THE DAILY CLIPS

September 17, 2008

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

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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
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Some ECU students camped out for N.C. State game

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

Some East Carolina University students hungry for tickets to Saturday’s football game against N.C. State slept outside the ticket office Monday night.

Tickets to the game are a hot item, in Greenville and Raleigh. Anthony Sanders spent Monday night in a tent outside Minges Coliseum to make sure he could get a ticket.

Sanders, a junior at ECU, was waiting at the ticket booth by 9 p.m. for his chance at a ticket. He was the seventh person in line Tuesday morning when tickets went on sale around 6:35 a.m.

Sophomore Adam Ehinger was right around the 75-person mark in the line when the ticket booth opened to loud cheers from the crowd.

FRESHMAN CASSIE GILLELAND, left, and sophomore Adam Ehinger wait in line Tuesday morning to get tickets for the game.

“I’ve almost been more excited to wait for the tickets than for the actual game,” Ehinger said. “It’s like a tradition.”

The line of Student Pirate Club members numbered around 175 by the time tickets went on sale, but there were less than 100

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The student club sold the allotment in a few short minutes this morning. Denton said the tickets went on sale early in the morning to make it fair to students who might not be able to wait in line during class time.

"We know a lot of students have class during the day and during the evening," Denton said, "so we wanted to make it a time that wasn’t during the ECU class schedule."

There are about 5,000 members of the student club.

"I don’t think I am going to get a ticket, but I am going to try," said senior Lindsay Daniels, a Student Pirate Club member. "I love the ECU and State rivalry so I am going to the game even if I can’t get a ticket today."

Daniels was well behind the 100-person mark in the line.

Scott Wetherbee, ECU’s assistant athletics director/ticket operations, said Saturday’s rivalry game is a hot ticket.

The contract agreed upon between ECU and N.C. gives ECU 4,300 tickets. If more ECU fans want to go to the game, they have to get the tickets through N.C. State, at online auction sites or from scalpers in the parking lot on the day of the game.

"I’ve talked to folks at N.C. State and they are getting bombarded with people pulling for the purple," Wetherbee said.
New dean of Brody SOM introduced to board

BY TOM MARINE
The Daily Reflector

The Pitt County Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees saw a familiar face at Tuesday's meeting — Dr. Paul Cunningham, the newly appointed dean of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University.

Dr. Phyllis Horns, interim vice chancellor for Health Sciences at ECU, introduced Cunningham to the board, saying this is an exciting time for the medical school and health sciences division.

"He comes to us as a great leader, and we expect great things from him," Horns said.

Cunningham, a faculty member at ECU for 21 years before leaving in 2002, addressed the board members by saying he is pleased to be part of the team that includes PCMH and the university.

He said his job, at this point, is to get to know everyone he will be working with, even if he knew them before he left.

"Things have changed so much in the last six and a half years, which makes my learning curve quite steep," he said. "I'm new to this job, but I'm also an old-timer."

Cunningham officially be- See BOARD, A9

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gan his work on Monday, after spending the last six years as the chair of the Department of Surgery at Syracuse University.

Also at the board meeting:
- The board passed a motion to contribute $1.6 million to support the 2009 grants program, including $1 million to the Pitt Community Benefits Program and $600,000 to the Regional Community Benefits Program.
- Board members also approved the project budget for the addition to the Children's Hospital in the amount of $42 million.
- Dr. Ron Perkin, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Brody School, said the addition will re-energize the staff and help with recruiting. He vouched for his team, saying they will be successful in expanding the health care services provided to children.
- Brian Floyd, vice president of cardiovascular services at PCMH and executive director of the East Carolina Heart Institute, provided an update on the status of the new ECHI facility. He said the project is on schedule for its target opening date in January.
- August was another strong financial month for the hospital. PCMH earned $5.1 million on operations, which was $1.1 million above projections, according to the board agenda. After 11 months, the hospital's operating income is $33.4 million.

Tom Marine can be contacted at 329-9567 and tmarine@coxnc.com.
Wolfpack reports good showing at its blood drive

BY KRISTIN DAY
The Daily Reflector

N.C. State has had its chance to give, and now it's time for Pirates fans to give more as a blood drive contest between the schools continues in Greenville today.

Wolfpack fans held a two-shift drive from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

ECU organizers didn't think they'd find out how much blood they need to collect to outpace the Pack.

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"I don't know if they'll release the number of pints until our drive is done," Red Cross Account Manager Elizabeth Clark said on Tuesday afternoon, adding that there were talks of withholding the final count until Saturday.

"You can say it's a guarded secret," Clark said.

Later in the day, Clark's Raleigh cohort, Kirsten Krum, said organizers there would release results on Thursday. Krum also reported that N.C. State had a "good showing" during the first few hours.

The ECU Student Pirate Club will hold its blood drive from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. today at Jones Hall in the Murphy Center. ECU's results also will be released on Thursday.

Anyone 17 years or older who fulfills the Red Cross' basic donor requirements is encouraged to help organizers reach their 255-pint goal.

Each donor will receive a free "I Bleed Purple and Gold" T-shirt and earn the chance to win two tickets to Saturday's game, an autographed football or a goodie bag.

The organizations also will offer some refreshments outside on the terrace.

Clark also said local N.C. State supporters — if they're brave enough to face possible heckling — will be able to donate blood here for the Raleigh home team.

Contact Kristin Day at 329-9579 or kday@coxnc.com.
Blue Cross working to aid reform

I am writing to correct several erroneous statements in Paul Cook's Sept. 12 letter to the editor.

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina spends about 85 cents of each premium dollar on the medical care of its members. Most of the rest of that premium dollar goes to direct services for customers, including answering their calls, processing their claims and offering programs that help them manage health conditions and make good lifestyle choices.

We continue to work hard to decrease the percentage of our revenues we spend on administrative costs while maintaining high levels of service. In 2007, while our membership grew, we actually spent less on administrative costs. We answer most customer calls in less than a minute. By contrast, according to the Wall Street Journal, a recent Congressional investigation found that Medicare took as long as 45 minutes to answer some test calls.

The fact is that health care is extremely expensive and too many Americans cannot afford it. There is no single problem, and there is no single solution. It will take all players in the health care field to arrive at long-term, meaningful reform. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is committed to being a constructive partner in that discussion.

DAN GLASER
chief financial officer
Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina
Former UNC, NBA guard Davis captures FCA audience

BRANDY JONES
The Daily Reflector

WINTERVILLE - Two days before the start of his junior year of high school, Hubert Davis' mother passed away.

"I had hatred for Jesus after that," he said. "I could not understand why he would take her away from me."

But two days before the start of his junior year at the University of North Carolina, Davis took Jesus into his life, and everything, he says, fell into place.

"Everything you can relate to Jesus," he told a captivated audience of about 150 who came out to listen to the former University of North Carolina and NBA guard at the annual Fellowship of Christian Athletes Chalkboard Chatter Community Outreach and Ministry event Tuesday night at Covenant United Methodist Church. "I have no idea how I survived the years prior."

Local residents from middle school athletes to East Carolina Athletics Director Terry Holland — who lost a recruiting battle with Dean Smith for Davis back in the late 1980s — were on hand.

"Without Jesus, I would not have made it to Chapel Hill or the NBA," Davis said. "Without Jesus, I would not have a great marriage and family. Without Jesus, I would not have my job with ESPN."

Fellow UNC alum Webb Tyndall introduced Davis to the crowd, relating a story of just how hard of a worker the 12-year NBA veteran and current ESPN analyst is.

"Hubert graduated in 1992, and I started in 1993," Tyndall said. "That summer I wanted to work out as hard as I could and Hubert's workouts are legendary. He allowed me to work out with him. And sometimes, he even let me shoot."

"We were in the Smith Center (doing shooting drills) and he asked me how many out of 10 I wanted to make. I said six of 10, and he said 'You've got to go higher than that.' So I said eight. Then I worked and it was nine. I became a very good shooter."

Davis said it was all about devotion.

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DAVIS

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Davis said, "Michael Jordan, Allen Iverson, Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash and Rip Hamilton. Those are the only guys I ever played against or with who never took a break. Ever."

David Wall, the Eastern North Carolina Area Director of the FCA, said there will be another event in November with Texas Rangers outfielder Josh Hamilton. The FCA works with up to 500 kids a week at some events, he added.

"There are several different ministries here in town, and they are all great," Wall said. "We realize that you can't expect kids to come to church these days. So you've got to take the message to them. And athletics are a great venue for that."

Randy Jones can be reached at rajones@coxnc.com or at (252) 329-9593.
Barkley to pay visit to Greenville on Oct. 25

Former NBA great Charles Barkley is coming to East Carolina.

Barkley, one of the NBA’s 50 greatest players and a member of the Hall of Fame, is scheduled to attend a closed men’s basketball practice in Minges Coliseum on Oct. 25, according to the ECU Media Relations department. Only student Pirate Club members and season ticket holders can attend.

Further details of the event are scheduled to be released by East Carolina today.

Barkley is one of just four players in NBA history who has scored 20,000 points, grabbed 10,000 rebounds and dished out 4,000 assists. He averaged 22.1 points and 11.7 rebounds per game during his 16-year NBA career with playing stints in Philadelphia, Phoenix and Houston. He earned Most Valuable Player honors in 1993 and was named All-NBA first team from 1988-91 and in ’93.

See BARKLEY, C3

BARKLEY
Continued from C1

East Carolina men’s hoops coach Mack McCarthy has known Barkley since the early ’80s. McCarthy, who was an assistant coach at Auburn from 1978-85, was a pivotal figure in Barkley’s decision to sign with the Tigers. Barkley played three seasons at Auburn, finishing with career averages of 13.6 points and 9.3 boards per game.

Even though he scored 23,757 points in the NBA, Barkley was perhaps known more for his rebounding prowess. Listed at 6-foot-6, but standing closer to 6-4, Barkley was a beast in the paint. After averaging 8.6 boards per game his rookie season in 1984-85, Barkley pulled down at least 10.1 rebounds per game for the next 15 seasons. He averaged a career-high 14.6 rpg during the 1986-87 campaign and finished his career with 12,546 boards, which ranks 15th on the all-time list.

Barkley has been a studio analyst for the Emmy award-winning Inside the NBA on TNT for seven seasons. He agreed to a contract extension with TNT in February.
ENROLLMENT SOARS AT 2-YEAR SCHOOLS

BY MARTI MAGUIRE
STAFF WRITER

SMITHFIELD — Community college rolls swell as the economy withers — a cycle that brings to mind displaced factory workers going from textiles to high-tech in a computer classroom. This year, state community colleges are reporting unusually large growth.

But a newer group also is driving the increase: high-school graduates hoping to earn a four-year degree for less money.

Wake Technical Community College welcomed 13 percent more degree-seeking students than last fall, Johnston Community College saw a 7 percent jump.

Farther east, Pitt Community College is squeezing classes into meeting rooms after an increase of 10 percent, its highest on record.

The growth includes career-changers seeking two-year degrees in programs such as nursing and biotechnology, which colleges offer specifically for employers. High gas prices and the shrinking economy have also made community colleges attractive for students who plan to earn four-year degrees.

Transfer students see other benefits. They breeze past the SAT, which is not required for transfer students, as well as the stress of college applications. "It just seemed to make more sense," said Stephanie Lopresto, a freshman at Johnston Community College.

The sour economy is speeding up a trend toward community college as a stepping stone to an advanced degree, said ICC President Don Reichard.

"It used to be community college was a last resort for students who didn't get into a university," Reichard said. "These days, community college is the first choice for many students."

Lopresto made the honor roll in high school and said she was accepted to a private four-year college. But she doesn't expect to pay a dime to earn an associate's degree in medical sonography, thanks to grants and scholarships.

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COLLEGE
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It's a deal she doubts she would have seen at a four-year school, even if she had waded through the sea of financial aid paperwork.

After two years, she expects to have a choice: work at a decent-paying job, or go on to earn a university degree — maybe even more than one, said Lopresto, who's interested in pediatrics.

In the meantime, she's living with her parents in Clayton, and enjoying an easy transition from high school to college life.

"This is more of a comfortable place for me," said Lopresto, 18. "If I went to a four-year college, I think I might feel lost."

Unemployment Link

College leaders cite a rule of thumb: for every 1 percent the unemployment rate increases, enrollment goes up 3 or 4 percent.

Community colleges nationwide saw enrollments increase by as much as 20 percent this summer and fall, said Norma Kent, spokeswoman for the American Association of Community Colleges. Unemployment hit 6.6 percent in North Carolina last month, up from 4.7 percent a year before, according to the N.C. Employment Security Commission.

Student numbers haven't been tallied at the state level, but officials hear reports of swelling rolls across the state. "We're a very good barometer of the economy," said Audrey Bailey, a spokeswoman for the state system.

At Pitt Community College, enrollment management director Joanne Ceres said a large part of this year's increase was among students straight out of high school. Full-time enrollment was up 13 percent.

The college takes partial credit, she said, thanks to a marketing blitz. One session with parents was dubbed, "How to earn a bachelor's degree for 36 percent less."

"As people become more savvy, particularly in bad economic times, people realize just what a value community college can be," Ceres said.

At Wake Tech, nearly 300 cars a day overflow from parking lots onto grass fields. The college also added an extra free bus route to campus from downtown.

President Stephen Scott said enrollment is up in two-year programs aimed at putting students directly into jobs such as information technology. But students who plan to earn a bachelor's degree are also doing the math.

"You can save enough in the first two years to pay for the second two years," said Scott, who is currently president of the state association of community college presidents.

Institutions cooperate

The transition to a university has never been smoother, as many colleges adopt cooperative agreements with universities. Wake Tech, for instance, recently struck deals that will allow graduates automatic entrance into bachelor's programs at Campbell and N.C. State universities.

Collin Keeton, 17, won't be applying to four-year colleges when he graduates this spring. The student at Middle College High School at JCC will earn much of his two-year degree while he's still in high school. Then, through a recent partnership between JCC and N.C. State University, he plans to transfer into the NCSU engineering program.

He'll skip the SAT — and the intense competition of fellow high schoolers seeking limited spots at state schools.

There's a hitch to the strategy of starting out at a community college, then transferring to a four-year school — transfer students graduate at lower rates than students who go directly to four-year universities. In 2001, 91 percent of rising juniors who entered the UNC system as freshmen graduated within five years; 76 percent of community college transfer students did.

Reichard, of Johnston Community College, sees long-term promise for a struggling economy...
To ECU professors, commute is so worth it

Faculty members in area love ‘small town atmosphere’

By GREG KATSKI
Staff Writer

Whether it’s the friendly neighbors, the historical attractions or the minimal traffic, many characteristics call professors and administrators working at East Carolina University to the banks of the Pamlico River.

ECU faculty members young and old, male and female, trained in nursing, acting and computer programming, have cited Washington and Chowan County’s small town charm as reason for moving from Greenville to the area.

Gene Eakes, a College of Nursing professor emeritus, was a full-time professor at ECU for 25 years. Eakes, who retired from teaching after the spring semester, has lived in Cypress Landing for the past nine years. She moved to Cypress Landing from a similar community on the outskirts of Greenville city limits, but has found her new neighborhood a lot more friendly and open.

“It’s easier to be connected to people,” she said.

Although she said her friends from up North make fun of her for complaining about the congestion in Greenville, she finds her life in Cypress Landing much more relaxing.

“It’s a nice, quiet escape from the hustle and bustle of Greenville,” Eakes said.

And the commute she used to make to work didn’t bother her, neither. Eakes said it took just as long to drive across Greenville from her old house to work on ECU’s main campus as it did from Cypress Landing.

“The drive was certainly not an issue,” she said. “It was a nice decompression time. I would sort of plan out my day on the way in.”

Patricia “Patch” Clark, associate professor/theatre for youth/theatre education coordinator with the School of Theatre and Dance in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, still makes the commute from her house on W. Main Street in Washington.

Clark, who has been teaching at ECU for 15 “happy, happy years,” said, “the commute is not that bad.”

“I have time to think, unwind and listen to great music ... organize for the day or debrief,” she said.

Clark has been living in Washington for almost 12 years. She moved to her humble abode from a house on 4th Street in Greenville. Clark said she misses being able to walk to work, but loves her new home.

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She said her house provides a “feeling of warmth I’m in love with.”

Clark, and her husband, Ron, discovered Washington while visiting friends in the area. She said that, among other things, the rolling, open water of the Pamlico River, the vibrant art scene and the friendly, down-

Todd Berry, associate dean for data and resource management with the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences (Contributed Photo)

home people called her to settle in Washington.

“(It) sort of called me home,” Clark said.

Clark, an artistically-minded soul, also loves the architecture of the buildings around downtown Washington.

Jeff Phipps, associate professor/costume designer/design area coordinator with the School of Theatre and Dance in the College of Fine Arts and Communication, finds the architecture of buildings in Washington “more interesting” than Greenville.

Phipps has taught at ECU for 12 years, and lived in Washington for the duration.

“I was looking for a place where I could be part of the community,” he said. “Larger cities are so transitional.”

Phipps regularly helps out with productions at the Turnage Theater. He lives in the town’s historic district, and enjoys hanging out with his neighbors.

“I know a lot of people,” he said. “It’s kind of great.”

Phipps, like Eakes, enjoys the “less hectic pace” that Washington provides.

He considers Washington a well-maintained town, and hopes to stay in Washington when he retires.

“I am very fortunate that I found Washington,” Phipps said.

Todd Berry, associate dean for data and resource management with the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences traveled a unique path to Washington.

Berry taught at Washington High School from 1991 to 1999, but lived with his wife in Greenville at the time. His wife, Laura, was also making the daily commute to Washington from Greenville to teach at John Tayloe School.

Berry said he “always liked the downtown area and the water,” but couldn’t afford a house in Washington on his salary.

When he took his current job at ECU, Berry finally had the financial wherewithal to buy the type of house in town that he dreamed of.

Gene Eakes, College of Nursing professor emeritus (Contributed Photo)

Berry, and his wife, could “buy what we wanted to buy,” he said.

Berry thinks the commute, now made the other way from Washington to Greenville, is worth it.

He enjoys taking his daughter downtown to the waterfront to get ice cream and explore Main Street.

Berry said the town’s family atmosphere “is part of what swayed me.”

Even before moving to town, Berry said, “I liked it all ... the area, the district.”