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ECU facing a USC storm

BY CAULTON TUDOR - Staff writer

There is good news for ECU's football team this week: The next brewing Atlantic hurricane (Katia) is still days away from presenting any sort of potential harm to the East Coast.

But there are challenges:

-- The Pirates' opening opponent Saturday in Charlotte is No. 12-ranked, 21-point favorite South Carolina, a registered SEC heavy coached by Steve Spurrier and led by three projected first-round NFL picks.

-- ECU wide receiver Michael Bowman, who averaged almost 10 yards per catch in 2010, has been suspended for the game.

Along with defensive back Emanuel Davis (two interceptions, 54 tackles in '10), Bowman will sit as the result of a mid-June altercation with Greenville police.

-- Wide receiver Justin Jones (21 receptions, five touchdowns last season) is out with a knee injury he sustained two weeks ago in a scrimmage.

The 6-foot-8 Jones made an extraordinary last-play, 33-yard, TD reception from quarterback Dominique Davis to give the Pirates a 51-49 win over Tulsa last season.
With Dwayne Harris having moved on to the NFL (two TD receptions, 25.4 yards per catch in preseason games with Dallas), the prolific Davis will throw to a bunch of relative unknowns against the Gamecocks.

Coach Ruffin McNeill's house got smacked along the portside by a tree during Hurricane Irene last weekend.

Classes were canceled Monday and Tuesday as students, the school, Greenville and the surrounding area go through yet another post-storm recovery ordeal.

Old-line, old-time Pirates fans might survey the daunting odds Saturday by advising the Gamecocks: "We got you right where we want you, mate."

McNeill - the former Lumberton High Pirate and ECU Pirate - is definitely a card-carrying member of that defiant crowd.

He took time during the week to tell his players about a historic night in Raleigh when the '99 Pirates, displaced by devastating Hurricane Floyd and coming off a 21-3 win at South Carolina, put away powerful Miami 27-23 in Carter-Finley Stadium 21 days after they had opened the season with a 30-23 win over West Virginia.

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Outer Banks highway debate: Rebuild or try something new?

Rodanthe, N.C. — It’s a scene Outer Banks residents have seen over and over – a storm washes away part of N.C. Highway 12, and the state spends millions to repair it.

The highway is more than just a road along the coast. Some say it’s a symbol of the famous Outer Banks, a lure for tourists and the lifeline that connects the villages along Hatteras Island.

Now that Hurricane Irene has mangled it so badly that sections of the road have washed away, the debate begins again about whether to rebuild or try something new.

"We're going to do something to allow those (island residents and tourists) access to the mainland," Gov. Beverly Perdue said Tuesday. "They cannot be there without the opportunity to have a road or a bridge or something to get them off."

U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan said that she also is committed to rebuilding N.C. 12.

"It is a lifeline to the community that has been here for many, many, many years," Hagan said. "It's a way of life that's really a part of North Carolina. I think very much that we need to do what we can to get that open as soon as possible."

Island resident Trip Forman said he and his neighbors count on the road being rebuilt.

"I have a lot of confidence that they'll get it done. As to how quickly they can get it done, I haven't really seen the roads yet, so it's hard to tell," Forman said.

Stanley Riggs, a geology professor at East Carolina University, is one of the people questioning the decision to rebuild. He says the state's efforts to protect N.C. 12 have disrupted the Outer Banks' natural migration toward the west and that, as a consequence, the islands are shrinking.
"Anybody (who) thinks they can put something on the front side of a mobile pile of sand is fooling themselves," Riggs said. “The (barrier islands) are going to collapse. Every time we have a storm now, you're going to see more and more breaches, more and more inlets moving through there."

He suggested scrapping the highway and using high-tech ferries to get people on and off Hatteras Island.

On Monday, three conservation groups called on the state to rethink its plan of replacing Bonner Bridge, which connects the north end of the island to the northern Outer Banks. Instead, the state should build a “safer, more reliable access route for Outer Banks residents and tourists,” the groups said.

"The longer bridge option would be less exposed, more reliable and safer for people," according to a joint news release from Defenders of Wildlife, National Wildlife Refuge Association and Southern Environmental Law Center.

"The state’s present scheme to replace Bonner Bridge at its current location and ignore the repeated, inevitable breaching south of the bridge is irresponsible," said Derb Carter, director of the Carolinas office of the Southern Environmental Law Center.

"The state should put reliability and people’s safety first, build the safer, less-exposed ‘long bridge’ that bypasses the most rapidly eroding section of the island and let the ocean take its inevitable course in the wildlife refuge," he added.
Davenport named to ECU Board of Visitors

Vern Davenport, a health care industry leader, spokesman and lobbyist, has been named to the Board of Visitors of East Carolina University to serve two consecutive four-year terms.

A 1981 MBA graduate of ECU and longtime supporter of the university, Davenport will join members selected by the ECU Board of Trustees to promote the development of the institution. The Board of Visitors will ensure university effectiveness, convey its mission, programs and accomplishments, preserve institutional autonomy, oversee long-term initiatives, and serve as university ambassadors.

"I share in the enthusiasm with the entire Board of Visitors to serve ECU, my alma mater," Davenport said. "The university has always

VERN DAVENPORT received undergraduate and master’s degrees at East Carolina University.

maintained its values and mission of public service and regional transformation, and I look forward to continuing the expansion of its national presence."

Davenport has three decades of senior executive experience in building and transforming health care IT businesses in the United States and globally. He recently was named chairman of the board and CEO of MedQuist, based in Franklin, Tenn.

Before joining MedQuist, he provided strategy consulting for Quintiles, the only fully integrated biopharmaceutical services company offering clinical, commercial, consulting and capital solutions worldwide.

Davenport also served as chief executive officer of Misys Healthcare and led the strategic merger of Misys Healthcare Solutions and Allscripts, creating the U.S. market leader in acute and
ambulatory clinical information systems.

With a successful organizational leadership track record in taking difficult situations and executing rapid performance turnarounds, he was a key figure in executing the successful merger. When Davenport joined Misys in 2007, the company had flat margins, declining bookings and eroding customer satisfaction and revenue. Davenport led a strategy to stabilize the company by selling off various business lines and implemented and executed a world-class management system. After the merger's completion, Davenport handled the establishment of a Public and Payer Sector, which focused on payer provider integration and State Medicaid transformations.

Davenport has a broad range of experience across the entire healthcare IT spectrum including radiology, modalities and software technology. He has worked for IBM, Shared Medical Systems, Kodak and Siemens Medical Solutions, where he performed a major merger similar to that he managed for Allscripts and Misys.

"Vern Davenport is a leader in the community and has made national strides in improving healthcare for decades," said Bob Greczyn Jr., former CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina and previous chairman of the ECU Board of Trustees. "The university will truly benefit from his knowledge, experience and leadership as he assists in leading our organization over the next four years."

Jud Bowman and Taylor Brockman, who started a software project in their Durham high school dorm that eventually became a billion-dollar business, want to help other students do the same.

Bowman and Brockman will announce today that they have given $100,000 for an endowment at the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics. The money will help pay for student research projects and entrepreneurial ventures.

"We've been extraordinarily lucky, and it all started because of the school," said Bowman, NCSSM class of 1999. "We've talked for a long time about how we could give back."

The elite, state-sponsored high school enrolls juniors and seniors from across the state. Students aren't allowed outside jobs while enrolled, and some families don't have the finances to pay for extra research projects, Bowman said.

The current state budget reduced the school's funding about 7 percent, and officials are relying more heavily on alumni support, said Chancellor Todd Roberts. The endowment from Bowman and Brockman is one of the school's larger donations since it opened in 1980, he added.

"This expands our ability to promote innovation and entrepreneurship," Roberts said. "They're trying to help seed new opportunity for students."
We're really happy that they feel like the school played a role in their success."

The endowment will provide small grants, probably worth about $500 each, twice a year to five to 10 students with promising ideas. The initial applications are due Sept. 15 and the first grants will be awarded in late October.

"The school is an incubator for great new ideas," Brockman said. "We're trying to formalize a way for these students to get access to extra funding. It could lead to the next big biotechnology company or the next Motricity."

That's the technology company that grew out of a software project Bowman and Brockman started in the school's Hunt Dormitory in the late 1990s when they were both 17.

The two men, now veteran entrepreneurs at 30 years old, both left Motricity in the summer of 2008. They still owned stakes in the company when it held an initial public offering of stock in June 2010.

While the shares have slumped in recent months, they peaked at more than $30 each last fall, giving Motricity a market value of more than $1 billion.

What Bowman does now

Bowman now runs another company, Durham-based Appia, which helps wireless carriers and smartphone providers around the world build online "apps" stores. Appia has attracted attention and funding from big-name investors, including the CEO of Google.

Appia recently signed a deal with Vodacom Group, the largest wireless carrier in southern Africa.

"We'll be one of the biggest apps stores in Africa," Bowman said. "That's when it's less about downloading Facebook and Zynga games, and it's more change-the-world type of stuff."

Brockman spends some of his time in Charleston, S.C., racing sailboats, but he also is doing some software work with green energy businesses such as Consert.

The Raleigh-based smart-grid company makes technology that lets homeowners and business owners remotely control thermostats, water heaters and other appliances.

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The endowment

The $100,000 Bowman-Brockman Endowment for Entrepreneurship & Advanced Research at the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics is open only to students enrolled at the Durham high school. The endowment's board will accept initial applications through Sept. 15 and award the first grants by Oct. 31. For more information, visit www.bowmanbrockman.org.

The school

The N.C. School of Science and Mathematics in Durham (www.ncssm.edu) is a public, residential high school for juniors and seniors with "high intellectual ability and commitment to scholarship." The school is free and open to any student whose parents are residents of North Carolina. But it is competitive. The school has nearly 680 students and gets more than 1,500 applicants every year.

It opened in September 1980, and in 2007 became part of the UNC system.
Cameron Art Museum names Brennan director

By Ben Steelman
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After conducting a six-month, nationwide search for a new director, the trustees of Wilmington's Cameron Art Museum decided to go with the hometown candidate.

On Wednesday, the museum announced that Anne Brennan will be the new director, succeeding Deborah Velders who had resigned in February to become deputy director of Asia Society Texas in Houston.

"I'm very honored to be serving this amazing community," Brennan said.

A longtime Wilmington resident, Brennan had been acting director since Velders' departure. She had previously served as curator and registrar of collections for the former St. John's Museum of Art from 1990 to 2005, under former director C. Reynolds Brown.

Frances Goodman, chairman of the Cameron's board, said Brennan had been doing an outstanding job at the museum. A critical factor, she added, was Brennan's local connection.

"The Cameron is a community museum," Goodman said, "and her connection to the community is very deep."

Reaction from local artists to the appointment was largely positive.

Dan Brawley of Wilmington's Independent Art Company, who has exhibited at the Cameron, called Brennan "a natural resource, like a river flowing down. Her intrinsic knowledge of Wilmington's creative resources is just immeasurable."
"She is a good artist and beloved in this community," said Wilmington artist Virginia Wright-Frierson. "She will be just wonderful. Even in the time she's been assistant director, the museum just seems to have new life."

Before Velders' departure, Brennan had rejoined the museum's staff as assistant director and curator, after earning an M.F.A. degree from East Carolina University in 2010. She had previously earned a degree in studio art from Davidson College in 1982.

A painter Brennan had been a fellow in the N.C. Arts Council's A+ Schools Program since 2007.

While at East Carolina, Brennan had worked in Kinston on a project to use art to improve relations between at-risk youth in the community and the local police department.

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Families spent less on college this year, survey finds

By Daniel de Vise

American families spent 9 percent less on college in the 2010-11 academic year than in the previous year, reversing a recent trend toward increased college spending, according to a new Sallie Mae study.

Previous surveys from the student loan giant found families spending progressively more on college from the 2008 to 2010 academic years, despite the recession.

Why the sudden shift?

More families began moving to lower-cost schools in 2010-11, the survey said, with a sharply higher share of high-income students choosing community college. There was also a rise in the sheer number of low-income students, some of whom presumably were middle-income students a year earlier, the study said. It also found that middle- and high-income families are spending less out of their own pockets (and bank accounts), and low-income families are spending more.
The steepest decline in college spending came among upper-income families, those earning six-figure incomes, whose average outlay declined from $31,245 in the 2010 academic year to $25,760 in 2011.

Low-income families (earning $35,000 or less) reported increased college spending, from $17,404 in 2010 to $19,888 in 2011. That is a counter-intuitive finding, given the massive increase in need-based aid of recent years. The report suggests the increase could simply reflect that a broader share of survey respondents have low incomes.

According to the report, grants and scholarships made up 33 percent of all college spending, up from 23 percent a year ago, a huge increase that suggests need-based aid is playing a larger role in meeting college expenses. The share of families receiving grants rose from 30 percent to 46 percent — again, in a single year.

The share of middle-income families receiving grant aid rose sharply -- from 30 percent to 49 percent in that one-year span.

Families increasingly link education to earnings, so it’s no coincidence that enrollment rates tend to rise during recession. The share of families who “strongly agreed” with the statement that college is essential for earning (as opposed to learning) rose from 59 percent in 2010 to 70 percent in 2011.

The report is chock full of interesting stuff. A few highlights:

- Parent savings accounted for only 30 percent of the typical family’s college budget, with another 7 percent coming from parent borrowing. Another 26 percent came from student earnings, savings and borrowing. Scholarship dollars provided most of the balance.

- The share of students from high-income families going to community colleges — historically favored by students of modest means — nearly doubled in a single year, from 12 percent to 22 percent.

- The share of parents who said they were “willing to stretch” their college budgets shrank dramatically, from 64 percent in 2010 to 51 percent in 2011.

- The share of students who said their primary motive for college was to earn more money rose sharply, a one-year jump from 61 percent to 75 percent.
A new report gives St. John's College an A for the breadth of its core education requirements. (Photo by Mark Gail/The Washington Post)

**Three-fifths of colleges get C or worse in general education**

By Daniel de Vise

An analysis of core education requirements at 1,007 colleges found that three-fifths of those schools require three or fewer of seven basic subjects, such as science, math and foreign language.

This is the third annual report on general education by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni, titled What Will They Learn? The group has set out to illustrate the failings of America’s colleges in requiring students to learn essential subjects over the course of their education.

Most colleges allow students to study pretty much what they please. Schools make some effort to guide course choices through a system of “distribution requirements,” which typically state that students must take a certain number of classes in each of several broad areas of study.

But the general education system is deeply flawed, as higher education leaders openly admit. Very few schools come close to requiring that students
learn any particular topic or work, for political reasons. Colleges are made up of competing academic departments and no department wants to be left off any list of “required” study.

Advocates of general education contend students should not be allowed to complete college without learning some amount of essential knowledge. One approach would be to teach essential texts, as favored by the great books scholars at St. John’s College. Another is to cover essential subjects, such as math, science, foreign language, composition, the fundamentals of U.S. history, economics, literature and composition.

ACTA reviews course requirements annually to see how many of those seven subjects are required at prestigious universities. This year’s study reached every major private and public university in the land, according to the authors.

The report found that only 5 percent of colleges studied required economics as a field as study, while about one-fifth required U.S. government or history and 15 percent required intermediate-level foreign language.

College presidents typically dismiss this annual report as arbitrary and silly — even schools with core curricula don’t necessarily require study of all seven subjects. But many in academia acknowledge that the broader complaint about general education is valid.

The analysis found only 19 schools that required six or more of the seven subjects. They include three military academies (though not the U.S. Naval Academy, which had to settle for a B) and a number of historically black institutions.

A schools include St. John’s, Pepperdine University, Morehouse College, the University of Georgia and a number of Texas institutions, including Texas A&M.

Locally, nearly every D.C. university received a C. Johns Hopkins in Maryland, which received an F last year, raised its grade to D. Reading the fine print, I believe they got partial credit this year for requiring math *or* science, but not both. The University of Maryland got a D. James Madison and George Mason universities both earned Bs. The University of Virginia got a D.

Public institutions generally fared a bit better than private ones in the report: 12 percent of private colleges studied received F grades, but only 5 percent of public colleges.
Does anyone care?

Well, yes, according to the report’s authors. They commissioned a Roper survey this year. It found 70 percent of respondents believe colleges should require students to take “basic classes in core subjects,” according to a release. An even higher share of young adults, 80 percent, shared that sentiment.

More than half of respondents said they were surprised that many colleges do not require study of the basic subjects studied by ACTA.

By Daniel de Vise | 10:45 AM ET, 08/30/2011
Sarah Weinstein had planned to pursue a career in advertising.

**Generation Limbo: Waiting It Out**

By JENNIFER 8. LEE

WHEN Stephanie Kelly, a 2009 graduate of the University of Florida, looked for a job in her chosen field, advertising, she found few prospects and even fewer takers. So now she has two jobs: as a part-time “senior secretary” at the Florida Museum of Natural History in Gainesville and a freelance gig writing for Elfster.com, a “secret Santa” Web site.

But is Ms. Kelly stressed out about the lack of a career path she spent four years preparing for? Not at all. Instead, she has come to appreciate her life. “I can cook and write at my own pace,” she said. “I kind of like that about my life.”

Likewise, Amy Klein, who graduated from Harvard in 2007 with a degree in English literature, couldn’t find a job in publishing. At one point, she had applied for an editorial-assistant job at Gourmet magazine. Less than two weeks later, Condé Nast shut down that 68-year-old magazine. “So much for that job application,” said Ms. Klein, now 26.

One night she bumped into a friend, who asked her to join a punk rock band, Titus Andronicus, as a guitarist. Once, that might have been considered professional suicide. But weighed against a dreary day job, music suddenly
held considerable appeal. So last spring, she sublet her room in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn and toured the country in an old Chevy minivan.

“I’m fulfilling my artistic goals,” Ms. Klein said.

Meet the members of what might be called Generation Limbo: highly educated 20-somethings, whose careers are stuck in neutral, coping with dead-end jobs and listless prospects.

And so they wait: for the economy to turn, for good jobs to materialize, for their lucky break. Some do so bitterly, frustrated that their well-mapped careers have gone astray. Others do so anxiously, wondering how they are going to pay their rent, their school loans, their living expenses — sometimes resorting to once-unthinkable government handouts.

“We did everything we were supposed to,” said Stephanie Morales, 23, who graduated from Dartmouth College in 2009 with hopes of working in the arts. Instead she ended up waiting tables at a Chart House restaurant in Weehawken, N.J., earning $2.17 an hour plus tips, to pay off her student loans. “What was the point of working so hard for 22 years if there was nothing out there?” said Ms. Morales, who is now a paralegal and plans on attending law school.

Some of Ms. Morales’s classmates have found themselves on welfare. “You don’t expect someone who just spent four years in Ivy League schools to be on food stamps,” said Ms. Morales, who estimates that a half-dozen of her friends are on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. A few are even helping younger graduates figure out how to apply. “We are passing on these traditions on how to work in the adult world as working poor,” Ms. Morales said.

But then there are people like Ms. Kelly and Ms. Klein, who are more laissez-faire. With the job market still bleak, their motto might as well be: “No career? No prospects? No worries!” (Well, at least for the time being.)

After all, much of the situation is out of their control, as victims of bad timing. Ms. Klein contrasted her Harvard classmates with the ones of her older sister, Lauren, who graduated from Harvard seven years earlier. Those graduates, she said, were career-obsessed and, helped along by a strong economy, aggressively pursued high-powered jobs right after graduation. (Lauren is a professor at Georgia Tech University.)

By comparison, Ms. Kelly said her classmates seemed resigned to waiting for the economic tides to turn. “Plenty of people work in bookstores and work in low-end administrative jobs, even though they have a Harvard
degree,” she said. “They are thinking more in terms of creating their own kinds of life that interests them, rather than following a conventional idea of success and job security.”

The numbers are not encouraging. About 14 percent of those who graduated from college between 2006 and 2010 are looking for full-time jobs, either because they are unemployed or have only part-time jobs, according to a survey of 571 recent college graduates released in May by the Heldrich Center at Rutgers.

And then there is the slice of graduates effectively underemployed, using a college degree for positions that don’t require one or barely scraping by, working in call centers, bars or art-supply stores.

“They are a postponed generation,” said Cliff Zukin, an author of the Heldrich Center study. He noted that recent graduates seemed to be living with parents longer and taking longer to become financially secure. The journey on the life path, for many, is essentially stalled.

The Heldrich survey also found that the portion of graduates who described their first job as a “career” fell from 30 percent, if they graduated before the 2008 economic downturn (in 2006 and 2007), to 22 percent, if they graduated after the downturn (in 2009 and 2010).

In an ominous sign, those figures didn’t change much for second jobs, Dr. Zukin added, suggesting that recent graduates were stumbling from field to field. Indeed, Till Marco von Wachter, an economics professor at Columbia University who has studied the impact of recessions on young workers, said the effect on earnings took about a decade to fade.

MEANWHILE, modest jobs mean modest lives. Benjamin Shore, 23, graduated from the University of Maryland last year with a business degree and planned to go into consulting. Instead, he moved back into his parents’ house in Cherry Hill, N.J., and spent his days browsing for jobs online.

But when his parents started charging him $500 a month for rent, he moved into a windowless room in a Baltimore row house and took a $12-an-hour job at a Baltimore call center, making calls for a university, encouraging prospects to go back to school. “There’s no point in being diplomatic: it is horrible,” Mr. Shore said.

“I have a college education that I feel like I am wasting by being there,” he added. “I am supposed to do something interesting, something with my brain.” For a while, Mr. Shore ran LongevityDrugstore.com, an online drug retailer that he started, but it went nowhere. To stretch his pay check, he
made beans and rice at home and drove slowly to save gas. Eventually he quit, got work as a dock hand and is now thinking of becoming a doctor.

Perhaps not surprisingly, volunteering has become a popular outlet for a generation that seeks meaning in its work. Sarah Weinstein, 25, a 2008 graduate of Boston University, manages a bar in Austin because she couldn’t find an advertising job. In her spare time, she volunteers, doing media relations for Austin Pets Alive, an animal rescue shelter.

“It’d be nice to make more money,” Ms. Weinstein said, but “I prefer it this way so that I have the extra time to spend volunteering and pursuing other things.” Volunteering, however, goes only so far. After three years without an advertising job, she is now applying to graduate school to freshen up her résumé.

Meanwhile, people forced out of the rat race are re-evaluating their values and looking elsewhere for satisfaction. “They have to revise their ideas of what they are looking for,” said Kenneth Jedding, author of “Higher Education: On Life, Landing a Job, and Everything Else They Didn’t Teach You in College.”

For Geo Wyeth, 27, who graduated from Yale in 2007, that means adopting a do-it-yourself approach to his career. After college, he worked at an Apple Store in New York as a salesclerk and trainer, while furthering his music career in an experimental rock band. He has observed, he said, a shift among his peers away from the corporate track and toward a more artistic mentality.

“You have to make opportunities happen for yourself, and I think a lot of my classmates weren’t thinking in that way,” he said. “It’s the equivalent of setting up your own lemonade stand.”

This article has been revised to reflect the following correction:

Correction: September 1, 2011

An earlier version of this article transposed the last names of two of its subjects in one instance. It was Amy Klein who had classmates at Harvard, not Stephanie Kelly. Additionally, the university at which Ms. Klein's sister is a professor was identified incorrectly. It is Georgia Tech University, not Georgia State.