THE DAILY CLIPS

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Dental school closer to dean

After interviewing six "outstanding" candidates, ECU officials say an announcement is coming soon.

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University is very close to announcing the founding dean of the new dental school, a spokesman said Monday.

University officials held interviews with six candidates over the course of July and will make an announcement soon, said John Durham, ECU spokesman.

"We had an outstanding field of candidates to be the founding dean of the dental school at ECU," Durham said. "The finalists have completed their campus visits, and we hope to have an announcement soon."

Each candidate attended a public forum at the Health Sciences Building earlier this month and answered questions, he said.

The finalists include administrators from as far away as Mississippi and Wisconsin.

The dean is to be chosen from the following finalists:
- James Hupp, University of Mississippi
- William Lobb, Marquette University
- Timothy Hottel, Nova Southeastern University
- Gregory Chadwick, Interim Dean, School of Dentistry at ECU
- Frank Licari, University of Illinois at Chicago
- Brett Ferguson, University

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of Missouri – Kansas City
ECU established the School of Dentistry with a mission to increase the number of dentists in eastern North Carolina.

The school is to be housed within the Division of Health Sciences with the Brody School of Medicine, College of Nursing, College of Allied Health Sciences and the Laupus Health Sciences Library.

The dean will be responsible for all educational programs of the school, including those offered in affiliated settings for clinical dental education.

Other duties will include curriculum development and delivery; selection and graduation of students; building a faculty and leadership team; securing accreditation of the school and its programs; and overseeing the construction of the new building, according to ECU's website.

The dean also will represent the school in key groups and councils dealing with plans and policies for dental education on a local and statewide basis.

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ECU a no-show on list ranking ‘party’ schools

BY STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The University of Florida can raise a glass to another national title — best party school in the country.

The Gators, known for wild celebrations following national championships in football and basketball, wrested the party title away from West Virginia University and beat out the University of Mississippi and Penn State University, in the Princeton Review survey of 120,000 students released Monday.

The university has made the top 20 party school list for the past 15 years, but has never been No. 1.

Freshman Allison Belanger, a journalism and political science major, said she's only been on campus for a few weeks but already has had no problem finding a party.

"All I have to do is leave the dorm," said Belanger, 17. "A lot of people study hard and party hard."

Though legend has it that East Carolina topped similar party school lists for several years in the 1980s, an ECU official said the university is more than happy to be excluded from the Princeton Review party rankings this year.

Jeanine Manning Hutson, spokeswoman at ECU, said the school makes the lists put out by the Princeton Review for more positive attributes all the time.

"While these lists are fun to look at and the information, such as student-to-faculty ratios and tuition, can be helpful for prospective students, I can say it's nice not to be on this part of the Princeton Review list," Hutson said.

"We have been rated a 'best value' by the Princeton Review in the past. I haven't been able yet to see the entire Princeton Review listing for this year, but at East Carolina, we are an institution offering many high-quality academic program options at an affordable price, whether we're on a particular list that year or not."

A University of Florida spokesman said the party school reputation comes from the school's athletic successes. The Gators won two national basketball championships in 2006 and 2007 and one national football title at the end of the 2006 college football season.

"The fact that we have three national championships in two years is probably a major contributing factor," spokesman Steve Orlando said. "We know our students like to have a good time."

He defended the school's academic climate, noting Florida's incoming students have a weighted grade-point average of 4.1 and an average SAT score of 1,300.

Florida also came in first this year in the categories of students who study the least and students who pack the stadiums.

Joseph Milano, 21, a finance major from Palm Harbor, said a mostly young student body of 51,000 students and successful athletic programs make it easy to party.

"With a lot of people on campus, fun things happen," he said.

Chris Hickox, 22, of Fort Lauderdale, said he is working hard to try to get into veterinary school, so he doesn't have a lot of time to celebrate.

"We do party and have a good time, but I have to study or my Dad will kill me," he said.

The annual rankings also list the nation's "Stone-Cold Sober Schools." Topping that list was Utah's Brigham Young University for the 11th consecutive year.

The Princeton Review's annual guide, "The Best 368 Colleges," also ranks schools on scores from 60 to 99 based on admissions, financial aid, and a new category called the Green rating, which surveys colleges in part on their environmentally friendly practices.

The book has 62 categories in all, including: Best Professors, Middlebury College in Vermont, Tastiest Campus Food, Wheaton College in Illinois, and Best Dorms, Loyola College in Maryland. The students happiest with their financial aid attend Princeton University, which also tops the list for the most beautiful campus, the survey found.

The Princeton Review says the guide to the best schools is intended to help applicants who can't visit every school in person.

"In our opinion, each school in this book is first-rate academically," said Robert Franek, the book’s author.

The Princeton Review is a New York company known for its test preparation courses, educational services and books and is not affiliated with Princeton University.

On the Net:
The Princeton Review: http://www.princetonreview.com
Heart disease tops causes of death in Pitt County

BY TOM MARINE
The Daily Reflector

Local health officials say it'll take a combination of policy and environmental changes to reduce the leading causes of death in Pitt County.

The 2007 Pitt Community Health Assessment showed the top causes of death among county residents were heart disease, cancer and stroke. Nearly one in four local deaths was caused by heart disease, while cancer deaths accounted for about 20 percent.

The Pitt County Health Department and Pitt Partners for Health jointly conducted the study, required by state law, to examine the health status of the county and list its health priorities for the next four years.

"Most of the leading causes of death today are attributed to our lifestyle," said Jo Morgan, health education director for the Pitt County Health Department. "Whether that be our nutrition, our activity levels, our smoking or stress. All of these have been associated with heart disease, cancer and stroke."

Following heart disease, cancer and stroke were chronic lung disease and diabetes, followed by unintentional injuries, kidney disease and motor vehicle injuries. Septicemia, caused by the spread of microorganisms and their toxins into the bloodstream, and Alzheimer's disease rounded out the top 10.

To lower these numbers, Morgan said, the community needs to focus on heart disease like it did with smoking — through the implementation of regulatory and environmental changes.

"When you look at sweeping changes that have been made in our public's health, we did it through in-

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fluence on policy and changing environments," Morgan said. "But with heart disease, we've strictly focused on the individual. We haven't applied that model."

Kristen Brooks, community health programs specialist at Pitt County Memorial Hospital, said the key to reducing the county's leading causes of death is educating the public.

She said local residents can't hear the message enough.

"(Morgan) always says when you are tired of saying it, they are just starting to hear it," Brooks said.

Although poor diet and lack of physical activity are contributing factors, there is not a direct connection between these factors and the heart disease-related deaths in Pitt County, one doctor said.

"Some of it is inherited or genetic," said Dr. Lauren Whetstone, clinical associate professor of Family Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine.

"But these behavioral things are what the research has shown to be lifestyle factors that are modifiable, that we can do something about."

Also, Whetstone said, there are problems in trying to influence what people eat because of different cultures and family histories.

So, Morgan said, they are trying to create new norms in which people choose to be active and make healthier choices throughout the day.

"Environmentally, we have a lot of opportunity," she said. "We're not asking people to get rid of some of the traditions of the South. We're not legislating people to walk, but we're saying, 'let's look at this environment.'"

Morgan said the intent of the health assessment is to provide a vehicle that pulls people together to look at the health of the community and make plans for improvement.

"Even with the policy and environmental talk, we need people to know that they can make changes and they can make it in small increments," Morgan said. "Decide to take charge of your health."

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ADAMS continued from C1

A man who left an imprint on East Carolina athletics in the late 1950s is now being honored for the impression he's made ever since in North Carolina's scholastic sports.

Charlie Adams has served as executive director for the North Carolina High School Athletics Association since 1984, and his efforts in that role have earned Adams a spot in the NCHSAA Hall of Fame.

Adams has been on the NCHSAA staff since 1984. In that time, the former standout basketball player at ECU has helped to introduce a corporate sponsorship program, started the NCHSAA Endowment fund, expanded the state awards program, developed more classified state championships and helped start the Student Services program.

Adams served as president of the National Federation of State High School Associations Board of Directors in 1997-98, the only North Carolinian to serve in that role. Adams is also a member of the National High School Hall of Fame, the North Carolina Athletic Directors Hall of Fame, the ECU Sports Hall of Fame and the Cary High School Hall of Fame.

On his way to earning a bachelor's degree from ECU in 1959, Adams played three seasons for the Pirate basketball team under Howard Porter, helping to guide ECU to a 48-29 mark in that span.

Adams will be a part of the 22nd group of inductees to join the hall, and will bring the total number of enshrinees to 118.

The new inductees will be honored during special halftime ceremonies at Kenan Stadium on Oct. 25, when North Carolina takes on Boston College. The University of North Carolina has designated the day as the 24th annual NCHSAA Day. The new class will officially be inducted next spring at the George Watts Hill Alumni Center at the University of North Carolina.
TXTING IS WKEWL

Code-based language creates new culture of communication

BY KRISTIN DAY
The Daily Reflector

In the past couple of years, the text-messaging trend has exploded all over the country, and North Carolina is no exception.

Just as past trends like pagers, primal cell phones of the 1980s and the Internet, text messaging has created a whole new culture of communication. Today, anyone can vote for their favorite reality-show contestant, pass virtual notes in class, receive news alerts or even — OMG! — the latest celebrity gossip via text message.

The 2008 "Big City Wireless Use Study," commissioned by Verizon Wireless, discovered an increase in text messaging among the company's North Carolina customers by more than 600 percent between April 2006 and April 2008. And while the study named Charlotte as the 'textiest city' with an increase of 88 million messages, the Greenville/Washington area also scored high with a total of 2,752,254 texts in April 2008.

"The Big City Wireless Use study offers North Carolinians an interesting snapshot of how they have come to rely on their cell phones every day to do much more than make phone calls," said Jerry Fountain, Verizon Wireless president for the Carolinas/Tennessee region. "This study proves text messaging is a phenomenal way to communicate information quickly and efficiently to stay connected with family and friends, wherever they may be."

But as the trend grows, it's also helped build a new code-based language used mostly by the instant-messaging generation.

It began with a few acronyms, like LOL (laugh out loud) and BRB (be right back). Now fluent texters can type entire paragraphs almost completely in text-code. The backlash is that when it becomes a habit, it can show up in school work.

Kate Yuhas, 11th-grade English teacher in Edgecombe County, says she's seen all kinds of abbreviations thrown into essays, such as using "2" instead of "to" or "too."

"I tell them different language is appropriate for different medium and times," Yuhas said. "Texting and essays are different and need to be treated as such."

Even when students send her text messages, she asks that they be grammatically correct. Not doing so "sort of makes me twitch," she said.

However, she admits that she, too, has caught on to the craze after she fell into a texting crowd. These days, she'll find herself sitting on the couch sending texts to her roommate when he's in another room.

The ease and immediacy of text messaging has made talking almost an inconvenience to some. This is especially true during a "text fight," when two or more people have an argument through exchanging texts.

ECU Associate Professor of Sociology Marty Schultz said situations like text fights remind him of what he calls "e-mail wars."

"They can say things in e-mail messages that they would never say to the person face to face," Schultz said. "It is also less intru-
sive and gives the person time to think before they provide an immediate — sometimes not well thought out — response.”

And some new text-message services even help keep you safe. ECU’s alert system added text messaging capabilities in 2007, in which students, parents, employees and others can register their cell phone numbers. John Durham, ECU’s executive director of university communications, said they currently have about 5,000 registered users.

“It is intended to alert people to immediate dangers: a fire or explosion on campus; a tornado warning; a chemical spill; a shooter on campus; etc.,” Durham said. “We have tested the system several times, but have not used it yet for an emergency.”

The question now is “when is it appropriate to text?” Many find texting at the dinner table or in social situations to be rude, and some conversations require face-to-face interaction.

Schultz said the technology is still too new, but texting manners will all be figured out in due time.

“When new technology appears, there is typically a period (“culture lag”) before the norms and laws establish some parameters of acceptable behavior,” Schultz said. “This has happened with cell phone usage when driving a car... For a time, it’s like the Wild West, and then the sheriff shows up in town to restore some order.”

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**TXTING 4 DUMMIES**

Many of the codes for Internet instant messaging have made their way into the texting world to keep messages shorter and easier to type.

Here are some of the basics:

- **2day/2morrow:** today/tomorrow
- **4ever:** forever
- **ASL:** age/sex/location
- **BC:** because
- **BF/BF:** boyfriend/girlfriend
- **BFF:** best friend
- **BFN:** bye for now
- **BRB:** be right back
- **Code 9:** parents are around
- **DEF:** definitely
- **GR8/L8R:** great/later
- **GUNNA:** going to
- **IM:** to send an instant message via an internet service such as AOL
- **LOL:** laugh out loud
- **NRG:** energy
- **OMG:** oh, my God
- **PLZ:** please
- **PWN:** own or dominate, as in an Internet gaming battle
- **ROFL:** roll on the floor laughing
- **TM:** too much information
- **TTYL:** talk to you later
- **TXT:** to text message
- **UR:** your/you’re
- **WKW:** way cool
- **?: what?/uhh?
- **<3:** heart
- **AAAA:** American Association Against Acronym Abuse (seriously).

Example: OMG, TXT or IM ME L8R
2DAY, PLZ, BFN.
Pedestrian robbed at UNC-CH

CHAPEL HILL — UNC-Chapel Hill is warning students to be on high alert after a “strong-arm” robbery Saturday.

In that incident, which happened just after midnight on north campus, a 24-year-old man was grabbed from behind and pushed to the ground. The man had been walking with his sister on the sidewalk between Hill Hall and the Smith Building.

The robbery was interrupted by a UNC-CH public safety officer on foot patrol nearby, and the suspect fled.

Police describe the suspect as black male in his early to mid-20s, 5 feet 8 inches tall, with a medium build and wearing dark jeans and a dark T-shirt, possibly navy blue in color. Police gave no additional descriptive details such as facial hair or weight. No weapons were used in the robbery, police said.

The university advises community members not to walk alone at night, to walk in well-lit areas and to call 911 to report any suspicious activity.
OUR VIEWS

Smart on students

A reversal by the state attorney general offers a chance for community colleges to open their doors — to all.

With a finding by the office of state Attorney General Roy Cooper that there is no law barring the enrollment of illegal immigrants in state community colleges, those colleges can now do just the right thing, but the smart thing. The opinion from the AG reverses an earlier stance. Basically, the attorney general received guidance from federal immigration officials to the effect that states can do what they want to do on the issue.

The community college system's board will take up the issue next month. Its decision should be based on common sense and a careful assessment of what approach is best for North Carolina as a whole — i.e., a welcoming admissions policy.

Many of those without proper immigration authorization who seek to enroll in community colleges — and the number is far from overwhelming — are here because they were brought to this country by their families. The decision to illegally enter the country or to overstay a visa was not theirs. In seeking education at the colleges, and paying their way, they are trying to improve their job skills and their lives. That would also benefit a state that is looking to increase its supply of educated workers.

The University of North Carolina system allows illegal immigrants to study, and they pay out-of-state tuition rates, which are much higher than in-state. There are fewer than 30 such students in the university system.

No one would claim this is a simple issue. The people involved are indeed in the country without permission. Some politicians would like to use that fact, and that alone, as a reason to deny them higher education — even though many are from families who have been here for years, and who have worked for North Carolina businesses that depend on them.

That's one of the contradictions in immigration policy. There's another contradiction: while certainly there are laws on the books setting requirements for residence in this country, the federal government has been unable or unwilling to enforce those laws in an even-handed fashion, or, as the numbers of illegal immigrants have grown into the many millions, to find ways to allow more of them to attain legal status.

At this point, contrary to what some public officeholders would have people believe, it's simply unrealistic to think that 12-14 million immigrants thought to be in the country illegally could be deported en masse.

Facing that reality against political pressure is something that education officials ought to do, in the best interest of the state. Students who happen to be illegal immigrants and want to enroll in community colleges would not be stealing positions from anybody. They would not be creating a burden on the system. They would be seeking to gain skills, well-taught, that could serve them well wherever they chose to live — and that might be the United States, should a coherent and reasonable immigration policy be adopted one day.

Cooper's office is due credit for following up on its earlier decision, and for coming forth with this one. Opposing the enrollment of illegal immigrants as students may be the easy thing to do for those in political office. But it doesn't help anybody, and does damage to some, many of whom have done nothing to deserve it. Let us hope that those who guide the community college system understand that, and act upon it.