plan. He will order the board to resolve the crisis. A subsequent event will help him set a deadline for board action: Just before 5 p.m., the board calls a special session for the following Tuesday to discuss “possible changes” in Sullivan’s contract.

At this point, the vote count is fluid. Six board members have publicly or privately endorsed reinstating Sullivan. Five others are thought to oppose her return, including Dragas. Four votes may be up for grabs.

To shore up her support, Dragas makes a final public appeal: a 10-point outline of challenges facing the university under Sullivan. The rector contends that the school lacks a coherent plan for everything from fundraising to class sizes to faculty pay.

Without one, she writes, the university “will continue to drift in yesterday.”

Her statement fails to quiet critics. Support for Sullivan is snowballing. Ten of the university’s 11 academic deans issue a joint statement Thursday calling for Sullivan’s return. The 11th, Zeithaml, had not been asked to sign because of his awkward situation. He telephones Dragas that evening to tell her that he is suspending his interim presidency until Sullivan’s future is resolved.

“I need to get out of the way here,” he tells her.

On Friday afternoon, McDonnell issues an ultimatum to board members: take charge, or he will fire them all. Period.

On Sunday, June 24, more than 1,500 people gather on the well-trod Lawn to “Rally for Honor.”

Speakers include Kenneth G. Elzinga, an economics professor who joined the faculty in 1967.
“The truth of the matter is all of us regret the forced resignation of Terry Sullivan,” he says. “All of us respectfully ask the board to atone for its actions. And all of us, I trust, are prepared to respond with gratitude, forgiveness and renewed enthusiasm.”

Elzinga’s remarks touch someone who is not in the audience but who would read them later, someone who was once his student: Helen Dragas.

The idea of reinstating Sullivan already has entered the rector’s mind, partly because of the letter from the 10 deans, which convinces her that hey understand her concerns.

To Dragas, it appears that alumni, students and faculty are beginning to understand her drive for urgent changes to ensure that the historic university remains an academic power in the 21st century.

By the end of Sunday, Dragas begins to wonder: Should Terry stay?

Sullivan and her supporters approach the Tuesday meeting with rising confidence. The vote may be lopsided — this time in her favor.

But under what conditions would Sullivan return? Several days earlier, she had stipulated that she would come back if two people resigned: Dragas and Strine. The rector had met repeatedly with the chief operating officer and discussed the president’s performance in the weeks before the crisis hit. Strine said those meetings were part of his job and told his staff he was not involved in the ouster.

By Tuesday, Sullivan has dropped those demands. She has heard that it is likely that McDonnell will reappoint Dragas to the board at the end of the month.

At 1 p.m., Dragas phones Sullivan and offers to walk her from the presidential home to the Rotunda for the climactic board meeting two hours later. They talk for 10 minutes in Sullivan’s home.

They cross University Avenue together, their husbands walking behind them.

Dragas and Sullivan take their seats at opposite sides of the board table.

Fralin, the Sullivan ally, asks for a roll call to rescind the amendment to Sullivan’s contract that spelled out the terms of her resignation. As he speaks, Dragas fidgets with her glasses. Sullivan stares straight ahead, expressionless, hands folded in her lap.

Dragas asks to speak. The moment she begins, Sullivan’s fate is clear.
“It’s time to bring the U-Va. family back together,” she says. “I believe real progress is more possible than ever now. It is unfortunate that we had to have a near-death experience to get here.”

When the ballot comes to Dragas, she votes “an unequivocal yes.” The final tally is unanimous. Cheers erupt on the Lawn.

As the meeting adjourns, Fralin tells his colleagues that Sullivan is heading outside to speak to the crowd. He wants the board to stand behind her.

Sullivan steps up to a lectern, dressed in a bright blue suit with an orange blouse beneath, the school colors. She beseeches the campus community to unite.

As the crowd roars its approval, Sullivan and her supporters celebrate. Dragas stands a few feet behind the president, her lips frozen in a tight smile. After a few moments, the rector turns and vanishes back into the Rotunda.