THE DAILY CLIPS

July 7, 2010

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
    The New York Times
    The Wall Street Journal
    USA Today
    The Charlotte Observer
    The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
    Newsweek
    U.S. News & World Report
    Business Week
    Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Ed and Jackie Tait pose with their twin daughters, Alyssa and Ashlyn. The couple is expecting another child, also conceived through in vitro fertilization, in January.
Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector

**ECU's in vitro fertilization clinic helps families**

By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, July 6, 2010

When reports surfaced this spring that East Carolina University has one of the top in vitro fertilization clinics in the country, it came as news to some, but it was no surprise to Jackie and Ed Tait.

The couple became familiar with the success rate of ECU Women’s Physicians more than three years ago. They didn’t need to wait on a report from the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology to tell them that. The evidence was staring them in the face — in the form of their twin daughters.

At nearly 4 years old, Alyssa and Ashlyn Tait were not part of the numbers that made ECU the fourth-ranked IVF program in the nation for women younger than 35. But the Taits are hoping that their next child, due in January, will help the clinic maintain the success rate recorded in 2008.

That year, 68.8 percent of embryo transfers at ECU Women’s Physicians resulted in live births for women younger than 35. That’s about 20 percent better than the national average.

While ECU Women’s Physicians performs fewer IVF procedures than clinics at in Durham, Winston-Salem or Charlotte, it was the only North Carolina clinic to rank in the top 20. Wake Forest University Center for Reproductive Medicine ranked 21.

“I know we’re a small program,” said Dr. Cal Hayslip, medical director of reproductive endocrinology and infertility services at ECU. “Program size does not necessarily mean program quality.

“We can truly counsel patients that we are certainly as strong or stronger than other programs in the state,” he said. “You don’t necessarily have to go to the Triangle or Charlotte or to a large, metropolitan program to have good success with in vitro fertilization.”

That was the case when Ed, 39, and Jackie, 35, decided to try in vitro fertilization after about a year of other treatments. The Wilson couple had a choice between traveling to the Triangle area or to Greenville for treatment. After some online research, they opted for ECU Women’s Physicians.

The Taits had been married for five years and trying to conceive for about a year when they decided to seek medical intervention. Doctors suspected Jackie was suffering from polycystic ovary syndrome, a common disorder thought to be one of the leading causes of infertility.
“We wanted to try the diet and exercise and fertility meds first to see if that would work,” Jackie said. “When that wasn’t successful, we saw Dr. Hayslip. 
“We heard it was an emotional roller coaster, but, at that time, we had been on an extreme emotional roller coaster for five years, trying everything to conceive,” she said. “We were ready to go that last step, and if it didn’t work, it didn’t work.” 
From two first embryos implanted, the Taits had their twin daughters. They froze five remaining embryos in hopes of having more children later.
In vitro fertilization, a technique first performed more than 30 years ago, involves placing egg and sperm cells in a laboratory dish, then transferring the resulting embryo into a woman’s uterus. 
According to the Centers for Disease Control, 1 percent of all infants born in the United States are conceived using assisted reproductive technology. In vitro fertilization resulted in nearly 45,000 live births in the United States in 2006, a number that has nearly doubled in the last decade.
Hayslip said fewer couples raise objections to the idea of in vitro fertilization, which once was the subject of tabloid headlines.
“Also, I think physicians are looking at going to it (IVF) earlier,” Hayslip said. “In this day and age, people want results. When they come to my office, they’ve already usually been trying for quite some time and often have seen another doctor. ... Why not go ahead and pursue the treatment that has a high success rate?"
In vitro fertilization also comes with a high cost. Treatments average between $10,000 and $12,000, and most are not covered by insurance. But Hayslip said that IVF may be more cost-effective than other fertility treatment options.
“Depending on what your resources are, sometimes in vitro may be a better investment,” he said. “If you look at what the success rates are with in vitro versus maybe a lot of other evaluation and testing and treatments that you may be paying out of pocket, you may be spending a lot of money, and time that could have been invested in in vitro early on.”
After their initial success, the Taits decided to invest in in vitro fertilization again. They returned to ECU Women’s Physicians to have two of their frozen embryos implanted. The pregnancy ended in miscarriage. This spring, the couple decided to use the remaining three frozen embryos. Jackie is pregnant with one child.
“It was kind of an ethical decision on our part,” she said. “I felt like God gave us this many embryos, and we needed to at least give them a chance. Personally, that’s why we wanted to do it again.”
Many patients of ECU Women’s Physicians are “repeat customers.” The infertility program, which opened in 1993, is preparing to see the first of its patients become grandparents.
Hayslip and his staff enjoy the family photos, Christmas cards and occasional office visits from children they had a chance to see at the earliest stages of life.
“When you see these couples who are unable to have children and you realize that you’re assisting ... we’re kind of invested in that family,” Hayslip said. “So many of the couples I know personally.
“When you see how much joy these kids bring to these couples ... you feel that what you’re doing has some worth.”

Contact Kim Grizzard at kgrizzard@reflector.com or (252) 329-9578.
Editorial: **Eliminating scholarship provision right decision for N.C.**

Wednesday, July 7, 2010

The budget approved by North Carolina lawmakers last week promises to cause problems for East Carolina University in general, and for Athletic Director Terry Holland in particular. The Legislature removed a five-year-old waiver that allows out-of-state athletes to pay in-state tuition, a change that will cost East Carolina about $1 million in the coming year.

Amid a painful recession, and with the state facing an $800 million shortfall, the provision was a luxury North Carolina could no longer afford. While that may necessitate some reshuffling by Holland and his counterparts at other University of North Carolina institutions, the decision was an appropriate one for legislators to make in pursuit of a balanced budget.

In approving an $18.9 billion budget last week, the General Assembly was forced by a sluggish economy and diminished revenue collection to impose sharp cuts across most state agencies. Some cuts, like those affecting public schools and social services, promise to make for difficult times over the coming year as administrators struggle to make ends meet. Other reductions targeted waste in state government, which residents should welcome.

And then there is the matter of the in-state tuition provision for out-of-state athletes on full scholarship, an inclusion in the state budget five years ago that represented a poor decision by lawmakers at its outset. It allowed UNC schools to save money since they need only meet the reduced cost of in-state tuition with a scholarship, but the state lost revenue as a result.

Athletics are important at Division I schools since they raise a university’s profile and can help generate money for academic endeavors. Compensating student-athletes for their talents with access to higher education seems a reasonable trade since both the schools and the players are better off as a result. But the state simply could not afford another $9 million in revenue be devoted toward that end in this economy, in addition to the roughly $25 million since the provision became law.

For East Carolina, that means the Athletics Department will need to find $1 million to pay the difference for its out-of-state athletes on scholarship for the coming school year. The abrupt imposition of this change certainly leaves much to be desired, but the state was right to eliminate this provision nonetheless. Athletics deserve a valued place in a university environment, but should never come at the expense of other, more pressing needs across the state.
Heart Healthy Lenoir project kicks off
Joel Gerber
2010-06-29 16:02:36

The "Stroke Belt" may be moving back a few notches over the next five years.

The roll-out for the $10 million Heart-Healthy Lenoir Project took place Tuesday at the Community Council for the Arts with the goal of introducing community to the project, and to get them involved.

"Whether it is a vested interest from your organization, a curiosity about the grant size, or a personal interest in reducing your own factors for heart disease, I believe we will learn about the momentous opportunity at our doorsteps with this project," said Constance Hengel, Lenoir Memorial Hospital Director of Community Programming and Development.

Considered to be in the "buckle of the stroke belt," over 40,000 episodes of care for heart disease have been given by Lenoir Memorial Hospital over the past three years.

"We understand multiple and complex factors play into this, and we understand that solutions are not always easy," Hengel said. "Heart health matters, and improving the quality of life in a community results in a higher quality of health, and we are committed to doing something about this public health crisis."

The grant will take place over a five-year period, and will be worth $10 million. The grant comes from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and will help a team of researchers at the University of North Carolina and East Carolina University collaborate with health care practitioners and community leaders in Lenoir County to better understand the causes of cardiovascular health disparities and test innovative solutions.

The project will take place in two parts — the first being a research and community assessment, while the second will be suggestions for the community based on the analysis of the research.

Leaders of the project, UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Director Alice Ammerman and the chief of cardiology at the UNC School of Medicine, Cam Patterson, were in attendance to explain the project.

Community-wide prevention, combined with genetic research, will be the focus of the project.

"At this point, I think we have done almost as much as we can do in the hospitals," Patterson said. "If we are going to make strides against cardiovascular disease, we have to do it in the community and through prevention."

The project is one of the first of its kind across the country, Patterson said.

"We are looking forward to working here, and we are looking forward to doing something dramatic to reduce this disease," Patterson said. "If all goes well, a program like this can be innovative and an example for other communities to prevent heart disease."

This project is the result of a joint research effort between UNC and ECU.

"Five years from now, we want to look back and see things are different and that we have made it better,"
said Skip Cummings, the director of the Office of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Education at ECU's Brody School of Medicine.

As this is a community project, input and ideas will be needed through several phases.

"We cannot do this without you," Cummings said to the community. "We need your thoughts and ideas — we are here because this is a place of strength and we are looking forward to a great partnership from the community."

For more information or to get involved with the project, contact project director Beverly Garcia at 1-866-273-1942 or e-mail beverly.garcia@unc.edu.

Joel Gerber can be reached at 252-559-1076 or jgerber@freedomenc.com.

Breakout box:

Long-term project goals

n Clinic system changes

n Enact lifestyle changes

n Generate Community Support

n What are genetic influences

n Create economic opportunities

Source: Heart-Healthy Lenoir Project
Tightening the ‘stroke belt’
Joel Gerber
2010-06-22 17:25:51

The bad news is Lenoir County has some of the worst heart health in the state; the good news, though, is the county is doing something about it.

The roll-out for the Heart-Healthy Lenoir Project will take place on June 29 at 10 a.m. at the Community Council for the Arts. The purpose of this meeting will be to engage the community with ground-level up implementation.

“The community is invited to the event on June 29 — everyone who is interested is more than welcome to come,” Constance Hengel, Lenoir Memorial Hospital Director of Community Programming and Development, said. “This roll-out is to begin to tell the story of what the concept of the grant is.”

The event begins at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, and the lead researchers for the project from Chapel Hill will be providing a brief overview of what the aim of the grant is. UNC Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Director Alice Ammerman and the chief of cardiology at the UNC School of Medicine, Cam Patterson, will be on hand to explain the project. People in attendance will break into small discussion groups to see what the community consensus is toward fixing health issues.

“This project gives us the opportunity to bring together a multidisciplinary research team with a wide variety of community partners in Lenoir County to tackle hypertension and heart disease from prevention to treatment,” Ammerman said.

The grant will take place over a five-year period, and will be worth $10 million. The grant comes from the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute and will help a team of researchers at UNC and East Carolina University collaborate with health care practitioners and community leaders in Lenoir County to better understand the causes of cardiovascular health disparities and test innovative solutions.

UNC chose Lenoir County for the grant because the county, referred to as being in the “stroke belt,” has one of the worst rates for heart disease and heart deaths in the state, according to the N.C. Center for Health Statistics.

“In addition to the numbers, UNC knew that Lenoir County had a lot of positive things going that would help the project,” Hengel said. “The partnerships, collaboration, and resources the community has suggested we would be interested in figuring out why we have these issues and working toward improvement.”

Joel Gerber can be reached at 252-559-1076 or jgerber@freedomnc.com.
By Eric Ferreri
Staff Writer

DURHAM - Throughout the long, sweltering summer, Carol Rush keeps a sweater handy in her office at Duke's Divinity School. It tends to get cold there, even as the temperature outside approaches sticky triple digits. Sound absurd?

Not within the hallways, classrooms and offices of sprawling college campuses, where workplace temperatures have long fluctuated at the whim of the warm- or cold-blooded employee closest to each thermostat.

But as universities become more energy efficient and budget-conscious, many are getting a grip on their own version of climate change. Duke is the latest Triangle institution to create a new temperature policy, aiming for consistent building temperatures by taking control of the thermostat away from employees.

The university, which has never before specified how hot or cold a building should be, is now setting temperature mandates of 68 degrees in winter and 76 in summer.

Officials expect this climate consistency to save $600,000 a year in energy costs.

The move came at the suggestion of Rush and other Duke employees frustrated by the energy waste.

"I've heard of people opening the window in the summer because it's so cold, so they wanted to let some warm air in," said Rush, a staff assistant with the divinity school's external relations office. "It kind of makes you crazy to think of all the waste that happens."

Regulating temperatures on a college campus isn't easy because building uses and heating systems vary widely, but most institutions are trying these days.

At N.C. State University, a policy regulating workplace temperatures is in the works, said David Dean, spokesman for the university's sustainability office. NCSU has not previously mandated specific temperatures, but the new policy would set temps at 76 in the summer and 70 to 72 in the winter. The university also is going to start shutting down unused build-

SEE DEGREES, PAGE 7B

The policy comes with some wiggle room - the actual temperatures can vary by two degrees either way. Still, the change should bring some needed consistency to campus workplaces, Palumbo said.

"It wasn't uncommon for one room in the winter to be 78 and the next room to be 70 because one person liked it hot and one person wanted it cold," he said. "The [heating and cooling] systems were fighting each other."

In regulating temperature, Duke is also banning space heaters.

"We're doing all this to save energy and money," he said. "If all of a sudden people are plugging in heaters, there goes the savings."

eric.ferreri@newsobserver.com
or 919-829-4563

DEGREES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

ings during fall and spring break, dialing the temperature at those times down to 55 degrees.

At Duke, new target temperatures will be used between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., and the university will reap additional savings by adjusting them more dramatically overnight. Then, temperatures could drop to 60 in the winter or jump to 80 in the summer.

The new policy will affect about 3.4 million square feet of building space on the Duke campus, but will not include libraries, some research facilities, dormitories, or the medical complex, said Steve Palumbo, energy manager for Duke's facilities services department.
Recent massive changes affect rates, repayment of student loans

In just a few weeks, thousands of recent high school graduates will pack up the minivan and head off to college. For many students, though, the thrill of embarking on a new adventure is tempered by the sobering reality of student debt.

More than 60% of students borrow money to pay for college. If you’re one of them — or you’re the parent of a college student — it’s important to understand some of the changes that took effect on July 1, including:

► All federal student loans are now issued through the federal government’s Direct Loan program. In the past, banks and other financial institutions provided federally guaranteed student loans through the Federal Family Education Loan Program, but the health care reform bill enacted in May ended subsidies for lenders.

Lenders can still offer private student loans. In recent months, some lenders, faced with the loss of billions in federal student loan subsidies, have lowered rates and fees for their private loans.

Because there are limits on federal student loans, borrowers who are attending high-cost schools often use private loans to bridge the gap between their federal student loans and the cost of college.

But before you even think about a private loan, make sure you have maxed out on your federal student loans. Federal student loans have fixed interest rates and more flexible repayment terms than private loans. If you have trouble making payments after you graduate, the federal government offers several programs that provide relief (more on this later). Private lenders aren’t required to do anything to help troubled borrowers.

► All PLUS loans (Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students) are now issued through the Direct Loan program. Like Stafford loans, these loans were previously offered by private lenders, as well as through the Direct Loan program. The rate for Direct PLUS Loans is 7.9% vs. 8.5% for FFEL PLUS Loans. Parents can use PLUS loans to pay for any college costs that aren’t covered through Stafford loans and financial aid. Graduate students are also eligible to borrow through the PLUS program.

► Rates on some federal student loans dropped. Rates for subsidized Stafford loans, which are available to borrowers who demonstrate economic need, fell to 4.5% from 5.6%. This new rate will apply only to subsidized Stafford loans issued between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2011, says Robert Murray, spokesman for USA Funds, a non-profit company that services loans. Rates on subsidized loans issued before July 1 won’t change, he says. The rate for unsubsidized Stafford loans, which are available to all students, remains at 6.8%.

► Origination fees for Direct Stafford loans dropped to 1% from 1.5% on July 1. Because the cost of the fee is deducted from the proceeds of the loan, the reduction will increase the amount of money available to pay your college costs, Murray says.

Help for graduates

Other changes that took effect July 1 could provide relief for graduates who aren’t making...
enough money to afford their loan payments.

The income-based repayment program allows federal student loan borrowers to have their loan payments reduced, based on income and family size. For most eligible borrowers, loan payments will be less than 10% of their income. Two updates to the program could lower payments even more for some borrowers:

- Married couples will no longer be penalized. Previously, when couples filed a joint tax return, the program assumed that both spouses could use 100% of their combined income to make loan payments. In cases in which both spouses had student loans, the minimum payments were much higher than the minimum for unmarried borrowers with the same debt and income, says Lauren Asher, president of the Institute for College Access and Success. The new formula will take into account married couples' combined income and their

combined debt to calculate minimum payments, Asher says.

- Eligibility for income-based repayment will be based on the balance when the loan went into repayment or the current loan amount, whichever is greater. This will primarily benefit borrowers who have gone into forbearance or deferment, Asher says. These programs allow borrowers to temporarily suspend payments, but if interest accrues during the period, they end up with a larger loan balance.

For more information about income-based repayment, go to www.ibrinfo.org.

To suggest columns, e-mail: sblock@usatoday.com. Follow on Twitter: www.twitter.com/sandyblock

Sign up for USA TODAY's FREE Managing Your Money e-mail newsletters for expert personal finance tips. Go to email.usatoday.com
For Many, a Grad-School Stint Doesn't Pay Off in Job Market

By EMMELINE ZHAO

College graduates who took a detour around the weak job market by going back for advanced degrees are beginning to emerge from those programs—and finding job prospects aren't much better than they were a couple of years ago.

The jobless rate for 20- to 34-year-olds with master's degrees, though well below the overall 9.5% U.S. average, was 4.2% in June, the Labor Department said Friday, up from 3.9% last year and 2.9% in June 2007, before the recession started.

The economy has started creating jobs—albeit at a slow rate—in recent months. But those with new master's degrees often aren't at the front of the line to get them, say experts. One reason: They frequently compete for jobs that require those advanced degrees with older workers who have the advantage of more work experience.

Caitlin Johnson, 23 years old, may soon find herself among them. A 2009 graduate of Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a B.S. in computer-science and engineering, she said she was unable to land any of the 10 positions she applied for.

So she opted to stay at MIT for her master's in engineering. Having just finished her first year of the two-year program, Ms. Johnson said she might look for a job at the end of the summer to start after she completes the degree next year. But finding graduate school more appealing and facing a job market that remains weak, she said she would most likely go on to earn her Ph.D.

Should Ms. Johnson decide to opt for the job hunt instead of more schooling, she likely will face stiff competition. The number of 20- to 34-year-olds with master's degrees in the labor force in June was 12% higher than it was two years earlier. And first-time grad-school enrollment rose 4.5% in 2008 and 6% in 2009 across the country.
To be sure, some advanced degrees remain in hot demand, such as those in business and finance. "It depends on the actual degree and the field you're going into," said Liz Pulliam Weston, an author and personal-finance columnist. "You shouldn't just assume if you got a degree, you're one step ahead of anybody else."

Still, more education continues to mean more earning power down the road. In 2008, 25- to 29-year-olds with master's degrees earned on average $7,954 more than those with bachelor's degrees annually, according to the Census Bureau. But that difference could narrow as more qualified candidates take lower-paying positions in a tight job market.

Aneri Patel, 25, graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2007 with an undergraduate degree in international relations. She landed a good job with a consulting firm, but decided to go to the London School of Economics in 2008 to learn more about climate change and be a stronger candidate in the job market. She never imagined how bad the job market would get while she was overseas in graduate school.

Since returning from London in January—her advanced degree in hand—she said she had applied for dozens of positions, but had yet to secure work.

"With international work experience, coupled with my internships at fairly respectable places and my master's, I thought I'd get immediate interviews," she said. "It was tough."

I find it really depressing to read about MIT engineering grads who have trouble finding jobs. That is a canary in the coal mine of the first order. I think it is a direct result of misguided government policy.

—Daniel Heinzen

Competition for jobs is fierce, and employers can afford to be picky. Siemens Industry Inc., a unit of Germany's Siemens AG, said the good news for employers like them was that they were seeing an increased number of qualified candidates, and more with advanced degrees.

"We have frankly easy pickings; the quality is there for the taking," Chief Executive Daryl Dulaney said.

Graduates, however, are facing a tougher decision—hold out for a dream job, or take what's available. Ms. Patel, for instance, said she really wanted a job that allowed her to pursue her passion for environmental issues.

"The question is whether you want to pursue your dreams or to have a job for the sake of it," Ms. Patel said. "I think that's kind of an unfortunate question to answer right now, when you're young and you want to make a real difference."
International Program Catches On in U.S. Schools

By TAMAR LEWIN

CUMBERLAND, Me. — SAT, ACT, A.P. ... I.B.?

The alphabet soup of college admissions is getting more complicated as the International Baccalaureate, or I.B., grows in popularity as an alternative to the better-known Advanced Placement program.

The College Board’s A.P. program, which offers a long menu of single-subject courses, is still by far the most common option for giving students a head start on college work, and a potential edge in admissions.

The lesser-known I.B., a two-year curriculum developed in the 1960s at an international school in Switzerland, first took hold in the United States in private schools. But it is now offered in more than 700 American high schools — more than 90 percent of them public schools — and almost 200 more have begun the long certification process.

Many parents, schools and students see the program as a rigorous and more internationally focused curriculum, and a way to impress college admissions officers.

To earn an I.B. diploma, students must devote their full junior and senior years to the program, which requires English and another language, math, science, social science and art, plus a course on theory of knowledge, a 4,000-word essay, oral presentations and community service.

Here in Cumberland, Greely High School adopted the I.B. this year to make students more aware of the world beyond the United States.

“When our grads would visit from college, they’d tell us that while Greely gave them great academic preparation, they’d had no idea there was a big wide world out there,” said David Galin, Greely’s I.B. coordinator.

To that end, Greely’s I.B. 11th graders read literature from India ("God of Small Things"),
South Africa ( “Master Harold ... and the Boys” ), what is now the Czech Republic (“The Metamorphosis”), Chile ( “The House of the Spirits” ), Egypt ( “Midaq Alley” ) and Colombia ( “Chronicle of a Death Foretold” ).

“Our students don’t have as much diversity as people in some other areas, so this makes them open their eyes,” said Deb Pinkham, the program’s English teacher.

The I.B. program is used in 139 countries, and its international focus has drawn criticism from some quarters.

Some parents say it is anti-American and too closely tied to both the United Nations and radical environmentalism. From its start in 1968 until 1976, the program was financed partly by Unesco. It is now associated with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, and until recently it endorsed the Earth Charter, a declaration of principles of sustainability that originated at the United Nations.

“When there is a program at the school with a specific agenda, which in this case is the United Nations agenda, I have a problem with it,” said Ann Marie Banfield, who unsuccessfully opposed the adoption of the I.B. program in Bedford, N.H.

Others object to its cost — the organization charges $10,000 a year per school, $141 per student and $96 per exam — and say it is neither as effective as the A.P. program nor likely to reach as many students.

“We have 337 kids, and 80 of them take at least one of our 16 A.P. classes,” said John Eppolito, a parent who opposes the planned introduction of the I.B. in Incline Village, Nev. “If we switched to the I.B., the district estimates that 15 kids would get a I.B. diploma in two years.”

I.B. opponents have created a Web site, truthaboutib.com, to serve as a clearinghouse for their views.

Many schools, and many parents, see the I.B. partly as a way to show college admissions offices that students have chosen a rigorous program, with tests graded by I.B. examiners around the world.

“I don’t think there is anyone who does not respect the I.B.,” said Panetha Ott, an admissions officer at Brown.

Fewer colleges give credit for the I.B. than for A.P., but dozens give students with an I.B. diploma sophomore standing and some offer special scholarships.

The I.B. is also being offered now in some struggling urban schools where educators say it
helps put low-income students on par with their richer peers.

Last fall, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave the program a three-year $2.4 million grant to prepare low-income and minority students to participate in the I.B.

California and Florida have the most I.B. schools, and New England the fewest.

In Cumberland, some parents questioned the I.B.'s cost, but none complained about the program's content, according to Chris Mosca, Greely's principal.

"No question, the people who founded the I.B. were sitting in Geneva, post-World War II, thinking about how to ensure world peace, so the clear philosophical bent is that by integrating learning and understanding issues from multiple perspectives, we can promote global thinking," he said. "But what sold me on the program was that it's good pedagogy, that it really shows kids how things go together."

Still, Mr. Mosca has no plans to eliminate the school's Advanced Placement offerings.

"A.P. is great for content-based traditional learning," he said. "It's great for kids who like to memorize. But for more creative kids, who want to make those connections, there's nothing like the I.B."

On a spring Tuesday, Greely's I.B. history class was working in small groups, analyzing the Suez crisis with original source documents from Israel, Egypt, the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Nations.

Emily Hill, presenting a document from the Soviet foreign office's Middle East desk, reminded the group that it was a secret memo, translated several times.

Emily, who said she was bored with school last year, said the I.B. program had been more interesting and challenging.

Because it is so rigorous, the I.B. is not for everyone. At Greely, only 21 juniors started the full program this year, and three subsequently shifted to a mix of I.B. and regular classes.

But those who stayed with it seemed enthusiastic.

"It's like a little club of scholars," said Maggie Bower, a junior. "It seems more real-world than how we used to learn, and it's changed how we look at the world."

Down the coast, where Kennebunk High School just graduated its first group of I.B. students, Sue Cressey, the I.B. coordinator, said that most of the students in the program the first year
had thought about dropping out.

“There was a bad period after everybody flunked a biology exam,” she said. “I had to send a letter home to parents, reassuring them. It’s a new way of thinking, but the kids grew into it. I feel better about sending these kids to college than any group I’ve ever sent.”

The graduates, too, say they feel well prepared.

“In our Theory of Knowledge class, when we debated health care, my role was to take Rush Limbaugh’s position, which couldn’t be further from my own,” said Michael Tahan, one of the graduates.

“I.B. taught us how to think through a position, and support it,” he added. “And while I understand why some parents might worry that the program is international-based, I think it’s good for America for students to learn how others nations think.”

*This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:*

**Correction: July 7, 2010**

*An article on Saturday about the rising popularity of the International Baccalaureate, a two-year curriculum for high school students, misspelled the surname of a student participating in the program at Greely High School in Cumberland, Me. The student, a junior, is Maggie Bower — not Bauer.*