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UNC-CH athletic tutoring praised by panel

BY T. KEUNG HUI - Staff Writer

A University of North Carolina system task force that is recommending greater oversight over athletic programs has praise for UNC-Chapel Hill's embattled academic support program.

The program has come under scrutiny after the university acknowledged that some football players had gotten improper academic help from a tutor. The tutors come under the academic support program.

A report from the UNC Task Force on Athletics and Academics identifies the UNC-CH academic support program as one of "several effective practices at UNC Institutions." The report, released to the media Friday in advance of a UNC Board of Governors meeting next week, points to the processes for hiring, training and supervising academic support personnel at UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and UNC Charlotte.

Jack Evans, a UNC-CH business professor who is a member of the task force, said he couldn't comment on the 16-page report before it's presented next week to the UNC Board of Governors. But Evans, who used to be UNC-CH's faculty athletics representative, praised the university's academic support program.

"It's a strong program," Evans said Friday. "I'm not saying it's perfect, but it has served us well for many years."
Steve Ballard, the chancellor of East Carolina University and the chairman of the task force, could not be reached for comment Friday.

Tutoring of athletes is one area the task force examined as part of its effort to recommend how member campuses can minimize risks to the academic integrity of their athletic programs. The task force, formed in January, developed recommendations amid the widening scandal at Carolina's football program that has led to an NCAA investigation and the firing of head coach Butch Davis.

Recommendations focused on three areas:

- Better integrating the athletics programs into the academic missions of the universities.
- Increasing oversight and monitoring of athletics programs, including more review by the UNC Board of Governors.
- Providing more funding for member schools, particularly the smaller ones, to carry out recommendations such as establishing strong, effective academic support programs.

On the issue of tutors, the task force said that while "a determined individual can choose to break the rules," the universities must mitigate the risks. This includes a careful screening of prospective tutors.

"Attempts should be made to weed out 'fans' from the process," according to the report. "These are individuals seeking these types of positions for the sole purpose of gaining more access to student-athletes."

The report also notes the role of athletic coaches, warning that "strong pressures for isolation (of athletic programs) can come from extremely well-paid coaches" that can "lead to mistakes or losses of integrity."

"All coaches should be held accountable for the academic success of the student-athlete and understand that they are instrumental in the academic success of student-athletes," according to the report. "Many institutions are including various measures of academic performance in coaches' contracts."

The report also sets expectations for student-athletes, advising that universities reinforce to them the importance of ethical behavior from day one.

"Successful ethical education starts with the coaches and with recruiting but must become a routine aspect of their life on campus," the report says.

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As East Carolina University officials work to trim spending in accordance with the recently approved state budget, some solace may be found in knowing the school is likely to terminate fewer than 10 employees. Taking measure of the fiscal landscape prompted the school to leave many vacancies unfilled over the last year, reflecting strong advance planning.

However, the elimination of 190 positions at the school is certain to harm East Carolina's academic mission and affect the quality of the education provided to students. While students returning to campus this month may not notice the difference immediately, there is little question that North Carolina undermined one of its most valuable resources with a budget that slashed university funding.

When lawmakers came to Raleigh earlier this year, they understood that a sluggish economy would necessitate difficult choices to construct a budget. Resources were restricted so every decision would require considerable scrutiny. It was expected that the Legislature's goal would be to construct a spending blueprint that adequately prepared North Carolina for the inevitable economic recovery and preparation of a workforce capable of filling available jobs.

Under those parameters, the most important investment is in education. Protecting funding for public schools, community colleges and the state university system shows potential employers that North Carolina is ready to work and eager to be a partner in creating jobs. The UNC system is an incubator for innovation and money there pays long-term dividends.

Republicans in the Legislature, holding a majority for the first time in a century, adopted a different approach. They dramatically cut funding to the university system in order to allow the expiration of a temporary 1 percent increase in the sales tax enacted in 2010. They did not pursue the type of comprehensive revenue reform that would prepare the state, and its valuable public universities, for the future.

At East Carolina, the 16 percent cut in funding means $49 million less for the coming school year. In forced the elimination of 190 positions, though smart planning by administrators left vacancies unfilled and means the fewer than 10 employees will be terminated. That is certain to harm the core mission of the university and impact the quality of the education received by students returning to campus this month. North Carolina lawmakers had choices when they came to Raleigh this year and they stood against education. The effects of that decision are likely to haunt the state for years to come.
ECU alums mark 50 years of friendship
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, August 7, 2011

Fifty years of marriage is a significant achievement, as is 50 years of friendship — even more so when multiplied by four.

Four East Carolina University alumnae — Donna Langley Brown, Sophia Twiford Jarvis, Angeline Van Dyk Bullard and Charlotte Purifoy Whitford — have celebrated or will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversaries within the next year.

All members of the class of 1961, the four longtime friends reunited when they returned to campus for the 2011 Commencement Ceremonies and their 50th class reunion in May.

“It's almost like a miracle,” said Donna, of Spring Lake, N.C.
“Time has gone by so quickly, it doesn't seem possible,” said Sophia, a resident of Swan Quarter.
“It feels great,” said Charlotte, who lives outside New Bern. “Fifty years seemed a far stretch, now all of a sudden we've made it.”
“I didn't think that far ahead (when I got married),” said Angeline, who lives in her husband's hometown of Fayetteville. “It's really unbelievable.”

Returning to campus brought back fond memories for all four women, most of whom had not been back for years.

“The campus was beautiful, there were so many more buildings,” Sophia said.
“It's amazing to think how much the college has expanded,” Charlotte said. “There was
“I was really happy to see all the new things on campus,” Donna said. “When we were there it was East Carolina College, and we thought wouldn't it be great if we were a university, and when they became a university I was so proud. My whole career I was proud to have gone to East Carolina.”

Since they had kept in touch over the years by phone calls and Christmas cards, the four were thrilled to see each other in person again for the reunion.

“It felt like we were young ladies again,” Charlotte said.

The girls met as freshmen and by the end of the year were fast friends. In the following years, they were granted their requests to room with each other or live near each other.

“Dorm life was very enjoyable,” Sophia said. “It was a special time.”

None of the girls had a car and all worked part-time on campus.

“We stayed pretty busy,” Angeline said.

The girls would go to plays and concerts and watch movies in the old Austin building.

Often other friends like Bernice Baker and current Pitt County Commissioner Beth Ward would join them.

“We went to every free event there was,” Charlotte said.

Sophia remembers dressing up in heels and corsages for the Homecoming game, and going to some basketball games, too.

Angeline recalls making grilled cheese sandwiches on their irons in the dorms, and heating cans of soup on the radiators. Cafeteria meals were sold individually instead of on plans, and it was cheaper to eat in the rooms.

“We weren't supposed to eat in the room but we had our ways,” Charlotte said.

They would also walk downtown to the soda shop or drugstore and get a hamburger.

“One of the favorite times of my life was at ECU,” Angeline said. “I wouldn't take anything for it.”

After college, all four went into teaching, though Charlotte was a homemaker for a time. All four women were in each others' weddings. Donna got married first, and when the other three were able to participate, they decided to keep it up, “and that's exactly what happened,” Donna said.

Donna met her future husband Bobby in high school in Spring Lake. Bobby went into the Air Force, and they started dating when he was home on leave.

She was drawn to Bobby's kindness and jolly nature. “He was always happy. He was attentive and affectionate, and he looked real good in his Air Force Uniform,” she said. They married June 18, 1961.
Sophia and her husband Ralph also met in high school in Engelhard, but didn't start dating until she asked him to be her guest at the ECU junior-senior banquet. They dated when he was home on leave from the Army. They married June 17, 1962.

“We're just as opposite as we can be,” Sophia said. “He likes to fish, and that's just not for me. Flowers are my thing. And I like to eat fish, but I sure don't like to catch them.”

Angeline and her husband Neal met at ECU when he transferred in as a junior from community college. They both worked in the cafeteria. “He treated me real nice. Most of the boys would tease me but he treated me real well,” Angeline said. They began dating between the summer between their junior and senior years. They married June 30, 1962.

A mutual friend arranged a first date for Charlotte and McRay, a farmer from near her hometown, and it must have gone well “because he asked me on another one,” Charlotte said. “It took a while (to know he was the one) but I kept feeling more and more comfortable around him.”

Charlotte, a home-economics major, made her own wedding dress at a cost of $30. She and McRay married Aug. 18, 1961. “My husband and I feel blessed through all our lives,” she said.

With her children and teaching, Donna didn't really think about making 50 years. “We were always so busy, we took one year at a time and just rolled right along, and it worked out really well for us,” she said.

With 200 years of marriage among them and their husbands, these ladies know a thing or two about how to make a relationship last.

“Throughout the years church has been a big part of our lives,” Sophia said. “Prayer and the Good Lord have kept us together. We wouldn't have made it without Him.” “I'll tell you one thing that helps, if you get mad, it's better not try to solve it right then,” Donna says. “You need to walk off. Bobby and I did that many times. You need to cool off and get over what the problem was.” And you won't always be right about it — “You do have to say I'm sorry a lot of times to make it to 50 years,” she added.

In the end, the key to spending 50 years together is making the decision to stick together.

“We truly love each other,” Angeline said of her and Neal. “We have a commitment.” “Well, we took the vows, for richer, for poorer, in sickness, and in health,” Charlotte said. “Life has not been perfect, we've had a lot of challenges, but I wouldn't change any of it. We learned to work things out. The older you get, the more you cherish the other person because you've been through the trials together.”

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Karen Krupa's former East Carolina University nursing students might have done a double take browsing in the Inner Banks Artisans' Center in Washington, N.C.

“They'll say, ‘don't I know you from somewhere?’ And I'll ask did you go to ECU?” Krupa said. “And then it hits them. Mrs. Krupa!”

Krupa, a retired longtime ECU nursing faculty member, and her husband Bob Henkel of Chocowinity have opened the artisans’ center on Main Street in Washington. The center features art materials, acrylics, baskets, blown glass, books, fabric art, hand-poured chocolates, jewelry, mixed media, oil paintings, pencil, photography, pottery, quilting, sculpture, silk art, stained glass, string instruments, watercolor, woodwork and yoga.

It's a second career for both. Henkel is a retired businessman. Krupa returned to teach community nursing part time at ECU and is a part-time consultant at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

“I have no artistic talent at all,” Krupa said. “I'm hospitality.”

The idea for the center came from a visit to the Bel Air Artisans Center in Rocky Mount.

Henkel had a building and was looking for ideas for its use. “They said ‘if you build it, they will come,'” Krupa said. “We came back here and Bob started drawing out plans.

“People started knocking on the door to see what we were doing and they told others,” she said.
The circa 1911 building, once a Woolworth's, has 6,000 square feet of first floor space that has been transformed into 18 working art studios with 80 juried artists from eastern North Carolina.

The center is just down the street from the Turnage Theater. Managing artist Jan Paysour arranges displays and juries artists. She also hosts a reception each month to highlight several local artists. She can count at least six ECU alumni who display and sell items at the center.

It's also home to Thursday night and Saturday morning jam sessions and Friday night open mic hosted by the Beaufort County Traditional Music Association. And Bobbi Jo's Coffee Shop is located at the rear of the building featuring fresh-squeezed lemon, lime and orangeades.

Krupa and Henkel opened in November 2009, erecting the walls just in time for the first Washington Art Walk. All the studios are full.

“There is obviously a need,” Krupa said. “The artists are here and so are customers. The artists are thrilled. They have a venue to sell their items.”

Doris Schneider retired to Washington about three years ago. She taught theater arts and scene design at North Carolina Central University. Schneider makes masks, jewelry and paintings, and rents a studio at the center.

“They've done wonderful things for Washington,” Schneider said. “There are an amazing number of artists in this community and they've given us a home, which is wonderful.”

Since finishing the ground floor last year, Henkel has plans to move up. On the second floor, he hopes to open a potting center with a recent donation of two kilns, an art classroom, and two art studios overlooking Main Street. The third floor's open plan has the bones for a dance studio.

While the economy has hurt artists' sales, Henkel hopes people will not put off buying beautiful handmade objects that can have an immediate impact on their psyche.

“It really calms you. It does that for me,” he said. “It's a great place to come to get a ‘one of’ item.”

The center's summer hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday and until 9:30 p.m. on nights with live music.

For more information, go to www.innerbanksartisanscenter.com

**Dental scholarship for Bakersville resident**

A resident of Bakersville in Mitchell County is the recipient of a scholarship at the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine's. Kyle Duncan, a May graduate of Appalachian State University, has received the first Samuel L. Phillips Family Foundation Scholarship. The foundation is based in Mitchell County.
“I can never repay you or express my gratitude to you,” Duncan told members of the Phillips family Tuesday in Spruce Pine during an announcement about the site of the school's fifth community service-learning center. “This has always been home to me and where I want to come back to, where my heart is. That's really what I want, and, Lord willing, I'll be able to do that.”

Duncan is the son of Wanda and Tommy Duncan and a graduate of Mitchell High School.

The scholarship provides full tuition, fees and living expenses for four years of dental school. Scholarship recipients must practice for at least five years in the Mayland area — Mitchell, Avery and Yancey counties — said Gina Phillips, a family member and foundation board member.

The foundation will award a scholarship to an area resident every four years.

Duncan is one of the first 52 students, all North Carolina residents, at the ECU School of Dental Medicine, beginning classes this month. The school plans to admit approximately 50 students each year.

**Three down, one to go with a scholarship**

Ruben “Trey” Sloan III is proud to say that he is a three-time graduate of the College of Health and Human Performance at ECU and excited to continue his ambitious studies.

The Deep Run native dreams of becoming a physician to serve the citizens of his home state. And thanks to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors' Medical Scholarship-Loan Program, he is one step closer to reaching this goal.

Sloan has been selected to receive the competitive four-year scholarship to attend the Brody School of Medicine. The scholarship provides an annual stipend of $5,000 plus tuition, mandatory fees, medical insurance and a laptop computer. Renewal each year is contingent upon meeting all eligibility requirements and continued funding by the North Carolina General Assembly.

“I was overwhelmed with a sense of relief and gratitude when I learned about receiving this scholarship,” Sloan said. “Knowing that many of my expenses will be paid is a great feeling.”

Scholars are selected on the basis of academic merit, financial need, along with a commitment to practice medicine in North Carolina following graduation.

Sloan will enter medical school this month as a distinguished graduate boasting a 3.96 grade point average. He served as president of the Department of Kinesiology Graduate Student Organization and was appointed to the Dean's Student Advisory Committee for the 2008-09 academic year.
Dr. Ron Cortright, professor in the Department of Kinesiology (formerly Exercise and Sport Science), taught Sloan during his first year as a doctoral student. “I immediately saw his intellect, creativity, and passion for learning through classroom participation and on critical thinking exams,” he said.

Sloan's affection for ECU is double fold. It is here that he met his wife, Kristi Sloan, and proposed to her under the cupola on campus.

He earned a bachelor's and master's degree in exercise physiology and a doctoral degree in bioenergetics and exercise science. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and in nursing.
Tom Campbell: Football addiction
Saturday, August 6, 2011

The first step in any recovery is to admit you have a problem. So before trying to fix the football program at UNC, or any athletics program, let us begin there. We are addicted and, like all others, it has assumed too great a priority in our lives. Want proof? Look at the campaign to fire the UNC chancellor because he fired the coach, the incessant chatter on Internet message boards or angry talk radio blasts surrounding football at our flagship university. How else can you explain our willingness to pay coaches millions while simultaneously cutting course offerings and teaching positions?

Former UNC President Bill Friday tried to warn us where this was taking us twenty years ago but we didn't want to listen. We enjoyed tailgating, wearing the colors, attending the games and cocktail conversations afterwards. Like smoking that first cigarette or taking that first drink our colleges enjoyed the attention, dollars from donors and networks, and increased enrollment applications when the sports teams did well. The college athletics cart started pulling the academic horse.

It is too simplistic to place blame on the players, the coaches or even athletic directors. We could fault the administrations, the alumni or NCAA but we would also have to indict ESPN and other networks that funnel huge sums of money and ultimately dictate what is and isn't allowed in college sports.

Big dollars drive college athletics just as they do in politics. But where do sports networks get the money?

You and I fuel the money machine. We watch the broadcasts, donate to the booster clubs, buy the tickets and demand championships. Been there, done that and got lots of tee shirts, plastic antennas with our team's flags, decals and other paraphernalia that show our loyalties. It's decision time. Will we declare our college athletics programs little more than minor league teams for professional sports and start paying the athletes or are we willing to get serious about sports reform?

If it's reform, here are some suggestions. First we must admit to our addiction problem and pledge to restore balance between athletics and academics. Chancellors and administrators must rein in renegade athletic departments and undue influence from boosters clubs, bringing these programs firmly under the control of the university administration. The NCAA is more a problem than a solution so we should drop out and institute realistic admission requirements for athletes, with rules that can be understood and enforced. Since only 1 percent of these athletes will ever play at a professional level we should eliminate easy courses that don't add to academics and insist professors treat athletes no different than other students.
It is absurd to think a “student athlete” can spend thirty or more hours a week practicing and still properly prepare for coursework, so realistic time limits must be set. If we really want to go “cold turkey” we should refuse to accept athletics-only donations and insist all contributions be given to the university itself, with administrators and trustees directing where dollars go.

The howls of protest we will hear are further proof of the denial to our college sports addiction. At least these suggestions get to the heart of the problems. What is it going to take to seriously reform college sports?

Tom Campbell is a former assistant North Carolina treasurer and the host of N.C. SPIN.

Contact him at ncspin.com.
Sinking our schools
BY CHARLES R. COBLE

CHAPEL HILL—Several years ago, an editor of the Mobile Press-Register was doing a series of stories on the 10 top innovations in the South. He came to North Carolina to investigate why our state had earned such a good reputation for advancing public education.

He interviewed several people, including then-Gov. Jim Hunt, so he largely had his story by the time he spoke with me. His question was, "What was the turning point for North Carolina, and what could Alabamians learn from what happened in North Carolina?"

My response was that the critical difference was our electing Terry Sanford as governor in 1961, while in the following year Alabama elected George C. Wallace.

While Wallace, in the first of his four terms as governor, was espousing "segregation now, segregation tomorrow and segregation forever!" - and standing in the doors of the University of Alabama to prevent the enrollment of black students - Sanford was busy acting on his belief that with a good education a person could accomplish anything.

In his term-limited four years as governor, Sanford began consolidating the University of North Carolina, started the community college system, conceived the Governor's School and the N.C. School of the Arts, significantly raised teacher salaries and created the North Carolina Fund to fight poverty and promote racial equality across the state. (He accomplished this with an unpopular food tax!)

Education is a very large ship to build and to get moving in the right direction. North Carolina began building that ship by electing Sanford as its first "modern day" Education Governor and then kept it moving by continuing to elect pro-education governors in Dan Moore, Bob Scott, Jim Holshouser, Jim Hunt, Jim Martin, then Jim Hunt again, Mike Easley and now Bev Perdue. Each one advanced education as a key strategy for moving North Carolina forward.

How do we know it has worked? Today, on virtually every index of educational success including high school, college and advanced degrees
earned, Alabama remains near the bottom of the nation while North Carolina, though still having a long way to go, has climbed out of those bottom rankings to close to the middle of the states. On the National Assessment of Educational Progress, Alabama is below the national average in reading and North Carolina is near the mid-point of all 50 states; in math achievement, Alabama's scores are abysmal, and ours are just above the national average.

Educational progress has translated into economic progress as well. Currently, we rank 10th nationally in contributions to the gross national product, while Alabama is ranked 25th by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis.

What this session of the General Assembly has shown us is that even though building a ship is a slow process, sinking it can be done rather quickly.

In short order, the new Republican majority defunded the N.C. Teacher Academy, which provided high quality professional development by teachers for teachers; cut in half the budget for the Center for the Advancement of Teaching, which has a clear record of helping retain quality teachers in our state; completely eliminated the Teaching Fellows Program, a 25-year success story that has attracted some of the state's top students into teaching; defunded the Governor's School, which inspired some of the most talented young people in our state to achieve their highest goals to the benefit of us all. Cuts in higher education will further reduce the numbers and quality and diversity of college graduates and of the subset of that population that chooses to enter teaching.

Just as it took awhile for the decisions by our long list of Democratic and Republican governors to build North Carolina's education success story, it will take awhile to see the educational decline that will result from this session of the General Assembly. But rest assured, a decline is on the way. A state cannot disinvest in the preparation and development of teachers and in stimulating the talent of our state without consequences.

I do not believe that the majority of North Carolinians voted for this kind of change. We have allowed a group of people to act in destructive ways and then try to sell it as progress. This is not progress; it is a giant step backward and downward to the good ol' days of competing with Alabama as a bottom-dweller in education and economic development.

Charles R. Coble is former dean of the East Carolina University School of Education and former vice president of University-School Programs for the UNC system. He is a licensed science teacher in North Carolina.
Underwater Archaeology Branch Conservator Nathan Henry holds several examples of artifacts recovered from the blockade runner Modern Greece that are still being maintained in water tanks at the Underwater Archaeology Branch of the N.C. Division of Archives and History at Fort Fisher. Photo By Mike Spencer

**State works to preserve artifacts from sunken blockade runners**

By Ben Steelman

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Their career began 150 years ago and lasted just a few seasons, but for a while they made Wilmington, in the words of Civil War writer Clint Johnson, “the most important city in the Confederacy.”

They were the blockade runners, merchant ships that sped past Union warships in the dark to bring much-wanted supplies into Southern ports.

After the U.S. Navy and ground forces effectively sealed off Charleston, S.C., in 1863, that meant Wilmington.

Arms, ammunition, medicine and much-needed supplies slipped into the Port City, usually under the protective guns of Fort Fisher. These were then loaded onto the Wilmington & Weldon Railroad for shipment north to Richmond.
Now, state archaeologists are beginning to take a new look at the blockade runners and their cargoes. They hope to launch a campaign to conserve artifacts recovered from the waters off Cape Fear.

The wrecks of 21 blockade runners lie in shallow waters off the coast in what is one of the few maritime National Register historic districts.

“There’s probably twice as many still out there,” said Mark Wilde-Ramsing, an assistant state archeologist who heads North Carolina’s Underwater Archaeology Branch at Fort Fisher.

On April 27, 1861 – nearly a month before North Carolina officially seceded from the Union – President Lincoln extended the naval blockade of the Confederacy to the Tar Heel coast.

Declaring a blockade and enforcing it, however, are two different things. In early 1861, the U.S. Navy had just 42 warships, many still deployed in foreign ports, hardly enough to cover the 4,000-mile-long Confederate coast.

The first blockader, the USS Roanoke, didn’t take up station off Cape Fear until July 12, 1861.

Locals started flaunting the blockade almost immediately. In August of 1861, U.S. consul Samuel Whiting angrily wrote to the British governor at Nassau, in the Bahamas:

“On the 7th day of Augt. the Schr. (schooner) Wm. H. Northrup of Wilmington, N.C., Joseph A. Silliman, Master, arrived at this port with the secession flag flying at her peak.”

The governor politely responded that he could do nothing. Nassau, just 570 miles from Wilmington, as well as nearby Bermuda would become bustling wartime ports, handling the blockade runners’ trade.

North Carolinians had little to do with this trade, noted John G. Barrett. Blockade running was dominated by English and Scottish merchants and traders, who chartered most of the ships.

North Carolina did get into the act, though. In 1863, at the strong urging of Gov. Zebulon B. Vance, the state bought a former passenger steamer, the Lord Clyde, and refitted it as a blockade runner. Christened the Advance (or Ad-Vance, in tribute to the governor), the state-owned ship made 18 successful runs out of Wilmington before its eventual capture.

At first, just about any ship was pressed into service. A typical early blockade runner was the Modern Greece, a steam freighter originally used in the Baltic timber trade. At 200 feet long, with draft (depth) of more than 17
feet, it was probably oversized. Wilde-Ramsing questions whether it could have cleared the New Inlet into the Cape Fear River.

It never had the chance to find out. On the night of June 27, 1862, the Modern Greece ran aground and was shelled by Union warships. Scuttled, it sank three-fourths of a mile offshore, in about 30 feet of water.

Soon, however, the blockade runners grew more specialized, Wilde-Raming noted. Investors began to use packets from the Clyde River in Scotland with long, slender, iron hulls. A typical example was the Beauregard, which grounded off modern-day Carolina Beach in December 1863.

Still later, specially-designed vessels entered the trade, such as the Condor, a 300-foot sailing vessel with a draft of just seven feet.

The incredible profits of blockade running made specialty ships worth the effort. Traders could buy cotton for three cents a pound in the Confederacy then sell it for a dollar a pound in Europe. With returns like that, a blockade runner could earn a 100 percent profit on a single voyage.

The Condor grounded off Fort Fisher during its maiden voyage, on Oct. 1, 1864. On board was the famed Confederate spy Rose O’Neal Greenhow, returning from a tour of England. Greenhow drowned in the surf when a lifeboat capsized – pulled down, the legend goes, by $2,000 in gold sewn into the lining of her dress, the proceeds of her English book sales. She was later buried with full honors in Wilmington’s Oakdale Cemetery.

A literal “bitt” of the Condor now stands outside the Underwater Archaeology Branch’s headquarters, beside a parking lot it shares with the visitors’ center at the Fort Fisher State Historic Site.

The double bitt – a metal post on the deck of ship, used to secure lines or cables – was later recovered from the wreck of the Condor.

The Modern Greece left more of a trove, and much more of its cargo remains in the branch’s warehouses.

“Because it was so early, it was mostly left alone,” Wilde-Ramsing said. “The Confederates tried to semi-salvage the blockade runners when they could, and most of the rest were pretty well picked over.”

For about a century, the Modern Greece remained undisturbed under shifting sands. Then, in the spring of 1962, a heavy storm uncovered the wreck. Navy divers surveyed the site and other agencies began to dive. A preservation laboratory was set up at Fort Fisher, and the forerunner of the Underwater Archaeology Branch was set up in 1967.
“In a way, that’s how underwater archaeology started in North Carolina,” said Nathan Henry, a conservator with the branch. “We learned a lot.”

In all, more than 11,000 artifacts were recovered from the Modern Greece: hundreds and hundreds of Enfield rifles, bayonets, artillery ammunition, hoe heads and pick heads. In the hold were thousands of tin sheets to be used for molding drinking cups and other gear for Rebel soldiers.

“They had just about anything you’d find in a hardware store,” Henry said.

The Modern Greece also yielded surgical instruments – and, according to Wilde-Ramsing, a surprising number of luxury items, probably carried by officers as contraband for resale, at a mark-up, to Confederate belles.

The cargo reflects how dependent the Confederacy, which had few factories, was on outside trade for manufactured goods.

Some artifacts from the Modern Greece were treated and preserved. Some can be seen today on display at the Fort Fisher visitors’ center.

Thousands of items, however, are still submerged in fiberglass tanks at the Underwater Branch. According to Wilde-Ramsing, they haven’t really been touched since the 1970s.

“It’s just that other stuff keeps coming along,” Henry said.

In the 1970s, state efforts turned to the USS Monitor, the Navy’s first ironclad, which sank off Cape Hatteras in 1862 and was rediscovered in 1973. Then came the wreck believed to be the Queen Anne’s Revenge, Blackbeard’s flagship, discovered near Atlantic Beach in the 1990s.

With the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, however, and the approaching 150th anniversary of its sinking, attention is again turning to the Modern Greece.

In March, Wilde-Ramsing had graduate students from East Carolina University’s marine science program and interns from the University of North Carolina Wilmington survey the remaining tanks. He said both the state and ECU plan to pursue grants to have students work on stabilizing and preserving the remaining artifacts over the next few years so that more can be put on exhibit.

Conserving the long-waterlogged items can be a tricky process, Henry said. A typical Enfield rifle, for example, has a wood stock, a barrel of ferrous metal (iron or steel) and fittings (trigger guards, butt plates, etc.) made of brass, which is mostly copper and zinc.
The right treatment for iron can be bad for the wood, Henry said. The right treatment for wood can be bad for the copper. In many cases, the rifles have to be disassembled to be treated.

Rust from the iron, which is acidic, can react with calcium carbonate in the water to build up a shell-like accretion, Henry said. He pointed to what looked like a square, solid block. A closer look showed it was a pack of knife blades, fused together.

Wilde-Ramsing hopes work on the Modern Greece artifacts can be completed by 2015 in time for the 150th anniversary of the fall of Fort Fisher. In the meantime, he’s working with UNCW historian Chris Fonvielle and other staff members from the university to prepare a documentary on the Modern Greece and its excavation.

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Talented transfers pay dividends for ECU
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
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Junior colleges have been mighty good to East Carolina football the last couple of years. One glance at the ECU 2011 media guide says as much. All four of the featured seniors on the front and back covers are transfers, three of them from the junior college ranks, a burgeoning source of untapped Division I talent but one that comes with a stigma attached to it due to the short careers of players after they transfer.

This year's edition of the Pirates, which is set to open the season Sept. 3 against No. 12 South Carolina in Charlotte, would be completely different without its JUCO influence.

But even with record-breaking quarterback Dominique Davis (Fort Scott, Kan., Community College), record-breaking wide receiver Lance Lewis (East Mississippi C.C.) starting strong safety Bradley Jacobs (Mississippi Gulf Coast C.C.) as three of the team's most prominent members, signing a JUCO player is seemingly never a sure thing, even in the case of Davis.

“I saw that as more of a shot in the dark, and obviously I'm glad it worked out like it has, but I was nervous about him because I didn't go through the recruiting process with him,” ECU offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley said about signing Davis, who promptly unleashed ECU single-season records in pass yards (3,967), touchdowns (37) and completions (393). “I talked to him on the phone once, met him once and then bam, he's here. I was about as impressed as I could have been with the meeting that we had, but at the same time, I didn't know the kid.”
In all, the Pirates have nine JUCO products on the roster and, in addition to the starting QB, top receiver and top safety, they also include the potential new starting running back in junior Reggie Bullock (Arizona Western C.C.).

The newcomer perhaps best illustrates why coaching staffs, especially those like that of ECU's Ruffin McNeill which are still trying to bridge recruiting gaps left by the previous staff, are willing to see what they can get from guys who will only have two years to make an impact. In short, Bullock, like other recent ECU JUCO finds, is ready to play now.

Though the practice of signing high numbers of JUCO players is not ideal in the long term, it would be tough for McNeill to argue against his recent returns.

“"I've never been afraid of the junior college route,” the second-year head coach said. “I don't want our team full of JUCO players because I plan on building for the long term, but there will always be a great need for a player that can come in and fill a needed position, whether it's a quarterback in Dominique's case, a wide receiver in Lance's case, a running back like Reggie or a defensive guy like Bradley or (junior defensive end) John Lattimore (Ventura, Calif., C.C.).”

Any new player comes with a certain degree of risk, but the shorter terms of transfers who come in as juniors makes the risk much higher. Coaches often rely on their networking skills to learn which JUCO players might have what they need most.

“Lance was a different case because (ECU inside receivers coach and recruiting coordinator) Donnie Kirkpatrick had a previous relationship with Lance and his high school coaches,” Riley said of the recruitment of Lewis. “We got a chance to watch tape on Lance, and we could talk to people that knew him that could tell us what kind of person he was.”

The risk with JUCOs is built-in to an extent. Many, like Davis, are top-level athletes who attend Division I schools and find they're not ready academically or otherwise. Davis started at Boston College before heading to Fort Scott.

But there is also proof that players like him often cash in on their second chances, both on the field and off.

“The No. 1 thing when you recruit a junior college player in my opinion is that if you don't think he can come in and play right away, you don't recruit him,” Riley said. “You don't have that extended developmental phase that you do with younger guys, but you hope they're already developed at that point, and (Davis, Lewis and Jacobs) were.”

Other JUCO players in camp with the Pirates include outside linebacker Chris Baker (Hinds, Miss., C.C.), offensive lineman Anthony Garrett (Fort Scott), defensive end Diavalo Simpson (East Mississippi C.C.) and defensive back Kristopher Sykes (Hinds).

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
Dr. Bryan Balmadrid, a gastroenterologist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Balmadrid joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor. He comes to Greenville from Duke University, where he completed a fellowship in gastroenterology.

Balmadrid has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Marquette University and a medical degree from the Medical College of Wisconsin. He completed residency training in internal medicine, including a year as chief resident, at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Balmadrid is board-certified in internal medicine. His clinical and research interests are gastrointestinal diseases, pancreatic disease and biliary disease.

Balmadrid sees patients at the ECU Physicians practice at 521 Moye Blvd. in Greenville. Appointments are available by calling 744-1400.
UNC-CH, Duke teams learn how cells stay healthy

BY HELEN CHAPPELL - Staff Writer

If you hear UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke mentioned in the same sentence, you might picture hordes of fans with faces painted blue trading insults and cheering on basketball teams.

Instead, imagine researchers from both universities trading insights, looking past their schools' rivalry to break scientific ground.

One such collaboration between the two universities has led to a finding about how our cells stay healthy.

The team's work was published Sunday in the journal Nature Cell Biology.

The discovery might help scientists understand diseases ranging from cancer to Alzheimer's.

The group's finding centers on tiny bean-shaped power generators in our cells called mitochondria. They produce the energy our cells need to do the work that keeps our bodies going, from pumping our hearts to transmitting signals in our brains.

But cells themselves need to stay healthy, too, and to do that, they need to keep their power generators in working order. The tiny generators constantly split apart to make new ones and fuse together to retire old ones, swapping parts between mitochondria just as you'd trade parts to rebuild a broken engine.

If a cell doesn't balance this splitting and fusing, though, it will have too few generators or too many, meaning it will have too little power or too much. Scientists suspect that under- or overpowered cells play a role in diseases as diverse as cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

Cancer link

The team at Duke and UNC-CH figured out that a protein related to cancer is a crucial link in the chain of events that splits apart these cellular generators - even in healthy cells. It's a connection that nobody has made before, said Adrienne Cox, a professor of radiation oncology at UNC-CH's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center.

It solved a mystery, Cox said, that had puzzled scientists for the last few years: Why could they find this cancer-related protein inside our cells' power generators? What was its purpose there?

Learning its function is a step forward, said David Kashatus, a researcher in Duke's Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology.
"While it's not something that leads directly to cures in one to two years, it's really (one of) the building blocks that help to develop cures further down the line," he said. "I think it's very important research."

Researchers from both schools emphasized the role their collaboration played in the discovery.

Working together lets the labs combine their strengths, said Donita Brady, a colleague of Kashatus.

**Collaboration counts**

Cox's lab, Brady said, has great tools to study a family of cancer-related proteins and how their location in a cell affects their function. The lab at Duke focuses on how those proteins cause cancer. The two groups also work closely with a third lab at UNC-CH.

"Collaborations between Duke and UNC are natural, given that there are so many people with relationships to both schools," Kashatus said. "All scientific research is better when it's collaborative."

Brady agreed: "When people try to do things independently, sometimes it takes a little bit longer than if you had just maybe walked next door," she said.

Or, in this case, if you had just driven nine miles.

**Rivalry kept in place**

Of course, the proximity also feeds a good-natured rivalry among the researchers.

"When scientists meet, it's not about your school or even your country," Cox said "... It's about the science."

Brady, who has been a part of this collaboration since she was a graduate student at UNC-CH, says she gets flak from her Duke colleagues during basketball season.

"We'll certainly give each other grief," added Kashatus, who did his graduate work at UNC-CH.

Cox puts her feelings more baldly: "When I'm thinking like a Tar Heel, it's 'Dook,' and I hate them."

"But when I'm thinking like a scientist, it's 'Duke,' and I like and respect them as colleagues, collaborators, and friends."

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Thorp's trial

The UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor takes undeserved heat for making a good call on his football coach.

Holden Thorp, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, seems to have excelled at everything he's ever done as a student, a scientist, a dean and in being an entrepreneur. He even plays a nice rock and roll guitar. Many people with his drive and self-imposed high standards for professional success have led institutions of higher learning.

And too many of those people have found themselves, despite their intelligence and devotion to their universities, mired in controversy because of the excesses in their athletics programs.

Thorp is now in the midst of learning a brutal lesson in what happens when the athletics tail wags the academic dog.

Within hours of firing Butch Davis, a football coach who was to bring big-time players, big-time money and big-time gridiron success to a university that is, by the way, one of the foremost public institutions in the country, Thorp found himself under siege through email and other communications from both sides of the issue.

In a crossfire

The Davis firing came after a season when a number of players missed games because of an investigation into contact with agents and improper benefits and when others were under the scope for academic questions. Many who approved of Thorp's move were all over him for waiting too long to act.

He had allowed the university to be damaged, its reputation to be sullied, they said, because he was too busy standing behind Davis in press conferences and statements. He should have dismissed the coach a year ago, said some. He had been captured by the misguided boosters. And then came, in droves, the feedback from those very boosters and fans in general who raked the chancellor over the coals for firing Davis.

Some of these communications were uncivilized, to put it mildly, and undoubtedly not the kind of thing a chemistry professor had ever anticipated.
confronting during an outstanding career. Some called, in fact, for Thorp himself to be fired. He'd ruined football, they said. He'd gotten rid of a great coach. And so on.

Let this be said: Thorp, an alumnus of the university and a man whose devotion to it cannot be doubted, does not deserve these most extreme reactions to what he did. And what he did happens to have been the right thing to do.

**Setting an example**

The chancellor has come in for some deserved criticism for his handling of the issue. He did fail to express the proper degree of alarm when problems with the football program started to surface. The same could be said of Dick Baddour, the athletics director who now has announced his intention to retire. Baddour, a dedicated university employee for more than 40 years, felt pressure from boosters with unreasonable expectations and he oversaw an excessive renovation to Kenan Stadium.

And Thorp made a mistake when he continued to offer Davis a full-throated defense before the whole story was in. Now the university finds itself in trouble with the NCAA, college sports' governing body, and the subject of much attention, unwanted attention, on a national scale.

All this said, Thorp can play an important role in restoring what damage has been done to UNC-CH's hard-won reputation. He can set an example for others, in fact, by insisting that it's now time to put the athletics program in perspective, meaning that the days of dipping into the boosters' pockets for multimillions for head coaches (and big pay for assistant coaches, many of whom make much more than senior professors) and doing tens of millions of dollars of improvements to stadiums and recruiting players whose qualifications aren't close to those of regular applicants are over.

Even university leaders who ought to know better have said in the past that basically the horse is out of the barn and that while, gosh, it's a shame about all the money, there's really nothing that can be done to change course. Yes, there is, and there must be. Ask Holden Thorp, who isn't the first academic leader to be thrown by that horse.
What went wrong with compliance at UNC

BY KEN TYSIAC - Staff Writer

Thirteen months after NCAA investigators first visited the University of North Carolina campus, the school is in turmoil.

The investigation into impermissible benefits and academic misconduct has led to allegations of nine major NCAA violations plus revelations that fewer than a dozen players incurred hundreds of parking tickets as well as a failure by the school's honor court to identify plagiarism in a football player's term paper. UNC officials missed some opportunities to catch some of these problems, and now are dealing with a fractured campus community. The dismissal of football coach Butch Davis on July 27 has divided UNC supporters, with some criticizing chancellor Holden Thorp for the decision, others for the timing of the firing nine days before the start of preseason practice.

Thorp said he is confident that since the start of the investigation, the school has done a good job cooperating with the NCAA.

Looking back, though, it's easy to see things that might have been handled differently before and after the investigation began:

1. Did parking tickets provide window?

A court order in a media lawsuit forced UNC to release information on football players' parking tickets and showed a significant number of violations.

UNC Public Safety cited wide receiver Greg Little for 93 parking tickets for five different vehicles associated with nine different license plates during a 3 1/2 year period. Former tutor Jennifer Wiley paid $1,789 worth of parking tickets for Little, violating NCAA rules, according to the NCAA.

Defensive tackle Marvin Austin racked up 68 parking tickets. Little and Austin were two of the most egregious offenders in the program in terms of accepting impermissible benefits cited by the NCAA.

In all, fewer than 12 football players received 395 parking tickets worth a total of $13,125.

If UNC athletics officials had kept track of athletes' parking tickets, they might have discovered the impermissible benefits on their own, sooner.
Athletic director Dick Baddour said UNC will monitor parking tickets now. "We already have adopted a policy that will put us in the middle of that," Baddour said last week. "We were treating them, letting them be treated like every other student, and that didn't work. And so we need to change that."

2. Failing to check Michael McAdoo's paper for plagiarism.

UNC officials, including Baddour, told the NCAA that a term paper McAdoo wrote was his own work.

The school's academic honor court had found McAdoo guilty only of getting improper help from Wiley with his bibliography citations in the paper.

When the paper became public in court documents as McAdoo sued to try to regain his eligibility, N.C. State fans identified significant portions of the paper that had been copied from other sources.

UNC officials had failed to catch the plagiarism, and the episode prompted a review of UNC's student-run honor court system. Thorp now says it's necessary and will help the school move forward in a positive way.

But the situation embarrassed many who take pride in the school's academic integrity.

"That's something where a lot of things went wrong," Thorp said.

3. Failing to monitor social networking.

Austin's posts on his Twitter page provided clues to the impermissible benefits he was receiving.

"Jus got to DC an [sic] I'm feeln [sic] a shopn [sic] spree ... nobody gon [sic] be fresh as ME!!" one of Austin's tweets read.

UNC officials had some experience monitoring Twitter pages after basketball player John Henson posted tweets that offended fans or opponents.

"We had been looking at it more from the social aspect of it," Baddour said. "How were our students doing? How was their behavior? How are they representing the University of North Carolina? So I don't think it was on anybody's radar in terms of indication of other kinds of issues."

The NCAA alleges that UNC failed to properly monitor social networking sites. The case demonstrates that the NCAA will expect schools to check athletes' Facebook accounts and Twitter pages for potential violations. And it shows that emerging technology continues to create challenges for schools trying to avoid running afoul of NCAA rules.
4. Failing to follow up on information

The NCAA's Notice of Allegations states that UNC administrators failed to investigate information provided by a football player on impermissible benefits.

Who are the administrators? Who is the player? That's not clear. But the NCAA says that during 2009 and 2010, the school failed to investigate information related to impermissible benefits.

Baddour said the university will answer this allegation in its response to the NCAA, which is due Sept. 19; he is not ready yet to make that information public.

5. Failing to keep players away from tutor Jennifer Wiley

North Carolina informed Wiley in September of 2009 that she was no longer to provide academic assistance to athletes, according to a letter Baddour wrote to an NCAA administrator on Sept. 28, 2010.

But in the letter to NCAA director of reinstatement Jennifer Henderson, Baddour explained that "student-athletes were not given the same directive." Baddour wrote that players had developed friendships with Wiley as fellow college students.

"The student-athletes did not believe it was impermissible for them to receive academic assistance from her, as a friend, free of charge," Baddour wrote.

Wiley also worked as a tutor for Davis' son Drew before and after UNC fired her.

Baddour now says the athletes who had been working with Wiley were notified that she was no longer in the tutoring program and they should do all their work with tutors who were in the school's academic support program.

A timing issue also might have been a problem.
"We could have well had. . .some time lag between when we told her and when we told them," Baddour said this week.

Whatever the reason, failing to keep Wiley from tutoring players after she was fired turned out to be costly.

6. Allowing Chris Hawkins in the weight room.

The NCAA charged UNC with failing to properly monitor former Tar Heel player Chris Hawkins, according to the Notice of Allegations.
UNC stands accused of allowing Hawkins to participate in drills and one-on-one training sessions with football players without informing players of what kind of interaction with Hawkins was permissible.

Hawkins had been booted from the team under former coach John Bunting. The NCAA identifies Hawkins as a person who triggers NCAA agent legislation and accuses him of providing $886 in impermissible benefits. Hawkins also admitted paying Georgia wide receiver A.J. Green $1,000 to purchase a jersey, netting Green a four-game suspension.

"We want former players to come back and be around, for all of our programs," Baddour said in September. "Clearly, we're going to have to go deeper and determine the motivation of some former players."

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College freshmen turn to Facebook to find roommates

By Jenna Johnson

For generations, one of the first challenges of going off to college was meeting the stranger the school chose to be your roommate. Today, a growing number of students are bypassing that tradition and making the choice themselves through online social networking.

Over the next several weeks, many freshmen will arrive at dormitories to move in with roommates they already know, even if they have never met or talked on the phone.

“Realistically, even the most personal roommate-matching service can’t match Facebook,” said Adam Gang, 18, of Colorado, who will be a freshman at American University. “You’re an accepted friend request away from knowing someone.”

Some college officials say that choosing roommates for students helps ensure they are exposed to different points of view. They worry that incoming freshmen would tend to pick people of the same race, social background or hometown.

But AU, recognizing that students want a voice in the matter, has come up with a way to help them.

Earlier this year, Gang filled out a short questionnaire: Do you maintain normal sleeping hours? (Yes.) How social are you? (Somewhat.) Sleep style? (Heavy.)

Rather than pairing Gang with a roommate, the AU housing office sent him a short list of potential matches based on his replies. He went to Facebook and hit it off with James Quigley, 18, of New York. Both students plan to study international relations and love playing sports. They requested to live together and will meet for the first time on move-in day this month.

“Me and Adam are pretty similar,” Quigley said. “I feel like you need to know more about a person if you’re going to live with them.”
Colleges’ take

As more freshmen go online in a quest to shape their living situation, college officials are split on whether that is a good idea.

A few schools are embracing the movement. Many others have no formal policies on the use of social networking to choose roommates but will offer guidance (encouraging or discouraging) to students who call to inquire. The University of Maryland has set up its own internal social network for admitted students to get to know each other and look for roommates.

At the University of Virginia, the number of requests for first-year roommates has more than doubled in five years. Last year, according to U-Va. acting housing director Patricia Romer, students were told that it may not be possible to honor all requests.

Giving freshmen more say in their living arrangements can result in fewer roommate conflicts, some college housing officials say. They add that students are more likely to be honest in a one-on-one chat with a fellow teenager than on a form their parents might see. Living with a stranger is always a risk, but allowing students to pick that stranger builds an investment in wanting to make things work.

But other officials worry students are focusing on the wrong qualities in these searches — music bands instead of cleaning habits, funny prom stories instead of rules for overnight guests.

The self-matching process for the Class of 2015 started as early as January, when students admitted via early admission began to form Facebook groups. Many of these pages resembled online dating sites, as students queried each other about personality quirks, favorite sitcoms and drinking habits.

“It came down to even, ‘What colors do you like in your room?’ ” said Julie Bogen, 19, from Connecticut, a sophomore at Wheaton College in Massachusetts who found her first-year roommate (now a close friend) on Facebook.

When Melanie Blair searched for her first roommate at the University of Southern California a few years ago, a few girls she contacted wanted to know her jean size.

“Some girls want a roommate who is the same size and has the same shoe size. That way they can share clothes,” said Blair, 21, from Chicago, who will be a senior this fall. Once, she said, a prospective roommate turned her down because of a size conflict.
Web’s role in housing

Last year, AU launched the matching system that Gang and Quigley used. First, students complete a survey on basic living preferences. Then they receive a list of possible matches and are encouraged to bond via an internal networking site or e-mail — although most students connect on Facebook, said Chris Moody, AU’s executive director of housing and dining programs.

“We don’t encourage it,” he said, “but they do it.”

Once roommates request one another, they can pick a dorm room on an online floor plan, just like booking an airplane seat. In the program’s first year, Moody said, residence hall assistants dealt with fewer roommate conflicts and requests for room changes.

Social networking has played a major role in collegiate housing for years. On many campuses, it started with phone calls from parents who found profiles of their children’s roommates online and were troubled by what they saw.

“They would call and say, ‘We’ve seen X on their MySpace page. We just don’t think they are going to be a good match,’” said Paul Lynch, director of campus and residential services at Marymount University in Virginia. (He never honored such requests.)

Building a community

As high school students gained access to Facebook, they began to network with future classmates.

Last year on a George Washington University Class of 2014 page, some incoming freshmen posted introductory videos of themselves. This summer at the College of William and Mary, freshmen who will live in Dupont Hall have an active Facebook page where they announced room assignments, found neighbors (“Room 108! who is in 110!? and 106?”) and posted questions for RAs (“Does anyone know exactly what the rooms come with, furniture-wise?”).

At many schools, move-in day is beginning to feel more like a class reunion. Several housing officials said they weren’t surprised when students made friends online and decided, “Hey, we should room together.”

Many students say they worry that the wrong roommate could ruin everything.

“I will be honest: There are some psychos. And I don’t want to live with them,” said Amelia Simpson, 19, a Boston University sophomore from
Springfield, Va. “You don’t want to be with someone who is slacking all of the time or complaining all of the time.”

Simpson found a roommate on Facebook last summer. The two requested each other and split the cost of a mini-fridge and printer. On “selection day,” they learned they had been assigned to a quad room with two more roommates, total strangers, chosen by who-knows-who in the housing office.

“We weren’t even aware there were rooms with four people,” Simpson said. “It ended up being the right mix . . . We were the only room without drama.”

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