THE DAILY CLIPS

August 30, 2008

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

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

Long weekend

Laurels — To the three-day Labor Day weekend, which marks the traditional end of summer. With school back in session, autumn is around the corner, something made all the clearer with the federal holiday ushering in the month of September. Congress founded Labor Day as a day off for workers in 1894, and it is a welcome one this week.

Game on

Laurels — To today's game between East Carolina University and Virginia Tech, taking place in Charlotte. The match-up represents the start of the season for both teams, and both the Hokies and Pirates enter the contest confident and ready to play. Those not making the trip can watch the national broadcast on ESPN at noon.

Laurels — To the establishment of a No Excuses early voting site at East Carolina, which is a great way to bring younger voters into the democratic process. So many students may want to cast a ballot this year, but may be new to the area, without transportation or dealing with a heavy class load that hinders their participation on Election Day. Now they will have no excuse to miss the vote.

Darts — To a heavy thunderstorm that caught motorists by surprise and caused localized flooding Thursday afternoon. Drought conditions continue in Greenville and eastern North Carolina and more rainfall is needed. The preference, however, would be for lighter precipitation spread over a longer period.

Laurels — To the enrollment figures at Pitt Community College that showed a record number of students taking classes this semester. With 6,495 students now in class — and a projection of 7,234 seen as a reasonable estimation for the fall semester — PCC will serve between 10-12 percent more students than last year. That is a remarkable rate of growth.

Darts — To the alleged assault of an ECU student in the lobby of a campus dormitory Wednesday. While violent crime can occur anywhere, an attack on a student inside a residence hall requires a reassessment of safety policies and procedures. On a positive note, three students who reportedly came to the victim's aid deserve laurels from the university community.

Laurels — To a new program within the Greenville Police Department designed to crack down on truancy. Playing hooky from school is a serious issue that harms the whole community. While the need to involve law enforcement in this matter may be a sad commentary, the effort to rectify the problem is commendable.

Compiled by Brian Colligan, editorial page editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at 329-9507 or via e-mail at bcolligan@coxnc.com
A resource for mental health

HAROLD CARMEL
Comment on this story

North Carolinians must feel shocked and saddened by recent news from our state’s mental health system:

* Because a patient died while being ignored by ward staff, Cherry Hospital is likely to lose federal funding, possibly costing the state millions of dollars.

* Broughton Hospital loses its appeal to keep accreditation from JCAHO (the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations) following a December 2007 survey.

* Legislative staff produce a report on the implementation of mental health reform that, to a state representative, resembles "crime scene photos."

* Reflecting an attitude pervading the state Division of Mental Health, the deputy director during that implementation says "no one individual was responsible."

* The Cherry Hospital story is picked up by CNN, the Yahoo home page and news outlets as far away as Germany and India.

* The N&O reveals assaults by Cherry Hospital staff on vulnerable patients.

We must be asking ourselves, "How can this happen -- what can be done?" And it must be daunting for a new administration taking office in Raleigh in four months to contemplate assuming responsibility for this mess.

The safety of patients in our state hospitals continues to be at risk. But as I wrote on this page in December, "Providing a safe environment for patients and staff in a state hospital is not rocket science. The principles involved are well-known:

* Staff in sufficient numbers must be available... .

* Hospital staff must be well-trained and well-supervised... .

* Transparency is critical.

* Finally, if patient abuse occurs, it is not solely the responsibility of the individual employee. The supervisory and management structure must be held responsible for its failures. It is not enough to say, as a hospital CEO recently did, 'We have good policies in place.'

"Hospital management's responsibilities do not end with 'good policies'; ensuring that they are faithfully executed is far more difficult, far more important."

These are basic principles. They recognize that management must take seriously its responsibility to act in the public interest. Accountability is key. When culpable state hospital directors have been not been fired but are kept in place or transferred laterally, an unmistakable message is sent throughout the system.

The mental health division needs to develop a culture of accountability and responsibility. But even more fundamental is the question of whether the agency can be restored to basic functionality in the foreseeable future -- let alone whether talented leaders and managers can be recruited to it.

It is hard to imagine how the kind of leaders and managers North Carolina needs can be recruited to the
division. In fact, moving forward will require bold steps. For the next governor, there may be no alternative to looking outside state government for the vision and leadership that will be needed.

The next governor should contract with the state's universities to provide the expertise and leadership that the next administration will need. This should include providing key leaders at the Division of Mental Health, including state hospital directors and clinical directors; data collection and interpretation; and policy analysis, monitoring and implementation.

There is ample precedent for this in other states. In New York, Columbia University's Department of Psychiatry contains the State Psychiatric Institute, a key resource for clinical leadership. When I was a hospital superintendent in Colorado, the medical staff and I were employed as full time faculty members of the University of Colorado Medical School. In Kentucky, the mental health agency's medical director is a full time faculty member of the University of Kentucky.

One example is particularly pertinent to North Carolina. Before Sy Saeed, M.D., East Carolina University's psychiatry chair, came here from Peoria, Ill., his medical school department of psychiatry had a very close relationship with the regional mental health agency and provided its leadership. This partnership was of great value both to the state mental health agency and to the local state hospital and mental health centers.

This relationship can serve as a model in eastern North Carolina, benefitting local mental health services, ECU and the beleaguered Cherry Hospital.

When, in other states, mental health agencies and state hospitals have reached rock bottom, partnering with public-oriented universities has proved to be of great mutual benefit. This is a creative solution that the next governor needs to consider seriously.

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Harold Carmel, M.D., is associate consulting professor of psychiatry at Duke and immediate past president of the N.C. Psychiatric Association. He is writing a history of mental health policy in North Carolina.
Two county residents receive scholarships to Brody

ECU NEWS BUREAU
The Daily Reflector

Two Pitt County residents have received Brody Scholarships to attend medical school at ECU's Brody School of Medicine.

Nabeel H. Arastu of Greenville, the son of Hyder and Shamim Arastu, and Mary Elizabeth Windham of Greenville, the daughter of Charlie and Jonsi Sang, were among the four who received the prestigious scholarships. Arastu is a 2004 graduate of J.H. Rose High School, and Windham is a 2004 graduate of Farmville Central High School.

Arastu and Windham received their bachelor's degrees from ECU in May.

The Brody Scholars program honors J. S. "Sammy" Brody, who died in 1994. He and his brother, Leo, were among the earliest supporters of medical education in eastern North Carolina. The legacy continues through the dedicated efforts of Hyman Brody and David Brody. Subsequent gifts through the Brody Foundation have enabled the medical school to educate new physicians, conduct important research and improve health care in eastern North Carolina. The scholarship is administered through the ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation.

Volunteers welcome students

ECU students, staff and community volunteers will visit more than 800 residences in the neighborhoods surrounding the ECU campus 1-5 p.m. Wednesday for the annual

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"Take Heed: Welcome to the Neighborhood" project. The volunteers will distribute informational kits about off-campus living, Greenville recycling schedules, emergency information, bylaws and other residential living tips. For more information, contact Lucia F. Brannon, off-campus student services, at 328-2847 or brannonl@ecu.edu.

Physics professor inducted

Longtime ECU physics professor George Bissinger will be named a fellow of the Acoustical Society of America for his research involving See ECU, B3
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violin acoustics.

He will be recognized Nov.
12 for his contribution to the
advancement of the knowl-
dge of acoustics or the fos-
tering of its practical applica-
tions.

"I am pleased about the
professional recognition," he
said. "I want to express my
gratitude to physics faculty
past and present who support-
ed this research, as well as the
support of ECU faculty outside
of the department. This honor
was not have been possible
without this support."

Since his arrival on campus
35 years ago, Bissinger has
received grants from the Na-
tional Science Foundation to
study the acoustics of violins
and other instruments.

ECU collecting phones

Most people don't have
much use for an old cell phone.
But, in the hands of a domes-
tic violence victim, it can be a
lifesaving tool.

Dawn Gibbs, a paralegal in
ECU's Student Legal Services,
began a program this spring to
encourage people to donate
their used cell phones for the
Family Violence Program of
Pitt County. To date, the pro-
gram has collected more than
160 phones, 39 chargers and
15 batteries.

"People upgrade their cell
phones all the time," Gibbs
said. "So instead of just hav-
ing the phone sit around your
house, you can donate it to a
good cause."

That good cause is local
victims of domestic violence.
Cell phone companies acti-
vate working phones to make
911 calls only. The Family
Violence Program then loans
those phones to its clients for
emergency use.

The cell phone companies
make a small, monetary dona-
tion to the program for each
phone they aren't able to ac-

Gibbs, who formerly worked
in a district attorney's office,

visit: http://www.ecu.edu/educulture/

Distinguished professor
named

Stephen J. Culver, chairman
of the department of geologi-

tical sciences, was named the
2008 Thomas Harriot College
of Arts and Sciences Distingui-

shed Professor.

The recognition was an-
ounced Aug. 18 at the col-
lege's annual convocation.

"It's a great honor to be rec-
ognized by this professorship,"
Culver said.

"Some excellent scholars
have received this recogni-
tion previously and it is very ap-

warding to be included in that
group."

Culver joined the faculty of
ECU in 1999 as a full profes-
sor and chair of the Depart-
ment of Geology, later renamed
the Department of Geological
Sciences. Over the past three
decades, Culver has received 31
research grants totaling more
than $1.4 million.

Events, workshops mark
literary homecoming

The first of several events
leading up to ECU's fifth East-
ern North Carolina Literary
Homecoming, Sept. 26-27, are
now scheduled.

From 4:30-6:30 p.m.,
Thursday at Pitt Community
College, 242 Reddick, N.C.
11, there will be a discussion
about children's literature will
be led by Alan Bailey, library
science professor, and Sheila
Mendoza, media coordinator
at South Central High School.
Other events will follow and
are free.

lithomecoming, call 328-1068,
or e-mail lithomecoming@
ecu.edu.

Hecimovich named
associate dean

English professor Gregg
Hecimovich has been named
associate dean for faculty
development and distance
education for the Thomas
Harriot College of Arts and
Sciences.

Hecimovich replaces
Marieke Van Willigen, who
has taken over as interim
chair of the department of
sociology.

Since joining the faculty of
ECU in 2002, Hecimovich has
been actively involved in de-
veloping distance education
courses for the department of
English and assisting ECU's
Division of Continuing Studi-
You won't find a big-name fashion designer on the list of alumnae at Meredith College.

Or for that matter, a famous fashion stylist or the head of a major fashion house.

At least, not yet.

Instead, you'll find dozens of names of graduates who regularly take on crucial roles in the background — and as the backbone — of the booming fashion world.

"These girls graduate and get top-notch jobs," says Diane Ellis, the head of the college’s fashion program, who proudly can tick off the big-name employers where alumnae and interns have worked. "They know they can walk into midlevel jobs. They have that confidence."

You might find Meredith alum as buyers for department stores such as Lord & Taylor or J.C. Penney. They’ve been sales reps or marketing directors at fashion houses such as Trina Turk or Shoshanna — sometimes right out of school. They’re pitching stories in the highly competitive world of fashion public relations in New York. One graduate even landed a job on the set of one of the hottest fashion-related TV gigs, "Project Runway."

Before any of them graduate, however, you’ll find them not just in the classroom but backstage. Working. And more than likely, Ellis is right there with them.

That's at the heart of what's pushed the growth of the program in the last two decades, graduates say. Ellis has been influential in molding it so that classes focus on real-life fashion issues, either by tapping into the alumnae network or using the community around the school to learn.

For instance, last year, it was students from Meredith who helped dress models backstage when "Project Runway's" Tim Gunn hosted a Liz Claiborne fashion show at Belk.

The students regularly dress windows at area stores, such as Great Outdoor Provision Company or the Globetrotter. They're the ones who run the annual Cinderella Project.
which makes sure no teenager goes without a prom dress each spring. They also regularly volunteer at First Baptist Church's clothes closet, making sure needy clients are clothed.

They sew the stuffed cloth dolls Duke doctors use to show children where on their bodies they will have surgery. They've also helped behind the scenes at the Mannequin Ball, and a gala to raise money for the American Diabetes Association.

"We do a lot of community involvement to give them that real-life experience," Ellis says. She also counts on graduates to give back with their experiences.

Rebecca Nash, a 1994 graduate, is among them. Nash, who has a handbag company called Madie Deluxe in High Point, remembers one particular crisis while working as an assistant buyer at J.C. Penney involving the quality of swimsuits from a new designer. She brought the problem back to Meredith so students could learn how Nash and her team solved the issue.

"Dr. Ellis not only gives you the book information, she also has extensive knowledge of the real world," says Nash. "I don't think I could do what I do now without my J.C. Penney background. And I couldn't have done J.C. Penney without my Meredith background."

Mary Sue Zaytoun, who landed a job with fashion designer Trina Turk in New York as an account executive just after graduating in December, says it was the fashion business skills learned at Meredith that help her on a daily basis.

"The courses that you take really prepare you for dealing with the big guys," she says. "Every one of the teachers was there to fine-tune your skill set and give you what you need. The program is still small enough so that you can get that one-on-one attention."

She's since moved to Findings Showroom as an account executive for three designer clothing lines, handling sales for the entire East Coast for two of the three lines. Her goal is to come back to North Carolina eventually to open a clothing store, a move she's confident she can make in part because of what she learned at Meredith.

Likely the biggest real-world experience students get is exposure to the fashion industry through regular trips to Paris and New York's fashion district.

Each summer for 21 years, Ellis has taken about 20 students with her to Paris to the Paris American Academy, where Ellis teaches classes such as French fashion or international retailing.

Six hours a day is spent in class but the rest of the time is dedicated to collecting experiences. This past summer, students worked backstage dressing models at several couture fashion shows. They learned to dye silk and do intricate pleating. They toured a Fendi factory in Rome and a diamond factory in Belgium. They visited and analyzed 100 stores to learn about retailing. And three students had a short internship with evening wear designer Elie Saab.

"Because I had that experience, I was that much more well-rounded," Zaytoun says of her summer in Paris.

Ellis says the Paris trip is a big reason students — some from as far away as Canada — seek out the program. The international work gives them an edge over some other fashion graduates when it comes to landing a job.

"When you've been to a couture show as a student and you've been working backstage at a show, I think it opens more doors for you," says Deborah Tippett, the head of the college's Department of Human Environmental Sciences. "The international experience gives them confidence to go out and get these jobs."

The program has blossomed under Ellis' leadership.

When Ellis, who earned a Ph.D. in from Florida State in clothing textiles and merchandising, arrived at Meredith College in 1982 to teach fashion, there wasn't even a fashion major at the college. One person taught all five fashion classes each semester.

This fall, Meredith has five full-time and part-time professors teaching fashion. And fashion is now one of the most popular majors at Meredith with two concentrations, either fashion design or merchandising.

She used to get a phone call every few months asking about the program. Now she gets at least two phone calls a week.

"It's definitely one of the most asked-for majors," she says.

She admits that the trend is happening with fashion programs all over the country, a reflection of just how important fashion has become in today's pop culture-driven environment.

But students and administrators say that without Ellis' enduring passion for fashion and her students, the program would not have grown as it has.

"Her energy and her enthusiasm and her constantly looking for what's new and cutting edge is really putting the program out in the forefront," Tippett says.

Students say Ellis never is too busy to help a student — even the ones who graduated years ago.

"She's really effervescent," Zaytoun says. "She can really generate that spark inside of you that you never knew you had."

Samantha.smith@newsobserver.com or (919) 810-7486.
Special win for Pirates

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

CHARLOTTE — Backed by a crowd nearly as determined as they were, the East Carolina Pirates added to their propensity for upsets in Saturday's season opener.

ECU stunned No. 17 Virginia Tech at Bank of America Stadium when senior TJ Lee blocked a punt, grabbed the football and stormed into the end zone with 1:52 left to play.

The Pirates' victory, overturned Tech's 22-20 lead and sent one half of the 72,169 in the stadium into hysterics that laterally shook the ground at field level.

"It was a tough, hard-fought game," ECU director of athletics Terry Holland said. "Our guys refused to give up, and it was amazing."

The 27-22 Pirate victory marked the beginning of another ECU non-conference schedule stacked with teams aligned in college football's Bowl Championship Series. It was the first time ECU has beaten a ranked BCS opponent since the BCS started.

ECU senior quarterback Patrick Pinkney helped the Pirates rally from deficits of

WIN

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14-0 and 22-13, passing for one touchdown and running for another.

The Pirates will get another chance for a stunner in six days when they host No. 8 West Virginia, the second chapter in another difficult schedule crafted by Holland.

Also awaiting ECU this year are N.C. State and Virginia.

"It's a big thing, but you've got to follow up on it," Holland said of the win. "We've got a great opportunity now to go home and play against a great team in West Virginia. But we can't mess around. We've got to get ready to play.

Fan support helps some players get ready for their games as well, some players agreed.

"It felt great to see the fans (at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium) when we got back," said lineman Steve Baker. "We feed off the fans. When they're hyped, we're hyped."

Lineman Doug Palmer said he thinks about the fans when he gets ready for the games.

"They're the 12th person on the field, and the reason we play better each week," Palmer said. "We want to keep them happy and there for us every week."

Terence Campbell gave some of the love back Saturday, he said.

"After the game, the fans told us, 'Good game,' and I said the same right back to them, because we really felt their energy out there. VT really brought it today, and so did we. So the fans are a big part of all that. It amazed me to see all that purple and gold, and our crowd was much louder than theirs," Campbell said.

The Pirates host the Mountaineers inside Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium at 4:30 p.m. Saturday.

Nathan Summers can be reached at nsummers@coxnc.com or at 329-9555.

N.C. LOTTERY

Pick 3: 5-8-7 (day), 6-6-8
Cash 5: 10-16-18-22-31
Powerball: 13-40-31-48-36 11