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Eleven Pitt County students have been accepted into the Honors College at East Carolina University, an experience coupled with a renewable scholarship covering the cost of in-state tuition for up to four years.

They are:

- Jared Ingle of Ayden-Grifton High School;
- Anna Lawrence and Hannah Woolard of D.H. Conley High School;
- Casey Johnson and Caroline Montaquila of Farmville Central High School;
- Ajay Ajmera, Amelia Dietrich and Aaron Parker of J.H. Rose High School;
- William Sokolovic of The Oakwood School;
- Allison Donnenwirth and Maggie Mullis of South Central High School.

Founded in 2010, the Honors College admits fewer than 3 percent of incoming ECU students. Participants reside together in Garrett Hall during their first year on campus and experience a program designed to challenge and support these students.

A total 110 students will enroll in the Honors College this fall, making it the largest-ever class. The students have, on average, an unweighted GPA of 3.81, a 1270 SAT score and a 28.4 ACT score.

More information about the program is available at www.ecu.edu/honors/.
Pedestrians cross East Fourth Street in downtown Greenville Monday morning near the parking lot where a man was killed and four others injured last week.

**Shooting condemned; no arrests**

By Michael Abramowitz  
Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Investigations continued with no arrests Monday in a downtown Greenville shooting that left one dead, three wounded and leaders and residents condemning the tragedy.

A fight that started in a downtown nightclub led to the shooting death early Saturday of Dontae Montrel Haddock, 21, of Ayden near the intersection of Fourth and Evans streets. Three others were injured but did not sustain life-threatening wounds, a police spokesman said.

Officers had been in the area of East Fourth Street between Reade and Cotanche streets when they heard shots and ran to the scene of the shooting. Detectives are following leads and continuing to investigate the incident, but they have not identified any suspects, Sgt. Carlton Williams said Monday. They also are reviewing video surveillance taken inside the establishment where the fight occurred.

For police officials, the situation was a reminder that officers have to anticipate any possibility, even in summer when the downtown bar district is not as populated with patrons as when East Carolina University is in full session. History already had taught police that anything can happen at any time.

Exactly four years earlier — on June 30, 2009 — James Earl Richardson was ejected from a downtown bar, then drove by it minutes later, shooting and killing two bystanders, Andrew Kirby and Landon Blackley.
Officers police the downtown area based on demand and activity, officials said. During the summer, there are fewer people there, and the bars are not as crowded, but police still make sure they have sufficient resources, officials said.

Saturday’s shots were fired almost within sight of officers, but that did not deter the gunmen.

Policing policies won’t change just because of the shooting, department officials said.

Officials will review the event and adjust, but the opportunity for something like this to happen will always be there, they said.

Police described an ongoing and improving relationship with bar owners and their staff that aims at their responsibility to be vigilant about potential problems and work closely with law enforcement officers.

Mike Lopez, general manager of the Pirates Den on Fifth Street, agreed that the police and businesses are cooperating more closely and effectively to curb criminal activity in the district and are moving in the right direction, but he pointed in one other direction.

“We’re seeing a failure in holding individuals and their parents accountable. Everyone points the finger at everyone else,” Lopez said.

Mayor Allen Thomas shared the concern felt by his City Council colleagues about the homicide.

“We know this can happen in any city when a person has ill intent. Greenville is no different,” Thomas said.

The mayor expressed confidence in the police department’s response and subsequent investigation.

Councilwoman Kandie Smith said the death was a tragedy for the family and city.

“It’s the loss of another young individual,” she said. “I don’t know if I have the words to respond to the boldness of those people shooting with the police right out there.

“We’re dealing with a completely different category of people with this,” Smith said. “It’s horrible.”

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Editorial: Public safety at stake
Tuesday, July 3, 2012

The bars, clubs and restaurants in downtown Greenville were still host to hundreds, if not thousands, of patrons early Saturday morning when gunfire erupted near the corner of Evans and Fourth streets. When the chaos subsided, four people had been injured — one fatally — in the latest violent episode to cast a grim pall over an area called “Center City.”

Though it had seemed that conditions had improved there — leading the City Council and Greenville police to ease the harsh security measures implemented three years prior — this crime sets Greenville back to square one. It prompts questions for both elected officials and a newly hired city manager, the woman now charged with hiring the law enforcement officer on whom responsibility for citizens’ protection will rest.

June 30 represents a sorrowful date on the city’s calendar. It was on that day three years ago that James Richardson fired several shots into a crowd on Fifth Street, killing two men in the prime of their lives. That tragedy prompted the council and then Police Chief William Anderson to alter traffic patterns for traffic downtown and to bulk up the police force patrolling there in an effort to restore a sense of safety.

At that time, officials responded to the public’s emotional appeal for action. Unlike the 2009 shooting on Fifth Street that elicited widespread community outcry, this tragedy has not yet generated a similar level of anger or outrage. One should not ascribe that difference to race, age or other circumstances but perhaps something more sinister: a greater level of acceptance as Greenville becomes desensitized to horrific acts of violence on downtown city streets.

That cannot — it must not — be the case. This city has problems with crime, yes, but it cannot willingly abide it as an unavoidable aspect of residency. The community needs new ideas and strategies to affect change in the downtown district to make it more accommodating for commerce and a place where parents feel comfortable sending their 18-year-old children to school.
The City Council, just last week, voted unanimously to hire Barbara Lipscomb and among her first tasks will be the replacement of Anderson to lead the police department. All involved — city government, local merchants, East Carolina University and, of course, Greenville residents — have a stake in that decision and it is one that this community simply must get right. To do otherwise is to invite further hardship, more sorrow and additional episodes like that which unfolded on Saturday.
Longtime ECU coach Carson dead at 75

The Daily Reflector

Bill Carson, who guided the East Carolina track and field program from the ground level to one that developed Olympic competitors, passed away in his sleep early Monday morning at his home in Winterville. Carson was 75.

Under Carson’s 40-year direction, ECU athletes advanced to the NCAA Championships in 18 of his last 19 seasons. He helped 70 Pirates reach All-America status and led 40 individual event champions at the IC4A, Colonial Athletic Association or Conference USA championships.

“It is hard to put into words what Bill Carson meant to ECU,” current ECU track coach Curt Kraft said. “He had such a positive impact on so many student-athletes as well as countless others in the world of track and field. It was an honor and privilege to work alongside him. My thoughts and prayers go out to Bill’s family and the East Carolina community.”

Known for his ability to produce top-notch sprinters year after year, Carson earned numerous coaching honors during his illustrious career, including being named the NCAA District III Coach of the Year in 1988 and Southeast Region Coach of the Year in 2002.

Carson was elected president of the IC4A in 1999, was named head coach of the South team at the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festi-

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CARSON

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dev elopment for USA Track and Field from 1991-97.

Several Carson-coached athletes earned MVP awards and special honors at CAA and IC4A meets. He was responsible for four CAA rookies of the year and two CAA athletes of the year and his Pirate teams won three consecutive Southern Conference titles in the 1970s.

On the international scene, Carson helped produce several Olympic-level athletes. Lee McNeill was a five-time All-America selection at ECU before going on to represent the U.S. on the 4x100-meter relay team at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea.

Carson also mentored 400-meter Olympic champion LaShawn Merritt, who has earned the opportunity to defend his gold medal in the event at the upcoming London Games.

--- ECU Media Relations
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Durham students earn scholarships to ECU Honors College

DURHAM – Two Durham students have been accepted into the Honors College at East Carolina University in Greenville: Brittany Coleman from Early College High School and Stephanie Sanders from Kestrel Heights charter school. Honors College was founded in 2010 and admits fewer than 3 percent of incoming ECU students. A total of 110 students are expected to enroll in Honors College this fall with an average unweighted GPA of 3.81, a 1270 SAT score and a 28.4 ACT score.
New Olympic Team members Nick McCrory and Abby Johnston, both Duke divers, are flooded with balloons at the end of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials at the Weyerhaeuser King County Aquatic Center on June 24, 2012 in Federal Way, Washington.

Duke divers hope courage at U.S. Trials leads to Olympic medals in London

By Jack Daly - Correspondent

DURHAM—Abby Johnston was Drew Johansen’s first recruit after Johansen became Duke’s diving coach in the summer of 2007.

Nick McCrory was part of Johansen’s second class.

Safe to say, Johansen will have a challenge replicating that kind of recruiting success, no matter how long he serves as the Blue Devils’ diving coach.

Johnston and McCrory will represent the United States at the Summer Olympics in London.

McCrory, a Chapel Hill native, will compete in the 10-meter platform and synchronized diving. Johnston, who is from Ohio, also qualified for the synchronized diving event.
“They’ve really shown it can be done,” Johansen said. “One of the big questions about being a student-athlete at Duke is the balance between your sport and education. They’re both top students … and they’ve proven that, yes, you can be a world-class student-athlete.”

To reach the Olympics, however, McCrory and Johnston had to take a year off from being Duke student-athletes – no class, no college competitions. Instead, they trained, competed in international events and worked with their respective partners in synchronized events.

“Both of them being synchronized divers and their partners living in different areas of the country – that’s what made it a necessity,” Johansen said of the year off. “They had to travel twice a month sometimes to their partner’s pools.”

McCrory nearly qualified for the 2008 Olympics, finishing fourth in the trials. He started preparing for London shortly thereafter, racking up a number of individual honors along the way, including the NCAA title in platform diving in 2010 and 2011.

Johnston also is an NCAA champion, winning the 3-meter springboard in 2011. She once dreamed about being an Olympic gymnast but changed sports to ease the strain on her body.

Johnston started working with Johansen at age 12 while Johansen was a club coach in Ohio. She was 14 when Johansen asked her if she might like to dive in the Olympics one day. She was dedicated enough to that goal to move to North Carolina for her last year of high school after Johansen became the Blue Devils’ coach, completing her degree online before enrolling at Duke.

For both divers, then, it wasn’t just an entire year that boiled down to the Olympic Trials. In many ways, both had been pointing to the competition for the past four years, if not longer.

Needless to say, the pressure was substantial.

“It was tough,” McCrory said. “I was just very antsy to compete already. It didn’t really hit me until a month or three weeks before trials – I really just wanted to get to Seattle and compete already and have it be over with.”

Added Johnston: “There was a moment of panic and anxiety the night before I competed thinking, ‘I have this in the palm of my hand, and it could very easily slip out.’ Then I was like, ‘No, I’ve done the best that I can. I’m going to do the best I can do.’”
Johnston and McCrory alleviated the anxiety by qualifying in the first event of the trials. McCrory and his partner easily qualified, but Johnston’s London dreams came down to her final dive.

Johansen believes the fact she nailed it bodes well for her chances in London.

“That moment that Abby had standing on that board knowing that she needed one of the best dives or her life to make the team,” he said, “that got her on the team, but it also is preparing her for London.”

The same could be said for McCrory in the platform competition. He had a mediocre early dive that cast some doubt on his chances, but soon recovered.

“I’d like them to go over to London thinking that they want to perform the way they did at trials,” Johansen said. “The podium will take care of itself.”
In France, M.B.A. Candidates Learn Leadership, in the Mud

By CHRISTOPHER F. SCHUETZE

COËTQUIDAN, FRANCE — On a particularly muddy June day in Brittany, a group of bankers, managers and consultants tried to solve an unusual problem. Using a wooden plank, several lengths of rope, a squished plastic oil drum and a metal grid, they were trying to cross two daunting pits to retrieve an injured colleague.

Though the immediate objective of the exercise was simple to grasp, the eventual key to the problem — the full cooperation of a team consisting of German, French, Belgian and Indian citizens — was tougher to realize.

“You can read thousand of theories on leadership, but this is far more effective,” said Harshavardhan Bhat, one of the participants in the exercise, which was part of an 18-month executive M.B.A. program held jointly by ESSEC Business School in France and the University of Mannheim in Germany.
Though the pits were imaginary and the injured colleague a stuffed doll, the lessons in leadership, problem solving and teamwork were real.

The two days of training were held on some of the French military’s most hallowed ground: the officer training school of Saint-Cyr.

The school holds regular leadership classes, mostly for French corporations and also for two M.B.A. programs: the ESSEC-Mannheim collaboration, and one at HEC Paris.

All students — who are generally between 30 and 40 years of age, though some are older — are expected to partake in the course’s physical challenges. Ravines are crossed, walls are scaled, rafts are constructed, bridges are built, and a hypothetical refugee camp is designed. Under the supervision of off-duty or retired military officers, future business leaders are trained in the basics of leadership and problem solving.

Saint-Cyr, which is as legendary in France as West Point is in the United States, has trained French officers since it was founded by Napoleon in 1802. From Gen. Charles de Gaulle to Marshal Jacques-Philippe Leclerc, virtually all French Army officers at one point in their lives marched on its parade grounds and crawled through the same muddied training grounds as the 90 executive M.B.A. students did last month.

“We believe that anybody can become a good leader, if that person is willing and if that person is properly trained,” said retired Capt. Alexandre de La Nézière.

Captain de La Nézière, who headed commando groups in the Middle East, the Ivory Coast and the Balkans, led some of the ESSEC-Mannheim students through the exercises.

Introducing himself by his first name, and insisting that rank — though prominently displayed on his fatigues — did not matter, he told the class that he was there to share his experiences as a leader, not to lead himself.

One point stressed here is that unless a single, supported leader coordinates the group, various problems cannot be solved. As basic as the concept seemed, the cacophony of suggestions and arguments among the 10 participants — executives, managers and directors who were used to giving the orders — showed how hard it was both to lead and to be led.

“Keeping a group of 10 alpha people on target becomes pretty interesting,” said Benjamin Walter, a banker and a participant in the class.
After several failures, during which both the tools and the injured colleague fell into the imaginary ravine, the team achieved its goal. As three of the participants hoisted the beam into the air, four others used ropes to guide it into place, while the rest worked out a strategy for crossing the second pit. The temporary leader, after initially becoming too involved in tying knots and micromanaging the teams, learned to step back and oversee the operation.

When military cadets do the same exercises, they usually come up with the same solutions, Captain de La Nézière explained; they just get there much more quickly.

“It’s all about the human aspect,” said Captain de La Nézière, who said that successful leadership in the army was about managing and motivating people.

At the end of a 12-hour day of overcoming obstacles and solving problems, most students, wet and cold from the rain, were decidedly out of their comfort zones. The collegial bonhomie had worn off, and both hands and nerves were raw.

As if by design, communication between the group members became less polite and more direct. Though it is difficult to conceive of such physically draining situations in the boardroom, students were able to relate to the level of stress.

The leadership training in Saint-Cyr and the subsequent debriefing at ESSEC’s campus in Cergy, outside Paris, takes up a relatively short time in the curriculum. However, the experience looms large for many of the students, who say that they have been looking forward to it since they first heard about it.

The military leadership program has been a part of the executive M.B.A. program at ESSEC since 2010. According to Allan Jenkins, the program director, it is a key component in the program’s module on leadership.

“Leadership comes in many different elements, and we look for a way to instruct them all,” Mr. Jenkins said.

Lt. Col. Cyril Barth, who heads the Saint-Cyr foundation that trains the business students, feels that the army, with its tradition of leadership in crisis situations, has something it can teach civilian leaders. He thinks of the leadership training as an exchange between the military and the civilian worlds, two spheres that have become more distant since the end of mandatory military service in France nearly two decades ago.
A particular focus for the Mannheim contingent is intercultural leadership. The Mannheim students will visit New York and Shanghai in the course of their program and will collaborate with business students in both places.

Cultural differences are expected to crop up in those distant places, but they also show up when the two cohort classes — one from France and one from Germany — first work together, according to Daniel J. Veit, Mannheim’s program director.

“Don’t underestimate the difference between French and German business cultures,” he said.

According to Mr. Veit, the two cultures at the heart of many European business relationships are different enough that this leadership exercise can be useful for his mostly Germany-based executive M.B.A. students.

Mingfei Li, who runs his own manufacturing business in Germany and China, is also part of the executive M.B.A. program. As a young man he went through military training in China before studying at a university, but he found it did not do much to prepare him for his engineering degree.

Now, as a business leader, he concedes that he might be able to learn something at the famous military school.

“In normal life, people are doing business with ties and suits. While it seems different to military life, I feel both have a lot in common — teamwork, competition, discipline and ‘thinking before doing,’” Mr. Li said.
Thousands of veterans failing in latest battlefield: college
By Bill Briggs
July 2, 2012

During a pair of six-month stints in and around Fallujah, Iraq — then a fiercely volatile city — Navy corpsman Lucas Velasquez came to know about life.

And death.

From late 2005 through early 2007, not long after nearly 100 U.S. troops and more than 1,350 insurgents were killed in Fallujah during Operation Phantom Fury, Velasquez routinely rendered emergency aid to wounded Marines while ducking bullets, rocket-propelled grenades and IED blasts. In uniform, Velasquez was smart and quick, adept at practicing field medicine literally while under the gun.

In 2007, after retiring from the Navy, Velasquez, then 23, enrolled at Columbus State University in western Georgia. He promptly failed four of his first six classes.

"It was a struggle," he said.

Velasquez hadn’t been in a classroom for more than five years. Instead of taking strategic lecture notes or studying highlights in the syllabus when prepping for exams, he scribbled nearly every word his professors uttered and tried to absorb every fact in his textbooks. Deeper, there was a vast
cultural chasm between other freshmen and the survivor of multiple firefights and risky missions.

“At 19, I was in combat as opposed to trying to go find a party,” said Velasquez, injured before he came home. “They really don’t realize how precious life can be, how it can go away in the drop of a dime. They’re more worried about what they’re going to be wearing to school tomorrow, or the spring break that’s coming up. There’s nothing wrong with that. It’s just two different people.”

Among the approximately 800,000 military veterans now attending U.S. colleges, an estimated 88 percent drop out of school during their first year and only 3 percent graduate, according a report forwarded by the University of Colorado Denver, citing the analysis by U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education and Labor and Pensions.

Scores of former servicemen and servicewomen who are among the best in the world at defusing bombs, tracking the enemy, patching bloody limbs, or negotiating with wary Afghans become futilely lost when trying to author an English paper.

Indeed, the vast, life-experience divide between war veterans and teens fresh out of high school – all now sharing the same classrooms – can make the scholastic transition awkward and arduous for ex-soldiers, said Michael Dakduk, executive director of Student Veterans of America, a support network for ex-military college students. SVA now has chapters on more than 500 campuses.

Mix in the fat gap of time between the vets’ high school days and their attempts to blend into college life and the reasons for the dropout rate become even more obvious.

“They are (taking) academically rigorous courses after being removed from the academic setting for so long,” Dakduk said.

“I didn’t know how to study,” Velasquez said of his first months at Columbus State. “In the military classes (we had taken), they spoon fed you everything because they didn’t want you to fail. It was a struggle going from a structured lifestyle to one where everything is on you.”

A number of colleges – Dakduk mentioned the University of Arizona, Syracuse University, Rutgers University, Purdue University, Columbia University and Dartmouth College – offer well-crafted services that truly help retired military folks thrive in the college classroom.
But some schools falsely sell themselves as “military friendly” simply to attract veterans on the G.I. Bill when, in reality, they don’t have the adequate infrastructure or counselors to help former soldiers succeed, Velasquez said. After his initial failures, Velasquez had to independently seek external tutoring. He eventually boosted his grade point average to 3.8.

Under the post-9/11 G.I. Bill, the federal government covers up to 100 percent of veterans’ tuition and fees. That money goes directly to the colleges, making the ex-servicemen and servicewomen financially attractive enrollees.

Earlier this year, SVA revoked chapters at 26 for-profit colleges that failed to meet the organization's requirements, mainly having a student-veteran — not an administrator — run the chapter. Those booted schools included the Art Institute of New York City, Brown Mackie College in Akron, Ohio, DeVry University in Orlando, Fla., ECPI College of Technology in Raleigh, N.C., and ITT Technical Institute in South Bend, Ind.

The misleading, so-called military-friendly sales pitch made by some colleges to attract vets, Velasquez said, is a big reason for the dropout rate.

“There was a concern around certain predatory, for-profit schools using our brand to legitimize their programs,” Dakduk said. (He added that better statistics are needed to precisely calculate the veteran dropout rate; the post-9/11 G.I. Bill was enacted three years ago, which means, Dakduk said, not enough time has passed to gauge its impact on today’s enrolled ex-soldiers.)

In August 2011, Velasquez transferred to the University of Colorado Denver after getting married. (He had been to Colorado earlier in his life and purposely picked the state for a new start). UCD, he learned, had a three-tiered system to help vets transition from military to college, stay in school and then move from graduation to the workforce. As part of that program, the school assigns an upperclassman to incoming ex-military students to mentor them socially and academically. It’s based on a similar program used at U.S. military bases.

“What we try to facilitate with that is the camaraderie -- the community -- because that’s one of the biggest things (ex-military) people miss,” said Cameron Cook, head of UCD’s veteran student services. “It’s one of the hardest things: missing your team, your friends in the military. That’s really hard to let go.”

A retired Marine, Cook soon e-mailed Velasquez and invited him to participate in the program.
“This is perfect, just what veterans need, something that helps them take that veteran experience and use it in college,” Velasquez said.

Cook and his team also try to help vets who carry to campus “the invisible injuries” of war -- post-traumatic stress disorder.

“When they get out of the military, the average student veteran is so focused on transition into college, finding a place to live, getting on the G.I. Bill. They’re very busy reintegrating,” Cook said. “But then, after that first year, everything kind of slows down and that’s when the shadows come in.”

The “shadows” of PTSD, including rampant anxiety and sleeplessness, often are triggered by daily stress -- for example, by exams.

“We see a big increase [in students presenting with PTSD symptoms] right at midterms and it grows exponentially until finals,” Cook said.

“One student told me that at the beginning of every semester he feels like he’s getting ready to go on a deployment,” Cook said. “And you can parallel finals to being like miniature battles.”

“And I’ve had other students say: ‘I don’t know why I’m stressed about a biology test when I was in Fallujah. Why am I stressed about this when I’ve been through so much previously?’ The reason is: the Fallujah experience gets linked to the stress of midterms. They already have stress and then academic stresses just build on that.”

Or, as one retired non-commissioned officer who attends UCD summed up the challenges of the veteran-college experience and high dropout rate: "I was the man in the military. We had so much responsibility [overseas], people's lives were on the line. Now I'm sitting next to an 18-year-old and I'm struggling to keep up with him in this class."

Bill Briggs is a frequent contributor to msnbc.com and author of “The Third Miracle.”