THE DAILY CLIPS

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PIRATE PALOOZA

Students kick off fall semester with fun fest

The Daily Reflector

Hundreds of East Carolina University students celebrated the beginning of the fall semester at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium with this year's Pirate Palooza.

Pirate Palooza, the largest student-only event hosted by the university, celebrates the beginning of each school year.

Free food, games, ECU traditions and prizes had hundreds of students lined up for the event on Monday evening.

ECU SENIORS Christi Carpenter and Zachrey Priddy, left, compete in the bungee run at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

ECU SOPHOMORE and chemistry major, Gavin Gordon, flips over his return to ECU on Monday night.
McNeill happy with Pirates' camp

East Carolina head football coach Ruffin McNeill officially completed his first fall camp as the Pirates wrapped up the NCAA-recognized preseason period with an hour-and-a-half practice in shells Monday afternoon.

"I really like the way the kids carried over from the spring to right now," McNeill said. "One of the main goals of camp was to develop leaders. That's still a work in progress, but I see some guys who are stepping out and taking hold of those roles."

McNeill and his staff guided the Pirates through opening individual and positional drills before conducting 41 minutes of team-on-team.

"I think we're almost there on fundamentals," McNeill said. "The fundamentals override everything. It seems simple, but blocking and tackling are two things you have to be able to do well."

The Pirates went through 15 minutes of special teams and dedicated the final quarter hour to team-on-team work.

"We will focus on Tulsa some this week, but we'll dive more into them next week," McNeill said.

The Pirates open their season against Tulsa on Sept. 5 at 2 p.m. in Greenville.

McNeill said the program's initial depth chart of the season is still being formulated and will be released before McNeill's first new conference of the season Aug. 30.

FROM COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE

MORE FOOTBALL

GBs picked at Kentucky.

Louisville: Kentucky quarterback Mike Hartline and his Louisville counterpart Adam Froman both feel they give their teams the best chance to win. Their coaches agree.

Monday they were named the starters for their respective squads after months of having every throw and every decision broken down during hard-fought position battles against mostly younger competition.

The two seniors will face off on Sept. 4 when the Wildcats travel to play the Cardinals in the Governor's Cup.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MISCELLANY

Three to enter Mount Olive hall: Wells Gulledge, Steve Hudson and the late Brad Mitchell will be inducted into the Mount Olive Athletics Hall of Fame on Nov. 20, the school announced Monday.

Wells Gulledge, who played basketball for the Trojans from 1994-97, later had a highly successful career as the boys' coach at Kinston High.

Hudson, a baseball player at Mount Olive from 1987-91, was the 1991 NAIA District 6 player of the year and the Carolinas Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (now Conference Carolinas) player of the year. Hudson compiled a .334 career batting average.

Mitchell served as director of athletics, health/physical education instructor, head men's basketball coach and head men's golf coach during his tenure at Mount Olive while the school was a two-year college.

FROM COLLEGE NEWS RELEASE
THE DAY ACROSS THE STATE

GREENSBORO

New nanoscience school opens

Eighteen students will be sweating the small stuff as a new school to study nanoscience opens in North Carolina.

North Carolina A&T State University and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro together operate the Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, which opened Monday.

Students at the school will study atoms and molecules about 1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair.

Experts say these nanoparticles may be able to help make drug therapies more effective. They also are used in technology.

The National Nanotechnology Initiative says fewer than 10 schools nationally offer degree programs in nanotechnology.
Poor economy cuts into college athletics

BY ALAN SCHER ZAGIER
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Mo. — Count college sports among the sagging economy's latest victims.

A newly released NCAA report shows that just 14 of the 120 Football Bowl Subdivision schools made money from campus athletics in the 2009 fiscal year, down from 25 the year before.

Researchers blame the sagging economy and suggested that next year's numbers could be even worse.

The research was done by accounting professor Dan Fulks of Transylvania University, a Division III school in Lexington, Ky. It shows the median amount paid by the 120 FBS schools to support campus athletics grew in one year from about $8 million to more than $10 million.

The NCAA doesn't release individual schools' revenues and expenses. But Fulks confirmed that Alabama, Florida, Ohio State, Texas and Tennessee are among the select group that made money from athletics. So is Missouri, which reported generating $2 million in profits from campus athletics in 2009.

NCAA interim president Jim Isch, who spent 11 years as the association's chief financial officer, called the latest numbers less a reflection of "runaway spending" in college athletics than a reality of the country's larger economic crisis.

He noted that most schools typically plan for future expenses several years in advance, which in this case meant fiscal projections that didn't account for a prolonged recession.

The gap between the haves and the have-nots appears to be growing. The largest reported amount of revenue generated by an athletics program was $138.5 million — nearly three times the median of $45.9 million. The top-spending program reported $127.6 million in annual expenses, with a similarly sized gap from the median.

"The top end ... still does not have to rely on institutional subsidies," Isch said. "But those that do are falling further behind."

Sixty-eight FBS schools reported turning a profit on football, with a median value of $8.8 million. The 52 FBS schools that lost money on football reported median losses of $2.7 million.

The breakdown for basketball programs at those 120 schools was nearly identical, though the median values for profitable programs ($2.9 million) and money-losing ones ($873,000) were smaller.

The fiscal fortunes of major college athletic programs without football teams were even worse.

None of the 97 schools in that category reported making money from athletics, with median losses of more than $2.8 million.

Fulks pointed out that many schools funnel profits from football and men's basketball — which for the top schools can mean millions in Bowl Championship Series payments and NCAA tournament payments — into lower-profile sports that can't rely on season ticket plans, TV packages and well-heeled donors.

More teams generally means larger subsidies from the school.

"Football and men's basketball are the only two sports you can have chance of making money," he said. "If you start splitting that up between 30 or 40 sports, you start losing money."

As public universities throughout the country struggle with double-digit tuition increases, employee furloughs, teacher layoffs and enrollment caps, scrutiny of those institutional subsidies for athletics are increasing.

In Iowa, the Board of Regents voted unanimously in March to order school presidents at Iowa, Iowa State and Northern Iowa to come up with plans to scrap — or dramatically decrease — such sports subsidies. Campus leaders are expected to report back to the Iowa regents next month.
NCCU wants greater attire awareness

DURHAM -- On the first day of class, everything N.C. Central University junior Ricky Magwood wore was much too big for him - from a billowy white T-shirt to the gold chain dangling nearly to his waist.

But it's hot out, Magwood argued. And he's an art student, so he's going to get messy anyhow.

Ricky: Your chancellor would like a word with you.

NCCU Chancellor Charlie Nelms thinks eye-catching outfits - whether risqué or just-plain sloppy - are obstacles to learning. This fall, he's put in motion a subtle campaign to eliminate such things as pajama pants to plunging necklines.

"Suggestive, revealing clothing, by men or women, should not be worn in a classroom," Nelms said recently. "And you shouldn't be wearing pajamas to class!"

Nelms' concerns are echoed across America's college campuses, where students routinely file into lecture halls in pajamas, baggy clothing or skirts better suited for a night out on the town. Universities are fighting back; some have imposed strict dress codes, others softer guidelines.

While the sloppy American college student isn't specific to historically black colleges, those institutions place a particularly heavy emphasis on appearance, said Marybeth Gasman, an education professor at the University of Pennsylvania who studies historically black institutions.

"Many people look at one African-American and see him or her as representative of all blacks," Gasman wrote in an e-mail interview. "People don't do that to whites - they are seen as individuals. The stakes are higher for African Americans. I understand that many HBCUs want to make sure that their students are seen in the best light and that they look professional when they go into the workforce."

At NCCU, Nelms is soft-pedaling his message by urging professors to talk about appearance. It is part of an ongoing series of initiatives Nelms has put in place to raise expectations since taking over at NCCU in 2007. Graduation and retention rates must rise. Employees are expected to be more respectful and responsive. And students should be presentable.

"Please dress appropriately for class," reads the syllabus for literacy enhancement, an undergraduate course enrolling 400 students in 20 class sections. "Men should not wear do rags or hats inside the classroom. Ladies should not wear mid-riff tops, mini-skirts or short-shorts in class."

'A fashion show'
There's plenty of skin on display these days on college campuses. Young women are more likely to dress provocatively - a shirt too tight, a skirt too short - many students say.

"I look at it like a fashion show," NCCU freshman Chelsea Gorski said. "You want people to notice you, but you don't want to be flashy."

Gorski hit the campus cafeteria one recent day wearing a lime-green top stretched over a lacy black camisole.

"It's like this top," said Gorski, nodding towards her chest. "I'd wear this without a cami if I was going to the club, but going to class, I wear a shirt under it."

The male offenders lean toward the disheveled, such as Magwood, whose first-day-of-class outfit also included baggy shorts and an Orlando Magic hat with the brim flipped up.

"I think this is sloppy," he conceded, "but not everyone can afford nice clothes."

Fine lines

Public universities in North Carolina don't have formal dress codes, but some private institutions do. Saint Augustine's College in Raleigh, for example, prohibits hats, do rags, bustiers, halters, pajamas, bedroom slippers and "Daisy Duke" shorts.

At NCCU, the issue can be dicey. There are no hard data to prove clothing can distract, just anecdotal evidence from professors. Administrators can't order students to buy new clothes, and they are wary of stifling free expression.

And what's OK to wear?

Bernice Johnson, dean of the University College, uses common sense.

"If there's a student with a dress so short people are whispering about it, that's a distraction," she said.

But not all students go to class dressed for a night of clubbing. Some well-dressed student leaders led a counter-revolution of sorts last year, handing out information cards defining terms such as "business casual" and noting what sort of dress was and was not acceptable.

And in some corners of campus, students and professors take it a step further.

On the first day of her senior-level career management course, business professor Shirrell McNeill led her students in a detailed discussion of acceptable dress. McNeill's discussion covered issues such as appropriate skirt lengths and the proper colors for men's neckties.

"You never know who's watching," McNeill tells her students. "There are professional recruiters on campus all the time, and you want to look like you're ready to get out there and make a difference right now."

For college students looking to get into the job market, a good first impression is particularly
important when competing with people with more skills and experience, said Lindsey Hart, talent acquisition specialist with Red Hat, the Raleigh-based technology firm.

"It's the first thing you see," Hart said. "If someone has on something very tight or has something falling out, it will be noted."

McNeill's class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays, the business school's designated "professional attire" days. That means students are to come to class dressed for a job interview - suits and ties for men, smart business suits for women.

And keep the cleavage hidden.

"I don't want to see everything falling out of your blouse," McNeill told her students. "That is really, really, really inappropriate."

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Police investigating shooting near Fayetteville State

FAYETTEVILLE -- North Carolina police are investigating an officer-involved shooting near Fayetteville State University.

Multiple media reports reported the shooting occurred late Monday after a Fayetteville police officer spotted a vehicle that had been reported stolen. A police spokesman says the driver refused to stop at first and then jumped out of the car and tried to run. the spokesman says shots were then fired.

Police didn't identify the suspect, who was injured and taken to Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. His condition wasn't available Tuesday morning. The police officer's name has not been released.

The State Bureau of Investigation is also investigating the shooting.
SEANC squares off against ad overlord

The State Employees Association of North Carolina will be picketing outside the Raleigh home of PR über-executive Ken Eudy tonight when he holds a fundraiser for the Democratic Senate caucus.

Dana Cope, the executive director of the public employee union, has called for the cancellation of what he calls a "pay-to-play" fundraiser, because Eudy's Raleigh public relations firm, Capstrat, received a $375,000 contract from the N.C. State Port Authority in April. Cope notes that Capstrat has received a number of state contracts. Cope argues that it is "hypocritical" for politicians to take money from state contractors while "pounding their chests talking about the ethics bill and how they've cleaned up government."

Eudy says SEANC's campaign against the fundraiser is "pathetic and defamatory" and is a cover for the poor job the organization does in benefiting state workers.

The battle between Cope and Eudy might be personal. Eudy's firm has represented Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, with which Cope and SEANC have repeatedly clashed.

Hagan helps Reid

Sen. Kay Hagan helped raise at least $45,000 for Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at a Cary fundraiser in May.

Hagan got together a couple of dozen lobbyists, trial lawyers, business executives and others at the Umstead Hotel and Spa on May 21 to help Reid raise money for his tough re-election campaign in Nevada.

The Tar Heel senator owed Reid. Just two years ago, the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee spent $11 million to help Hagan unseat Republican Sen. Elizabeth Dole.

Although the fundraiser was closed to the news media, the donors were disclosed on Reid's campaign report to the Federal Election Commission.

Among the largest donors was James Rogers of Charlotte, the chairman and CEO of Duke Energy, who gave $4,800, according to the FEC.

Two co-founders of Cree, the Durham lighting company, F. Neal Hunter and John Palmour, gave a total of $7,200.

Richard Sullivan of Raleigh, the former finance director of the Democratic National Committee, and his wife, Caroline, contributed $3,400; former Gov. Jim Hunt gave $500; and former Secretary of State Rufus Edmisten gave $1,000.
The Laboratory Corp. of America Holdings PAC of Burlington gave $2,500. Raleigh lobbyist Randolph Cloud gave $2,500.

Among the $1,000 donors were: Charlotte lawyer David Zybala; Roy Bivens of Orion Advisory, a Charlotte financial firm; Gary Swindell, a Charlotte attorney; Ann Robertson, a Raleigh attorney; Henry Patterson, a Chapel Hill attorney; and Mary Parks, a Winston-Salem auto dealer.

Beitler lauds FairTax

Over the weekend, Mike Beitler, the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, was at the State Fairgrounds for the N.C. IRS Tax Shredding Party, hosted by N.C. FairTax. A copy of the federal tax code was ceremonially shredded at the event.

"Income tax and payroll tax should be abolished and replaced with the FairTax or a national sales tax," Beitler said in prepared remarks. "The current tax system has countless loopholes for special-interest groups and is hopelessly complicated."

The FairTax plan would replace the income tax with a progressive national retail sales tax.

Also attending were B.J. Lawson, the GOP's 4th District candidate.

By staff writer Rob Christensen

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No new dentistry dean yet

**Search committee continues efforts**

By C. RYAN BARBER | The Daily Tar Heel  
*Updated: 11:28 PM*

Eleven months of meetings have left members of the UNC School of Dentistry’s dean search committee riddled with questions — and behind schedule.

In May, the committee’s top-choice, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Dentistry professor Gregg Gilbert, rejected an offer to replace John Williams as UNC’s next dentistry school dean. After the negotiations fell through, committee members were left questioning when the search would end.

Former dean John Stamm has served as the school’s interim dean since May 25.

“It wasn’t what I was planning on doing this summer. I was disappointed the process hadn’t produced a new dean,” said Barbara Rimer, the committee’s chairwoman and dean of the UNC Gillings School of Global Public Health. Rimer said Gilbert, the chairman of the department of diagnostic services at the UAB School of Dentistry, wore all the hats the committee was looking for in its search.

As construction continues on the school’s new research building on South Columbia Street, Rimer said the committee was searching for a candidate who combined research expertise with the fundraising savvy of a politician. She added that the next dean will also need the charisma to build a positive relationship with the new dentistry school at East Carolina University and to address the scarcity of dentists in some parts of the state.

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Bruce Carney said the committee strongly recommended Gilbert. But for unknown reasons, Carney said Gilbert, a UNC alumnus, rejected the offer.

“When the candidate rejected the offer, which was quite generous, we were stuck,” Carney said.

And though Gilbert’s rejection sent the committee reeling, Rimer said a more refined image of the ideal candidate came as a silver lining to the grim prospect of continuing the search through the summer.

“It wasn’t going back to the beginning,” she said. “We had worked out what kind of person we were looking for. Now it’s more efficient.”

Rimer and Carney said the formation of a smaller executive committee has also allowed for more efficiency.

“It was an attempt to be nimble, to move faster,” Rimer said of the decision to cut the search committee from 15 to eight members.

The committee’s downsizing also came in response to a lesson members learned the hard way: Times of economic struggle occasionally entail difficulties filling high-level academic positions.

“People are risk-averse. It’s emblematic of the times,” said Rimer, adding that the smaller committee is more amenable to confidentiality. “If word gets out, that could jeopardize your current job.”

Executive Associate Provost Ron Strauss was among the final three candidates but said he has opted not to reenter the applicant pool.

To have a permanent dean selected as early as the end of the semester, Carney said he will be taking a more involved role, making personal calls to candidates. He said the search will also be more behind-the-scenes than before, when finalists publicly introduced themselves in forums.

“There are people who do not emerge in those public searches,” he said. “We undoubtedly lost out on some candidates.”

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

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NEWS

Was Secotan village in Bath?

Editor's note: This article concludes a two-part series.

By JONATHAN CLAYBORNE
Staff Writer

Published: Tuesday, August 24, 2010 2:15 AM EDT

When the English gentleman-painter John White sailed to the New World as part of a 1585 attempt at colonization, it's unlikely he had a clue what or whom he would end up painting — or how famous his paintings would become.

Historians have noted the English voyagers with whom White sailed, lined up by Sir Walter Raleigh and commanded by Ralph Lane, had little idea what they would find once they began exploring the coastal regions of what would later be designated North Carolina.

As it turned out, the expedition of which White was a part made contact with a highly sophisticated and self-sufficient tribe of Indians, whose ways were pretty strange to the English despite strains of familiarity in the daily rituals of survival.

With his brushes, White, a skilled watercolorist, documented the inhabitants of a village known as Secotan, which was populated by the mostly coastal-dwelling Algonquian Indians.

"White was an enigma," said Beaufort County economic developer Tom Thompson, who has studied the artist and Secotan.

"He was both a so-called gentleman (and) an artist," Thompson said. "Most gentlemen didn't work or do anything, and most artists were not gentlemen. So nobody knows how he got to be both."

Long story short, according to Thompson, White's paintings ignited huge interest in the New World, helping spur the English imagination and igniting a fervor for the colonization of North America, with its vast resources waiting to be exploited for the good of Queen Elizabeth I and her subjects.

Today, White's iconic images are recognized the world over, and copies of his pictorial documents
have places of honor in museums from England to America and beyond.

"Nothing like this was painted for almost 200 years," Thompson said.

Celebrated as facets of the American past, some experts believe White's paintings could hold the key to Beaufort County's economic future.

In fact, a growing number of local officials, historians and archaeologists contend the Secotan village was located in the Bath area, perhaps on the plot of land known today as Beasley Point, on Bath Creek.

The land is owned by PotashCorp, which has a phosphate-mining operation across the Pamlico River near Aurora.

Among the credulous is Kevin Duffus, an author, filmmaker and historian who was pivotal in prying the uprooted remains of Edward Salter from the state with an eye toward bringing those remains back to rest in Beaufort County.

Salter, a wealthy merchant who was thought to have been a member of the pirate Blackbeard's crew, owned a plantation along the point, and the earth there is still being tilled for agricultural purposes hundreds of years after Secotan vanished.

"The various diaries ... that were kept during the 1585 expedition described the visit to the village in mid-July and described the distance that they traveled — I think it was on four small sailing vessels — to reach Secotan," Duffus said of the explorers White had joined.

The Bath Creek area fits the distance fairly closely, he added, noting that other factors point to Beasley Point for the best possible placement of Secotan.

"This site is very important because it could be connected to a series of watercolors that depict Indian life before Europeans arrived," Duffus said. "That's a distinction that can't be claimed by Jamestown (Va.) or Plymouth, Mass., or anywhere else that I know of."

According to Duffus, two people drew maps of Secotan on the 1585 expedition. One of those cartographers was the aforementioned Ralph Lane, a soldier and courtier; the other was White.

White noted the presence of two Indian villages: one on the south side of the Pamlico River and the other on the north side in the vicinity of Bath Creek.

Some archaeologists have suggested the villagers wintered at one camp and spent the summer fishing and farming at the other, Duffus related.

A sketch map in the British archives seems to place Secotan on the north side of the Pamlico at Beasley Point, probably the Indians' summer camp, Duffus said.


Charles Ewen, an anthropology professor at East Carolina University, walked around the Beasley Point site for about an hour around four years ago.

Ewen said his interest was "chiefly in the colonial component of the site," and that he wasn't aware the point was a Secotan candidate.

Ewen said "a fair amount of work will need to be done to make a connection with a specific historic village."

"It is not the only recorded late prehistoric site in the area and the John White map only gives a
rough idea of where the village may be," he wrote in an e-mail to the Daily News. "Also, our sense of what the village might look like is largely based on White's paintings, which may be problematic (i.e. Was he painting a portrait of a village or trying to convey in a small space all the elements that he had observed?)."

Duffus acknowledges his observations are speculative.

"No one's going to dig up a street sign that says this was Secotan," he said.

But he also points to the fact that over the past 50 years numerous archaeologists have investigated the area looking for Secotan.

Duffus supplied a lineage of these investigations dating to 1954. This time line suggests that a number of other candidate sites in the region have been eliminated by previous study and investigation, because of an absence of artifacts or encroachment by the river.

"Almost all of them have concluded that it was somewhere on Bath Creek," Duffus said of the investigators. "It's the prodigious amount of artifacts that that one site (Beasley Point) has produced that suggests that this could have been a major native American village."

State weighs in

The concentration of artifacts at Beasley Point was referred to in a March 1987 archeological survey prepared for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by MAAR Associates of Newark, Del.

The report was part of a government clearance process preceding the issuance of permits to bulkhead the land, preventing further encroachment by the creek.

It's believed that some artifacts washed out with the tide before the bulkhead was installed, and Thompson said part of the village that was at the point might be at the bottom of the creek.

The survey documents were "prepared under the supervision" of Ronald Thomas, principal investigator, and Ted Payne and Bruce Dahlin, research associates.

Attempts to locate Thomas were not immediately successful last week.

The report refers to a "sizable team" that did field work documenting artifacts uncovered at the point.

"These efforts have concluded that the material culture resources due to both prehistoric Late Woodland occupation and 18th and early 19th century historic period occupation are valuable sources of information, not to be hastily compromised," reads the report's foreward.

In a summary, the report's authors wrote that their investigation "resulted in the conclusion that the cultural resources of this site are culturally significant and that the site has the potential to be declared eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The recommendation of significance and nomination potential applies to both the prehistoric (Indian) and historic components."

In a June 22 letter to William Doyle, president and CEO of PotashCorp, and Tom Regan, president of PCS Phosphate and PCS Nitrogen, Thompson hints the site could be eligible for recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The land could become one of a relative handful of places to be granted UNESCO World Heritage designation in the United States, Thompson wrote.

Asked whether there is evidence the site in question could be Secotan, State Archaeologist Steve
Claggett offered a careful assessment.

"Some," he said of the evidence.

Claggett added, "This one site is a candidate, but it's not the only one."

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources has a limited collection of materials taken from the Beasley Point area, he said. The materials were gathered for the state by a contractor working with the Army Corps of Engineers, according to Claggett.

The artifacts may range from tiny bits of pottery to brick fragments, he said.

"We have not fully inventoried or actually reinventoried all the materials that were collected by that contractor," he said.

Nothing on hand eliminates the site as a contender for Secotan, "but there's not much evidence either way," Claggett said.

Claggett contends it isn't unusual to find a large concentration of artifacts at one spot, and added he wouldn't be surprised to see tens of thousands of items if the place were excavated extensively.

"Three thousand artifacts sounds like a lot," he said. "It's not. There hasn't been a lot of excavation on that site."

Further excavation could clear up some questions about the land, he agreed.

"It all has to be done very carefully, of course," Claggett said.

What should happen?

The Beaufort County Economic Development Commission and its partners are awaiting PotashCorp's response to letters from Thompson and Jerry Langley, chairman of the Beaufort County commissioners.

In essence, the letters ask for the company's cooperation for further investigation of the Beasley Point site.

As for the corporation, "They're being very cooperative in giving the request fair consideration," said Beaufort County Manager Paul Spruill.

For Thompson, who has been struggling to rebuild the local economy, answers can't come soon enough.

These days, archaeology equates with tourism, he said, adding the would-be Secotan site could be a boon without equal.

"We've done about everything we can do," Thompson said. "We're not going to get Dell computers here."

Given that reality, tourism could be the most powerful weapon left in the county's arsenal as it fights the further encroachment of joblessness.

"This is a huge resource for Beaufort County," Thompson concluded.
School board member Richard Tolmie congratulates Matthew Ward, left, standing with his wife, Edna, on Monday evening at the Pitt County Board of Education.
Jenni Farrow/The Daily Reflector

Matthew Ward joins school board
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Monday, August 23, 2010

Greenville native and pastor Matthew Ward, 55, has been appointed to fill District 1 Seat A on the Pitt County Board of Education.

The board held a special open session on Monday night to choose one of four applicants to fill the seat left open by the death of longtime District 1 representative Michael Dixon at the end of July. After interviewing all four candidates with the same set of questions in open session, the board voted unanimously with Seat B holder Ralph Love who made the nomination. Ward will hold the A seat until December, to the end of what was Dixon’s third term.

“I feel real good, I’m looking forward to working with the board,” Ward said. “I’m happy to have the opportunity to serve.”

The other applicants, all residents of District 1, were Nutricia Perkins, Minnie Johnson-Anderson and Teresa Lee, who earned 45 percent of the vote to Dixon’s 54 percent in the May election. Ward is the pastor of Haddock’s United American Free Will Baptist Church in Winterville and Zion Temple Free Will Baptist in Pantego. He worked for Pitt County Schools from 1984-94 as a quality control supervisor and from 1994-2006 as in-school suspension coordinator at Ayden Middle School. Ward has been very involved with the Boys Club, having served as director of various units including Pitt County from 1974-1978. He holds a bachelor’s degree in business administration from East Carolina University and a master’s degree in educational administration from James Madison University. He is a member of the NAACP and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

Ward says he is ready for the decisions that lie ahead. “I’ve been studying a lot about redistricting, I want to make sure that what we do, we do it right. We also need to focus on the long term and plan for growth in the county.”

“I’m pleased with the outcome,” Love said. “I could have worked with any of the applicants, but I feel I can work well with Dr. Ward. I liked his years of experience in the school system.”

Board member Barbara Owens said there was a “great crowd” at the open meeting which made the moment “very special.”

“I think we had a great process tonight, and we appreciate all those who applied,” board Chairwoman Mary Grace Bright said. “I wish Dr. Ward the best and hope he will do well.”

Ward will be sworn in at a following school board meeting.

Before his death, Dixon was elected to a fourth term which would have ended in 2016.
Another appointment will be made to fill that term by the school board after the new members are installed in December. The second appointee will serve until the 2012 primary where a vote will be held for the seat.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Even bizarre college clubs get students more engaged
By Stephanie Steinberg, USA TODAY
Want to feed squirrels, transform into a zombie or use science to whip up bacon-flavored cotton candy?
Forget chess club. College students today are attracted to clubs with activities that are more innovative — maybe even downright wacky.
College experts say students who participate in extracurricular activities are more engaged in the college experience, and benefits can be seen both in and outside the classroom. Students who participate in co-curricular activities study more, have higher GPAs and are more satisfied with their social lives, says Kevin Kruger of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators.
DISTANCE EDUCATION: Students form clubs online
STUDENT ENGAGEMENT: Survey measures it using five categories
The average student participates in two campus activities, according to a 2009 NASPA report, which surveyed more than 14,000 students from 35 U.S. colleges and universities. Students who attend smaller colleges tend to become involved in more organizations, the report says.
Joining clubs is one of many ways students network and develop lasting friendships, says John Gardner, president of the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education and author of Your College Experience: Strategies for Success.
Students interact, learn more
David Bebeau, 20, founded the Humans vs. Zombies club at the University of Wisconsin in 2009. Bebeau describes Humans vs. Zombies, which has become popular on campuses across the country, as a "massive game of tag." Players are split into two groups; humans who are tagged by zombies become zombies themselves, and the game ends when the last human is tagged.
As many as 300 students play the week-long game that goes on 24/7. Bebeau says the club brings together a diverse group of students who wouldn't otherwise interact.
"We get athletes with the hardest of the hard-core nerds, and people who would never actually play together have become very good friends," he says.
Though the main purpose of some clubs is just to have fun, others extend the learning experience. At the Culinary Institute of America, students may sit in a wine class for several hours a day and then attend a wine-tasting sponsored by the Bacchus Wine Society later that night, says David Whalen, associate dean for student activities, recreation and athletics. "They're back there lining up at the door because they want to learn more about wine."
Students also flock to cooking demonstrations by the Avant-Garde Cuisine Society, which has taught aspiring chefs how to make ice cream using liquid nitrogen.
Students who had a handful of clubs at their high school are often overwhelmed by the hundreds of organizations they can join once they step onto large campuses. Officials have different views on whether they should dive in right away or wait a few weeks until they've adjusted to their new courses and environment.
The answer depends on the student, says Tina Samuel Powellson, associate director in the Office of Student Involvement at Indiana University-Purdue University-Indianapolis, which offers about 345 student organizations. She says there is no "cookie-cutter" plan — "I would encourage students to take their time, to get to know what's the best fit for them," she says.
In the NASPA survey, 65% of students said participating in campus activities helps them learn to balance their social and academic lives; 14% said their commitment to clubs caused their grades to drop, but 25% said their grades increased.
Gardner says it's good for students to "jump in" and join clubs right away because clubs can make a large campus feel smaller, and students can immediately make friends.

"Friendship formation is task No. 1 for most students," he says. "If you don't make friends, you're lonely, you're anxious, you feel sort of adrift."

But he adds that students should be careful not to join too many organizations at once, so they're not distracted from other activities such as studying and going to class.

"It's a question of balance and not overdoing it," he says.

**Résumé-building**

While some campuses boast hundreds of clubs — the University of Michigan has more than 1,200 — students attending smaller schools don't lack opportunities to get involved.

Cape Fear Community College in North Carolina sponsors about 40 student organizations. Because it's a two-year college with about 9,000 full-time students, clubs experience a high turnover. This can present a challenge for less popular clubs, says Chris Libert, student activities coordinator. "Most likely, the club advisers are here, but the participants might not be," he says.

But Libert says it's important for students to partake in activities — even at community colleges — if they want their résumés to stand out. Employers look for "well-rounded people" and students who did more than one activity, he says.

Even if clubs like the University of Minnesota's Campus People Watchers or Princeton University's Muggle Quidditch Team (based on the *Harry Potter* stories) seem to have no apparent benefit, college experts say they provide a way for students with similar interests to "connect" and "engender creativity." They also offer an alternative to the party scene.

"They're a very healthy form of stress relief," Gardner says. "It's better to spend time in this kind of group, rather than drink excessively."
Not the average college groups

Michigan Squirrel Club
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Members: About 700
Established: 2002

What they do: The main purpose is to “spread a bit of squirrelly cheer to everyone,” says club president Peter Feng. To put it simply, members spend their Sunday afternoons feeding peanuts to the hundreds of fat squirrels that roam U of M’s campus. “Salted peanuts are unhealthy, so we just give them roasted or raw,” Feng says. “I don’t think the squirrels mind what they get.”

The Avant-Garde Cuisine Society
Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, N.Y.

Members: About 175
Established: 2009

What they do: Inspired by renowned chef Ferran Adrià of Spain, the club applies science to cook with ingredients such as Methocel—a product similar to gelatin except that it gels when hot. Members have also used xanthan gum to make bacon-flavored cotton candy, and maltodextrin to create a powder that turns into tapioca pudding in your mouth. “Some call it molecular gastronomy,” says founding member Evan Brady.

Harvard College Cube Club
Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.

Members: About 10
Established: 2010

What they do: This club is for those interested in “cubing” (i.e. solving a Rubik’s cube or performing tricks with it). “Our weekly club meetings typically consist of a bunch of people coming together and cubing together, talking about new cube designs that have come out or talking about better ways to solve a cube,” says club president Amy Tai. The club plans to sponsor a tournament approved by the World Cubing Association.

Hygiene for Humanity
Colorado State University, Fort Collins

Members: About 20
Established: 2009

What they do: These college students definitely shower. Members collect products such as soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste and donate them to homeless shelters in Colorado. In the fall, the group plans to send supplies to impoverished people in Africa.

The Nerd Girls
Tufts University, Medford, Mass.

Members: 14-24 (occasional men allowed)
Established: 2000

What they do: Despite the club’s name, these women are not your typical “nerds.” Members are college athletes, writers and dancers who also have a passion for science and engineering. “One of the main goals (of creating the club) was to dispel the stereotype of what smart and intelligent women have to look like,” says founder Karen Fanetta, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Tufts. Members have built solar cars, developed technology to operate lighthouses and designed a voice-activated cage door for a trained monkey that assists a paralyzed person.

By Stephanie Steinberg
Grads taking law schools to task for poor job market

Law schools, once viewed as a guaranteed path to a high-paying career, are coming under fire as disillusioned graduates find a tighter job market than they say they were led to expect.

A small but growing coalition of graduates, on blogs with names like "Scammed Hard" and "Shilling Me Softly," blame their alma maters for luring them into expensive programs by overstating their employment prospects.

In July, Law School Transparency, a non-profit founded by two Vanderbilt law students, requested that 200 schools submit salary and employment data for 2010 grads, which they aim to post online.

One recent grad even went on a hunger strike on Aug. 5. "We have a new crop starting, and no one's telling them anything about this," says Zenovia Evans, 28, of Denver, who uses the name "Ethan Haines" on her blog, UnemployedJD.com.

The first in her family to finish college, she says that "no one wants to say, 'Hey, career office, you failed me.' " but "I couldn't take this lying down." She says she owes more than $150,000 in loans.

The American Bar Association, which accredits law schools, acknowledges such concerns. A report in November, noting the average student borrowed $59,324 for a public law school and $91,506 for a private one in 2007-08, cautioned prospective students to "have a clear picture of the debt they will incur and the expected earning power."

Among 2009 graduates, 88% are employed, down from 92% in 2007; they were more likely than in previous years to hold part-time or temp jobs or those not requiring a law degree, says the non-profit National Association for Law Placement. Summer job openings for second-year students, often the first step to getting hired full time, "shrank dramatically" this year, it says.

Meanwhile, the number of law school applicants for this fall rose 2.2% to more than 87,000.

Ohio University economist Richard Vedder says the question goes beyond law. "We are entering the age of the overeducated American, the person with college degrees who cuts hair, trims trees, drives trucks," he says.

Kelsey May, a 2010 University of Tulsa law school grad and co-author of What the L? 25 Things We Wish We'd Known Before Going to Law School, agrees law school can be tricky to navigate but says the anger is "misplaced. ... There should be some level of (personal) responsibility."

Accredited schools typically collect and post information about recent graduates using ABA surveys. But data can be incomplete — and misleading. Even with widely reported hiring cutbacks, "we had some schools reporting 100% employment," probably because unemployed grads didn't respond, says Donald Polden, Santa Clara University law school dean. He chairs an ABA committee on legal education and admissions that is now looking at how to report data "in a more robust way."

Georgetown Law student Roger Gordon, who says he has racked up $175,000 in loan debt, wants more than that. In June, he petitioned the Supreme Court to decide whether people who take the bar exam even need three years of law school. "If you count on law schools to do the right thing, you're going to be waiting a long time," he says.