The chancellor of East Carolina University named an interim dean Wednesday to lead the dental school a month after financial irregularities prompted the resignation of its former dean, Dr. James Hupp.

Dr. Gregory Chadwick, associate dean for planning and extramural affairs at the ECU School of Dental Medicine, was chosen for the position.

“Dr. Chadwick has been positively engaged in the development of the dental school for over five years and has earned this appointment,” Chancellor Steve Ballard said in a news release. “I look forward to his continuing leadership and the development of the School of Dental Medicine.”

In a Wednesday interview, Chadwick said this is an exciting time to serve as interim dean and that he would be interested in being considered for the permanent position.

His annual salary had not been decided as of Wednesday. “I haven't gotten my offer letter from them yet,” he said. “That's still being negotiated.” Hupp's annual salary was $350,000.

Chadwick said he will continue with his associate dean responsibilities, as well as his new duties, for the immediate future.
Hupp was the subject of a state audit, which found $90,000 in questionable travel expenses and unreported outside income. Under his contract, outside income was supposed to be paid to ECU. Hupp, who was hired in 2008, remains on the faculty. A review of his job status is ongoing.

This is Chadwick's second stint as interim dean. He served in the same role during the dental school's formative years as ECU and University of North Carolina system leaders approved its creation, and legislators appropriated funds for it.

“It's a great time to be involved with the dental school,” Chadwick said, calling it “a dream come true.”

He noted that the first class of 52 students has started classes, and that ground has been broken on the first of up to 10 community service learning centers the school will have in North Carolina. Four-year students will eventually provide low-cost dental care to underserved areas through the learning centers. Four other sites have been chosen.

The General Assembly approved spending about $95 million for the dental school, including the centers and the construction of the four-story, 184,000-square-foot Ross Hall, with a $50 million price tag. By mid-2012, that building is expected to be ready for students, who now have temporary digs at Brody School of Medicine.

“It's just really rewarding to see all of this come to fruition,” Chadwick said. “At this point, we're not looking backward. We're looking forward to the future.”

News of Hupp's resignation last month rocked the new dental school, coming the day after the first class underwent orientation, a week before classes began.

Phyllis Horns, ECU vice chancellor for health sciences, who had questioned Hupp's travel expenses in advance of the audit, said she supported Chadwick's selection as interim dean, attributing it to “his strong leadership and his vision for the school and certainly his history of leadership in getting the school started.

The process for deciding on a permanent dean hasn't begun, Horns said. “We haven't decided that timeline yet. We'll be assessing the dental school over the next several months and deciding on when it's a good time to name a permanent dean.”

Chadwick practiced in Charlotte for most of his career. His professional credentials include serving as president of the American Dental Association, the North Carolina Dental Society and the Dental Foundation of North Carolina. Previously, he taught at the dental school at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Chadwick said he plans to appoint Dr. Frank Serio as interim vice dean. Serio is a professor and associate dean for clinical affairs at the school.
Following a summer that confirmed the scourge of violent crime remains the city's most pressing priority, the Greenville City Council will hear a staff presentation on 22 recommendations to improve public safety. The suggestions come from a two-year-old task force on crime and cast a wide net in the effort to transform words into action.

The council cannot be expected to deal with this problem alone, however, and it should expect a healthy crowd at tonight's City Hall meeting. The only way Greenville can ensure success in fighting crime is to have the entire community engaged and pulling together toward that common cause.

In December 2009, the members of the City Council responded to rekindled fear about violent crime by forming a task force to study the problem. With the community calling for action in the wake of a deadly downtown shooting that summer, the council took a more deliberate approach in the interest of divining strategies with the potential to be effective in here.

Using resident surveys, input from key stakeholders such as Greenville police and the business community and suggestions from many organizations, the recommendations from that task force were presented in August. The council asked city staff to examine each option to provide some sense of feasibility or status on each, work that the council will receive tonight.

They provide a fairly comprehensive, long-term view of how Greenville might curb violent crime now and in the future. Included are permitting for clubs and policing strategies, anti-gang initiatives and no-tolerance policies, establishing a group for regular discussion and the installation of more surveillance cameras.

Taking a step back, the picture that emerges is one of a community that needs greater cooperation and partnerships among key entities to advance anti-crime initiatives. The city and Greenville police must take the lead, but they require assistance from East Carolina University, Pitt Community College, Pitt County Schools, churches and nonprofits, businesses and individuals to be successful. Without commitment from all of these areas, Greenville will struggle to make progress.

Crime, especially violent crime, has long been an area of alarm in this community. For years, the city has talked about the issue, individuals have cried and screamed about the problem, without making headway. Now, with a list of potential actions on the table, Greenville must step up and eagerly offer to play a role in crafting a workable solution to improve public safety.
Drug charges were dropped against a rapper who performed at East Carolina University because the charges were in error at the time of his arrest, the district attorney said Wednesday.

Rapper Cameron Jibril Thomaz, 22, who performs under the stage name Wiz Khalifa, was charged Nov. 8 with trafficking marijuana, maintaining a place for sale of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia after his arrest outside Wright Auditorium.

ECU police seized a quantity of marijuana from his tour bus following the performance. Nine others also were booked into the jail on related charges. Marijuana use is a central theme of Thomaz' performances.

District Attorney Clark Everett determined that the amount of marijuana seized on the bus did not exceed the 10-pound threshold for a trafficking charge. The actual amount seized was about 58 grams, or slightly more than two ounces.

There were 10 people on Thomaz' tour bus, Everett said, and he paid a substantial premium fee to a bail bondsman for covering a $300,000 bond for himself and his people so they could leave immediately.

All charges against the rapper and six others with him were dismissed when three of the men admitted the marijuana was theirs and pleaded guilty during an Aug. 11 hearing to
misdemeanor possession, Everett said. Each of the three paid a $1,000 fine and court costs.

“The magistrate or someone at that office must have misread the statute. We discovered the error maybe two hours after Thomaz paid the bondsman's premium and left. Because of that, it was a high price he paid for bringing the drug onto the campus. Had he remained to discover the error, he would not have been bonded so high, probably $1,000,” Everett said.

Thomaz and his crew were represented by attorney Mark Owens III. “Certainly, he regrets the position in which he found himself. He had to pay a high price for that, in a lot of ways,” Owens said.

Thomaz had been warned against bringing the drug onto the campus when his contract was negotiated, according to ECU officials, but his attorney said university officials knew his brand when they booked him.

“Kahlifa's preferences and musical expression existed before his appearance in Greenville. Marijuana is a large part of his persona.

“I find it ironic that East Carolina knowingly asked him to come and then chose to take their actions, justified or not under the law,” Owens said. “If you have a problem with cholesterol and high blood pressure, you don't ask (a barbecue restaurant) to cater your lunch.

“That's just a country boy's observation,” he said.

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'Quality' hopefuls vying for UNC AD

BY KEN TYSIAC - Staff writer

CHAPEL HILL Five days after the University of North Carolina posted its athletics director job opening, search committee chair Lowry Caudill said he has been pleased with the response.

"For a week into the process formally, I'm very impressed with the quality of the candidates that have been nominated or presented themselves," Caudill said Wednesday morning after the search committee's meeting.

The committee met for about 2 1/2 hours, and all but the first 30 minutes were conducted privately in executive session while athletics director candidates were discussed.

Committee members have been instructed to keep the identity of candidates confidential, and Caudill declined even to specify how many candidates are being considered.

Caudill would not discuss a timeline, either, but the new athletics director's first order of business will be hiring a full-time football coach. The current athletics director, Dick Baddour, is retiring to allow his successor to pick former football coach Butch Davis' permanent replacement.

Everett Withers is serving this season as interim coach following Davis' firing in July.
"We're going to be thoughtful," Caudill said. "We're going to be thorough. But we're doing it at an up-tempo pace. We understand the connectivity of the athletic director hire and the hiring of the football coach. We understand that timing. But at the same time, we're not deadline driven. We're driven to find the right candidate."

Before the meeting was closed to the public, UNC faculty athletics chair Steve Reznick explained to the committee some of the faculty's wishes for the new athletics director.

"One of our most important things is that the athletics director understand our academic mission and consider it important and be able to emanate positive vibrations about understanding academics at Carolina," Reznick said.

Reznick said the faculty would like an athletic director who is:

-- Committed to the well-being and success of student-athletes, with education defined broadly. That includes encouraging them to choose a major that interests them and launching them toward the career they ultimately are seeking, he said.

-- Willing to hold coaches responsible for athletes' academic success.

-- Able to establish mutual respect and trust with the faculty.

Caudill said he was pleased that there was so much overlap between the faculty's wishes and the job description posted by the committee.

Today's meeting was the first since UNC chose the Carr Sports Associates search firm to help find a new athletics director. Consultant Bill Carr has helped find athletic directors at Duke, Kentucky and Auburn.

Carr is being paid $50,000 to assist with UNC's search.

"He has been in the search business for decades ... and understands how to go about this process," Caudill said.

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Schools adjust sexual assault policies for new federal guidelines

By Erin Zureick Dunn
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Schools across the country have revamped their sexual assault response policies in the wake of new federal guidelines issued earlier this year.

The rules put a greater burden on schools and colleges to investigate possible sexual assaults by placing them in the same category as sexual harassment under Title IX, which deals with sex discrimination.

"Ultimately the aim of the letter is to make campuses safer," said Rebecca Caldwell, the University of North Carolina Wilmington's director of substance abuse and violence prevention at its Collaboration for Assault Response & Education, or CARE, office.

Some of the changes are minor, such as calling for more training for campus police and others who might deal with sexual assault victims.

Others are more controversial, such as allowing victims and alleged perpetrators alike to appeal campus discipline decisions.

In some instances, UNCW also would be required to investigate reported conduct even if the victim requested the school not to, Caldwell said.

"We have to balance their options against our obligation to keep the campus safe," she said.

The school's investigation would be separate from a criminal inquiry from campus police. Punishments using the campus code of conduct can include penalties such as probation, suspension or expulsion.

The changes have some arguing that the federal government has overstepped its bounds.

UNCW criminology and sociology professor Mike Adams said he believes the rules could result in more false reports of sexual assault.

Adams said he doesn't necessarily contend with the traditional notion that sexually based crimes are underreported – but he believes they can be overreported as well.

UNCW's CARE counselors worked with 14 victims of sexual assault last school year, Caldwell said.
Adams said he also worried about justice since victims now also can appeal a campus disciplinary decision if they disagree with its severity or new evidence comes to light.

"That's incredible given our understanding of the importance of the concept of double jeopardy," Adams said, referring to the criminal justice system's rules that a person can't be charged with the same crime twice.

Schools also are required to use a "preponderance of evidence" standard that is easier to prove than the reasonable doubt standard of the criminal system.

The guidelines define a preponderance as "more likely than not" that sexual violence occurred.

Victims of sexual assault can choose to pursue criminal or campus punishment, said New Hanover County District Attorney Ben David.

David speaks at each campus orientation every year and said he tries to educate students on resources available in the criminal justice system.

While there is a natural tension because of the dual systems of punishment, the rules mostly reinforce current policies, he said.

"It's putting into law what we have been putting into practice," David said.

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Harvard Researcher Chosen as New Dean of Weill Cornell Medical College

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS

A Harvard University researcher and professor with strong ties to the pharmaceutical industry has been selected as the new dean of Weill Cornell Medical College in Manhattan, as Cornell University seeks to greatly expand its research programs and obtain more federal and private financing, college officials said Wednesday.

The new dean, Dr. Laurie H. Glimcher, 60, who has ties to the pharmaceutical giants Merck and Bristol-Myers Squibb as well as to scientific and biotechnology companies, said she wanted to use her experience to forge partnerships with both the public and private sectors.

Dr. Glimcher, an immunologist with a strong interest in osteoporosis, defended her outside interests, saying they presented no conflict as long as they were transparent. She said she wanted to “leverage the strengths of everyone,” whether scientists, pharmaceutical companies or biotechnology
companies. “There should be no silos between all of these different strengths,” she said.

Cornell University’s president, Dr. David J. Skorton, said he believed Dr. Glimcher had the skills to carry out the medical school’s plan to double its research capacity and to help the university compete to develop a new high-tech campus proposed by the Bloomberg administration.

Her appointment will take effect in January. The departing dean, Dr. Antonio M. Gotto Jr., also a researcher, said the school now ranked “somewhere in the mid-30s” in terms of its financing from the National Institutes of Health, a benchmark of research prominence.

Sanford I. Weill, the former chairman of Citigroup who with his wife was the benefactor for whom the college was named in 1998, said Wednesday that Dr. Glimcher had come to his attention through a good friend, Jim Robinson, a co-founder of the technology venture-capital firm RRE Ventures and a former chairman of Bristol-Myers Squibb and chairman and chief executive of American Express.

“He recommended that I meet Laurie Glimcher when he heard we were going to look for a new dean,” Mr. Weill said. He said that after meeting her, he introduced her to the firm handling the search, and she was chosen out of 51 candidates.

Dr. Skorton said he was also aware of her, through N.I.H. and Harvard contacts.

At Harvard, Dr. Glimcher runs an immunology lab that had a three-year contract with Merck, the company that makes Fosamax, a formerly $3-billion-a-year bone drug that became generic in 2008.

Bristol-Myers Squibb, where she has been on the board since 1997, paid her $244,500 in compensation in 2010, including fees and stock awards, according to its 2011 proxy statement. She received $1.4 million in deferred share units, by far the most of any director.

While she has been on the board, the company has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to settle federal and shareholder complaints that it had inflated sales figures, although Dr. Glimcher herself was not found liable.

Dr. Glimcher was also paid $238,545 in cash, stock and options in 2010 by the Waters Corporation, a publicly traded maker of lab equipment, according to a company filing in March. She joined that board in 1998.
Harvard recently revamped its conflict-of-interest policy for medical school faculty, prompted by concerned medical students and faculty. Dr. Glimcher said the policy did not change her compensation or relationships with outside groups.

Dr. Glimcher has undergraduate and medical degrees from Harvard. She is married to Gregory A. Petsko, head of biochemistry at Brandeis University. Duff Wilson contributed reporting.
The Best Banking Deals for College Students
Banks are offering students more perks and benefits. How to find the best ones.

SEPTEMBER 7, 2011, 12:42 P.M. ET

By ANNAMARIA ANDRIOTIS

While banks have peeved plenty of customers this year by hiking fees on checking accounts and killing debit-card rewards programs, they've also been courting one group with better perks and benefits: college students.

As students head back to campus this year, banks are pitching them products with better terms, including longer zero-interest promotional periods on credit cards, no-fee checking accounts and more flexible debit-card rules. And in most cases, these perks are attached to credit cards and checking accounts that the banks have designed exclusively for college students. While data doesn't exist on the growth of products aimed specifically at students, banking experts say the number of deals is clearly growing -- and will continue to do so. "College students are fortunate that for the time being they're still on the list of things banks do value," says Richard Barrington, an analyst at MoneyRates.com, which tracks bank rates.

Even at a time when banks are increasingly wary of extending credit, college students remain very important to their bottom line. For the banks, it's a way to grab young customers on their way up. This is especially important when it comes to credit cards, where conventional wisdom encourages people to hang on to their oldest cards to build better credit. And students aren't as risky as they might seem. According to Nessa Feddis, senior counsel at the American Bankers Association, "Students also tend to perform better than the overall cardholding population," because they keep up with payments and carry lower balances.

Also making students less risky, say experts: New credit-card rules. For example, students under the age of 21 are now required to provide proof of income or assets or have a co-signer before they can receive a credit card, thus lowering the chance of a default. In other cases, banks are looking for new ways to profit off college students despite rules aimed at keeping fees and charges low. Starting this October, banks will receive less from retailers for using their debit cards, but banks are looking to limit the damage by rolling out more prepaid cards, which aren't included in the new law, says Odysseas Papadimitriou, chief executive at credit-card comparison site CardHub.com.
For now though, college students can benefit by shopping around for financial products that are geared to them. Here's where to start looking:

Credit Cards
New credit-card rules have led to longer 0% APR promotional periods and better rewards programs, says Papadimitriou. For example, the Discover Student More card and Discover's Open Road Card for Students offer 0% APR for the first nine months -- the longest zero-interest period available to college students, according to CardHub.com. That could be enough time for students to pay off early semester college expenses -- like books, supplies and school sweatshirts -- without incurring interest.

Card issuers are also beefing up their reward programs. Capital One's Journey Student Rewards card offers 1% cash back on purchases and a 25% bonus on that amount each month the bill is paid on time. Citi's mtvU Platinum Select Visa card offers five points for every dollar spent at certain stores, including bookstores and restaurants, and one point for all other purchases, and anywhere from 250 to 2,000 points for students with grade point averages of 2.5 and above. Students can start redeeming once they hit 100 points.

For students who pay $5 to $20 to join the Pentagon Federal Credit Union, its Visa Platinum Cashback Rewards credit card offers 5% cash back on gas -- a perk for commuters -- and 1% on everything else.

And in some cases, interest rates aren't sky high. Depending on the student (or co-signer's) credit history, they could end up with an interest rate that's in line with the industry average of about 14%. The Citi and Discover cards can, however, spike to more than 19%. Capital One's rate is roughly 20% for most applicants.

Checking accounts
Maintenance fees. Overdraft fees. ATM fees. Even as banks continue to hike charges on checking accounts, about two dozen have free checking accounts that are tailored to college students. About half of those are easy to maintain: That includes large banks like Fifth Third Bank, TD Bank and U.S. Bank as well as smaller regional banks like Sovereign Bank, Bank of the Commonwealth and Valley National Bank, according to a report from MoneyRates.com released this month. These checking accounts often require no more than $50 to open, don't charge fees on accounts with low balances and don't require direct deposits. That makes banking cheaper for most students who don't have a steady income stream to maintain an active bank account.

Meanwhile, student loan lender Sallie Mae launched a new no-fee checking account in March, which is currently available to students at a small number of colleges -- Sallie Mae wouldn't disclose the names or number of colleges -- but expects more schools to participate in the coming year. With these accounts, students have free access 35,000 ATMs throughout the country. Colleges can also deposit financial aid or tuition refunds into their accounts as well, says a spokeswoman for the company.
Debit Cards

The debit cards banks offer to college students are typically identical to the cards they pitch to everyone. But some banks offer extra benefits to students. For example, many banks charge customers fees every time they withdraw money from an ATM that's not part of their network. But student checking account customers can use ATMs outside of their bank's network up to four or five times a month for free at U.S. Bank and Fifth Third Bank, respectively.

Still, for a robust debit card rewards program, college students might want to consider an option available to all. With online bank PerkStreet, customers can earn up to 2% cash back on their debit purchases or 1% if their checking account balance drops below $5,000. The bank, which has 37,000 ATMs throughout the country, also offers 5% rewards on specific categories of purchases, like housing or dining, that change each month.

Meanwhile, some of the banks that offer the cheapest college-student checking accounts also offer debit card rewards programs, including TD Bank, M&T Bank, and Sovereign Bank. But the rewards don't come easy: At TD Bank, for example, debit card holders have to swipe for at least $2,000 worth of purchases to start redeeming points. At Sovereign Bank, debit card holders get up to 20% cash back on purchases at more than 1,200 of retailers, including Restaurant.com, TurboTax and Brookstone, which is then credited to their checking account.

Prepaid cards

There are no prepaid cards aimed specifically at college students, though a bulk of them are targeted to parents of teenagers. These cards are increasing in number: American Express, for example, introduced a prepaid card in June, and more major lenders are expected to follow suit, says Papadimitriou. What's in it for them is more fees. Swipe fees on prepaid cards, which range from 1% to 2% of the total purchase, will remain unchanged; they're excluded from the new debit card swipe fee rules that go into effect in October.

For now, most prepaid cards aren't a great deal. To begin with, most charge $10 per month, which eats into the card's balance. And considering that students can sign up for free checking accounts, paying for a prepaid card could be a waste of money for many families. In addition, students don't even get the benefit of building a credit history, since most card issuers don't report the activity to the credit reporting agencies, says Bill Hardekopf, chief executive at LowCards.com, which tracks credit and prepaid card offers. Students who don't build a credit history early on are likely to have a lower credit score 15% of a consumer's FICO credit score is determined by the length of their credit history -- which after graduation could mean a harder time getting approved for credit or ending up with higher rates. The issuers say this is a safer way to give students money since it prevents them from getting into credit card debt and it helps them better understand how to manage finances.
For students who do decide to sign up for a prepaid card, American Express' card is among the most affordable at $0 in monthly fees but $2 for each ATM withdrawal after the first one each month. BillMyParents SpendSmart MasterCard Prepaid card charges $3.95 per month with an additional $1.50 per ATM withdrawal. And the UPside Visa prepaid card charges up to $3 per month and up to $1.95 for each ATM withdrawal. In the rare cases where a student receives a monthly paycheck of at least $2,000 and visit the ATM at least once a week, the Green Dot Gold Prepaid Visa card comes out to $0 a month, according to a CardHub.com study.
Schools rely on college-linked card revenue

By John Wisely, USA TODAY, and David Jesse, Detroit Free Press
Updated 1d ago

Credit cards bearing university logos helped generate more than $73.3 million for universities, alumni associations, fraternities and sororities in 2010, according to the Federal Reserve Board.

While that was down from 2009, when the cards generated more than $84.5 million, the revenue remains huge and crucial.

"It is a big chunk of what we do," said Roger Williams, executive director of the Penn State Alumni Association. "It basically pays for approximately (20% to 25%) of our operating budget in a given year."

Which college is ranked highest in the nation?
Like most college rankings, it depends.

On pure revenue, Penn State was tops at $2.6 million in 2010. Williams said the association received $2.25 million, with the rest going to the university itself. Penn State's program has generated between $25 million and $30 million through the years, Williams said.

On that basis, cards affiliated with the universities of Texas, Michigan, Southern California and Tennessee rounded out the top five revenue producers, according to the Federal Reserve report.

The rankings change when calculated by revenue per card account.

By that measure, Boston College is No. 1, earning, on average, $1,837 from its agreement with GE Money Bank, which had 597 cards in circulation at the end of 2010, according to the report.

Cards affiliated with Northwestern and the universities of Cincinnati, Memphis and Minnesota round out the top five by revenue per card.

Credit card issuers note that students represent a small fraction of card holders; most go to alumni.

New banking regulations limit the marketing of cards to students. But some consumer activists say new laws should have gone further.
"The new laws regulate marketing to students, but the special card offers still need to be monitored," said Edmund Mierzwinski, consumer program director for U.S. PIRG, a non-profit consumer watchdog organization. "While some schools have converted their contracts to simply allow card access to alumni, undergrad students remain a holy grail for card companies."

Most card holders say they're glad to contribute.

"It's a good chance to show off my school pride, and it helps out the alumni association, so that's good to me," said Mike Cole, a Chicago-area alumnus of the University of Michigan, one of 35,840 Michigan alumni and students who carried a U-M-branded Bank of America card last year.

Wisely, USA TODAY's Michigan correspondent, also reports for the Detroit Free Press.