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Christopher Murphy
July 13, 2011

WAKEFIELD, VA. - Christopher Randolph Murphy, 37, passed away on Sunday, July 10, 2011. Known as "Murph" to his family and friends, he was a resident of Greenville, N.C. and was originally from Wakefield. Chris earned his Bachelors and Masters Degree from East Carolina University where he fell in love with the college and Greenville. He moved back to Wakefield and worked for Associated Distributors and Smithfield Packing, but yearned to return to ECU and Greenville. He moved to Greenville in 2002 and worked as an Admissions Counselor at Barton College, but his heart bled purple and gold, and so in 2004, his career began in East Carolina University Admissions as an Admissions Counselor. A couple of years later, he became the Assistant Director. He had a passion for his job and loved the kids that he recruited. His role in the office was to recruit mostly in North Carolina with the CACROA tour. (Carolina Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers) He "ruled" that tour. His other "recruiting territories" were the Virginia Beach area and areas around his home town where he would know every single student, their family and every single high school counselor.

Chris and CACRAO were synonymous. He also maintained an alumni group of recruiters that would recruit prospective students for ECU at college fairs throughout the United States. He worked with athletics a lot and also taught a Freshman Seminar course at ECU for new athletes last year. In addition, he worked with ECU's freshman orientation three summers in a row from 2006 through 2008. In 2006, he began working with Chi Phi (a fraternity at ECU) as their campus advisor. He was named the Infraternity Council Advisor of the Year in 2008 and proudly displayed his plaque in his office. Chris lived life to the fullest and never met a stranger.

He was predeceased by his father, Freddie Randolph Murphy and his maternal grandfather, Elmer Harrup.
Chris is survived by his parents, Ray and Ronnie Phillips; brothers, Ray Phillips and his wife, Brandee, Scott Phillips and his wife, Tanya, and Bill Phillips and his wife, Alaina; niece and nephew, Aynslee and Aydan Phillips; maternal grandmother, Huris "Mar Mar" Harrup; paternal grandparents, Randolph and Dolly Murphy; aunt, Vicki Halon; his cousin who was like a brother to him, James Rogers and his wife, Leah and their children, Jamison and Addison Rogers; numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

There will be a viewing at the Wakefield Chapel of J.T. Morriss & Son Funeral Home tonight from 6 to 8, but the family will be receiving friends at their home. A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Thursday at Wakefield United Methodist Church with Pastor Willie Guill officiating. Burial will follow at Wakefield Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made to East Carolina Alumni Association, Taylor Slaughter Alumni Center, 901 East Fifth St., Greenville, NC 27858 Attention: Chris Murphy Memorial Scholarship Fund or online at http://www.piratealumni.com/scholarships. Condolences may be posted at www.jtmorriss.com.
Published July 12, 2011

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama D-Ill., and his vice presidential running mate Sen. Joe Biden D-Del. applaud at a campaign stop Saturday, Aug. 23, 2008, in Springfield, Ill. President Obama formally launched his re-election campaign Monday, urging grass-roots supporters central to his first White House run to mobilize again to protect the change he's brought over the past two years. / M. Spencer Green/AP Photo

To keep or ditch the vice president?
That is the reelection question.

Rumors that Obama might shelve Vice President Joe Biden are just that — rumors. But there are reasons, historically, that such rumors get started, usually rooted in a sense the president needs a reelection boost.

By Peter Grier, Staff writer

Will President Obama dump Joe Biden? Stories that Mr. Obama will name a new running mate for 2012 keep cropping up in the press.

First, the new vice president was to be Hillary Rodham Clinton. More recently, rumors identify New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo as the possible No. 2.

We’ll get to the chances of a Biden-less Obama ticket in a moment. First let’s pause and recollect that a traditional political role of a veep is to provide balance. If the top of the ticket is from the North (JFK), the second banana is from the South (LBJ). If No. 1 is a conservative (Ronald Reagan), No. 2 is more liberal (George H.W. Bush).
The point of this is to try to neutralize some aspect of the presidential candidate that voters might not like.

“The outcome of the ‘veepstakes’ is far more likely to be based on short term electoral calculations than on long term governance considerations,” noted political scientist Lee Sigelman in a 1997 American Political Science Review article.

But after a president has won, the perceived balance of the ticket can change. Mr. Biden got picked as veep because he was far more experienced than Obama in foreign affairs, for one thing. But now that Obama can campaign as the commander in chief who got Osama bin Laden, Biden’s perceived strength may be less important.

So, sensing an opening, liberals who say Obama’s been too conservative start pushing for Governor Cuomo – scion of a famous liberal family – as the new No. 2. Party leaders who say the president is too unpopular start pushing Mrs. Clinton to create a Democratic “dream ticket” with wider appeal.

That’s not necessarily how dump-the-veep rumors begin. But the view by some party factions that the ticket should be rebalanced is how they gain currency and get repeated.

So is Biden doomed? Almost certainly not. Rumors are just rumors. And dumping his veep could make Obama look ungrateful and desperate, outweighing any rebalancing gain.

“In the modern era, dumping the vice president in a president’s re-election bid has become a sign of a weak presidency,” wrote Jody Baumgartner, an East Carolina University political scientist, in the journal White House Studies in 2007.
Fat threatens young adults

BY HELEN CHAPPELL - Staff Writer

For the first time in decades, young adults today might live shorter lives than previous generations, a new study suggests.

In a collaboration between UNC-Chapel Hill, Utah State University and the University of Illinois-Chicago, researchers used new statistical tools to predict the number of deaths from obesity-related illnesses.

The team found that the new tools accurately predicted the increase in deaths from coronary heart disease observed in young men over the last decade.

Over the same time period, older methods for predicting death rates continued to paint a sunny picture of improving health and longer lives for Americans of all ages.

The problem with the old methods is that they make predictions based entirely on generations who have already died, according to Dr. Yang Yang, an author on the study and professor of sociology at UNC-CH and the Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Though the predictions are meant to be for the living, "their current health conditions are not taken into account," Yang said.

Obesity is among the health conditions that need to be accounted for, Yang argues. In 2009, 29.3 percent of North Carolinians were obese, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, up from less than 15 percent 20 years ago.

This rise in obesity - and the corresponding surge in associated illnesses such as coronary heart disease and diabetes - is recent enough that predictions relying only on data from past generations can't account for it.

Yet these prediction methods are consistently used by official agencies, including North Carolina's State Center for Health Statistics, to forecast death rates and life expectancies.

There are lots of theories as to which methods are best, said Don Akin, a statistician with the center. But in the end, "ours is fairly easy," Akin said. When sifting through massive numbers of birth and death records, that's a big advantage.
Yang added that the newer, more accurate methods are less known by forecasting agencies outside of the scientific community. "Like all new inventions, it takes time to disseminate," she said.

But with this study demonstrating the accuracy of newer methods, she thinks the time is right for agencies to make the switch.

Better predictions about the true impacts of health problems such as obesity, Yang said, can help us mount a better response.

"The only way that can happen," she explained, "is if we have the right tools and metrics that allow us to see them."

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Young adult education gets a boost

BY JAY PRICE - Staff Writer

RALEIGH A group of local colleges, government agencies and nonprofit organizations has won a $1.3 million grant to help local, low-income teens and young adults earn the educational edge needed to get skilled jobs.

The two-year grant is part of an initiative by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to double the number of young adults who earn a "postsecondary credential" - such as a degree or a professional license or certification for a trade - by 2025.

"This is important because for the jobs of the future, a high school diploma isn't enough," said Jose Picart, a special assistant to the provost at N.C. State University, who will run the collaboration. "A lot of the jobs in our region are in that category - high tech, the green industry and medical care - and those are the jobs that are going continue to feed our local and state economy."

The initiative will try to boost the number of local young adults getting those kinds of credentials by 750 in two years and by 4,000 in the next 10 years, he said.

Besides NCSU, the collaborators include Meredith College, Peace College, Shaw University, St. Augustine's College, Wake Technical Community College, the Wake County Public School System, the city of Raleigh, Wake County Human Services, United Way of the Greater Triangle and the Capital Area Workforce Development Board, along with other local partners.

It's part of a four-city initiative, with each group figuring out how to tackle its variation of the problem, said Richard Hart, a spokesman for MDC, a Chapel Hill-based nonprofit organization that focuses on education and economic opportunity.

MDC is leading the broader initiative, which includes similar groups in Charlotte and two cities in Texas.

Broad community involvement is crucial, he said.

United Way, for example, will help with things like arranging internships and job shadowing, Picart said.
This summer, students at two Wake County high schools are taking part in a pilot project to learn about educational options after graduation.

And the six colleges will run a fellows program to give low-income students mentoring, work-based learning opportunities such as internships, and help with resumes and preparing for job interviews.

There also will be a program called Raleigh College Centers in partnership with the city. The centers will give advice on completing a GED, applying to college, getting financial aid and finding on-the-job training.

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North Dakota and N.C.A.A. Are at Odds Again Over University’s Sioux Mascot

By EMMA G. FITZSIMMONS

Officials at the University of North Dakota thought the long battle over the college’s Fighting Sioux nickname was finally over when they reached an agreement last year to retire the mascot. Then, the North Dakota legislature passed a law this year forcing the university to keep the name.

The new law, signed by Gov. Jack Dalrymple, has left the university in a difficult position: defy the National Collegiate Athletic Association, which has mandated that all American Indian mascots be dropped, or break the law. The legislative debate has reopened wounds over retiring a beloved mascot that has graced hockey jerseys and pennants across the state for years.

University officials hope that a meeting later this month in Indianapolis between Mr. Dalrymple, legislative leaders and N.C.A.A. officials will help resolve the conflict. As it stands, if the university continues to use the name after Aug. 15, its athletics program would face penalties that could jeopardize much-lauded plans to join the Big Sky Conference.
For many North Dakotans, the future of the logo — a profile of an Indian with feathers in his hair — is personal. Grant Shaft, the president of the state’s Board of Higher Education, went to law school there and said five generations of his family attended the university. But Mr. Shaft says it is time for the university to move past the matter and comply with N.C.A.A. guidelines.

“My roots with the Fighting Sioux nickname go as deep as anybody,” he said. “The reality of the situation is that the Aug. 15 date is looming, and we’re starting to realize the consequences are really untenable for the athletics department.”

The University of North Dakota is the last college still wrangling over how to get rid of its nickname and logo since the N.C.A.A. issued a policy in 2005 that banned American Indian mascots because they were seen as hostile and abusive. More than a dozen universities have already dropped such names.

The university tried over the last three years to receive an exemption by getting approval from both Sioux tribes in the state, Spirit Lake and Standing Rock. Although some members of the Spirit Lake tribe said they considered the nickname an honor and sued to preserve it, ultimately both tribes could not agree on the issue.

The N.C.A.A. agreed to attend the meeting with state officials this month, but reiterated that it would not change its policy. Bob Williams, the association’s vice president of communications, said: “We need to have a discussion about how they are going to comply with the policy or how they are going to be subject to the provisions of the policy. That’s it.”

Still, Al Carlson, the Republican leader in the State House, and other legislative leaders plan to make their case for keeping the name. Mr. Carlson, who did not return calls, told reporters earlier this year: “The alumni, the people that attend there, overwhelmingly want to keep the Fighting Sioux nickname.”

A spokesman for Mr. Dalrymple, a Republican, said: “The governor is going to Indianapolis because he wants to listen firsthand to the discussion between Al Carlson and the N.C.A.A. He’s trying to understand all points of view.”

The law he signed not only banned the university and the higher education board from taking any action to discontinue the name, it also said the state
attorney general should consider filing a federal antitrust claim against the N.C.A.A. if the organization penalized the university.

Meanwhile, the penalties the university would face from the N.C.A.A. are severe. The university could not host any championships, and its teams could not compete in championship events wearing the logo. The university is also expected to join the Big Sky Conference next summer, but the conference says it supports the N.C.A.A. policy.

University officials are unsure of what step to take next. The only way to repeal the law would be for the governor to call a special session of the legislature, said Mr. Shaft, the higher education board president.

“This meeting is one step in the process,” Mr. Shaft said. “In short, the saga continues.”
UNC Makes Risky Online Bet
Top-20 Business School Aims to Extend Its Global Reach With Internet M.B.A.

By JOE LIGHT
JULY 7, 2011

The University of North Carolina's Kenan-Flagler Business School is taking its brand online.

While online programs are still mostly seen as the purview of for-profit schools, like the University of Phoenix and Capella University, UNC is hoping to change that image.

The business school this Monday launched an online M.B.A. program with 19 students, dubbed MBA@UNC, that will offer the same core curriculum as its regular full-time M.B.A. program. It is the first online program of its kind from a top-20 U.S. business school.

Other universities, including Indiana University, Northeastern University and Howard University, offer or will soon offer online M.B.A. degrees.

UNC school officials believe that in 20 years most business schools will want to get into this space and see the program as an opportunity to give the school the global reach viewed as particularly critical in today's business environment. The school is also betting that some companies will pay for employees to attend classes virtually if a good local option isn't available.

Still, "the concept of online education does not have a sterling image," said Doug Shackelford, associate dean of the online M.B.A. program. So, when administration officials first announced MBA@UNC last year, proponents went on a full court press,
holding town halls with alumni and students, and faculty meetings to try to show that the online M.B.A.'s quality would be just as high as UNC's regular M.B.A. On paper, the online M.B.A. will be indistinct from the brick-and-mortar degree earned by students.

Jeff Tucker, a managing director with private equity firm Century Bridge Capital and member of UNC's alumni council, said "There were vigorous discussions" about the online program. Mr. Tucker added he would have no problem hiring an MBA@UNC grad.

However, not everyone is convinced. "There's a stigma that's causing students to not be excited about the program," said class of 2012 student Louis Reavis, 30 years old, referring to negative perceptions that some online M.B.A. programs are of low quality or aren't as competitive as a regular full-time program.

Deborah Bushway, interim president of Capella University, said employers have been impressed with the quality of graduates the university has put out and that she thinks they will continue to attract the same quality of students even in the face of increased competition from schools such as UNC.

Because UNC's online program offers its live online classes in the evenings, as an executive M.B.A. program would, university officials believe it will draw in mostly working professionals who don't live near a school with a well-known executive M.B.A. program.

UNC officials say that admissions standards for the new program are just as high as for an on-campus M.B.A. UNC students in the class of 2012 had a median Graduate Management Admission Test score of 700 and a grade point average of 3.3.

Incoming online student Jamie DeMaria, 38, is an executive director of strategic development for Medscape, a part of WebMD. He said he chose UNC's program in part because he didn't believe there was a well-known program near his Annapolis, Md., home, and he didn't want to leave his job. Mr. DeMaria said he looked at both on-campus and online programs, but only applied to UNC's program. "When you look at how people lead their lives today," he said. "It's a great thing to do."

Students such as Mr. DeMaria will foot MBA@UNC's $89,000 price tag over two years, just shy of the traditional program's $98,000 price for nonresidents. (Residents pay $52,000 for the brick-and-mortar degrees).

For that price, students spend two years working through essentially the same core curriculum as their on-campus counterparts, though sometimes through documentary-style lectures posted online. The first crop of online students, the class of 2013, will take 20 courses, but they won't be able to pick electives or concentrations as on-campus students.
Class discussions occur via Web cam. Students can raise their hand to talk just like they would in a regular classroom. For group projects, students link up via a similar program. At the end of most quarters—the school year runs over 12 months—the school will host face-to-face sessions in various cities, starting in Chapel Hill in December. Students must attend at least two sessions.

UNC developed the program in conjunction with 2tor, a New York-based start-up that helps universities design and implement online programs. UNC declined to give specifics on the financial arrangement, but said their investment totaled in the millions. 2tor invested more than $10 million in the program. The start-up will receive a share of the tuition UNC receives from students for the 10-year life of the UNC contract. 2tor has helped start online programs in nursing at Georgetown University and in teaching at the University of Southern California.

So far, other top schools, including Harvard and the University of Chicago, say they don't have formal plans to create their own programs.

While the Anderson School of Management at the University of California, Los Angeles, has offered "a handful" of hybrid or fully online versions of short electives in recent months, they're still "experimental at this stage," said Carla Hayn, senior associate dean for the fully employed M.B.A. and executive M.B.A. programs. "We're wading very gently into these waters."

Ms. Hayn said "there are other aspects to education"—such as networking and learning to read social cues, "that are kind of hard to get online."

—Melissa Korn contributed to this article.
Last-Minute Tuition Hikes Hit Students
Almost 20 states have cut funding for colleges, raising costs for students
-- starting now
    JULY 11, 2011, 11:41 A.M. ET

With freshman orientation right around the corner, many college students and their parents are about to get a surprise that could derail years of careful financial planning: last-minute tuition increases and cuts to financial aid packages promised just a few short months ago.

As states have finalized their budgets in recent weeks and months, cuts to public college funding have started to trickle down to parents and students. Since March, at least 19 states have cut money for public colleges. Some states, including Illinois and Georgia, are also slashing grants awarded to students just a few months ago. Still more families won't find out about changes to tuition and financial aid packages until the end of the summer or even after the semester begins -- what experts say is the longest delay ever. "This will create real hardship for these students and may impact directly on their ability to enroll this fall," says Tom Horgan, president of the New Hampshire College and University Council.

Long the affordable alternative to private colleges, tuition and fees for public schools have already been climbing rapidly. They're still much cheaper -- tuition and fees for in-state students averaged about $7,600 for the 2010-2011 school year, compared to $27,300 at private colleges, according to the College Board -- but the new increases aren't trivial.

Last month, Texas and New Hampshire announced 6% to 10% tuition hikes at some public universities. A spokesman for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board says as of now, the hikes impact two out of 35 colleges, with the potential for more to come. This month, California's four-year colleges are seeking to increase tuition by up to 12%, on top of an 8% to 10% increase that was announced earlier this year. "Public colleges and universities across the country have been put in a terrible bind," says Daniel Hurley, director of state relations and policy analysis at the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. "This academic year will be the worst on record in terms of public higher education funding."
In addition to tuition increases, the most generous portions of financial aid packages may also never materialize. In June, New Hampshire ended all state grants. Earlier this year, Georgia and Illinois awarded grants to students in financial aid packages, but the states recently scaled back these programs. For the upcoming year, Georgia’s merit-based Hope Scholarship, which covered 100% of tuition costs, will instead pay for approximately 87% of tuition rates at the state's public colleges. Illinois has also cut grants: The amount awarded will remain the same for the fall semester but will likely be smaller in January.

The delay could give students additional time to make a plan, says Katharine Gricevich, director of government relations at the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. She says the financial aid letters students received listed an estimated grant amount and specified that grants could be reduced due to state funding problems. Still, she says, the commission is hopeful that there will be additional funds to minimize cuts in the second semester.

The states blame declining revenue. With less money coming in from property, sales and income taxes, they're looking for other ways to rein in their budgets, and colleges are a prime target. A spokesman for Georgia's Board of Regents says revenues from the state lottery, which funded the state's Hope Scholarship program, are not keeping pace with the demand for the scholarship. Federal funding is at fault also: States have been receiving millions of dollars since 2009 from the federal stimulus, but that money has run out now. As state and federal governments cut their support of the schools, the schools look to parents and students to make up the difference.

At this point, there's little parents and students can do to cushion the shortfall. They can contact the college to find out if they're raising tuition further, or ask the college's financial aid office to provide more free aid if the state lowers their grant money, says Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of FinAid.org, which tracks financial aid issues. For more radical results, a student could take classes at a local community college for a year or a semester. Those courses are typically much cheaper and can often be transferred for college credit. Meanwhile, for students and families who are starting the process of shopping for colleges or saving for tuition, the cautionary tale seems clear: for the foreseeable future, public college tuition prices and financial aid promises may be unreliable.
Law Schools Get Practical
With the Tight Job Market, Course Emphasis Shifts From Textbooks to Skill Sets
By PATRICK G. LEE
JULY 11, 2011

Looking to attract employers' attention, some law schools are throwing out decades of tradition by replacing textbook courses with classes that teach more practical skills.

Indiana University Maurer School of Law started teaching project management this year and also offers a course on so-called emotional intelligence. The class has no textbook and instead uses personality assessments and peer reviews to develop students' interpersonal skills.

New York Law School hired 15 new faculty members over the past two years, many directly from the ranks of working lawyers, to teach skills in negotiation, counseling and fact investigation. The school says it normally hires one or two new faculty a year, and usually those focused on legal research.

And Washington and Lee University School of Law completely rebuilt its third-year curriculum in 2009, swapping out lectures and Socratic-style seminars for case-based simulations run by practicing lawyers.

A few elite players also are making adjustments. Harvard Law School last year launched a problem-solving class for first-year students, and Stanford Law School is considering making a full-time clinical course—which entails several 40-hour plus weeks of actual case work—a graduation requirement.

"Law firms are saying, 'You're sending us people who are not in a position to do anything useful for clients.' This is a first effort to try and fix that," says Larry Kramer, the law dean at Stanford.

The moves come amid a prolonged downturn in the legal job market. Only about one-quarter of last year's graduating law-school classes—down from 33% in 2009—snagged positions with big law firms, according to the National Association for Law Placement, an organization that collects employment data.

In past years, a law firm could bill clients for a new lawyer's work, even if that time were spent getting the novice up to speed. During the recession, corporate clients started limiting the number of hours a firm could charge and made it a policy not to pay for first-year associates, explains Don Liu, general counsel for Xerox Corp.
"This is a push from clients saying, 'Why are we going to pay this kind of money? We don't want to train the new lawyers,'" says Jennifer Queen, head of recruiting for McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP.

There are also fewer jobs to go around at a time when lawyers are in excess. In 2010, there were more than twice as many people—about 54,000—who passed the bar exam than there were legal job openings in the U.S., according to an analysis by consultants at Economic Modeling Specialists Inc.

Most law schools' offerings cover a wide range of topics, but clinical placements—often students' first chance for a taste of real law work—are usually optional and far fewer in number than theory-based courses.

"Medical students learn from real doctors in a real hospital during their education. In law, we're learning from a bunch of academics who have deliberately elected not to pursue law as a profession...there's such a disconnect," says BeiBei Que, a 2007 graduate of the University of Illinois College of Law. Ms. Que, who runs a boutique law firm that helps tech start-ups navigate legal issues, says she had to pick up practical skills—networking, soliciting clients, forming a business plan—on her own.

Law schools have generally lagged behind other, more real-world oriented institutions like business schools in piloting practical improvements, as law professors tend to focus on scholarly work, says Bill Henderson, a professor at Maurer. And curriculum change tends to "move like a glacier," he adds.

But many remain skeptical that new approaches to education will have a meaningful impact on the ability of lawyers to land jobs. "It could enhance the reputation of the law school...as places that will produce new lawyers who have practical skills," says Timothy Lloyd, a partner at Hogan Lovells and chair of its recruiting committee. "As to the particular student when I'm interviewing them? It doesn't make much of a difference."

Other recruiters say schools that have overhauled programs need to do a better job of promoting the changes to employers in order to see an impact. Until then, law school prestige will remain a big factor, says Bruce MacEwen, a law firm consultant and blogger who tracks the legal industry.

"Firms are very obsessed with prestige," he says. "That's just a fact of life."
Less Help Wanted
The employment rate for law-school graduates, nine months after a typical May graduation.

Source: National Association for Law Placement