THE DAILY CLIPS

September 7, 2010

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Bleachers give way during game; several people hurt
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, September 7, 2010

Around a dozen East Carolina University fans were treated for minor injuries Sunday after several rows of bleachers gave way during the home football game against Tulsa. The bleachers were in the new east zone section of Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, which was completed over the summer and features 7,000 new seats, university spokesman John Durham reported in a news release. Officials are expected to meet with contractors to determine what caused the collapse. Charlotte resident Jean Hiebert was sitting nearby and said she saw three women tumble down after they were standing on the bleachers and dancing to a song just before kickoff. She said one hit a handrail, but they were laughing and seemed OK. Those who were injured were treated by stadium personnel for scrapes, cuts and bruises, Durham said. One person was reportedly treated for a dislocated shoulder. An announcement followed asking people not to jump on the bleachers. By halftime, stadium staff were in the process of carrying about 10 rows of bleachers out of the section. ECU student Patrik Stridh said he and a friend left their seats at halftime and their “fully functional bleacher” was gone when they returned. “They look organized but they’re not really telling us anything,” Kristin Bergound remarked, as staffers unscrewed the bolts fastening the rows around them. Dozens of fans perched on the bare concrete before the entirety of Section 25 was relocated in the fourth quarter. Durham said university officials will follow up with the injured fans to see if additional treatment is needed. He did not say if the bleachers would be back in place for next weekend’s game against University of Memphis. Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
Spectators injured at ECU game

East Carolina officials said in a statement that a dozen fans suffered minor injuries on Saturday when rows of bleachers gave way in the new east end zone section at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium during a football game against Tulsa.

Injuries, the statement said, included scrapes, cuts and bruises, as well as a reported dislocated shoulder. Those injured were treated by stadium personnel.

During the first half, fans were moved to other locations after 10 rows of bleachers were removed from the stadium.

The incident happened in the new student section of the stadium called the “Boneyard,” which was completed over the summer with the addition of 7,000 seats.

ECU officials have not determined a cause for the accident and will meet with contractors to investigate. ECU officials, the statement said, will follow up with those injured.

The next Pirates home game is against Memphis on Saturday.

EDWARD G. ROBINSON III
ECU scientist studying hydrocarbons from spill

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Hurricane Earl nearly came close enough to give scientists new clues about the Deep Horizon oil spill in Gulf of Mexico.

East Carolina University geochemist Sid Mitra is studying how far hydrocarbons from the spill are traveling. Scientists still don’t know if any of the oil has made its way around Florida and up the East Coast to the Gulf Stream.

“If any of the oil from the Gulf of Mexico has made it into the Gulf Stream — which we don’t know — then a hurricane like Earl could have picked it up and brought it to land.”

Sid Mitra
East Carolina University geochemist

Had Earl come a little closer to the coast, Mitra was planning to capture rain from the storm in eastern North Carolina to look for the presence of hydrocarbons picked up from the waters.

“If any of the oil from the Gulf of Mexico has made it into the Gulf Stream — which we don’t know — then a hurricane like Earl could have picked it up and brought it to land,” Mitra said.

Mitra took baseline measurements from Wilmington to the Outer Banks shortly after the spill began in anticipation of the possibility of oil reaching North Carolina’s coast.

Mitra said that to his knowl-

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edge there have been no new attempts to look for the presence of Gulf oil off the North Carolina coast.

Mitra’s lab has samples of oil from the Deep Horizon spill, and he said he can compare hydrocarbons from North Carolina’s coast to see if they match, but he has not been funded to test water off the coast. Had Hurricane Earl moved a little closer to the shore, it could have brought the water to Mitra’s back door.

“We are not seeing a slick and not seeing tar balls in North Carolina,” he said. “That doesn’t necessarily mean that there are no hydrocarbons from the spill in our waters. There was a lot of oil released underwater — the subsurface plume — and nobody knows where that is going.”

Mitra said hydrocarbons from oil are basically like fingerprints. If he can find hydrocarbons from North Carolina’s waters that match the oil spill hydrocarbons, then scientists will know that oil from the Deep Horizon spill has reached the state.

“There are still a lot of unknowns right now,” he said.

Mitra recently visited the Gulf region to take baseline readings for a long-term study of the spill. His work was tracked on the National Geographic magazine’s website.

“We are not seeing a slick and not seeing tar balls in North Carolina. That doesn’t necessarily mean that there are no hydrocarbons from the spill in our waters.”

Sid Mitra
East Carolina University geochemist

Mitra took samples in Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi. He also will be looking for hydrocarbons from the oil spill in those places to try to find out how far the oil is spreading.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
Fans hang in to bitter end to see Pirate victory

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Monday, September 6, 2010

Doug Winder put on his gold Pirates shirt and drove in from Newport only to be sitting down Sunday when quarterback Dominique Davis threw the winning touchdown as time expired. East Carolina University's victory landed in the outstretched hands of wide receiver Justin Jones and the University of Tulsa Golden Hurricane fell 51-49. Winder missed it.

"I'm glad my wife taped it," he declared, then chuckled. "I thought our luck had run out."

Daughter and ECU graduate Brie Winder reenacted the pass and catch for him as they prepared to leave Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium after the game. They purchased their tickets on a whim from classified website Craigslist three weeks ago.

"I feel bad for the guy that sold them (because he missed out)," Doug Winder said, adding that the win looks like the start of a good season for Pirates football.

Greenville resident Jeffery Carmon agreed, but said there's still work to be done by new Head Coach Ruffin McNeill and his staff. He pointed to what seemed an obvious weakness to many during the high-scoring thriller.

"I said the last one with the ball is going to be who wins," Carmon said. "The defense needs some work but the offense looks like it's ready to go."

The back-and-forth scoring kept fans engaged and on edge — whether sitting or standing. ECU alum Betty Nagy was another who found herself in that latter category. She halted her exiting cheer of "Purple! Gold!" to say how excited she is about this season.

"Everybody around me was standing up yelling and I was sitting down praying," she said of those final minutes.

Nagy said she and her family of Pirate grads — both parents and sister included — are all fans of McNeill and the continually developing football program.

"It's fun to finally have somebody home who's a Pirate," she said of the former ECU player turned coach.

But it was hard to get anyone to talk about much outside that final, last-chance pass. What a way to win, all agreed.

"I hope that this will teach ECU fans never to leave a game until there are triple zeroes on the clock," Nagy said.

"It could have gone any way with that last call (when they reviewed the play)," Carmon said. "It blew my mind."

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
ECU alum pledges $333,000 to establish HHP professorship

The president of Wingate University has pledged funding to establish the first endowed professorship at the College of Health and Human Performance at East Carolina University.

Dr. Jerry E. McGee, who graduated from ECU in 1965, has pledged $333,000 to establish the Jerry E. McGee Distinguished Professorship in the College of Health and Human Performance. The gift will qualify for state matching funds from the Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund created by the N.C. General Assembly.

"We are deeply grateful to Jerry McGee for his generous commitment," Dr. Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, said. "This landmark donation will create a legacy that celebrates his inspiring history with the college and is especially promising in the current economic climate where competition to recruit exceptional faculty continues to increase.

"Like so many of ECU students, he embodies the American dream that determination and an education can make a bright future possible. He grew up with little or no financial resources and sometimes had to literally fight his way to and from school. A college education was only a distant dream."

A first-generation college student, McGee said he made the commitment to establish the professorship because the university changed his life.

"No matter how much money I contribute, I will never be able to repay ECU for what the institution did for my family," McGee said. "All of our teachers were totally dedicated to giving us every opportunity to succeed at ECU and beyond."

A Rockingham native, McGee earned a bachelor's degree from the College of Health and Human Performance, a master's degree from Appalachian State University and a doctorate from Nova University.

McGee also has held administrative roles at Gardner-Webb University, Meredith College and Furman University.

He officiated college football games for 36 years, working more than 400 games, including three national championship games.

In 2006, McGee received The Order of the Long Leaf Pine in recognition of his service to the state, and in 2008, ECU recognized him with the Outstanding Alumni Award.

Million Meal Event packs meals for Haiti

Volunteers packaged more than 60,000 Haiti-bound meals during ECU's Million Meal Event on Aug. 28.

About 340 people, mostly students, congregated at the Boys & Girls Club on Fire Tower Road to assemble the packages, said Shawn Holland Moore, community partner coordinator for the Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, which organized the event.

Organizers played 1980s dance music to keep the mood light, but volunteers...
"were just so serious about packing the meals," Moore said.

Volunteers worked in two shifts, after which they discussed what they could do locally to help end hunger.

"The center continues to shine a light on hunger issues both locally and internationally," Moore said. "Even though it’s an international packaging event, the whole theme is, ‘Think Locally, Act Globally.’"

This marked the third year that ECU Million Meal Event volunteers packaged meals for hungry people through a partnership with Stop Hunger Now, a North Carolina-based nonprofit that supports sustainable food programs in 79 countries.

**Pitt students explore product design**

Seventh-graders and eighth-graders from Pitt County’s Hope Middle School put their ideas to work this summer through a program offered by ECU’s Innovation Design Lab.

The two-week Middle School Innovators Academy paired middle schoolers with faculty and graduate students to develop ideas for real-world products.

Teams identified product needs and developed solutions, conducted patent searches and market evaluations, and transformed their ideas into full renderings ready for manufacturing specification. Participants presented their concepts to parents and peers, university leaders and regional economic developers.

Courses for Pitt County students were offered at ECU’s state-of-the-art design lab. Another program was held at a satellite lab at N.C. State University for students from Wake County’s Centennial Campus Middle School.

Wayne Godwin, director of the Innovation Design Lab, and Percy Hooper, director of NCSU’s Industrial Design Graduate Program, developed and taught the program.

The academy drew upon last summer’s Innovation Design Academy, an eight-week pilot program for ECU faculty, staff and students. Participants in that program used sketching techniques, 2-D and 3-D digital imaging essentials, physical model building strategies and presentation skills while gathering hands-on experience in

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developing, documenting and marketing their design ideas. One product developed at the first academy, the Venom Lock, has advanced to full prototyping, and its inventors are pursuing commercialization.

Operated through ECU’s Office of Engagement, Innovation and Economic Development, the Innovation Design Lab applies collaborative, multidisciplinary effort and advanced methods to create solutions to complex product development challenges.

Exhibit features local artwork at GMA

An art exhibit featuring work by ECU honors students, medical students and community members will be shown Sept. 10 through Oct. 8 at the Greenville Museum of Art.

Hours for the exhibit, “Many Hands Make Community,” will be 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Drawings, photographs, fabric and thread art, and portfolios by students will be featured along with a quilt with a theme on the end of life designed and sewn by community members.

The exhibit is presented by ECU’s Honors College, the College of Human Ecology’s Department of Interior Design, the Office of Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Education, and the Department of Bioethics and Interdisciplinary Studies in the Brody School of Medicine. An opening reception will be held 6:30-8:30 p.m. Friday. Funding is provided by the End of Life Care Coalition of Eastern Carolina through a grant from the N.C. Humanities Council.

In January 2009, the NCHC funded “Facing the End of Life Through Humanities: Artfully Stitching an Inclusive Community Partnership,” through a collaboration of the End of Life Care Coalition, Pitt County Memorial Hospital, ECU, GMA and other community agencies. The collaboration brought nationally known textile artist Deidre Scherer to Pitt County for a series of public forums, workshops and student coursework examining aging, dying and the human experience, which led to this exhibit.

Upcoming Events:


■ Thursday: The Lawrence F. Brewster Lecture in History, “The Language of Slavery, the Diction of Freedom: Voices from the Nile Valley and Ottoman Empire,” presented by Eve M. Troutt Powell, 7 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Ticketed event. See www.ecu.edu/voyages for more information.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Warehouse makeovers

Tobacco facilities transformed

BY KATHRYN KENNEDY
The Daily Reflector

Pitt County's first commercial tobacco crop is believed to have sprouted under the watch of Leon Evans in 1886. The industry bloomed as cotton prices declined and railroads arrived. Tobacco occupied 70 acres in 1889 and more than 12,900 acres one decade later, according to "The Architectural Heritage of Greenville, North Carolina." It would continue to thrive beyond World War II, and until the city's focus shifted away from agriculture and toward health care and education.

Vestiges of that bygone era are scattered across the county. The mammoth structures are known to sprout greenery, attract vagrants, crumble. They even, occasionally, catch fire.

Urban renewal movements in the 1950s and '60s led to the demolition of some, and floodwaters ruined others.

But not all are lost.

Old tobacco warehouses and processing facilities experienced a renaissance across the state in the last decade, ranging from downtown Durham's heralded $246 million American Tobacco District to places closer to home: Rocky Mount and Wilson, for instance.

What was a decrepit Imperial Tobacco processing plant became the Imperial Centre for Arts and Sciences five years ago — now a Rocky Mount landmark. Flooding from Hurricane Floyd claimed the city's children's museum, arts center and a theater. Each had been in place since the 1950s.

"The community was wowed by it," Rocky Mount Assistant City Manager Peter Varney said of the final project. "The scale of it, the classiness of it. It was the last project we needed to do to say we're back up on our feet again."

A patchwork quilt of "creative" funding enabled their rebirths, Varney said.

About $16 million in costs were paid through a taxable bond referendum, Federal Emergency Management Agency money, flood insurance, and approximately $1 million in city funding. The Rocky Mount City Council agreed to raise taxes to help pay down the debt service. State and federal tax credits for historic preservation and others devoted to developing new markets in low-wealth census tracts contributed about $15 million. Credits can be sold on the open market to private companies aiming to lower their annual burden, Varney said.

However, he warns that desire to purchase those valuable tax credits has waned during the recession.

"We look for property all the time," North Carolina developer Rex Todd countered this week. "Some of us are working hard like we don't know any better."

Todd partners with the Landmark Group, which focuses on creating affordable housing in downtown revitalization areas. They planned and

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oversaw Greenville’s recent Nathaniel Village project, which created low- to moderate-income housing on West Fifth Street.

Those are new buildings, but Todd said their work often incorporates historic preservation. That was the case with Nantucket Lofts in downtown Kinston — a 70,000-square-foot American Tobacco property converted into apartments for ‘‘working families’’ and boutique commercial space. The $5.1 million rehabilitation was completed in 2004.

He calls the style ‘‘industrial chic’’ and notes that it takes into account as many pre-established architectural oddities and unique features as possible.

‘‘It’s like a beauty contestant with a mole on her face,’’ Todd quipped. ‘‘It’s not a mole; it’s a beauty mark.’’

‘‘These things bring so much character. Every apartment is different.’’

Not everything has to be so grand. Some Greenville entrepreneurs are making smaller adjustments to suit their business needs north of the Tar River.

Ashley Furniture Home-Store opened a distribution center three years ago on Pactolus Highway in an old A-frame warehouse formerly run by the New Greenville Tobacco group.

The company built in office space and added air conditioning, and small renovations continue, a representative said.

Jerusalem Market owner Jessie Abdul opened an indoor flea market in a North Greene Street tobacco warehouse last June.

‘‘To rent a retail space is very expensive,’’ he explained. ‘‘This is a little bit out of the city, so expenses would be lower.’’

He said the flea market idea didn’t really catch on, so two months ago he transitioned the focus to world food market and

WHAT WAS a decrepit Imperial Tobacco processing plant in Rocky Mount became the Imperial Centre for Arts and Sciences five years ago. Original fire doors, like this one on the second floor, remain throughout the facility.

got one on his hands that he would love to see rehabilitated and leased back to the university.

The former Export Tobacco Company on 10th Street — also known as the H.A. Haynie building — was purchased in 2003 as part of a 20-acre area downtown for ‘‘strategic growth.’’ Buck said it’s in very poor condition and was secured so it wouldn’t become a public safety hazard.

‘‘I have tried to shop around with firms and nonprofits,’’ Buck said. ‘‘That’s gone nowhere.’’

ECU wouldn’t be able to take advantage of any tax credits because the university is a state entity itself, so a public-private partner-

ship would be ideal.

As it is for many in Pitt County, Buck’s desire for restoration transcends straightforward business aims. Except for his father, all Buck’s family worked in to tobacco business. He remembers it fondly as a ‘‘thriving thing’’.

‘‘It was kind of magical for a young boy growing up in the community,’’ he said, recalling the bustling of auction houses and the smell that permeated tobacco facilities.

Employees of the State Historic Preservation Office believe it’s both possible and important to keep that sense of history alive. Especially with tax credits totalling 40 percent of cost for income-producing entities and 30 percent for non-income-producing structures like homes, said Eastern Office Restoration Specialist Reid Thomas.

‘‘And it’s green building,’’ Regional Supervisor Scott Power added, because many of the intended industrial buildings are made of solid materials and already standing.

‘‘It gives you a head start to getting new development (in a declining area).’’

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
National debate brewing in East

BY GINGER LIVINGSTON
The Daily Reflector

Two national movements proclaiming a desire for better government are brewing in eastern North Carolina. Chapters of the Tea Party and Coffee Party movements have been launched locally. Their formations reflect a long-running trend in American politics—grass-roots participation in alternative political movements during difficult economic times, said Jonathan Morris, an associate professor of political science at East Carolina University.

“Tip O’Neill (a former U.S. House of Representatives speaker) said all politics are local and that’s true,” Morris said. “The major (political) parties historically always had somewhat.”

The Eastern North Carolina Tea Party, organized earlier this spring by Lorraine Rucker of Ayden and Karen Kozel of La Grange, has an e-mail list of nearly 900 people living in Pitt and surrounding counties.

Rucker and Kozel said the local Tea Party supports limited government which they say will restore the free market system and stop Congress from passing laws that are beyond the principles of the United States’ Constitution.

The organizers said they decided to form the local group

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this spring after Kozel’s parents invited them to a Tea Party event near their home. The women came away energized and soon enlisted 10 friends to organize activities.

While the local Tea Party movement is working for smaller government, another group of area residents has been asking why people think government is the enemy of the people.

Greenville's Ray Sobel formed a local chapter of the Coffee Party USA movement earlier this month because of a growing number of letters to the editor in The Daily Reflector that he says were filled with untruths about President Barack Obama and his work to restore the nation's economy and improve health care coverage.

The Coffee Party's mission statement is government "is not the enemy of the people, but the expression of our collective will, and that we must participate in the democratic process in order to address the challenges that we face as Americans."

While the national Tea and Coffee parties are employing different methods to promote their agendas, local organizers both are using small group discussions to share their views.

When many hear the phrase Tea Party, they picture images of rallies and angry, shouting people.

Kozel said the local Tea Party's "table talks," allow people to talk about topics ranging from California's gay marriage ban to taxes to immigration with several political candidates thrown in the mix to discuss their campaigns.

“We encourage a little bit of debate because everyone is not going to agree on everything," Kozel said. However, she said the focus is on keeping disagreements civil and respectful.

The local Coffee Party was formed a little more than two weeks ago, said Sobel, a retired history teacher from New York.
Sobel started the local party with a gathering of 10 friends at his house. The group held its first public meeting on Aug. 31 when it sponsored a campaign appearance by Johnny Rouse, a Democrat challenging Republican incumbent Walter Jones for the 3rd Congressional District. About 30 people attended. A second meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. today at the Tipsy Teapot on Evans Street.

"I want to bring reason, intelligence and have a dialogue," Sobel said. "If people are telling untruths, then we need to counter that with the truth."

The untruths most Americans are decrying come from politicians who don't keep the promises they make, Kozel said.

"There is an enormous outcry that citizens want elected leaders who will do what they promised to do," Kozel said.

The national Coffee Party movement started with a Facebook post earlier this year, said Annabel Park, a documentary filmmaker who organized grass-roots campaign support for President Obama and Virginia Senator Jim Webb.

Park wrote that she wanted to see American politics move away from hyper-partisan bickering to thoughtful discussions. The organization also wants to lessen the influence of lobbyists and corporations in Congress.

Sobel has been active in politics most of his life, demonstrating for civil rights and protesting the Vietnam War. More recently he supported Obama's healthcare legislation although he said it didn't go far enough to provide universal coverage.

Sobel said he questioned why people think reducing the size of government would improve the nation.

Millions of Americans have been kept out of poverty because of Social Security and Medicare, which some Tea party-backed candidates have said should be dismantled to reduce government's reach, Sobel said.

"Would Wal-Mart be better if it was smaller? Would General Motors be better if it was smaller?" Sobel asked.

Sobel said his decision to promote a local Coffee Party also was influenced by a recent Newsweek poll that found 24 percent of the respondents believe Obama is a Muslim.

Local Tea Party leaders don't believe the president is a Muslim or that he wasn't born in the United States, Kozel and Rucker said.

"Those issues were long buried after he was inaugurated," Kozel said. "If we sit there and focus on issues like that, we're going to be sidetracked."

When the economy is failing, Rucker said, people should focus on changes that will revive American productivity and bring jobs back to the country.

Sobel said the nation should move away from arguing about social issues such as gay marriage and abortion to figuring out how to fix the nation's economy and restore jobs.

Restoring the American economy is a priority of local Tea Party supporters, who believe smaller government will bring about that revival.

Reducing business regulations will improve productivity and bring jobs back Rucker said.

Reducing regulations doesn't mean reducing consumer protection, Rucker said. Having lived in Africa as a missionary, Rucker said she's seen firsthand the problems created when regulations fail.

"Regulations involving health and safety aren't the problem," she said. "It's regulations that stifle productivity that are dangerous."

Too much legislation passed by Congress isn't rooted in the Constitution, Kozel said. She and other Tea Party members want a system where a bill's sponsor must point to a specific amendment in the Constitution and say how it applies to the proposed legislation.

Rucker said the local organization plans to make endorsements in state and federal races as the campaign season progresses.

"It's a process we take seriously," Rucker said. While the national Tea Party has become closely identified with conservative Republicans, Kozel said the local group is interested in talking with conservative Democrats to see if they support the local organization's interest in reduced government.

The group plans to host an event at the Pitt County Courthouse on Sept. 30 that will allow candidates from surrounding counties to share their views.

While the national Coffee Party movement is not endorsing candidates and has avoided participating in political campaigns, Sobel said he would support any candidate that supports maintaining Medicare, Social Security, healthcare and pulling troops from Afghanistan as soon as it's feasible.

While, Kozel, Rucker, and Sobel have differing visions on how government should operate, they all agree that Americans should become better educated about political issues and spend more time letting their elected representatives know what is expected of them.
Relly H. Wanderman

Mrs. Relly H. Wanderman, 95, a blessed memory, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 5, 2010.

A graveside service will be held today at 11 a.m. in Pineswood Memorial Park.

Mrs. Wanderman had been a resident of Greenville since 1961. She enjoyed a happy life in the Greenville community, and was a French professor at ECU. She was a member of Congregation Bayt Shalom and resided at Cypress Glen for the last decade. She will be fondly remembered by the many friends she made.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Henry Wanderman, also a professor at ECU.

She is survived by her only child, Mary W. Green, and son-in-law, Michael, of London, England; grandchildren, Sara Green of New York and Mark Green and wife, Danielle, of Boston; and great-grandchildren, Nate, Toby and Oliver Green, all of Boston.

The family will receive friends following the service at Congregation of Bayt Shalom, 4351 E. Tenth St.

Memorials to Congregation Bayt Shalom, Rabbi’s Discretionary Fund, P.O. Box 2713, Greenville, NC 27836. Arrangements by Wilkerson Funeral Home and Crematory. Online condolences at www.wilkersonfuneralhome.com.
Pediatric surgeon joins faculty of medical school, ECU Physicians

Dr. David Rodeberg, a pediatric surgeon, has joined the faculty of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Rodeberg joined the Department of Surgery as a professor and chief of pediatric surgery. He comes to Greenville from Children’s Hospital of Pittsburgh and the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. He has a bachelor’s degree from Viterbo College in Wisconsin and a medical degree from the University of Wisconsin. He completed an internship and residency training at the University of Cincinnati and a fellowship in pediatric surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. From there, he worked on the faculty of the Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

In addition to his role on the ECU faculty, Rodeberg will serve as co-director of Children’s Hospital of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina. Services he will provide at Children’s Hospital include fetal counseling and care for neonatal and congenital disorders, cancer, lung and gastrointestinal disorders, and other standard pediatric surgical needs. Most of these procedures will be performed using minimally invasive techniques.

Rodeberg is board-certified in surgery and pediatric surgery and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons. He handles all areas of pediatric surgery, though his research and clinical interests involve pediatric cancer, especially sarcomas, which are malignancies that arise from connective tissue.

Rodeberg will see patients at the ECU Pediatrics Outpatient Center. Appointments may be made by calling 744-2393.
Program targets military as potential nursing students

ASHLEY McERLEAN
2010-09-07 01:52:57

A program in its planning stages will target military members and spouses in Onslow County interested in a career in nursing, according to officials with University of North Carolina Wilmington.

But first, the university must secure funding to implement the program and obtain approval from the North Carolina Board of Nursing, said UNCW spokeswoman Dana Fischetti.

With a nationwide shortage of nurses expected in the future, UNCW hopes to offer an accelerated pre-licensure program in Onslow County that would allow students who have already obtained a bachelor's degree to complete the nursing program and obtain licensure in 18 months instead of the typical two years, Fischetti said. The program would focus on active duty and retired military, as well as military spouses.

Most of the coursework would be completed through distance education, she said.

Federal funding early on allowed a detailed plan to be worked up, but implementation means further costs, she said.

"We had hoped initially there would be additional federal funding, but that has not yet happened," she said. "UNCW is certainly seeing this as a priority program, so we are looking at other sources of funding."

Onslow County health officials say while there is not currently a shortage of nurses in the area, projections of growing patient volume and shrinking nursing program admissions indicate a future need.

"Right now in Onslow County, we are maintaining the appropriate number of nurses that we need to provide for our patients," said Crystal Hayden, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Onslow Memorial Hospital.

The hospital currently employs more than 250 nurses and had less than a 3-percent vacancy rate in July, she said. Many of OMH's nurses graduate from the nursing programs at Coastal Carolina Community College, East Carolina University and UNCW.

"It's important to recognize we have programs that supply our community with nurses that have done a very good job for us," Hayden said. "(The proposed program is) a positive thing — certainly from the perspective of the military spouse and needing to get nurses into the workforce preceding the national shortage — but it's not necessarily an unfilled need the community has."

OMH's policy of accepting new graduates in addition to experienced nurses is one reason for its full staff, she said. The hospital has long partnered with area nursing programs, providing a site for clinical study and gaining valuable employees in return.

Tim Strickland, spokesman for OMH, said the proposed pre-licensure program could be another source of well-trained, professional nurses.

"Obviously we welcome the opportunity to increase the nursing population in eastern North Carolina, and we also are grateful for all of our existing partners who have been doing a good job for us so far," he said.

Aside from funding, the biggest hurdle the program faces is obtaining approval from the NC Board of Nursing.
which will consider things like the number of clinical study sites that are available to students, how many nursing faculty members the school employs and the students' pass rate on the licensing test for entry-level nurses, Fischetti said.

She said the idea is to begin the program with 10 students in the first year and hopefully expand over time.

"We feel like there's certainly a need for it in the area," she said.
McNeill has one crazy homecoming

GREENVILLE - Standing behind the opposite end zone from where all the drama took place, Terry Holland stood beaming like a proud father.

As East Carolina's players celebrated at the other end of the field, the athletic director stood quietly, waiting. Holland waited as 27-year-old offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley walked by, although he did hug him so ferociously he lifted Riley off the ground.

Holland waited as the crowd chanted "E-C-U, E-C-U." He waited as the team streamed past him toward the locker room, congratulating players as they danced past. He waited until a sweaty, drained Ruffin McNeill emerged in front of him, and then Holland enveloped the coach in a prolonged, emotional embrace.

Left in a difficult position when Skip Holtz left for South Florida after becoming a minor legend in five seasons at East Carolina, Holland placed his faith in a former East Carolina defensive back with one game of college head-coaching experience to his credit. With a last-second, last-play, last-chance touchdown heave Sunday, Holland's faith was rewarded.

Dominique Davis' 33-yard jump ball landed in the hands of 6-foot-8 Justin Jones with no time on the clock, the 10th and final touchdown of a full-throttle second half giving McNeill a 51-49 win over Tulsa in his East Carolina debut.

"We've been away for a long time," said McNeill, who grew up in Lumberton and graduated from East Carolina in 1980. "To have a chance to come home..."

He didn't have to finish the thought.

SEE DEOCK, PAGE 2C

DECOCK CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

The first game of McNeill's tenure didn't reveal anything that wasn't already expected from the Pirates after McNeill packed Texas Tech's offensive and defensive schemes in the U-Haul and brought them with him from Lubbock.

They're going to score a lot of points.

They're going to give up a lot of points.

They may win some, they may lose some, but it figures to be a crazy ride.

This was a crazy game, even by Conference USA standards, with 14 lead changes and a touchdown every 138 seconds over the final 23 minutes of the game. It took its toll.

When Jones came down with the decisive touchdown catch, Davis didn't join the celebration. He lay on his back at midfield, overcome with emotion. Even when he was helped to his feet, he quickly fell back to his knees. He was far from alone.

"It was definitely physical and emotional," said East Carolina receiver Dwayne Harris, who had seven catches for 121 yards and two touchdowns. "We ran a lot of plays today, a lot of routes, a lot of deep balls downfield. I know a lot of guys' legs hurt right now. Especially mine."

With 16 new starters, McNeill will benefit from unusually low expectations from a fan base that typically expects the Pirates to punch well above their weight. The Pirates showed enough gumption Sunday to send the fans home satisfied, if not happy, even if that final pass had fallen incomplete.

But it didn't, and as homecomings go, it would be hard to script a better one than this. McNeill and his wife Erlene are hosting two dozen friends and family at their home - so many that Erlene had to go out and buy air mattresses, in bulk, to accommodate the crowd.

"My mom's the only one who's not here," McNeill said, fighting back emotion at the thought of his late mother. "That's why it's good for me to be home."

Holland knows a little about coming home, the Clinton native took the East Carolina job after a long and distinguished career elsewhere. In the aftermath, amid the joy and jubilation, he was waiting for McNeill, waiting to welcome him home, once and for all, finally.

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ECU coach Ruffin McNeill led his team onto the field in Greenville and to its first win under his tutelage.

CHIRS SEWARD - CSEWARD@NEWSOBSERVER.COM

Trailing by four points with 1 minute, 22 seconds remaining on Sunday, ECU coach Ruffin McNeill called for a package known as "Big Ben." It's a package designed to move the team 80-yards with two minutes or less remaining.

The Pirates used it to complete a nine-play, 66 yard drive and rally from behind for a 51-49 victory over Tulsa.

"We knew the situation and the clock [on the last drive of the game]," he said. "The thought process was to just drive it 70 yards and score. We felt like we had enough time with one timeout left. I was happy with the offense because that's the way we practice those situations."

Tulsa coach Todd Graham credited ECU for making a spectacular play to end the game. He called a timeout before the last play, leaving five seconds on the clock for the Pirates.

ECU quarterback Dominique Davis tossed a 33-yard touchdown pass to Justin Jones in the end zone to secure victory. The 6-foot-8 freshman leaped high and came down with the ball. He was buried under the pile of players scrambling for the ball. "I've been doing this for 24 years and that's never happened to me."

Graham said: "We usually have two plays we execute to put pressure on the quarterback so he can't make that throw. We called the play and didn't execute. That's our fault. They made the play and we didn't."

Davis added: "That was the greatest experience of my life."

EDWARD G. ROBINSON III

OBSERVATION
Pirates steal victory with last-second catch

East Carolina wins shootout over Tulsa on final play of the game

BY EDWARD G. ROBINSON III
STAFF WRITER

GREENVILLE - In rousing and heart-tugging fashion, the East Carolina football team answered a few pressing questions in its 51-49 come-from-behind victory over Tulsa on Sunday.

Can first-year coach Ruffin McNeill's new spread offense put points on the scoreboard?

In droves.

Who will start at quarterback in his no-huddle system?

Junior transfer Dominique Davis, who on the team's final drive Sunday heaved a 33-yard touchdown pass to freshman Justin Jones that secured an improbable victory in the waning seconds.

Trailing by four points, the Pirates (1-0) used 1 minute, 22 seconds and 11 plays to go 66 yards on the final drive.

Searching for a miracle on 4th-and-10, Davis released his pass to Jones with five seconds remaining and found the 6-foot-8 wideout on the right side of the end zone, surrounded by a group of wide-eyed players.

"I guess I'm just lucky," Jones said. "I'm taller than everybody."

Jones came down with the ball, sending ECU players galloping onto the field in an euphoric daze. They were stunned by the victory, considering their underdog status heading into the afternoon game.

The Pirates were counted out because of all the changes the program has experienced since capturing back-to-back Conference USA league championships last season.

With head coach Skip Holtz leaving for South Florida, the Pirates hired first-time head coach McNeill, a former player and Lumberton native who had spent 10 seasons as an assistant coach at Texas Tech.

The Pirates have also replaced 29 starters since that first league championship, including 18 starters from last season's team. Ten new players started their first game on Sunday.

In the spring, McNeill in-

EAST CAROLINA

ECU coach Ruffin McNeill and the Pirates salute the fans after winning a thriller in his ECU debut.

N&O INTERACTIVE

Online: To see a photo gallery from the ECU-Tulsa game, go to newsobserver.com/sports.

BY THE NUMBERS
Summary: Game statistics. ▼ TC

installed a new spread offense and new defensive scheme valuing speed over power.

Those changes, mixed in with a heated competition at quarterback between Davis and sophomore Brad Wornick, left many calling this season a rebuilding year.

All those thoughts vaporized as Jones pulled in the winning touchdown with many of the announced crowd of 50,010 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium erupting in thunderous cheer.

"I'm still in shock," said Davis, who completed 27 of 46 passing attempts for 383 yards, five touchdowns and an interception. He was sacked once.

Davis, who had moments of imperfection, matched Tulsa

SEE ECU, PAGE 2C

cont'd...
junior quarterback G.J. Kinne. He completed 28 of 43 attempts for 399 yards, five touchdowns and an interception.

The two offenses combined for 10 touchdowns in the second half, scoring them in 23 minutes.

Davis connected often with senior wide receiver Dwayne Harris, who pulled in seven catches for 121 yards. He finished with 174 all-purpose yards.

 Asked to evaluate Davis, Harris said, “He managed the clock well. He’s going to do a lot of great things in this offense.”

That was the sentiment of McNeill, who was careful to discuss his team’s performance as a work-in-progress.

He said he expected rough patches with young players who had seen very few reps behind talented players over the past two seasons.

“I was proud of the way they found to win the football game,” McNeill said. “Bottom line.”

His defense, one with nine new starters, played fast and blitzed as promised, though never seemed on sure footing with the pressure system.

ECU’s Dominique Davis (4), who passed for 383 yards and five touchdowns, looks for a receiver behind the blocking of Cory Dowless (75) during the first quarter.

Tulsa often found the middle of the field, and junior wide receiver Damaris Johnson (299 all-purpose yards) hurt the Pirates all over the field.

Tulsa delivered some mighty blows, most notably 579 total offensive yards, but ECU’s defense showed its mettle on occasion.

“We took them pretty good,” redshirt freshman Justin Dixon said of the blows. “We still have to go back to the drawing board.”

Still, the head coach seemed happy with the result, a third straight season-opening win against a tough league opponent.

He’s found his starting quarterback, which he had named two weeks ago but kept it secret, and found a team of hustlers.

He said they don’t have any quit in them, even if they seemed overmatched.

“Just watch them grow here,” McNeill said. “I wish we could hurry up their progress. But we can’t. It comes in time. They’ll be fine.”

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TULSA AT EAST CAROLINA

PIRATE GAMEDAY

ECU on a quest for three straight Conference USA championships

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

Today, Steve Ballard gets to be just one of the crowd, at least for a few hours.

The chancellor at East Carolina University planned a typical football game day for today, which means morning coffee, a stroll through campus to meet and greet students, alums and fans, and then heading into Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the game.

This time, however, Ballard will see a 50,000-seat venue when he arrives, 7,000 seats bigger than he and the rest of the ECU football family are used to seeing. And, if the Pirates beat Tulsa in today’s 2 p.m. season opener, he’ll congratulate a first-year coach and former Pirate, Ruffin McNeill, on the first victory in a new era for ECU and Greenville.

“We’ll get to the Privateers’ Deck (the terrace overlooking the field from the Murphy Center) about noon,” said Ballard, who is in his sixth year at ECU. “We’ve got some special out-of-town guests com-

See GAME, A7
GAME

Continued from A1

ing in that we'll visit with. We'll make our way to our seats about 10 minutes before kickoff and then I'll be a fan for four hours."

If the Pirates keep on winning this season — ECU enters today's game with a young team and a starting quarterback that remained a mystery right up to today's kickoff — Ballard will be witness to athletic progress that neither he nor the university has ever seen.

Director of Athletics Terry Holland masterminded a facility upgrade which began with the football stadium but won't be complete until the entire face of the school's sports venues is revamped.

The success Ballard will see with his own two eyes today is what he asked Holland to deliver when he hired him six years ago.

"At our next trustees meeting, I might recommend him to be chancellor," Ballard said of Holland. "It's unbelievable, there is no other way to describe it. Anyone driv-

ing down Charles Boulevard can see the physical growth of the athletic facilities. Terry and his leadership, which certainly includes (assistant AD) Nick Floyd, have put us in the best possible position to succeed and to be the kind of university we really are."

The annual return of football to Greenville has been sweetened not only by the excitement of a refurbished stadium and a new coach, but by the most effective sales pitch in sports — winning.

The Pirates will embark on a quest for three straight Conference USA championships and five straight bowl game appearances today, and the era of newness and winning has not been lost on the city of Greenville.

Holland hopes to include the entire city when it comes to reaping the benefits of success at ECU this year.

"The 7,000 new seats will have a huge economic impact on the whole area as well as a positive impact on the athletic department's bottom line," said Holland, who hired Mc-

Neill to replace hugely successful coach Skip Holtz, now the head man at South Florida.

"The ESPN time slot gives the fans the opportunity to show the nation that the game atmosphere at Dowdy-Ficklen is second to none, and that the members of the Pirate Nation are classy hosts who welcome opponents and their fans to our city and stadium."

The impact today's season opener has on the city will actually be helped by good timing.

The game is lumped in with Labor Day weekend, and with an influx of evacuees in town from the Carolina coast in the wake of Hurricane Earl, the CEO of the Greenville-Pitt County Convention and Visitors Bureau said it will be a bigger shot in the arm than normal.

Debbie Vargas said the timing and combination of events should bring in about $275,000, or about $50,000 more than a regular home ECU weekend.

Ballard said he expects plenty of enthusiasm around campus when he makes his way to the sta-
dium today.

"I've spent this week attending half a dozen meetings with student groups, and I think the excitement level may be at an all-time high, and maybe is affecting even an old person like me," Ballard joked.

"When people see the atmosphere created by the new stadium, I think they'll be able to feel it in the air."

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252) 329-9595.

2
Warm welcome: McNeill era begins with last-second win

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Monday, September 6, 2010

Right up to the heart-stopping end, Ruffin McNeill got his official welcome to East Carolina on Sunday, Conference USA style.
ECU and Tulsa traded haymakers until the final whistle of McNeill's debut, and in true C-USA football fashion, the game wasn't decided until the game clock showed all zeroes. The scoreboard inside a renovated Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, where the second biggest crowd in school history watched the game, read East Carolina 51, Tulsa 49 when time had elapsed.
On a fourth down and 10 with five seconds to play and ECU trailing 49-45, Pirate quarterback Dominique Davis ended a dream debut by slinging his fifth touchdown pass of the day, a 33-yard strike to 6-foot-8 redshirt freshman Justin Jones in the end zone to end the game.
The final play was reviewed before ECU players and fans — those who hadn't skipped out early — could continue their hysterics.
Under the new offense of first-year coordinator Lincoln Riley, the Pirates (1-0 overall, 1-0 C-USA) made sure the 12th lead change of the day favored them, and simultaneously made sure they got the majority of the 100 points scored Sunday.
“I'm not bragging, but I expect it,” McNeill said of the Pirates’ chaotic victory, which made the former Texas Tech assistant 2-0 in his career as a head coach. “We work hard. It's never over. We never quit, and that's going to be the MO of this team. We had five seconds left.”
Davis fired two touchdown passes to Dwayne Harris (seven catches, 121 yards) in the fourth quarter and zipped a pair to transfer Lance Lewis (6-105) as part of his dazzling 383-yard outing.
None of them were as sweet for the junior QB, who admitted after the game he'd known for a couple of weeks he was going to start the game over sophomore Brad Wornick, than the last one.
“That was the greatest experience of my life,” said Davis, who played at Boston College and Fort Scott (Kan.) before transferring to ECU. “You've got to give it to Tulsa. They gave it everything they had.”
For Jones, the game-winner was his fourth grab of the day, and other than having his teammates piled uncomfortably on top of him after the decisive catch, the Atlanta native who converted from tight end to receiver to accommodate the new offense of Riley and McNeill was in heaven.
“I was just trying to size it up, to figure out where I needed to be to jump up and make the play. I wasn't thinking about everything that had happened in my life and all that kind of stuff up until now,” said Jones, who finished the play McNeill calls Big Ben, a two-minute drill Hail Mary play the coach said his team usually executes in practice. “I was just trying to get myself in the right place to make the play, and I guess I'm just lucky that I'm taller than everybody.”
Also for ECU, senior running back Jonathan Williams ripped off 92 rush yards, including a 37-yard touchdown that put the Pirates on the board in the first quarter.
There were seven touchdowns scored between the two teams in the fourth quarter alone, and Tulsa did its fair share in accruing offense, ringing up 579 total yards to ECU's 538, including a game-best 399 yards passing from junior G.J. Kinne.
Charles Clay finished with a team-high eight receptions for 86 yards and a touchdown, and four other Golden Hurricane receivers were on the end of Kinne scoring throws. The ECU defense kept TU super receiver/returner Damaris Johnson in check outside of the junior's 31-yard burst around the right edge and into the end zone in the second quarter. The diminutive Johnson amassed 299 total yards.

"They did a lot of things we expected, but they executed," said senior ECU corner Travis Simmons, who had the lone ECU interception and also saved a touchdown by deflecting away a first-half pass headed for the hands of Johnson. "It's great. Five seconds on the clock, we saw a few fans leaving the game and Tulsa is over there celebrating. I saw the ball hit Justin's hands and I knew he was going to make the play."

In all, the Pirates racked up eight tackles for loss, including a sack by redshirt end Justin Dixon. After Williams put ECU on the board on the Pirates' second drive of the season, Tulsa knotted the game on Alex Singleton's 1-yard scoring plunge later in the first. ECU kicker Michael Barbour booted his first field goal for the Pirates to make it 10-7, but Johnson's big run gave Tulsa its first lead, 13-10.

Lewis reeled in his first TD on a fade route down the left sideline to put ECU back in front, 17-13, and a Kevin Fitzpatrick field goal pulled the Golden Hurricane to within a point, 17-16, at the intermission.

In the second half, the teams literally traded touchdowns until the final buzzer, 10 scores in all. On the ECU side, that included a 43-yard Davis strike to Lewis, a 2-yard rush by Davis, 6- and 34-yard connections with Harris and the big blow to Jones as the climax.

"It definitely goes down in the top five," Harris said, comparing the win to others in his ECU career. "We had North Carolina, UTEP, Tulsa two years ago and this game, so it's at least in the top five."

With 8:15 to play, Kinne saw his 11-yard pass to the end zone deflect high into the air and right into the hands of Tre Johnson to give Tulsa its fifth lead of the day and seemingly put a chokehold on the game. But there were still three more touchdowns in the offing, two of them by ECU.

"We feel with one timeout left we can move it about 80 (yards)," McNeill said of the Pirates' game-winning drive in the dying seconds of the fourth quarter. "I knew we had enough time on the clock."

The defending C-USA champion Pirates beat Tulsa for the third consecutive season, and they have a chance to open a 2-0 league slate Saturday when they square off with division foe Memphis, which took a 49-7 shellng from Mississippi State in its opener.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
ECU FOOTBALL

Stepping out of Holtz’s shadow

Some great college football coaches have a way of embodying the character, energy and personality of more than 100 men, and simultaneously injecting their own personalities and character traits back into those men.

After big wins, like East Carolina’s 51-49 jaw-dropper against Tulsa on Sunday, some great coaches have a way of nonverbally asking the question, “Did you expect anything different?”

McNeill will have a tough time ever living up to the first 60 minutes of his ECU tenure, but he’s earned himself plenty more chances to try.

In one of the greater slugfests in ECU football’s recent history, McNeill’s cast of characters, despite being the products of former head coach Skip Holtz, showed an uncommon level of loyalty and trust to a man who’s been in their lives for less than a year.

Like all great coaching feats, McNeill had a sizeable supporting cast against the Golden Hurricane thanks to that trust.

Redshirt freshman Justin Jones rose out of the tangle of arms and legs that make up the receiving end of almost every Hail Mary pass ever thrown in college football, and he fell onto his back with the first win of a new era in his hands.

The play was the last gasp

See SUMMERS, B2

SUMMERS

Continued from B1

of a game played at a furious pace, and Jones made a literal leap of faith that illustrated a team that truly believes. With the game clock ticking down to zero in the team’s season opener and the Pirates trailing by four points, quarterback Dominique Davis spiraled a high pass into the end zone that transformed a Tulsa win into an ECU win.

McNeill’s men made themselves and their new head coach something of an instant classic in the process.

Actually, the Pirates’ legendary season-opening win, which was broadcast by ESPN and was the lead story on Sunday night’s SportsCenter, quickly became a real Instant Classic on the network, a game deemed worthy of being rebroadcast immediately.

McNeill’s air raid offense could become a more traditional classic over time.

The hour that led up to the winning play, Big Ben as it’s called by McNeill and his staff, was unprecedented even by Conference USA’s ridiculous standards. To say the game had some of everything would require expanding the definition of everything, but McNeill sent a constant message of composure from the sideline and an entire team responded.

And there was much more at play Sunday than touchdowns and big plays. In addition to the 90 passes thrown, 100 points scored and 12 lead changes, there was an expectation for a winning tradition to be upheld.

McNeill did something in his debut that was arguably tougher than what Holtz did in his opener back in 2005, when the Pirates narrowly edged Duke.

Back then, any win was a big one. Now, every win is an expected one, and McNeill took a step out of the shadow cast by Holtz by creating a victory that immediately rivaled the many watershed moments the program experienced in the last five years.

McNeill’s clout around town and across the country went drastically upward after the official review booth decided Jones’ spectacular touchdown catch was, in fact, a spectacular touchdown catch.

A couple of seasons ago, it was still just about winning, but now the stakes have been re-raised.

Will a random 13-10 win ever be enough again?

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or (252)329-9595.
Foreign students might pay more

But some UNC system leaders say such a proposal could drive off talented scholars.

By Eric Ferreri Staff Writer

A member of the governing board for the 17-campus UNC system wants to explore whether international students should pay more for a public college education in North Carolina than American students from other states do.

Charging a higher tuition rate would bolster revenue for a public university system that could use every dime these days. Bill Daughtridge, a former state representative now serving on the UNC system's Board of Governors, thinks international students should pay more because they pay neither state nor federal taxes in the United States.

"We're subsidizing them even more," said Daughtridge, who is from Rocky Mount. "I'd see it as equity in what people pay."

Daughtridge hasn't proposed a specific foreign student tuition plan, but he has asked staff members from the office of UNC President Erskine Bowles to examine the issue further. Hannah Gage, who heads the governing board, said the issue will likely be considered in coming months.

Each public campus charges a different rate for out-of-state tuition, and the rates for undergraduate and graduate students vary.

Here's one example of how a higher foreign student tuition charge might work:

Last fall, UNC-Chapel Hill enrolled 332 undergraduates from other nations. If those students, hypothetically, paid $1,000 more than the $23,430 that UNC-Chenoweth currently charges its out-of-state undergrads, the university would receive an additional $332,000 in tuition revenue.

Overall, international students make up just a fraction of the UNC system's more than 220,000 students. In 2009, there were fewer than 4,200 international students enrolled at public universities, mostly in graduate programs, according to UNC system data.

Last year, N.C. State University enrolled 2,765 international students, the most by far among public campuses. NCSU Chancellor Randy Woodson said he doesn't follow Daughtridge's reasoning. The chief federal subsidy to

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FOREIGN

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higher education is financial aid, which foreign students cannot receive, Woodson said.

And though the pool is small, the international students who come to American universities tend to be very talented and make positive contributions, Woodson said. Creating an additional roadblock would be "counterintuitive," he said.

But Daughtridge isn't convinced of that payoff and wants hard data on how many international students stay in North Carolina after receiving their educations and contribute to the work force.

"Do they stay in the country, or do they go back to where they come from and say, 'I just got a bargain education?' Daughtridge said. "We don't know."

Universities don't keep that sort of data specific to international students, said Robert Locke, UNC-Chapel Hill's director of international student and scholar services.

But he points to a report from the National Association of International Educators showing that foreign students attending public and private institutions across the state contributed nearly $240 million in tuition and fees to the state's economy in 2008-09.

More than that, Locke argues, the presence of international students on the state's campuses provides learning experiences for the homegrown as well. That's particularly important as students prepare for an increasingly global work force, he said.

"It's a way to get exposure to people from other countries," Locke said. "It's really about the education of North Carolinians. [A higher tuition rate] would only mean you have fewer international students coming in, because there is competition for them. It doesn't sound like a good idea to me."

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Ross built rep as solution finder

Vows 'excellence' for UNC system

BY ERIC FERRERI
AND DAVID PERLMUTT
STAFF WRITERS

In 1999, N.C. Chief Justice Burley Mitchell needed a director for the state's court system, an unwieldy job balancing the needs of judges and other court officers in the state's 100 counties. He turned to Tom Ross.

A longtime Superior Court judge, Ross had just spent a decade leading a commission that pushed through sweeping changes to the state's criminal sentencing laws. Mitchell knew Ross would bring a steady hand and an open mind to the job.

Mitchell expects more of the same come January when Ross, now president at Davidson College, takes over as president of the UNC system.

"Anybody who can handle the Administrative Office of the Courts, the hundreds of judges in this state - all of whom are elected - will find running the University of North Carolina not so terribly challenging," Mitchell said. "In that position you lead by example, moral suasion and by bringing people together. Judge Ross was just superb at it."

In a long career marked by public service, Ross has built a reputation as a methodical problem-solver who considers all views. When he starts the UNC job Jan. 1, he'll face pleas for resources from the state's 17 campuses and demands from legislators that spending be limited.

SEE ROSS, PAGE 7A

Tom Ross has been described as 'a student and alumni president.'

ROBERT LAHSER - rlahser@charlotteobserver.com

cont'd...
ROSS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

A Davidson alum, Ross admits to some sleepless nights following his decision to take the UNC job.

"I've woken up several times thinking I hope I haven't made a mistake," he said in a recent interview. "I've given up something very special."

Ross couldn't be more intertwined with Davidson. His father went there, as did his two children. A 1972 graduate, Ross was a trustee before becoming its president three years ago. He tearfully explained the decision to leave.

"This place has really been a powerful force in my life," Ross explained, sitting in his Davidson office dotted with baseball memorabilia.

Davidson root

Davidson offers the quintessential college experience. It is small, with a total enrollment that's less than half of this year's freshman class at UNC-CH. On a picturesque campus of red brick buildings, students lounge under massive oak trees and swing by Ross' home on campus to play with his golden retriever, Chelsea.

At Davidson, Ross got the public service bug that eventually would lead him to leave the campus. He took on service projects as a student there, studied political science and became fascinated with government. He and his wife, Susan, were married June 17, 1972—the day of the infamous Watergate break-in. Ross spent his law school years at UNC-Chapel Hill, intent on following the scandal's subsequent twists and turns.

He went on to teach at the School of Government at UNC-CH. He then practiced law and spent a year as chief of staff for a member of Congress. In 1984, Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Ross to the state's Superior Court, and in 1990, Ross began leading the sentencing commission that would make him a star in some legal circles.

He went on to the court system job and then directed the Z. Smith Reynolds charitable organization before taking over at Davidson in 2007.

All along the way, he's tried to solve problems.

Earlier this year, Bill Shelton wanted to learn a bit more about Summit House, a residential alternative to prison for women with children. He was still new as the nonprofit agency's executive director, and everyone told him he needed to speak with "Judge" Ross.

"All that time he talked about Summit House, he never talked about himself," Shelton recalled. "I had to drag out of him the fact that he was a founder. He was always deflecting the credit."

Ross helped create Summit House, which has locations in Charlotte and the Piedmont with a third coming online soon in Durham. His interest was spurred by the procession of young women with children he saw in his courtroom. He saw Summit House as a way for women who aren't violent offenders to maintain their grip on family while in prison.

"As a judge, you see all sorts of life in front of you, all different kinds of problems and issues," Ross said. "I've always been the kind of guy to look for solutions. I didn't always think sending a guy off to prison was a solution."

While Ross was head of the sentencing commission in the 1990s, some felt he was actually too tough on crime. Ross honed his lobbying chops by persuading legislators to change a system in which criminals were serving tiny fractions of sentences. The change mandated that violent offenders serve out their terms; the resulting predictability let the state manage its money more efficiently.

"It had a significant and almost immediate impact on the state's ability to manage its prison population," said Jim Drennan, a courts administration expert with the UNC-CH School of Government. "It was immediately nationally recognized because it let the state predict the resources it would need."

Ross' cachet

Ross, 60, is a congenial man of measured words. He won't bring the sort of high-profile, policy rock star persona to the UNC job that the current officeholder, Erskine Bowles, did by virtue of his time running the White House. Still, Ross has carved out a solid reputation in three years at Davidson, said Terry Hartle, vice president with the American Council on Education, a Washington organization representing more than 2,000 colleges and universities.

Ross' academic star has risen in recent years, in large.
part because of the Davidson Trust, the college’s ambitious program that eliminates loans from financial aid, Hartle said. The program was a significant investment that diversified the student population.

Ross has mingled easily with Davidson students. He often invites them over for dinner. He learns names. He has been a fixture at basketball games, cheering the Wildcats from the front row, and pulling off his jacket in exasperation when he felt the refs had blown a call.

His office door, just down the hall from classrooms, is always open.

“Tom Ross wasn’t one of those behind-the-scenes, fundraising type presidents,” said former Davidson trustee K.D. Weeks, a Charlotte cardiologist. “He’s a student and alumni president.”

**Being there**

That was clear in March 2008, when the Wildcats basketball team made an unlikely run through the NCAA tournament. After Davidson, led by All-America Stephen Curry, made the Sweet 16, trustee Janet Wilson of Lenoir suggested the college find a way to get students to the games in Detroit.

The idea caught fire, and hundreds of frantic phone calls, hotel reservations and ticket requests later, trustees eventually paid for more than 500 students to attend the games.

“It was one of those remarkable things that had a feel-good result for everyone,” Weeks said. “Janet planted the seed. It took Tom Ross to pull the trigger.”

Though he made it clear that students had to make up missed work, Ross loved sending the students to Detroit. As an undergrad in 1969, Ross was in the stands in College Park, Md., when Davidson lost a tournament heartbreaker to UNC.

It’s a bittersweet memory he still cherishes. He wanted his students to carve out their own memories.

When Ross got to the game two years ago, students began chanting “Tommy Ross, Tommy Ross,” said Christie Mason, a recent Davidson graduate who is now a college fellow coordinating community service programs.

“He walked through the student section, slapping hands, while everyone chanted his name,” Mason said. “Instead of hamming it up, he looked down at his shoes, and the tips of his ears turned red. His ears turn red when he gets embarrassed.”

**‘One agenda’**

At UNC, Ross will work under the glare of unrelenting public scrutiny. He already has critics.

Ross spent about seven years running the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, a nonprofit that awarded some grants to abortion-rights groups. That experience has rankled some conservatives who are concerned that Ross will bring a liberal bent to the UNC job. Bowies, though a staunch Democrat, has been viewed as a largely apolitical university president lauded by conservatives for reducing spending.

“[Ross] is an insider and a member of the North Carolina Democratic Party,” said Jane Shaw, president of the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, a conservative Raleigh-based think tank that examines university issues. “His role at Z. Smith Reynolds indicates [that] his interests tilt to the left, and I do not think that’s what the university needs.”

But Ross says the Reynolds foundation gave money to groups across the political spectrum during his time there. He points to his track record as a builder of consensus.

“I come to the University of North Carolina with one agenda,” he said. “And that is educational excellence in the state of North Carolina.”

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UNC news called 'sad' and 'humiliating'

Friday's news that 13 North Carolina football players will be held out of the Tar Heels' opener tonight reverberated to the highest levels of the university system, as UNC officials expressed grief and embarrassment over the ongoing investigation into possible violations of NCAA and school rules.

Cary lawyer and UNC graduate Brent Barringer, a member of the UNC system's Board of Governors, called Friday a "sad, sad day in the history of a great university."

Even as they released the news Friday morning, university officials reacted with disappointment.

"I am very sad for everyone who has lost something in this," said UNC chancellor Holden Thorp. "I'm sad for the players who don't get to play, I'm sad for the players who do get to play. The players who are playing have been through a lot. And I'm sorry for our fans who are so disappointed, as they should be, in what's happened."

In an e-mail message to members of the UNC system's board of governors, system president Erskine Bowles wrote that school officials had chosen to err on the side of caution.

He wrote that some of the players withheld from the game might subsequently be cleared by the school's investigative group and the Honor Council, but nonetheless he expressed his disappointment.

"I can assure you that Chancellor Thorp is doing everything humanly possible to get to the bottom of this matter," Bowles wrote. "All of us who love Chapel Hill and are proud of the enormous good it does are greatly saddened by what we have discovered."

When North Carolina was seeking a coaching replacement for John Bunting in 2006, Bob Winston was one of three university trustees who joined UNC athletic director Dick Baddour and then-chancellor James Moeser in Fort Lauderdale, Fla., for their first meeting with Butch Davis.

Winston also expressed his disappointment but backed Baddour and Davis, who is starting his fourth season as the Tar Heels' head coach.

"I think we have the right guy as our coach," said Winston, now the chairman of the UNC board of trustees. "I feel that Butch Davis is going to take a look at what's happened and will figure the best way to move forward. And I think he is committed to building this program in a way that will reflect the values of the University of North Carolina."

Barringer, who called Friday's developments "humiliating," wouldn't comment on Baddour or Davis. In talking about the withheld players, Barringer said, "I don't think the buck stops with the players."

Davis' comments were limited to a statement released by the school.

"As I have said, there is no single game more important than the character and integrity of this University," Davis said. "We are disappointed the players' choices have denied them the opportunity to
compete alongside their teammates and represent the University of North Carolina. Our coaches and players have a tremendous challenge this weekend, and despite these circumstances, our team will be excited to face LSU."

Despite the embarrassment of the day, officials also reacted with determination to uncover all the facts in the investigation and with hope for the future. Thorp said that when he arrived at the team hotel in Atlanta on Friday, he saw two fans dressed in North Carolina gear, with "Carolina" tags on their suitcases.

Thorp thanked them for supporting the team. They told him the team needed their support now more than ever, Thorp said.

"We're just tremendously disappointed," Winston said, "but we have to figure out how we move forward. We will move forward. Football will continue to be played at the University of North Carolina, and we're going to look at what happened and take measures, whatever those are, and move forward."

Staff writers Robbi Pickeral and Chip Alexander contributed to this report.

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