THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU trustees mull budget cuts

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University officials are taking a look at every program on campus, some of which will be eliminated due to low performance.

Provost Marilyn Sheerer described the process officials are using to examine low-performing programs on campus and how some programs need a boost to the ECU Board of Trustees in a special meeting on Thursday.

ECU has faced state budget reductions of more than $82 million since 2008. The university has cut campus operations, administrative positions and other non-academic areas.

Academic programs with low enrollment, low graduation rates and low priority within the university's mission may face the chopping block.

With the state facing a $3.3 billion shortfall next year, officials are expecting a 10 percent cut for ECU.

Officials already have eliminated four programs including majors in marketing education, certificate of advanced study in library science, masters in music therapy and education specialist in counselor education.

Those programs will be eliminated once the students enrolled in them graduate.

Sheerer said that some pro-

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grams can be altered or combined with other universities in the UNC system and offered online.

"UNC Online didn't happen for the heck of it," she said. "It is a way that we can tap into the resources of other campuses."

ECU already has thousands of students who only take online classes. More majors are likely to be offered online or through a partnership with another UNC campus, while the program's physical presence on campus will disappear.

UNC General Administration sends a list of low-performing programs to ECU every year, but the programs are judged based solely on numbers. The list of low-performing programs includes important programs like philosophy and biochemistry, that officials will not eliminate.

Philosophy and physics have low numbers in terms of students who choose to major in those fields. But both programs hold classes that are required by many other majors and are essential to the university, said Rick Niswander, dean of the College of Business.

"When we talk to the deans, we don't just talk about numbers," Sheerer said. "We talk about markets and we talk about success of graduates."

Another issue for officials is eliminating programs with tenured faculty. Legally, the university would have to make an effort to put the faculty member somewhere else on campus.

University staff will be examining programs throughout campus to make recommendations for the future of those programs.

Options include eliminating the program entirely while making sure students already in the program can graduate, restructuring the program, consideration of combining the program with one from another UNC school, keep the program with steps to improve its enrollment or keep the program the same.

Officials will consider things like enrollment numbers and other factors like the importance of the program to the university's overall mission, faculty involvement and the quality of the program.

The full board of trustees will meet today at 9 a.m. in the Mendenhall Student Center.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
OUR VIEWS

Literary homecoming further demonstrates ECU’s value

Greenville and Pitt County have countless reasons to celebrate the university that beats at the heart of this community. East Carolina University is more than the area’s largest employer and a center for research and education; it also serves as a cultural touchstone, highlighting items of importance to all of eastern North Carolina.

The annual Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming is one program that highlights the remarkable cultural achievement of the region, bringing area authors and artists for lectures, workshops and panel discussions. Residents here are fortunate to have such a resource at their doorstep and should take advantage of events like this at every opportunity.

Given its prominence on the local landscape, East Carolina’s influence on this community is inescapable. The student population dominates the area around the school during the spring and fall. It is the largest employer in Pitt County, providing employment to thousands and serving as a key economic engine for the region. Its athletic teams — particularly in football and baseball — forge a sense of regional identity and pride.

There is no question that a city this size without a university at its center would be vastly different. Its people might have a older average age. It might have less wealth and lack the financial opportunity afforded by a college education. But certainly it would be poorer in culture, because East Carolina draws premier talent — in art, in music, in dance and in countless other fields — to perform for the community.

One program that began in 2004 is the Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, a series of events highlighting novelists, journalists, historians and poets from the region. Each year, the homecoming has grown in scope and ambition, hosting more speakers at places in a five-county area. The event culminates in this weekend’s two-day series of lectures, readings, panel discussions and workshops for the university community and the general public, beginning today.

That such talent is drawn to East Carolina for the homecoming is a credit to the organizers, but speaks very highly of the university and its place in the region. Highlighting local talent draws directly on the school motto of regional service. Offering admission to the public for free means that the enrichment they provide will not be confined to only those in the classrooms.

Events like this demonstrate East Carolina’s tremendous cultural value. Few communities have a large, vibrant public university at their heart, and Pitt County certainly is fortunate to be one of them.
JFK wins over the tobacco state

By John A. Tucker

Fifty years ago today, history happened in North Carolina. That day, U.S. Sen. John Kennedy staged a campaign rally on the campus of East Carolina College in Greenville. Never before had a major presidential candidate bothered to campaign in the eastern part of the state.

Admittedly, George Washington toured the South, including much of Eastern North Carolina, in 1791, but his visit was a political survey of the region, not a campaign courting locals. Kennedy changed all that, coming first to the East and making himself a part of life here, even if just for one morning.

Before the day ended, Kennedy had flown over most of the state, making stops in Greensboro, Charlotte and in Raleigh, where he dined with Gov. Luther Hodges before a final rally at Reynolds Coliseum. (Another stop in Asheville was canceled due to inclement weather.) JFK's blitz was made possible by the Caroline, a private plane (Convair 240) purchased by his father the year before in anticipation of the 1960 campaign.

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In Eastern North Carolina, Kennedy was in a unique cultural arena. The outdoor rally at College Stadium in Greenville was the big gathering that morning, but earlier Kennedy had pleased locals greatly by stopping by Farmer's Warehouse, one of the largest in a county known for its world-ranking production of flue-cured tobacco.

By September, Farmer's was brimming with piles of golden leaf, nicely tied into bunches. Kennedy, clearly tickled by the experience, reportedly purchased a pile during the mock auction, conducted by none other than Ray Oglesby, a renowned auctioneer, Lucky Strike poster-man and occasional guest on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

After rubbing shoulders and shaking hands with hundreds of tobacco farmers, their wives and children, Kennedy exited Farmer's in a red Mercury convertible, along with Democratic gubernatorial nominee Terry Sanford and U.S. Rep. Herbert Bonner. Somewhere in the car, Kennedy stashed several bunches of hand-wrapped tobacco, later featured on stage at College Stadium, where he spoke to more than 12,000 enthusiastic college students and supporters from all over the East.

Kennedy's warehouse visit happened before the U.S. surgeon general concluded that smoking was dangerous and when leaf sales brought annual infusions of big money into an otherwise poor region. By enjoying the aroma of freshly cured leaf alongside the rural population, Kennedy made himself an East Carolinian.

But the most historic moment occurred at College Stadium. Earlier that year, Leo Jenkins had been inaugurated as the school's new president. His later years as an unrelenting advocate of East Carolina were provided with potent political connections that day, as every Democratic player in the state gathered in little Greenville to kick-start Kennedy's barnstorm.

Jenkins, U.S. Sen. Sam Ervin, U.S. Sen. B. Everett Jordan, Hodges, soon-to-be governor Terry Sanford and a host of congressmen and representatives, state and federal, left little room for doubt about Democratic solidarity. Still, voices from the community echoed Norman Vincent Peale and others in declaring that the threat posed by a Catholic president was extreme. In an acerbic letter to Sanford, the senior clergy at Greenville's oldest Methodist church stated that a Catholic president would "surely cut America's head off."

Yet at the ECC rally, one child appeared holding a cardboard sign reading, "I am a Baptist and I support Kennedy," and stood alongside another with a sign stating, "I am a Catholic and I support Kennedy." Significantly, on stage, Kennedy's charm and wit were prefaced by an invocation delivered by the Rev. Floyd B. Cherry of Black Jack Freewill Baptist Church. Some might question whether Cherry actually voted for Kennedy on Election Day, but he showed, through his own profile in courage, that Eastern North Carolinians would not succumb to the worst.

That Kennedy gave the East the opportunity to prove that it was beyond such bigotry – 78 percent of Pitt County voters chose him on Election Day – was the most historic outcome of Sept. 17, 1960.

John A. Tucker is professor of history and university historian at East Carolina University.
Art Without Borders assembles varied exhibitions

The Daily Reflector

Arte sin fronteras is Spanish for art without borders.

Jennifer Valko and Lisa Robinson of East Carolina University partnered with Charlotte Fitz of the Greenville Museum of Art to assemble a local “Art Without Borders” event celebrating Hispanic heritage with a variety of arts-based exhibitions, discussions, concerts and student classes. Events begin at 6 p.m. Monday when Artist Eddie Dominguez speaks in Speight Auditorium on the ECU campus.

The Greenville Museum of Art will display the work of Dominguez and Jose Galvez in the West Wing Gallery. An opening reception will be held from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Greenville Museum of Art. The event is free and open to the public.

Dominguez is originally from Tucumcari, N.M., and incorporates the rich cultural heritage of his Hispanic background into his ceramics. He uses a broad range of materials: wood, paint, paper, clay, photographs, metals and fibers to create his sculptures, often in a recognizable dinner-plate shape.

Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Galvez was born in the Latino barrios of Tucson. His black-and-white photographs from the last 40 years create a powerful historical record of the Latino experience in the United States. His work depicts everyday moments within the Hispanic community.

An additional exhibition of work by Peter Eversoll will be on display at ECU’s Joyner Library and will be available for viewing during library hours.

Born in San Diego, Eversoll is a multimedia artist using painting, photography and installation to create his work. After earning his undergraduate degree from the University of California, Eversoll lived in Mexico for 14 years and earned his master’s degree in fine art from the Academia de San Carlos, the oldest arts school in the Americas. During his time in Mexico, he taught at the Art Institute of the Autonomous University of Hidalgo State in Pachuca and served as visiting artist at the FARO de Oriente in Mexico City.

Eversoll relocated to Durham in 2008 with a continued focus on art, community and education. He founded the Foto Pueblo, a nonprofit image bank that provides photographs to organizations that defend and promote the rights of migrant workers.

He gives photography classes to young migrant farm workers in addition to working as a freelance photographer.

“Art without Borders,” however, isn’t just about the visual arts.

In addition to the exhibitions, “Art without Borders” will include panel discussions on immigration and border issues; a screening of the film “The Wind Journeys;” a children’s bilingual storytime and book-making event; and two concerts performed by Miami-based bands Tiempo Libre and Spam Allstars.

Most events are free. Some events do require advance online reservations.
Authors to converge for Eastern N.C. Literary Homecoming

The Daily Reflector

A collection of notable authors will converge on Pitt County this weekend for the seventh annual Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming.

The event is presented by East Carolina University’s Joyner Library, and this year’s theme is “Contrasting Cultural Expressions: Perceptions of Place and Self.” The theme will explore the impact of shared values and traditions on perceptions of self and one's place in the larger global context.

Artists from eastern North Carolina will interact with artists influenced by other regions to explore differences and how they capture the culture of their regions in their work.

Events will begin at 7 p.m. today when the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration is presented to Nancy Olsen in the Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms. Olsen is the owner of Quail Ridge Books and Music in Raleigh and is being recognized for her dedication and promotion in supporting local artists.

Authors Jill McCorkle and Michael Malone will both give tributes and readings during this opening event.

On Saturday, panel discussions and small interactive workshops with authors will encourage in-depth discussion regarding the writing process and inspiration. Time will allow for audience members to interact directly with authors to explore issues raised in the sessions, and audience members can meet the authors during book signings.

An author luncheon with guest speaker Pamela Duncan, author of “The Big Beautiful,” will be held from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms. This event requires registration and costs $15.

Charleston, S.C., native Josephine Humphreys will be the keynote speaker. She is the author of “Dreams of Sleep,” "Rich in Love,” “The Fireman’s Fair” and “Nowhere Else on Earth.”

Her first three novels focus on contemporary family life in the South. "Nowhere Else on Earth," however, is a historical novel based on the true story of Rhoda Strong and Henry Berry Lowrie from the American Civil War era. It won the Southern Book Award in 2001.

Additionally, Humphreys won the 1984 Hemingway Foundation/PEN Award for "Dreams of Sleep" She also is the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lyndhurst Prize, and the American Academy of Arts and Letters Award in Literature.
Schedule of Events

Today
7-9 p.m.: Presentation of the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration
Presented to Nancy Olson, Mendenhall Student Center
Great Rooms. Jill McCorkle and Michael Malone will speak

Saturday
■ 8:30-9 a.m.: Opening remarks
■ 9-10 a.m.: Plenary Session “West Looks East, East Looks
South” with Pamela Duncan and Jim Grimsley
■ 10:30-11:30 a.m.: Panel “Looking Back To Look Forward: His-
torical Fiction” with Josephine Humphreys and Carole Boston
Weatherford
■ 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Workshop on writing poetry with
Michael White
■ 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.: Presentation of “Recording the Mo-
ment When Cultures Clash” with Margaret O’Connor
■ 12:30-1 p.m. Book Signing
■ 1-2:30 p.m.: Luncheon with Pamela Duncan, author of “The
Big Beautiful.” Registration and fee of $15 required for lunc-
cheon to be held in Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms
■ 2:30-3:30 p.m.: Panel discussion on “Outsider Looking In,
Insider Looking Out: Two Perspectives” with Michael White and
Michael Malone
■ 2:30-4:30 p.m.: Workshop on “Changing Spaces: Playwright-
ing Across Cultures” with Jim Grimsley
■ 3:45-4:45 p.m.: Panel discussion on “The Age of Perspective: Teaching Adults and Children His-
tory” with Alice Eley Jones and Carole Boston Weatherford
■ 4:30-5 p.m.: Book signing
■ 5:15 p.m.: Keynote address by Josephine Humphreys, author of “Nowhere Else on Earth”
The workshop sessions that coincide with panels will be limited to registered participants.
Visit www.ecu.edu/lithomecoming or call 328-2771.
Local band will help Wimpie’s close on a high note

BY KRISTIN DAY
The Daily Reflector

As owners Scott and Kim Joyner say a final farewell to Wimpie’s Steam Bar and Grill today, they’ll be celebrating nearly 20 years of memories with family, acquaintances, loyal patrons and a band of musicians they’ve come to consider good friends.

The Speculations, a group of physicians and health care administrators that play rock ‘n’ roll music mostly for charities, will perform about 7 p.m. for the Joyner’s “Hanging Up His Hat Celebration” finale show at the restaurant, located at 206 Main St., Winterville.

“It’s an honor,” guitarist Steve Spruill said of being offered the gig.

“That’s pretty huge,” added frontman Keith Nelson. “He’s got a lot of people he can pick from.”

“It’s nice for your ego,” Paul “Shack” Shackelford said with a chuckle.

Band members (without female vocalist Angela Wharton but including brothers Bill and Joe Edwards) gathered on Monday in the small practice room attached to Shackelford’s garage to prepare for the show. Surrounded by musical equipment, tools and fishing gear, and with cardboard cutouts of Eric Clapton and Jimi Hendrix looking on, they talked about how they first attained the Wimpie’s stage on April 9, 2003. Back then, Joyner was the only venue owner who would let them play without an agent or a news

See WIMPIE’S, B3

cont...
packet. They went on to play at Wimpie’s up to six times a year, building a relationship with the Joyners.

“Scott’s generosity is one of the reasons that we can claim the funds total that we do,” Nelson said, “because his habit is to give a portion of the proceeds of the evening to us as a donation to the cause of the evening. He’s very kind.”

“They’re good customers and friends,” Scott Joyner said on Tuesday. “They’re physicians but they put their pants on one leg at a time just like everybody else. When you see a very professional person and they get up on stage with their talent, it’s very heart-warming.”

The Speculations, who have now been together almost 10 years and pride themselves on opening for 38 Special, marked each of their stops to the restaurant on its “Wall of Fame,” a Wimpie’s fixture that will likely be painted over when the restaurant is renovated into The Warehouse. But the band will always look fondly back on the great crowds, the oysters, the women who danced on the bar and the drama-free working environment. They laughed as Joe recounted the time he let the smoke machine run a little too long during a rendition of “Purple Haze.” The Winterville Fire Department was called to the scene, but the Joyners always asked them back to play.

Now, they’re searching for a new place to perform, where they can raise money for local charities — like the Special Olympics, American Cancer Society and Greenville Homeless Shelter — and still end the show by 11 p.m. It is still uncertain whether the new restaurant, The Warehouse, which will be run by the Joyners’ friends Donna Ware and her son, Patrick Ware, will host live music.

For Wimpie’s last day open, food and beverages will be sold at reduced prices in order to clear out the inventory but Scott Joyner said they should have their popular items, like shrimp and crab legs, maybe oysters.

“It’s a bittersweet moment,” Scott Joyner said. “I’ve been doing this for almost 19 years and providing entertainment. The customers and all that — I’m definitely going to miss it, but I’m looking forward to a new chapter in my life. Someone wanted to get in and open their own business (the Wares) and everything just kind of worked out as far as changing hands.”

Tonight the final party begins with a special extended stage and, perhaps, a rare North Drum set performed by percussionist Bill Edwards.

“It’s going to be really a lot of fun I think,” Bill Edwards said about the show. “It’s going to be a good crowd, too.”

“We appreciate what Scott’s done for the community,” Shackelford said, “and we appreciate the opportunities he’s given us to play.

“We’ll miss him but we wish him well. We think it’s an exciting time for him and that’s the biggest thing — turning a new chapter.”

Visit www.thespeculations.com for more on The Speculations.

Contact Kristin Day at kday@reflector.com or (252) 329-9579.
Wayne C. Williams

A resident of Baton Rouge, La., he passed away on Monday, Sept. 13, 2010, at Ollie Steele Burden Manor in Baton Rouge. He was 85, and was a native of Carrboro, N.C. Mr. Williams was a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and was a W.W.II veteran of the U.S. Army. He served as Vice Consul at the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong. Upon his return to the United States, he worked as a medical illustrator at Duke University and at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. Continuing in this field, he ultimately retired from East Carolina University School of Medicine as the Director of the Center for Health Sciences Communication.

He is survived by his daughter, Martha Schaefer and her husband Bradley Schaefer; two sisters, Carlye Gardington of Carrboro, N.C., and Rebekah Easley and her husband, Quenton Easley, of Burlington, N.C.; and by numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 54 years Annie Minton Williams; and by his parents, Ber. Harry Williams and Emma Alberta Clark Williams.

Committal service will be held at a later date at Port Hudson National Cemetery in Zachary, La.
FOOTBALL

ECU recruiting ‘way ahead of schedule’

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

One of the truest barometers in measuring the success of a college football program is recruiting.

While the story of the 2010 East Carolina team is still in its early chapters, the state of ECU recruiting at the moment suggests the Pirates are riding on one of the highest waves in their history.

A new crew of coaches has seamlessly taken the progress of the previous regime and made it their own, and perhaps one of the keenest staff decisions first-year head coach Ruffin McNeill made was about continuity and not replacement.

McNeill retained wide receivers coach and recruiting coordinator Donnie Kirkpatrick. That not only helped McNeill to hang onto virtually every recruit in the 2010 signing class but also to continue getting ahead for 2011. An era of change at ECU has not meant a sacrifice in winning, or in recruiting.

“We’re way ahead of schedule, and we’ve been pretty far ahead the last couple of years,” Kirkpatrick said of the class that’s being built for the February 2011 signing day. “We’re almost done, and right now we’re on the sophomores and juniors.”

Like anywhere else, winning is the greatest recruiter for the Pirates right now. But Kirkpatrick,

See ECU, C2

Continued from C1

rick and McNeill have quite an arsenal of other selling points at their disposal, and they don’t hesitate to use any of them.

“The winning the past couple of years has obviously helped, and getting off to a great start has helped us a lot,” Kirkpatrick said. “Also, the new addition to the stadium, 50,000 people and the TV exposure, those are advertisements that you can’t pay for.”

After 29 players departed at last season’s end, it meant a big replacement job had to be done in a short amount of time in advance of the 2010 signing day. But with that feat accomplished, there is a different set of needs this time around.

Kirkpatrick said the general target number for February is 18 signatories, and based on current verbal commitments, there won’t be much wiggle room between now and then.

From position to position, Kirkpatrick said this year is about getting a little of everything but not necessarily a lot of any one thing. Not surprisingly, the spread offense McNeill brought to ECU means more wide receivers want to come and more are needed.

But the formulas that have worked in recent years at ECU are not subject to change.

“We’re trying to step the recruiting up one more level every year,” Kirkpatrick said. “Essentially, when you evaluate the kids, you’re trying to sign players that are better than what you’ve got.”

Kirkpatrick, who came on board with former head coach Skip Holtz in 2005, said the ECU staff will maintain what has been a rewarding concept of self-evaluation, meaning so-called four- or five-star athletes on national recruiting services won’t get preferential treatment.

It also means ECU coaches won’t spend a good deal of effort, if any, on campaigning to make their recruits’ rankings higher.

“We laughed last year because Boise was still behind us, and look at what Boise State does every year,” Kirkpatrick said. “They’re still behind us and everybody gets on us and says, ‘You’re not getting a high enough ranking,’ and some of that is just political and some that is just that we’re not worried about it.

“We’re trying to get the best kids, but we’re making sure we don’t lose what’s made us good.”

Another key selling point that doesn’t require a good deal of explanation is previous success.

Names like Chris Johnson and David Garrard go a long way in speaking for themselves, but Kirkpatrick said the coaches don’t stop there.

“We’re very proud of the alumni that have played here, and when you’re writing a kid you mention all of those things and those players to them,” Kirkpatrick said. “But we’re proud of all of our alumni and what they’ve done academically. We’ve got a lot of bank presidents and professors and people doing well in other things too, and when you’re trying to find what a kid is interested in or what he’s majoring in, then you try to identify all the people that have done something in that field.

“But if it’s a running back, you’re obviously going to find a way to work Chris Johnson into the conversation.”

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The man from muleshoe who thought up ECU's high-flying offense

He hails from Muleshoe, Texas.

That's right, Muleshoe. Go ahead and make your jokes. East Carolina's Lincoln Riley has heard them all.

"I catch quite a bit of flack about it," he said.

Not so much anymore. For while Riley's humorously named hometown was once all people wanted to talk about, now it's his birthdate that makes him noteworthy. Specifically, it's the juxtaposition of that relatively recent date (Sept. 5, 1983) with his job title: offensive coordinator, Football Bowl Subdivision program.

Riley turned 27 on the opening day of the season. He's the youngest coordinator in the nation, on either side of the ball, by more than two years.

He runs an offense that is seventh in the nation in scoring, fifth in first downs and first in red-zone efficiency heading into Saturday's game at Virginia Tech.

It took luck, timing, talent and the work ethic and stamina of, uh, a mule, for Riley to become a prodigy of the X-and-O set.

It started in Muleshoe. The farming and ranching town of about 5,000 near the New Mexico line is 75 minutes from Lubbock, where football mad scientist Mike Leach ran a passing-game lab at Texas Tech, putting up crazy numbers by slinging the ball all over the West Texas plains.

Like his father and grandfather before him, Riley quarterbacked Muleshoe High, and though he received scholarship offers from small schools, he decided to walk on at Texas Tech.

"I like to do things big," he said. "I'm one of those guys who's not scared to go for broke."

Riley was one of just four walk-ons to make the team. Leach quickly surmised that his football gifts were more mental than physical. He told Riley he could compete to be the third-string quarterback, but he might want to consider getting into coaching. Riley had an unusual grasp of the game.

Leach offered him a job as a student assistant. For someone who at the time thought he might go on to become a high school coach, it was a priceless opportunity.

At first, the job entailed running errands for assistant coaches: getting lunch, gassing up their cars. In time, though, Leach let Riley work with his young quarterbacks and with the scout team. Riley dived in.

"When I do something, it's full steam ahead," he said. "I don't hold back."
Riley graduated in 2006 and then benefited from "a really strange chain of events."

A graduate assistant's job opened up just as he graduated. He was in that job less than a year when the outside receivers coach left. Riley was hired. The next year, the outside receivers coach left. Riley was promoted, and worked with All-American Michael Crabtree, now with the NFL San Francisco 49ers.

Leach continued to give him more responsibility, and trust.

"If Mike had something off campus to attend, Lincoln took over the offense and ran it," said ECU coach Ruffin McNeill, who was the defensive coordinator at Texas Tech.

When Leach was fired before last season's Alamo Bowl, McNeill was named interim coach. He had "no reservations" about naming Riley his offensive coordinator, he said.

Nor did have any about bringing Riley to Greenville when he was named ECU's coach a few weeks later.

"Some people get caught up in the age thing, but I don't," McNeill said. "He understands the game very well from a technical standpoint and knows how to relate well, teach and motivate our kids."

Riley brought Texas Tech's fast-tempo, no-huddle, spread passing attack with him, and added some tweaks to fit the Pirates' personnel. He has taken advantage of the mobility of quarterback Dominique Davis. At Texas Tech, many of Leach's quarterbacks were stationary gunslingers.

Riley has also made good use of running backs Jonathan Williams and Giavanni Ruffin, a Hickory High graduate, and speedy inside receivers like Dwayne Harris on reverses.

"I think he's already one of the great football minds as a coordinator," Harris said.

ECU has scored 100 points in two games, but Riley thus far gives the offense a grade of "B." They haven't executed as well as he's hoped, have yet to score on the game's opening drive and have made up for some sloppiness with big plays, he said.

Moving forward, he'll be game-planning against defensive coordinators who might have blitz packages older then he is. Two of his offensive assistants are also in their 20s and also have backgrounds at Texas Tech. Riley said they make up for their relative lack of experience with youthful energy, as well as a thorough knowledge of the spread offense.

"When you start at 19, I feel like I've been doing this a lot longer than people realize," Riley said.

The people in Muleshoe, of course, are proud. Riley's dad runs a cotton compress and warehouse outside of town. His mother works as an interior designer. His younger brother, Garrett, is a quarterback at Stephen F. Austin.

Good town, good people, good place to raise a family, Riley said. A former railroad depot, it is named after a nearby ranch that had a brand in the shape of a mule shoe. It boasts the world largest muleshoe - 27 feet tall, 17 feet at its widest point and 11 feet wide at the base, weighing 7-1/2 tons.

It also has a glass sculpture of a mule that some people jokingly refer to by two words. One of them is "glass" and the other rhymes with that word and is also a synonym for mule.
"Muleshoe, Texas," McNeill said. "I know where it is. Pretty good little sandwich shop there, too."

Pretty good place to find an offensive coordinator as well.

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Mother, son dead at Johns Hopkins, doctor shot

By SARAH BRUMFIELD
The Associated Press
Friday, September 17, 2010; 6:33 AM

BALTIMORE -- Paul Warren Pardus listened as a Johns Hopkins Hospital surgeon updated him on the condition of his elderly mother who likely would never walk again. Overwhelmed, he pulled a gun from his waistband, wounded the doctor, then barricaded himself in his 84-year-old mother's hospital room before killing her and himself, authorities said.

"I guess he just couldn't bear to see her the way she was," said Pardus' brother 59-year-old Alvin Gibson.

The doctor, identified by colleagues as orthopedic surgeon David B. Cohen, was shot in the abdomen and collapsed Thursday afternoon outside the eighth-floor room where Pardus' mother was being treated. He was expected to survive.

Jean Davis was being crippled by arthritis and rheumatism and had surgery last week at the world-renowned cancer hospital, but it didn't go well, said Gibson of Remington, Va. It was unclear what sort of operation was performed.

"I guess because he thought my mom was suffering because the surgery wasn't successful and she probably wouldn't be able to walk again," Gibson said about a possible reason for his 50-year-old brother's actions. "She was a dear, sweet lady. She just wanted to walk around like she did when she was younger."

Pardus holed up in the room in a more than two-hour standoff that led authorities to lock down a small section of the Nelson Building while allowing the rest of the sprawling red-brick medical complex - a cluster of hospital, research and education buildings - to remain open.

When officers made their way into the room, they found Pardus and his mother shot to death, he on the floor, she in her bed.

Police Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld III said Pardus had been listening to the surgeon around midday when he "became emotionally distraught and reacted ... and was overwhelmed by the news of his mother's condition."

Gibson said he learned of their deaths while watching coverage of the shooting at a friend's house and "was really torn up inside."

Pardus was from Arlington, Va., and had a handgun permit in that state, police said. He was initially
identified as Warren Davis, but police later changed that. Gibson said his brother had legally changed his name from Davis to Pardus, but he did not know why.

Pardus had worked as a driver for MetroAccess, which provides rides for disabled passengers in the Washington, D.C., region, but the subcontractor that employed him, Diamond Transportation, said he had been on leave since June.

Next-door neighbor Teresa Green said Davis had been hospitalized for months and that Pardus had been a fixture at her bedside. He appeared to be his mother's sole caretaker, she said.

"He loved his mother. That really showed," Green said.

The wounded doctor, an assistant professor at the medical school, underwent surgery.

"The doctor will be OK," police spokesman Anthony Guglielmi said. "He's in the best place in the world - at Johns Hopkins Hospital."

Hopkins, a world-class institution, is widely known for its cancer research and treatment. It is part of Johns Hopkins University, which has one of the foremost medical schools in the world.

Cohen's neighbor in Cockeysville, Md., couldn't believe it when she heard about what happened.

"It was very scary," Jennifer Wickwire said. "It's very upsetting to think it's somebody from this area."

The hospital uses handheld metal detectors to screen patients and visitors known to be high-risk, said Harry Koffenberger, vice president of security. However, with 80 entrances and 80,000 visitors a week, it is not realistic to place metal detectors and guards everywhere.

"Not in a health-care setting," Koffenberger said. The hospital will review procedures and look again at the use of metal detectors, he said.

Gibson said his brother had never been in trouble and didn't mess around with guns, though when they were young, he liked to hunt and fish.

Thomas Robinson, 67, had known Jean Davis since he was a child.

"She used to be quite a horsewoman when she was young," he said. But she was not able to get around too well on her own in recent years. "She was in good spirits, but she was getting weaker all the time."

Robinson, who is Gibson's neighbor, was perplexed by Pardus' actions.

"Why would he blame the doctor?" he asked. "That's what I don't understand."

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Associated Press writers Alex Dominguez, Ben Nuckols and Kathleen Miller in Baltimore, Matthew Barakat in Arlington, Va., and Medical Writer Marilynn Marchione in Milwaukee contributed to this report.
Awesome kids need jobs; corporate types, it's on you

By Donna L. Crane

I used to be a cog in the wheel of corporate America. I worked for GE in Jack Welch's heyday. I worked hard; I am pretty sure GE invented the 60-hour work week along with light bulbs and MRIs. But GE paid me gobs of money, trusted me with responsibility that stretched and challenged me, surrounded me with tons of awesomely smart people and flew me all over the world to learn about global business. And next year, I will receive a pension from these people who have looked after my retirement investments like they were the queen's jewels. Sweet, huh?

Now I teach. I am on the faculty of a university filled with kids who are often the first in their families to get a college education. They pay me less than GE did when I started as a 'product manager' in 1984. Don't tell them, but I'd do this for free.

My university doesn't fly me anywhere, or give me any retirement savings, but it surrounds me with awesomely smart people — both dedicated faculty and students. Yes, those jeans-wearing, cell-phone-toting, tattooed, tired-from-two-jobs-to-pay-for-school kids in my classes are wicked smart.

Scared business students

With backpacks and flip flops, they plunk down on plastic chairs I think we bought in 1962 and try to make sense of the marketing stuff I am trying to explain. They think this will help them get jobs. The ones where they will have to work with the marketing lunatics on some team at places like GE.

Teaching them is the hardest job I have ever had. The stakes are super high. Way higher than at GE.

When I messed up there, all hell broke loose. Customers and stockholders yelled and then big shots hauled me into ginormous offices, pounded on huge mahogany desks and yelled some more. Then they slashed budgets for my team or bonuses for me that year.

When I mess up here, some kid's chance for a job that pays enough to have a family, a house, a few vacations, some dignity and a sense of purpose could be gone. But lately, I'm thinking I am not the biggest threat to these kids. Not enough jobs is. This is scaring the heck out of them. And it should be doing the same to you.

There are more than 80 million of these kids. Soon, they will be flooding the market looking for work. Maybe you haven't noticed, but they have already begun gushing out of the gates.

Make the jobs

These kids have to have something decent to do with their energy and skills and talent. And make no mistake about it: America's twentysomethings have loads of that stuff. It may be a little hard for us Boomers to make sense of a sentence with 600 "likes" in it, but don't let that fool you. These kids are awesome. They will make more of an impact on business in the next 15 years than you and I did in the past 30.

Here's my message, corporate America types: Make the jobs they need. You will handle it when bosses, customers and stockholders yell. Just make the jobs. Quit being afraid of tax hikes, or health care or losing your bonus and make the dang jobs. Here's how: Grab your budget and squeeze out one new ad. Then pop in a kid. Squeeze out one executive retreat and pop in four kids.

How many kids are in those Super Bowl trips for your best customers or in reward dinners for your best salespeople? Hey, they'll get it. These are their kids, too.

This is not just some tree-hugger idea. While you're making jobs, you will be making consumers. They will buy your stuff. And other people's stuff. Cool, huh? That's how this economy thing works, dude.

S'awesome.

Donna L. Crane is on the faculty at Northern Kentucky University and was an executive with GE.