THE DAILY CLIPS

September 8, 2009

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 FAX: 252-328-6300
Sellout crowd proves Pirate football big ticket once again

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, September 06, 2009

East Carolina football is the biggest ticket in Greenville once again.

That was proven Saturday when the ninth largest crowd in ECU history — 43,279 — crammed into Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium to watch the renewal of the Pirates’ oldest remaining rivalry with Appalachian State.

Fans not only have put their Saturday interests back in the Pirates, interests that vanished quickly during the dreadful losing seasons of 2003 and 2004, but have put their money where their mouths are.

ECU’s 29-24 triumph over the Mountaineers, the first game between the teams in 30 years, served as proof that people want to see the Pirates again, not just the team they’re playing.

“I am grateful to our students and our fan base. I just think it’s phenomenal, their support,” said Skip Holtz, who has brought winning back to East Carolina in his five seasons as head coach and who in turn has brought the fans back to their seats.

In fact, seven of ECU’s 10 biggest crowds have watched Holtz teams play, and home dates such as this season’s Nov. 5 showdown with Virginia Tech will likely force that list to keep on being updated.

In fact, the Pirates stand to see those numbers go up even more when 7,000 seats are added to the stadium immediately following this season.

In the meantime, Holtz is quick to laud Pirate fans for being a constant backdrop to his success.

“I think there is a tremendous amount of credit that needs to go to these players with the heart and soul and energy they play with, but also to the fans here,” said Holtz, who won his 30th game with the Pirates on Saturday. “This is a down-turned economy right now. You look at the people here that are East Carolina alumni, fans, family, friends, they’re choosing to spend their money on Pirate football, and we appreciate that.”

While winning is the single biggest difference-maker in terms of crowd size, scheduling can’t be far behind. While it was considered borderline crazy for athletic director Terry Holland to begin crafting world-class non-conference schedules for a mightily struggling team when Holtz arrived in 2005, the gamble has paid off in more ways than one.

Attendance is undoubtedly boosted by playing big opponents, but ECU becoming strong enough to win some of those world-class games means creating real rivalries that will continue to reel in fans in the future. It has helped to validate Holland’s notion that ECU football could become a recognized power in its region, not just in Conference USA, which knows no geographical bounds.

Holtz has long maintained that becoming a regional heavyweight means not avoiding anyone. Therefore, putting Appalachian State back on the schedule after three decades was only fitting.

“I think the administration deserves an awful lot of credit,” Holtz said. “This is a great game, an in-state rivalry and a rivalry that needed to be renewed. We have a lot of history between us, so to have the opportunity to come back and play that game again, I think it’s great for our fan base.

“It’s kind of the eastern team against the western team. We needed to play this game.”
ECU Notes: Information center opens for off-campus students

ECU News Services

Sunday, September 06, 2009

With more than 70 percent of East Carolina University's students living off campus, it can be a challenge to spread the word about services available to them.

But ECU officials hope a new information center on Arlington Boulevard will do just that, becoming a central place where students can receive information about ECU departments and services, off-campus housing, safety and more.

"This is going to be a great place for them to come," Lucia Brannon, coordinator of Off-Campus Student Services, said. "Before, we just had a Web site they could visit. Now they will have a central place to link to campus."

The Off-Campus Student Services office is housed at 1704-B Arlington Blvd., between Turnbury and Hyde drives. The location has parking and is near many apartment complexes.

In addition to providing information, the center will promote safety on and off campus. The Greenville Police Department and ECU police will be involved. Eventually, Brannon hopes to also use the facility as a storehouse for household items that students may need following an emergency.

An open house was held Thursday to inform ECU students and the local community about the addition. The event was included in the annual Take Heed/Welcome to the Neighborhood Campaign that seeks to educate off-campus students about crime prevention and city rules.

"This is a place that will grow and improve, and we invite all departments on campus to participate in it," Brannon said.

The year-round center is open during normal business hours. For more information, contact Lucia Brannon by e-mail at brannonl@ecu.edu or call 328-2847.

School of Music CDs feature tuba and piano

Two new compact discs featuring work by ECU School of Music faculty members are now available.

School of Music tuba and euphonium professor Tom McCaslin has released his debut compact disc, "Inside Out," through Crystal Records. The recording includes a world-premiere interpretation of a transcription of the improvised guitar solos of Frank Zappa, given to McCaslin by legendary tubist Roger Bobo.

"This is definitely not for the faint of heart. This rocks my world," Zappa's widow, Gail Zappa, said.

The September edition of Gramophone Magazine's new release reviewers wrote, "Contrary to the tuba's oft-time imagined 'oom-pah' stigma, the instrument can be as pliable, lyrical and musically multidimensional as its brass brethren, at least when Tom McCaslin's extraordinary virtuosity and musicianship is concerned."

The CD includes a variety of works for tuba and is available at Amazon.com. The recording was supported by a College of Fine Arts and Communication research and creative activity grant.

A new CD by School of Music piano professor Henry Doskey was released Sept. 1 by Green Mill Recordings of
Greenville.

Titled "Evening Concert," the CD features music by Chopin, Ravel, Debussy, MacDowell and Rachmaninoff that is, for the most part, in a quiet mode. Several perennial favorites are included, including "Claire de lune" by Debussy and "To A Water Lily" by MacDowell.

This is the ninth CD in nine years recorded by Doskey for Green Mill Recordings. The company will celebrate its 10th anniversary in 2010.

For more information, visit to www.greennillrecordings.com.

**Mechanical engineering concentration launched**

The ECU Department of Engineering launched a new mechanical engineering concentration as it welcomed its fifth freshman class to campus for the fall semester.

Mechanical engineering is one of the broadest engineering disciplines. Mechanical engineers have the skills to support design and improvement of a wide range of products, from supersonic aircraft to toasters and bicycles.

Mechanical engineers may specialize in areas like combustion, thermal systems, machine design and robotics or cross over into advanced technologies such as artificial limbs and nanotechnology.

"We created the mechanical engineering concentration based on the request of regional industry and with the full support of our advisory board," Paul Kaufmann, chairman of the ECU Department of Engineering in the College of Technology and Computer Science, said.

"This meshes with the ECU strategic goal of enhancing economic development throughout the region and supporting our industry partners, such as Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and others, who have a growing demand for graduates with this unique skill set. It will help our students get jobs immediately after graduation and boosts industry at the same time. It's a win-win situation," he said.

Chris Holder, head of research and engineering at the In-Service Support Center at MCAS Cherry Point, said high-quality engineers — in particular mechanical and aerospace engineers — are needed and recruited each year. Creating a mechanical engineering concentration at ECU strengthens the caliber of employees for the industry to hire after graduation, he said.

"Personally, I want to be able to get the best engineers here at my facility who are going to stay in eastern North Carolina and who have roots and reason to be here," said Holder, who also chairs the ECU Engineering Advisory Board.

"If I've got to go to Virginia and I've got to go to all the schools in North Carolina, then the engineers I can't find here I've got to go to Florida and Michigan, I'm spending a lot of money recruiting folks that may stay for three, four or five years and then go somewhere else," he said. "It's in all of our best interest to see ECU succeed and having a mechanical engineering concentration is a promising step."

**Wiseman joins ECU as enterprise risk manager**

Tim Wiseman, a veteran of 25 years in the U.S. Army as a finance officer and resource manager, has joined ECU as the institution's first enterprise risk manager.

Wiseman, who was selected in a national search, will steer ECU's efforts to recognize, measure and assess business risk from an enterprise perspective. He will report to Kevin Setz, vice chancellor for administration and finance, and will assist in the establishment of effective monitoring and control measures, and advise senior administration officials on risk considerations for strategic decision-making.

Wiseman holds a bachelor's degree in finance and banking from the University of Arkansas, a master's degree in business administration from Syracuse University and a master's degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

In addition to his work in finance, he served as the chief of staff for the U.S. Army's Cadet Command headquarters at Fort Monroe, Va., which directs operations for Army ROTC programs at more than 273 universities including ECU.

**Aphasia support group to meet**
Anaphasia support group for family members and people who have difficulty communicating because of stroke or brain injury continues this fall at ECU.

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences is hosting the group the following Wednesdays: Sept. 16, Sept. 30, Oct. 14, Oct. 28, Nov. 11 and Dec. 2.

Meetings are free and will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in Room 4415 in the Health Sciences Building on West Fifth Street. Discussion on relevant topics, presentations and communication activities will be held. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Sherri Winslow at 252-744-6142.

Upcoming events:

- Thursday and Friday: Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival, 7 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall, featuring Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Piano Quartet in G Minor, K. 478, Joaquin Turina's Piano Quartet in A Minor, Op. 67 and Johannes Brahms' Piano Quartet in G Minor, Op. 25. Call 328-4788.

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

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved. --
Al Clark: ECU athletics adds valuable dimension to life in eastern N.C.

Sunday, September 06, 2009

Having a dog in the hunt makes all the difference.

For much of my life I have looked forward to the various sports seasons, eternally hopeful that this would be “our” year, the year “my” team could win it all.

Perennial champion golfer Sam Snead was among the first of my favorites. I would follow his exploits on the course in the newspaper. Just as Sam started to age out of competition television delivered Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus to take his place. I rooted for them to win every tournament they played. I do the same now with Tiger Woods.

Growing up in Hickory, home of Lenoir-Rhyne College, now university, Clarence Stasavich, Harold Bullard and many other football greats readily earned my allegiance. The “Bears” won many North State Conference championships in those days, and in 1960 a national championship in football.

I remember with pain and excitement the day Ted Williams retired — he hit a home run on his last time up. I used to check the paper every day to check his batting average. In basketball, there was no player quite like Bob Cousy or a team like the Tar Heels — happily, some things haven’t changed that much.

But I have also found, with some disappointment, that when these favorites of mine are not playing particularly well, not “in the hunt” to win, I am just not that interested any more. If some team I don’t care about is winning, then I’m off to do something else.

I suspect I am not alone in this. It’s just the way things are.

That’s why I feel fortunate to be here in Greenville, especially at this time of year. I can thank the East Carolina Pirates for that.

I’m writing this on Friday before Saturday’s opening game with Appalachian State. Today and all this week there has been a great sense of anticipation around town as the football season approaches. Over the years the team has developed into a perennially strong contender for championships and post-season bowl games, and this success has in turn built and nurtured what has become known as the “Pirate Nation.”

That has not always been the case. There were days in the ’50s when East Carolina struggled in football. In fact, the team lost to Appalachian seven times during that decade. Since then, however, the Pirates have made great strides, as last year’s Conference USA championship shows.

This success and the growing and energized group of fans here and across the country that drive it, have helped push the school and the community that nurtures it to to that “next level.” When people think of eastern North Carolina today, it’s not just the Outer Banks, Wilmington or Rocky Mount on their minds — Greenville and East Carolina University, and the Pirates — are right there as well.

Here in Greenville, regardless of where you grew up or went to school, it’s important to realize the significance of the athletic program’s contribution to community life. It’s also easy and enjoyable to be swept up in the excitement that surrounds the football program and get behind the team.

It makes for a great time of year.

Al Clark is executive editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at aclark@coxnc.com.

Copyright 2009 The Daily Reflector All rights reserved.
A fan-tastic day

Game provides thrills for faithful

By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, September 05, 2009

Pirate fans rode the waves of uncertainty Saturday in and around Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on the way to a thrilling, heart-pounding East Carolina University 29-24 season-opening victory over the visiting Appalachian State Mountaineers.

It was all both teams' fans seemed to want to kick off the season — and more.

Kevin and Dana Spencer brought their two children from Washington, N.C., for their first taste of Pirate mania. They couldn't wait for the game to begin.

"We're very excited," Kevin Spencer said. "On paper, as Conference USA champs, we're ready. But App State is a very good team, and that makes it a great game to look forward to."

The Spencers joined a few hundred other tailgaters in the newly designated parking area at the Brody School of Medicine, then boarded shuttle buses to the stadium.

They weren't sure how they would enjoy the tailgating experience from that distance, but they were just as enthusiastic as fans parked across from the stadium.

"It's a result of growth, which is very good. Being here is fine with me," Spencer said.

Appalachian State alums Pete Shankle and Anthony Sullivan were just as excited about coming to Greenville as visiting fans, they said.

"It was a great rivalry when the two teams went at it 30 years ago, and it's going to be the same today," Shankle said.

The men recalled when ECU made it a mission to get North Carolina State and the University of North Carolina on its schedule to reflect the quality of its growing program.

"They should make this game a required appointment on the schedule also," Shankle said. "It will be a good for the whole state."

Sullivan enjoyed the entire experience of coming to Greenville for big time football, something he said the city is now famous for statewide.

"The atmosphere in Greenville is like no other in the state, and knowing there is an in-state rivalry being renewed is pretty exciting," Sullivan said.

The Kassnove family came to Greenville from several towns in eastern North Carolina and were spread across two rows of seats just above field level near the end zone, fully expecting to watch several Pirate touchdowns.

"We waited all year for this," said Jonathan Kassnove, who predicted the game would be decided by halftime with the Pirates up by three touchdowns — he was half right, as things turned out. The Pirates hit the field with a
vengeance and scored a touchdown less than two minutes into the game.

Pam Brock, mother of Pirate Radio 1250's Clip Brock, watched the first touchdown with Clip Sr.

"It's awesome. Go Pirates!" she shouted.

"It's a sign of things to come," Clip Sr. said. "Arrgh!" he shouted, unable to contain his enthusiasm.

A field goal and then another touchdown put ECU up 17-0 at the end of the first quarter. The Pirates added another touchdown in the second quarter before Appalachian State got on the board. Another field goal gave ECU a 27-7 halftime lead, and Kassnove's prediction looked nothing short of uncanny.

Army ROTC cadet Dean Riggs was so exuberant, he did pushups in the aisles for anyone who purchased a game program for $5.

"I'll do as many as you want, sir," Riggs said.

Pirate fan Megan Reynolds came from Raleigh to support her team, and had already used up her vocal cords by halftime. She said it was a weekend to remember.

"It's everything I expected — and more," Reynolds said. "We started at Freeboot Friday, went from there to O'Cool's, then to Tie Breakers. And of course, we tailgated this morning before the game."

Most East Carolina fans sat back down in the third quarter and watched the Pirates force a safety to go up 29-7.

With the game seemingly in the bag, the fans looked to relax and trade memories of their college days. Problem was, someone forgot to tell the Mountaineers the game was over.

Tom Phelps, ECU Class of '83, wanted to see more Pirate scores, though. It appeared he was nervous without cause.

"What if they score here? It'll be 29-14," Phelps said. "We don't have enough points to relax. I've seen this happen before, and Appalachian State has a great fan base, even here. We've gotta continue to play well."

Immediately, Appalachian State scored a touchdown to make it 29-14. Then App State intercepted a Patrick Pinkney pass, leading to an another touchdown.

After ASU field goal, suddenly the unthinkable was staring at the purple-clad fans in the sell-out crowd of 43,000. With 3:29 left, the Mountaineers had pulled to within 29-24.

The Farmville EMS squad had already pulled one Pirate fan complaining of chest pains from high up in the bleachers and transported the person to Pitt County Memorial Hospital for evaluation.

The nearly 6,000 Appalachian State fans who came to support their team were wild in their end zone section on the north side of Dowdy-Ficklen, while the rest of the house got a little quiet.

It all came down to a fourth-and-10 for the Mountaineers, who were just across midfield.

Boone resident Charlie Yeargen paced near the end zone, looking first at the scoreboard video, then onto the field as his team's offense lined up.

"It'll have to be a score here, then a two-point conversion, but I've got total faith in Appalachian," Watson said. "I was kind of down in the first half, but this comeback is awesome."

The stadium took a collective breath and held it as the ball went in the air, then exhaled with a roar when the pass was incomplete, painting it purple for the Pirates.

It turned out to be as good an advertisement for the renewal of another in-state rivalry as could be asked for. Purple and gold walked out onto 14th Street side by side with black and gold, and they all smiled about the future of North Carolina football.

Robert Ethridge walked out behind Watson with his daughter, Michelle, ECU Class of 2001.

This is a good matchup and good for the state, they both said.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9571.
Dave McRae: Health care debate healthy

Sunday, September 06, 2009

The health care debate seems to have encouraged everyone to express an opinion. I think that is a good thing.

Not since the creation of Medicare in the mid-1960s has health care caused such heated discussions. At that time, I was a public health student. Today, I'm chief executive officer of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina. I've found this round of debate no less compelling than the one I followed as a student those many years ago.

It's not my place to take sides in this conflict. UHS will support whichever route the public and our elected representatives take in reforming the system.

That said, there are some broad principles that should guide this process, and I would like to offer a hospital industry perspective on them.

First, whatever solution our elected representatives reach, citizens should expect broader health insurance coverage. Nearly 50 million people — one in six Americans — live without health insurance. All the stakeholders in the health care industry, including hospitals, physicians, insurers, the government and others, see the need for broader coverage and agree that we need a better way to deliver and pay for care. Whether that happens through the existing employer-based insurance system or some new structure, it needs to happen.

Second, we must address the structural issues that plague the nation's health care system. Health care grew out of a cottage industry, and we are just applying measurement, best practices and quality improvement concepts that have long been standard in other fields. While health care providers, particularly UHS, have made great strides in adopting electronic medical records, there is still work to be done on integrating the latest information technology. As a whole, our industry also still struggles to make quality and transparency high priorities.

There are also legitimate criticisms of how health care providers are paid. Our current system pays providers for the amount of care they give, not how well they treat illness. Many feel the current fee-for-service system is outdated and doesn't encourage well-coordinated care. Some argue that it overpays for the wrong services and underpays for more effective diagnostics and medication.

Government must help drive the health care system to a more appropriate payment system. Realigning incentives around outcomes and quality may force painful changes for hospitals, but it will improve the health of our citizens and our country.

Third, we must all work to better fund prevention, wellness and community-based programs. These investments are hard for governments and insurers to make. They only pay off in the long term, in falling numbers of hospital trips and, most importantly, decreased deaths from chronic disease. Heart disease, stroke, diabetes — these leading causes of death in the United States are all imminently preventable. We must do a better job of trying to prevent them.

Supporting these principles will challenge hospitals. In the short term, money to expand health care coverage may come from reductions in the amount government will pay for treatment of Medicare and Medicaid patients. Farther down the road, improvements in wellness and prevention may decrease demand for some hospital services.

Whether the government expands coverage through a public insurance program or some other mechanism, there are bound to be financial consequences for hospitals. But those consequences pale in comparison to the
hardships faced daily by people who don't have insurance or access to good care.

Sometimes, what's best for the public is not what's best for hospitals. We at UHS understand that we'll have to change our expectations to serve the greater good.

But we also urge lawmakers not to cut so deeply that hospitals cannot afford to stay in business or provide the proper staff and equipment. In communities across the country, hospitals are a critical safety net — they're major employers, and they offer emergency care, diagnostics and surgical services that just aren't available elsewhere. We are not always the right place for every health care need, but we are always there.

UHS has proudly been that safety net for much of eastern North Carolina. We were here for you yesterday. We're here for you today. And, regardless of the outcome of this debate, we will be here for you tomorrow.

Dave McRae is chief executive officer of University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina.
Darts & Laurels

Swine flu fighting

Laurels — To an effort aimed at fighting the spread of swine flu locally put in place through the cooperation of health officials and Pitt County Schools. With some predicting that H1N1 could infect half the American population, local officials are working to vaccinate kids in public schools to slow the spread. Their advance work should serve public health in Pitt County.

Season kickoff

Laurels — To today’s game between East Carolina University and Appalachian State, an in-state battle that launches the 2009 college football season. Following a tremendous season that concluded with a Conference USA crown and a Liberty Bowl bid, Coach Skip Holtz and the Pirates look to return atop the conference heap. That quest starts today in Greenville, with the help of an expected 43,000 fans in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

Laurels — To the addition of new flowers around the downtown district in advance of the first game, thanks to local nonprofit Uptown Greenville and local contributors. Freeboot Friday, the annual series that accompanies Pirate football home games, began on Friday night, and the beautification efforts were apparent nearby. The addition of those blooms is a welcome one.

Darts — To the significant changes in the parking situation for football fans that threatens to snarl traffic around the stadium today. East Carolina elected to fence off the popular parking lot at the intersection of Charles Boulevard and Greenville Boulevard to construct a new softball facility. The new routes are sure to cause headaches for drivers and police today, and require patience and caution from all in the area.

Laurels — To the One Book, One Community program, which encourages Greenville residents to read a common book in the interest of shared understanding. Sheppard Memorial Library operates the program, and this year’s book, “Roxanna Slade” by Reynolds Price, was selected by Mayor Pat Dunn. The library ordered additional copies of the tome to ensure availability.

Darts — To the new taxes in North Carolina that went into effect on Sept. 1, including a 1 cent increase in the sales tax. Lawmakers facing a massive revenue shortfall imposed the hikes on other items, like alcohol and cigarettes, as they tried to balance the budget, but the fix is deeply flawed and tremendously unpopular across the state.

Laurels — To President Barack Obama’s planned speech to schoolchildren across the nation on Tuesday, in which he intends to stress the values of personal responsibility and hard work, and to promote the importance of education. Some critics have slammed the address as indoctrination, but they are letting their hatred of the president color their view of an important message to America’s youth.

Compiled by Brian Colligan, editorial page editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at 329-9507 or via e-mail at bcolligan@coxnc.com
ECU Physical Therapy moves to new location on Stantonburg Road

East Carolina University Physical Therapy, an outpatient clinic owned by the Department of Physical Therapy, recently moved from the ECU Physicians Firetower Medical Office to a new location at 2325 Stantonburg Road next to ECU Neurosurgery and Spine Center on the corner of Arlington Boulevard and Stantonburg Road in Greenville.

"The transition to our new facility has been great," Kevin Youngs, ECU clinical instructor of physical therapy who specializes in general orthopedics and baseball injuries, said in a news release. "Increasing our space to 2,000 square feet has allowed for more comprehensive care for our patients."

The clinic is operated by ECU faculty in the College of Allied Health Sciences who are licensed physical therapists and experts in evaluating and treating back and neck pain, tendonitis, sprains and strains, sport-specific and running injuries, herniated discs, arthritis and providing post-operative rehabilitation for adults and children.

Other faculty who see patients at the clinic include Dr. Jacob Thorp, a certified manual therapist who specializes in treatment of the spine; Dr. Blaise Williams, who specializes in running injuries and directs a running assessment clinic and sees clients from throughout North Carolina to assess their running mechanics; Dr. Walt Jenkins, who specializes in sports injuries with a specific interest in golf fitness; Dr. Amy Gross McMillan, who specializes in pediatrics; Dr. Leslie Allison, who provides fall risk assessments and fall prevention; and Dr. Denis Brunt, who provides clinical gait analysis.

Both Youngs and Jenkins consult with the East Carolina University athletics department on the rehabilitation of student-athletes.

A major initiative of the clinic is to provide a learning environment for ECU physical therapy doctoral students, who observe and treat patients with supervision from licensed physical therapists.

The physical therapy clinic is accepting new patients and takes most major insurances including Medicare, Medicaid and Blue Cross Blue Shield. Hours are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday, and 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Same-day visits are available.

For information, call 695-6322 or visit the Web site at www.ecu.edu/pt.
Medical school adds two cardiologists

Cardiologists Dr. Ramesh Daggubati and Dr. John Cahill have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Daggubati has joined the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences as a clinical associate professor. He is also the director of the cardiac catheterization laboratories at the East Carolina Heart Institute at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. He comes to ECU from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center in San Jose, Calif., where he was the associate chief of cardiology and clinical assistant professor at Stanford University. He has also worked at Winthrop University Hospital in New York.

Daggubati has a medical degree from Kasturba Medical College in India and completed internal medicine residency training there and at Jamaica Hospital Medical Center in New York. He also completed a clinical cardiology fellowship at Winthrop University Hospital and an interventional cardiology fellowship at Yale University/Bridgeport Hospital in Connecticut. He completed a research cardiology fellowship at Loma Linda University Medical Center in California.

Daggubati is board-certified in internal medicine, cardiovascular diseases, nuclear cardiology and interventional cardiology.

Cahill has joined the Department of Cardiovascular Sciences as an assistant professor. He comes to ECU from Ann Arbor, Mich., where he was on faculty in cardiology and radiology at the University of Michigan Health System.

Born in Santa Cruz, Calif., Cahill has a medical degree from University College Dublin Medical School. He trained in internal medicine in London and completed a fellowship in cardiology at St. Vincent’s University Hospitals in Dublin. He completed U.S. residency training in Denver at St. Joseph Exempla Hospital and the University of Colorado. He has completed fellowships in cardiac imaging at the University of Colorado and nuclear medicine at University of Michigan.

Cahill is fellowship-trained in cardiovascular magnetic resonance imaging and board-certified in internal medicine, nuclear medicine, cardiovascular computed tomography and nuclear cardiology. He also speaks French, German and Irish.

Cahill and Daggubati see patients at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU and the ECHI at PCMH.
ECU can't hide any more

Pirates expect to get major powers' best shot now

BY JOEDY MCCREARY, The Associated Press

GREENVILLE - Somebody reminded Skip Holtz that East Carolina's three remaining power-conference opponents have a few scores to settle with his Pirates.

"Ssssh!" Holtz said Monday with a laugh. "Don't tell them that. We don't want them to remember those."

Too late. West Virginia, Virginia Tech and North Carolina are plenty aware of one thing they have in common: The last time they played the Pirates, they lost.

Under Holtz during the past four years, East Carolina solidified its reputation as a scrappy underdog willing to take on all comers. But along with those program-building victories came a shift in perception. Now, it's the big boys from BCS conferences who are taking aim at the Pirates -- starting this week with the revenge-seeking Mountaineers (1-0).

"The big mindset this year has been, 'You've got to go earn everything you get,' " Holtz said. "Nobody cares what we have returning or what we did a year ago. We have to earn it."

In other words, East Carolina (1-0) is trying to recapture the same chip-on-the-shoulder mentality that a year ago produced two of the biggest victories in school history over the Mountaineers and Hokies during the opening weeks of the 2008 season.

Holtz said when teams try to protect something, they lose their aggressiveness and play it too close to the vest.
"Hopefully, that's a lesson we learned a year ago, because I think when we got to 3-0 everybody started talking about the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow," Holtz said. "We started playing to protect the pot of gold -- like it was already ours."

The Pirates knocked off nationally ranked Virginia Tech and West Virginia in consecutive weeks to thrust themselves into the national rankings, generating plenty of Bust-the-BCS buzz and spoiling the Pat White-led Mountaineers' national title hopes.

After this week's visit to Morgantown, the Pirates travel to UNC. In their most recent meeting two years ago, they beat the Tar Heels. East Carolina plays host to the Hokies on Nov. 5.

The schedule might give East Carolina plenty of chances to claim enough impressive out-of-conference victories to put them in the running for an at-large berth in one of the big bowls. But Holtz clearly isn't worried about having to match potential BCS busters BYU and Boise State, who beat ranked big names Oklahoma and Oregon in Week 1.

"At this point, we've earned one win," Holtz said, referring to last week's closer-than-expected victory over Football Championship Subdivision member Appalachian State. "I don't want to talk about anything else. We're going to go try and get our second win."

All rights reserved. This copyrighted material may not be published, broadcast or redistributed in any manner.

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
Battlefield re-examined

Before the American Revolution, farmers fought militia at Alamance Battleground.
BY JOHN MURAWSKI, Staff writer

BURLINGTON - Five years before the war for America's independence, local farmers with flintlock rifles squared off against a colonial militia here on Piedmont soil.

The Battle of Alamance was the culminating event of a long-brewing protest movement by frontier farmers known as Regulators who fought colonial authorities over excessive taxes, unfair fees and corruption.

The scale and the savagery of the armed conflict shocked the public conscience in May 1771. But today only sketchy details remain to explain what really happened on a blood-soaked afternoon on these gently rolling hills.

On Friday and Saturday, historians and archaeologists gathered at Alamance Battleground, about four miles south of Burlington, to embark on a proper study of the area. The bucolic battlefield is a state historic site today, but it has never been systematically searched for artifacts.

Scholars think the area is littered with clues about troop movements and rebel encampments -- evidence that could enrich this little-known chapter of history, in which the Regulators have been depicted either as patriots or as outlaws.

Using magnetometers and metal detectors, the volunteers mapped out an area smaller than a football field for future excavation. They dug in a few spots that looked most promising, judging by the shrill whine of the metal detector.

What is known is that some 3,000 countrymen stood as close as 30 yards apart and pumped lead balls into each other. After two hours of chaos, as many as 250 lay dead, mostly rebels, and the farmers' rebellion was crushed. A stone monument hails this as the first battle of the American Revolution, casting the Regulators as the first Minutemen.

"It was a huge deal," said Josh Howard, research historian at the N.C. Office of Archives and History. "Things like this just didn't happen -- a huge battle between a colonial governor and citizens of his colony."

By lunchtime Saturday, the area was marked with dozens of pink flags, showing spots that had elicited crackles, groans or beeps from metal detectors. Presumably, just a few inches beneath the grass lay a rich trove of lead balls, belt buckles, colonial coins and other historical artifacts.

The first few hours of digging turned up only a hubcap, a 1944 dime, a 1969 penny, a can pull-tab and a nail. The volunteers will return later this fall. It's illegal for anyone to use a metal detector at a state or federal historic site without a special permit.

The buried evidence could increase our understanding of the conflict in several ways.

One would be the location of the Regulator encampment, currently a matter of conjecture. A line of unfired lead balls would show where soldiers stood, nervously dropping balls as they hurried to reload. A fired musket ball, analyzed by ballistics and forensics, could be traced to its origin, telling historians the positions of sharpshooters.

Recent evidence and revisionist theories are casting a different light on what might have happened here.

The commonly accepted version -- largely based on testimony from the governor's militia -- is that the Regulators were routed. The Regulators were farmers and frontiersmen living on what was then the western edge of the state, and were seen by the state's Eastern elites as rednecks and hillbillies.

"People in the East, whether it was by propaganda or whatnot, just thought the Regulators were a bunch of hooligans," Howard said.

No newspaper accounts from this state survive. However, historians have found the June 1771 edition of the South Carolina Gazette, published a month after the battle, revealing that
Regulators were engaged in hand-to-hand combat with the militia, using broadswords. The account was based on a letter written by one of the militia officers.

That would suggest that the Regulators put up a strong fight before they were subdued. The Regulators outnumbered Royal Gov. William Tryon's force by about two-to-one, but many came unarmed. Tryon's militia had eight cannons on its side.

"They were hoping that by just showing unity and organization, they would get Governor Tryon to back down," said Bryan Dalton, director of the battlefield. "Tryon had to give two orders to shoot. There's reason to believe the two sides were yelling back and forth at each other, possibly by name."

It's believed that in the battle, 10 to 20 militiamen died, compared to 200 to 250 Regulator casualties.

Historians today tend to discount the view that the Regulators were the patriots who started the American Revolution, even though many of their grievances were legitimate. A more likely version is that, as a direct result of the 1771 rebellion, many of the Regulators refused to join the American Revolution.

Tryon offered pardons to the rebels on condition that they swear allegiance to the crown. Five years later, most of the militia officers were revolutionaries rising up against the crown, while many Regulators upheld their oaths.

"They forced them to take loyalty oaths, and then they try to come out and raise troops," said Lawrence Babits, director of the American Studies Program at East Carolina University. "And the answer is, 'No, just a few years ago you made me swear an oath to the crown.'"

john.murawski@newsobserver.com or 919-829-8932

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

Regulators timeline

An uprising in 1771 by North Carolina backwoodsmen is sometimes seen as the prologue to the American Revolution because irate colonists were willing to take up arms. The rebels, called the Regulators, were fed up with abuses by local government officials. Their grievances included excessive taxes, dishonest sheriffs and illegal fees. The Regulators' public protests soon escalated to violent acts and armed rebellion.

1765-1768: Backcountry farmers protest with minor clashes and riots. Regulators refuse to pay fees, terrorize public officials and disrupt court proceedings.

1766: The Assembly passes a heavy tax to pay for the governor's residence in New Bern, outraging poor frontiersmen.

1766: The sheriff seizes a Regulator's horse, saddle and bridle to be sold for tax revenue. Regulators ride into Hillsborough and retrieve the property, resulting in arrests.

1771

March: Royal Governor William Tryon calls out the state militia to march against the rebel farmers.

May 11: Tryon advances from Hillsborough with more than 1,000 men to face a Regulator band of 2,000.

May 16: Regulators reject Tryon's order to disperse, and Tryon's men open fire. Though outnumbered, Tryon's side is better organized and overwhelms the Regulators, taking 15 prisoners and later hanging seven.
May: Tryon's troops torch Regulator homesteads and destroy their farms.

Some Regulators fled before the fighting ensued, and many later returned to their frontier homes. Within six weeks, 6,409 accepted pardons in exchange for pledging an oath of allegiance to the royal government in England.

Source: N.C. Historic Sites, "North Carolina Through Four Centuries" by William Powell

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company
Fetzer finds love right in his own political party

Tom Fetzer has done just about all you can do in North Carolina Republican politics. He's been a candidate, office holder, consultant and now, a state party chairman.

So it probably makes sense that he met his bride-to-be while she was working on a Republican campaign.

Fetzer told Dome he and Kate Spina met on the campaign trail and are planning to marry Oct. 17 at a small ceremony in Wilmington. Spina is in media sales for Time Warner Cable.

During his campaign to become the N.C. Republican Party chairman, rumors circulated that Fetzer is gay. He sued a Wilmington radio host for libel, claiming the host had forwarded an e-mail stating the rumor in an effort to hurt Fetzer's chances of winning the party chairmanship.

Fetzer told Dome the lawsuit is pending.

Translucency, at least?

UNC system President Erskine Bowles says he's a big believer in transparency.

But he won't recommend openness when it comes to finding the next leader for N.C. State University. That, he said, could discourage top candidates from seeking the chancellor's job.

Bowles, who has been open about recent problems at the university, said recently, "It's my responsibility to make sure we get the best candidates possible to run N.C. State, or any of the campuses."

During the last search for a UNC-Chapel Hill chancellor, Bowles said, several candidates would not have participated if their identities had been released. "One is today still running a major university, and had that person's name been made public, they would not have allowed us to consider them as a candidate," he told reporters and editors at The News & Observer. "My job is to get the best field, and to try to make the best decision from that field, and I think if we have to make their names public, it would reduce the quality of the field."
Campbell Law School moving into new home

Raleigh campus nearly ready

BY SARAH OVASKA, Staff writer

RALEIGH - Come next week, nearly 400 wannabe lawyers will be walking the streets of downtown Raleigh as Campbell University throws open the doors for the new home of its law school.

Next Monday will mark the first day of classes at Campbell's Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law, which left rural Buies Creek in Harnett County for the glitter and glamour of Raleigh this year.

The new facility, at 225 Hillsborough St., will be within blocks of the Wake County courthouse, large private law firms, state agencies, and courtrooms at the state's two appellate courts, a federal courthouse and a federal bankruptcy court.

That's a key component to giving students real-life exposure to the legal profession so they can better adjust to practicing law after graduation, said Melissa Essary, the law school's dean.
"Our students are not the most important constituency in the building; it's our student's future clients," Essary said. Giving students exposure to how the world works, and not just hypothetical situations, helps those future clients, Essary said.

The location in downtown Raleigh offers some spots to unwind, something law students struggled with in Buies Creek, said Jonathan Trapp, 28, a third-year student.

"You can work, work, work and maybe go for a walk or run, but that's about it," he said of the school's old location 30 miles south of Raleigh.

Trapp, who spent his summer break working for the federal prosecutor's office in Raleigh, said that having the school in Raleigh means more access to potential employers.

Admissions staff at the law school saw applications go up 25 percent once word got out that the school was moving from Buies Creek to Raleigh, well above the 5 percent average uptick in applications that law schools saw nationally, Essary said.

Rising at the corner of Hillsborough and Dawson streets, the building now housing the law school was bought for $17.5 million from Variety Realty and its owner, Art Pope, a longtime supporter of Campbell. Another $15 million was spent to extensively revamp the building with three courtrooms, a two-floor library and plenty of classroom and study spots.

The school will have more space, bumping up to 110,000 square feet up from the 74,000 square feet the school had in Buies Creek, and will host the state's business court, a specialized court that handles complex business litigation.

Essary, who took over as dean three years ago, said the move was prompted when she found out that most of the law school's second and third-year students commuted from the Raleigh area. She's hoping that the school becomes a haven for professionals as well, and she plans to organize events to bring in practicing lawyers to meet.

Missing, though, will be the isolation that many students felt in Buies Creek. That meant studying was rarely pre-empted by the lure of nightlife and other activities.

Essary said she's a bit worried about what distractions might be out there.

"I've threatened to put chains on the doors, but I'm told you can't do that," she said.

sarah.ovaska@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4622

Get it all with convenient home delivery of The News & Observer.

**Grand tour**

On Friday, Campbell University officials will open the doors of the new downtown Raleigh home of their law school for a media tour of the refurbished Hillsborough Street building. Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker and Melissa Essary, dean of the law school, will be on hand for interviews. Classes at the school start next Monday.

© Copyright 2009, The News & Observer Publishing Company

A subsidiary of The McClatchy Company