THE DAILY CLIPS

September 7, 2011

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

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

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Over the past week, I have seen with my own eyes the havoc wreaked by Hurricane Irene in North Carolina.

In Tyrrell County, I met families whose homes were swept away by a tornado.

Across our rural and agricultural communities, North Carolina farmers preparing for fall harvests face devastated crop returns.

At East Carolina University, administrators pointed me to more than a million dollars of needed repairs. Students, teachers and parents will begin the school year with a host of unexpected distractions and challenges.

Our coastal communities would normally be bustling with tourists. Instead, many fishermen, hotels, restaurants, and small businesses are tossing out flood-drenched merchandise and equipment onto growing piles of debris. Their very livelihoods are threatened.

For the North Carolina families, farmers, fishermen, educators, seniors, small businesses and communities struggling to recover, government assistance cannot come fast enough.

And it must not leave too quickly.
So what about that assistance for our citizens in need? Unfortunately, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund, which provides assistance to individuals and communities after declared disasters, is running dangerously low on funds. Spending $400 million a month even before Hurricane Irene landed on our shores, the fund is down to $700 million, due to an unusually large number of storms, floods, and wildfires. And in anticipation of this shortfall, FEMA is now shifting funds away from vitally needed new projects in previously hard hit areas to the immediate needs of the communities recovering from Irene.

Running from one unresolved disaster to the next is no way to ensure effective recoveries. Soon the debris of Irene will be removed, the damage assessments will be completed, and it will be time for North Carolina's FEMA-funded recovery projects to begin. But will the next disaster's immediate needs have to be met first? American victims of natural disasters should not be left to the mercy of a rob-Peter-to-pay Paul system of relief.

Here's my bottom line: Congress must fully fund Irene recovery efforts now. Let's look at the facts. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) reported on Friday that $5.2 billion will be needed to meet the nation's disaster relief needs for the next fiscal year beginning on October 1st — and that does not even include funding for Irene.

However, OMB also reported that under the budget deal reached earlier this summer, Congress has the authority to make $11.3 billion available for disaster relief for next year. In other words, Congress is able to meet the entire country's recovery needs — including Hurricane Irene — without violating the fiscal discipline of the recent deal.

I wrote this week to the bipartisan leadership of the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to ensure that all emergency funding needs are met — whether in Joplin, Missouri, the flooded communities of the Midwest, or the ravaged counties in eastern North Carolina.

It takes months, and often years, for communities to recover from disasters. As their representatives, we have a responsibility to provide a reliable, comprehensive program of relief for the duration. To do any less is a dereliction of our duty.

For my part, I will continue to work closely with the Administration and my bipartisan Congressional colleagues to keep sufficient aid flowing to all states, including my own beloved North Carolina, that need disaster assistance during these trying times.

I saw something else touring the North Carolina coast this week: Americans relying on one another as their lives were turned upside down by a brutal natural disaster.

Now Washington needs to come together and do its part.

Kay Hagan is the junior U.S. senator for North Carolina.
Red Cross needs volunteers at ECU game
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Volunteers are needed to help collect donations for Hurricane Irene relief at Saturday's football game.

The Red Cross is looking for volunteers to collect money at the gates of East Carolina University's Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium for the 3:30 p.m. game against Virginia Tech.

The money will go toward hurricane relief in North Carolina and Virginia, according to Summer Woodard, director of the Pitt County chapter. While the money will support everything the Red Cross does, the main local needs according to Woodard are feeding and sheltering those put out of their homes by Irene's destructive winds.

In addition to food and shelter, Red Cross hurricane relief also includes emergency response vehicles, cleanup kits and other supplies, bulk water distribution and mental health contacts.

“We've had such a great response from the community already,” Woodard said. “This way the Virginia fans can get involved, too, and it's a chance for everyone to help out their neighbor.”

The Red Cross opened more than 50 shelters in eastern North Carolina after Hurricane Irene. “We still have shelters open,” Woodard said, and 20 response vehicles and one kitchen still are active.

Enough volunteers are sought so that everyone can do a one-hour shift and then get back to enjoying the game, Woodard said. No other time or training is required. Those younger than 16 need to be accompanied by a parent or other adult. Volunteers do not need tickets to help, but entering the stadium for the game requires a ticket. Volunteers should sign up by Thursday at 5 p.m. so a shift schedule can be drawn up by gate and emailed out, Woodard said.

Anyone interested should contact the Pitt County Red Cross at 355-3800 or e-mail Summer Woodard at execdir@pittredcross.org.

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
East Carolina Pirates's Dominique Davis (4) passes against South Carolina during a NCAA college football game in Charlotte, N.C., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2011. South Carolina defeated East Carolina 56-37. (AP Photo/Bob Leverone)

ECU offense ready for redemption
By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector
Wednesday, September 7, 2011

Dominique Davis is into grades in the classroom, but when it comes to his team's opening-night loss to South Carolina, the East Carolina senior quarterback can only see it one way.

“The grade is a loss. There's really no ‘A' through ‘F,”' said Davis, whose team squandered a halftime lead against the Gamecocks en route to a 56-37 loss. “We came out fast and we were executing everything and everyone was playing with a mindset, but that second half was a little rough and that's we're working on right now.”

It was a standard night for Davis — 260 pass yards, four pass touchdowns and another on the rush. But like the rest of his team, Davis could not pull the Pirates out of a tailspin of turnovers in the third quarter, which derailed ECU's chance at an upset.

Honoring the team's 24-hour rule regarding all wins and losses, Davis was immediately ready to right his wrongs at practice as he and the 0-1 Pirates prepare for an equally daunting game this weekend against No. 11 Virginia Tech.
“That's the exciting thing about this offense and this team. There are things we know we can correct and that makes this team excited to play on Saturday,” said Davis, who last year set numerous ECU single-season records, including his 3,967 pass yards and 37 touchdowns through the air.

The Hokies throttled Appalachian State at Lane Stadium to open their season, and they did it in their usual fashion. Tech got a monster game on the ground from David Wilson and also enjoyed a stellar debut from quarterback Logan Thomas. The Hokie defense was also pitching a shutout until the game's latter stages.

“They are a very well-coached team,” said Davis. “Whether they're up or down, they're going to stay into the game the whole game until that clock says zero. They're going to play their hearts out and give it everything they've got.”

The Pirates suffered somewhat similar returns last year at Lane Stadium as they did last Saturday in Charlotte against the Gamecocks. ECU led the game in Blacksburg at the half, 24-21, but Davis threw a couple of interceptions in the second half that helped ignite a Hokie comeback and eventual 49-27 victory. Yet, as is always the case with the former transfer from Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College, trying to overcome last year's shortcomings is not Davis' style.

“I wouldn't say it's revenge,” Davis said of his hopes for this Saturday's 3:30 p.m. home opener for the Pirates. “That's last year and we can't get that back. We just have to come out strong this week like we always do in the first half and see what happens from there.”

No surprises

Because of a one-game suspension for senior Michael Bowman and a knee injury to sophomore Justin Jones, the Pirates were forced to start freshmen Justin Hardy and Danny Webster at the slot receiver positions against the Gamecocks.

While much was made of those losses for opening night, the missing players were at least temporarily forgotten as both rookies made impressive debuts. Hardy, in fact, was remarkable in reeling in 11 passes for 91 yards including the Pirates' first TD of the game. Webster was third on the team behind senior Lance Lewis and Hardy, making four grabs against South Carolina.

Davis said the entire team was confident both freshmen would be able to fill the void.

“I built my confidence with (Hardy) during the spring, and Danny also,” Davis said. “I grabbed those guys before the game started and told them to just play within themselves. I said, ‘Just because you're freshmen doesn't mean you have to play like freshmen. Just play like one of us, like a veteran,' and that's what they did. It wasn't surprising what they did, and there are better things to come.”

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
The Wilmington Star News

September 6th, 2011 11:16am

Judge orders negotiations in UNCW promotion case

by Erin Zureick

A federal judge has ordered the University of North Carolina Wilmington and one of its professors who sued the school after being denied a promotion to sit down and negotiate.

U.S. Magistrate Judge David W. Daniel “is directed to meet with the parties and supervise negotiations, with an aim toward reaching an amicable resolution of the issues,” according to the order, dated Aug. 26.

The case began in 2007 when Mike Adams accused the school of religious and speech-based discrimination when it denied to promote him to full professor.

The fourth circuit U.S. Court of Appeals ruled earlier this year that a federal district court had erred by issuing summary judgment on all counts of Mike Adams’ suit and remanded the case back to district court for additional hearings.

Adams said he had no comment about the order. A time and place for settlement discussions will be selected by Daniel, according to court documents.

The university issued a brief statement about the order: “UNCW will, in good faith, participate in the routine settlement conference, which was ordered by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina in Adams v. UNCW, et al., in an effort to determine whether a mutually acceptable agreement is possible,” it read.

Adams, who was hired in 1993 by UNCW, brought three main arguments in his suit against the university.

First, he claimed he was denied promotion for religious reasons after becoming a Christian in 2000. He has been vocal about his viewpoints.

Second, he said he was the victim of speech-based discrimination when he exercised his right to speak about issues of importance to him and was retaliated against.

Third, he argued he was denied equal protection under the 14th amendment.

The federal appeals court ruled that summary judgment was appropriate for two of the claims but added that the district court needed to re-examine the violation of free speech claims.
Robert Gates replaces O’Connor as WM chancellor

By Daniel de Vise

Former Defense Secretary Robert Gates will be the next chancellor of the College of William and Mary, replacing retired Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

Gates is an undergraduate alumnus of William and Mary from the Class of 1965. He’ll replace O’Connor in February.

The chancellor’s job at William and Mary deserves some explanation. The post dates to the 1693 origins of the nation’s second-oldest college. The position originally went to an English subject, usually the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Bishop of London, who served as the school’s “advocate to the crown” while the president oversaw day-to-day operations, according to a backgrounder from the Williamsburg school.

George Washington has held the post, along with former President John Tyler, former Chief Justice Warren Burger, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and, not least, O’Connor, the first woman to serve on the high court.
A companion post from colleague Jason Ukman on Checkpoint Washington says, “Gates has uttered nary a peep publicly since leaving the Pentagon and returning to Washington state at the end of June. He has said he is planning on writing two books — a memoir and a treatise on leadership — and on joining the well-trodden speaking circuit of former Washington officials.”

A page at the William and Mary Web site devoted to the “duties” of the chancellorship does not actually describe any significant duties. The college has gotten along without a chancellor for years at a time; the job sounds like it may now be largely ceremonial. It’s worth noting that the chancellor does not apparently serve on the Board of Visitors that governs the school.

President Taylor Reveley said in a statement, however, that O’Connor had had a “profound impact on our campus. With each visit to William & Mary she embraced her role as chancellor with a vibrant spirit and robust enthusiasm for our students. She has shared with them the practical wisdom and perspective of life born of her extraordinary career of leadership and service. And, of course, she wore her glittering green and gold robe of office with great panache.”

Gates was a history major at William and Mary. He joined the CIA after graduation and never looked back, eventually holding the distinction of serving as defense secretary under both Republican and Democratic presidents.

“What William and Mary gave me, above all else, was a calling to serve — a sense of duty to community and country that this college has sought to instill in each generation of students for more than 300 years,” he told graduates in a 2007 commencement address.
Presidents: Welcome to campus! Wanna shoot hoops?

By Jenna Johnson

For university presidents, the start of another academic year usually means lots of public appearances, photo ops and bonding with tuition-paying underclassmen.

“I feel like a politician campaigning for office,” said University of Maryland President Wallace D. Loh, standing outside the College Park student union on the first day of classes last week. “I've been shaking so many hands.”
Loh, who became president in November, said the back-to-school rush was an opportunity to meet some of the thousands of students he leads and show that “someone cares about them.”

With tuition higher than ever, many students and their hovering parents expect the president to be accessible and personable. Just a generation ago, these leaders could hide behind a closed office door and a secretary who books appointments. Today, the ear of the president is often just an angry e-mail, tweet or Facebook post away.

In the last few weeks, Loh has presided over a pep rally, bagged textbooks, attended receptions, greeted students on the first day of classes and posed for lots of photos, some of which popped up on Facebook.

Loh also participated in what is now practically a required presidential duty on most campuses: Help freshmen move into the dorms.

I’m having difficulty finding a president who did not partake in this ritual in some way. After all, nothing says, “Hey, I’m not a scary figurehead, I’m your president,” quite like a smiling baby boomer in a brightly-colored T-shirt who is willing to haul your television up four flights of stairs in the August heat. What parent is going to grumble about student fee increases with that sort of service?

At the University of Kentucky, President Eli Capilouto joined star football players in helping regular students get situated.

At the University of Pennsylvania, President Amy Gutmann hung out with student volunteers.

At George Washington University, President Steven Knapp and his wife helped students haul their stuff into the dorms, along with the provost and dean of students.

And at Catholic University, President John Garvey took the physical aspect of move-in one step farther. Not only did he volunteer as a mover, Garvey also organized a game of knock-out with students on a new outdoor basketball court.

Garvey made it through a few rounds but was knocked out by a senior from Florida. A senior politics major from Pennsylvania eventually won the tournament.

His prize: an iPad2. Oh, and a photo with the president.
California Professor Leads a Methamphetamine Ring, the Police Say

By REBECCA FAIRLEY RANEY and JENNIFER MEDINA

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. — For nearly a decade Stephen Kinzey worked as a professor of kinesiology, the study of human movement, at California State University, San Bernardino. A few students complained online that he showed up late for class and could lose his focus. But that was about it.

Now, the police say, Mr. Kinzey, 43, is a man on the run, wanted on suspicion of being the ringleader of a circle of methamphetamine dealers and the president of the Devils Diciples, an outlaw motorcycle gang. (The group spells its name as such.)

Investigators from the San Bernardino Sheriff’s Department said that they were unable to locate Mr. Kinzey, who they say supplied a ring of midlevel and street dealers with methamphetamine, a persistent scourge in the working-class cities east of Los Angeles.

“One side of him was a successful and productive member of society, but the other side of him is an outlaw motorcycle gang leader,” said Sgt. Paul Wynn, a lead investigator of the case. “He was the highest-ranking person in the group, without a doubt.”

Mr. Kinzey lived in an upper-middle-class enclave in an immaculate two-story Spanish-style home with his girlfriend, Holly Robinson, 33. When the
police came to the home last Friday, Ms. Robinson was arrested along with half a dozen other members of the gang, who were there to pick up their share of a one-pound delivery of methamphetamine, police officials said. Mr. Kinzey was not there.

The police found several weapons in the home, including a shotgun, two rifles, two handguns and brass knuckles.

The department began the investigation six months ago as an undercover operation. Motorcycle gangs are common in this part of California; Hells Angels has its headquarters just a few miles away, and spotting a group of several dozen bikers cruising down the freeways on the weekend is hardly unusual.

“It’s not unheard of in the outlaw motorcycle gang world — a lot of people involved are lawyers and doctors and even kinesiology professors,” Sergeant Wynn said. “They like to give the image that they are doing good things and off on charity rides. That might be true for some.”

Sergeant Wynn said about a dozen members of outlaw motorcycle gangs had been arrested in the past year, mostly on drug charges. He said that officials were actively pursuing 15 other members of Devils Diciples.

Mr. Kinzey earned his doctorate from the University of Toledo and was apparently well liked by his students in California. On a Web site that allows students to rank professors, Mr. Kinzey had one of the top scores, with a reputation of being an easy grader and a tardy teacher. On his Twitter feed, he routinely posted updates about being late for class.

University officials were told of Mr. Kinzey’s involvement in drugs on Thursday.

“To our knowledge, this is the first notice that anyone on our campus has had regarding this situation,” said Albert Karnig, the president of the college. “If the allegations are indeed true, this is beyond disappointing.”

Several of Mr. Kinzey’s academic articles were on the department’s bulletin board. His clothing and style — a long goatee and a few visible tattoos — might have made him look different from other teachers. But Albert Cabrera, 21, a kinesiology major who was a student in two of Mr. Kinzey’s courses, said nothing about his professor stood out.

“He’s a good teacher, he’s smart,” Mr. Cabrera said. “I’ve seen his Diciples belt, but I never thought anything of it.”

Rebecca Fairley Raney reported from San Bernardino, and Jennifer Medina from Los Angeles.