THE DAILY CLIPS

September 17, 2012

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The Greenville Daily Reflector
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252-328-6481
First lady to speak in Durham, Greenville

First lady Michelle Obama will speak in North Carolina on Wednesday to students and campaign supporters in Durham and Greenville.

The Durham event at N.C. Central University's McClendon-McDougal Gymnasium is open to the NCCU campus community. Doors open at 11:30 a.m., with Michelle Obama's remarks scheduled for 1:40 p.m.

In Greenville, the first lady speaks at Williams Arena at East Carolina University's Minges Coliseum. Doors open at 3 p.m., with her remarks scheduled at 5:45 p.m.

Both events are free to those who get tickets in advance. In Durham, those with NCCU student IDs can get tickets Monday and Tuesday at 9 a.m. at NCCU's Alfonso Elder Student Union, Room 104-B.

Tickets for the Greenville event are available at 10 a.m. Monday at Obama campaign offices in Greenville and Rocky Mount, and at 11 a.m. Monday and 10 a.m. Tuesday at ECU's Mendenhall Student Center, Cynthia's Lounge.

Michelle Obama is a familiar presence in the state, appearing at campaign events and fundraisers in 2008 and this year.

She was in North Carolina just two weeks ago, delivering a televised speech on the first night of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte and speaking to smaller convention gatherings.
Details for Obama visit released
Sunday, September 16, 2012

The Obama re-election campaign announced details Saturday for the upcoming visit of First Lady Michelle Obama.

Mrs. Obama will speak at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday at Minges Coliseum on the campus of East Carolina University. The event is free and open to the public.

Tickets will be available starting on a first-come, first-served basis starting 10 a.m. Monday at Organizing for America, 214 A E. Arlington Blvd. Distribution will continue at 10 a.m. Tuesday if tickets remain.

They also will be available at Cynthia’s Lounge in Mendenhall Student Center starting at 10 a.m. Monday and in Rocky Mount at 2509 Sunset Ave.

The visit, announced Friday, will rally supporters for the Nov. 6 election between President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney.

Mrs. Obama will speak to students and grassroots supporters in Greenville after a stop at North Carolina Central University in Durham.

She will encourage supporters to organize their communities between now and November and promote voter registration and voting through GottaVote.com, a news release said.
Hundreds line up for Obama tickets
Monday, September 17, 2012

Hundreds began lining up this morning for the distribution of tickets to attend the Michelle Obama rally in Greenville on Wednesday.

A line of 200-300 people was at the Organizing for America office, 214 A E. Arlington Blvd. at 9:45 a.m. to secure tickets for the rally to re-elect President Barack Obama.

The first lady will speak at 5:45 p.m. Wednesday at Minges Coliseum on the campus of East Carolina University. The event is free and open to the public.

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Cosby to entertain, inspire on Thursday

“I think having Bill Cosby on the series just exemplifies the quality of the kinds of artists we’re bringing here. We’ve got everyone’s attention.”

Michael Crane
ECU’s College of Fine Arts and Communication

By Kristin Zachary
Sunday, September 16, 2012

Reflecting on situations, especially crises or dilemmas, with humor is a must to stay healthy-minded, according to one of America’s most beloved comedians, Bill Cosby.

The author, actor and Jell-O spokesman will entertain and inspire a sold-out crowd on Thursday at East Carolina University’s Wright Auditorium, where he will kick off the 51st season of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series.

“My aim is to entertain with stories, causing people to smile and laugh and overextend the use of all muscles used in happiness,” Cosby said earlier this month during a phone interview.

Discussing today’s issues and sharing uncertainties with each other must be done without anger and rivalry, he said.

“In order psychologically to stay healthy-minded — that is the absence of total anger and blaming others — we reflect,” Cosby said. “In reflection, we can make ourselves feel good. Humor and entertainment, songs and words that connect with us — these are things that make us feel good about
ourselves. The humor releases different enzymes, making us smile, laugh and feel good.”

Michael Crane, associate dean of research, marketing and outreach of the College of Fine Arts and Communication, said the theme of this year’s SRAPAS is inspiration, and Cosby is just the man to launch the series.

“The thought is you’ll walk out of the auditorium with some sort of inspiration,” Crane said. “I think having Bill Cosby on the series just exemplifies the quality of the kinds of artists we’re bringing here. We’ve got everyone’s attention.”

It won’t be Cosby’s first attention-grabbing role.

The racial barrier in television was broken in the mid-1960s when Cosby landed a lead role in a weekly drama series, the first ever for a black man. Also unprecedented was “The Cosby Show” in its portrayal of a close-knit, affluent black family in Brooklyn, N.Y., with Cosby as patriarch Heathcliff “Cliff” Huxtable.

“When you turn on the TV set, you’re looking to be entertained,” Cosby said. “Regardless of what print media or what the box you’re looking at says, you want to see something you feel good about. It doesn’t have to necessarily reflect the way you are living.”

Some households may not have a father or might include non-immediate family members, Cosby said, but the warm-hearted, humorous show entertained a variety of family structures.

“Because, as a family you may not be all together, but there’s something called the Huxtables,” he said. “You see family. You see parenting. You see children behaving in a way that is similar to maybe your personality or your brother’s or sister’s.”

Cosby said what “started it all” was a remedial English class at Temple University in 1960 during his first year. During the class, Cosby was required to complete two compositions.

“I was 23 years old and had come out of the service and was very thankful to Temple University for accepting me,” he said. “I had not managed my life well in the world of education. Any book I was given in public school, if it was brand new, it was still brand new when I turned it in. I just felt I needed credentials. I needed a college education.

“Without knowing what I was doing, I was setting who I am and the way I think,” Cosby said. “It had always been there, dormant.”
When the students’ compositions were returned, the professor berated the class, Cosby said.

“He said, ‘You are all very, very typical and boring. You wrote about your first kiss and your first touchdown, but here’s what I’m looking for,’ and he read this composition of mine,” he said.

The composition was about Cosby, at age 6 or 7, pulling his own tooth.

“It was the very, very beginning,” he said. “It was sort of like a cocoon, and there’s a crack, and you don’t know if this is a moth or a butterfly coming out. I just didn’t know. That started it all.

“It was the change, the reflection of the serious-minded Bill Cosby who wanted to do what he ought to have been doing at the beginning of his public educational life,” Cosby said. “Without that professor recognizing and rewarding that paper, I have no idea how long it would have taken me to get to this point.”

As Cosby continues his successful career as a household name, he makes a stop Thursday at ECU for an hour-and-a-half sit-down show.

Crane said the sold-out crowd can expect “just regular Bill Cosby” and a lot of laughter. Closed circuit TV will allow the audience to see all of Cosby’s facial expressions, an important part of his performance, Crane said.

“I think we should just expect Bill Cosby at his finest,” he said. “I suspect he’ll make fun of us a little bit or make fun with us.”

Cosby said earlier this month he was not familiar with Greenville or ECU but would be before walking on stage, and he will make note on Thursday of anything special or unusual about the school and city, humorous or not.

“I am a person who deals, as just about every comedian, with my observations,” Cosby said.

At the end of the night, though, he just wants the audience to know how much he enjoys performing.

“When I say, ‘Thank you and good night,’ I always want them to understand that this has been my privilege,” he said.

Cosby’s performance is supported in part by the ECU Office of Equity, Diversity and Community Relations.

The performing arts series began in 1962 at ECU when Rudy Alexander scheduled four performances in the student center. The series since that time
has offered more than 365 performances, drawing more than a half-million patrons.

In the last two years, more than 30,000 people attended or participated in the series, Crane said.

This school year, all events, with the exception of the last performance, will be held at 8 p.m. in the Wright Auditorium in the center of ECU’s campus. The Igudesman and Joo event on April 13, 2013, will be held at 7 p.m.

Crane said after Cosby, other “big stars” of this year’s series include Bobby McFerrin and Igudesman and Joo among others, as shown in the following list:

**Oct. 4: “Visible” by Urban Bush Women**

Choreographers Nora Chipaumire and Jawole Willa Jo Zollar lend their distinct perspectives and innovative movement styles to “Visible,” a new dance theater work commissioned by Harlem Stage and produced by Zollar’s company Urban Bush Women. It had its world premiere at the Harlem Stage Gatehouse in October 2011. Inspired by the narratives of immigrants’ experiences in the U.S. and of African-Americans who traveled to the Midwest and north during the Great Migration, the work was informed by the personal narratives of the choreographers and multiracial, multinational and multigenerational cast.

**Oct. 24: Panorama Jazz Band**

Panorama Jazz Band is a party band from the Big Easy whose repertoire draws on the most exciting music from around the world: the Caribbean rhythms of Martinique in the French West Indies; the exotic Klezmer and Balkan melodies of Eastern Europe and the non-stop syncopation of New Orleans second-line. By turns a funky jazz band, a dance band, and a swing orchestra, Panorama Jazz Band will get you out of your seat.

**Nov. 9: Connecting Crossroads in North Carolina**


**Dec. 1: The Raleigh Ringers**

Hear the internationally acclaimed handbell choir that has dazzled concert audiences with unique interpretations of sacred, secular and popular music since 1990. Under the direction of David M. Harris, the Raleigh Ringers has
released five CDs and a DVD of a holiday concert titled “One Winter Evening at Meymandi.” The Greenville Choral Society will open this holiday performance.

**Jan. 24: New Century Chamber Orchestra with Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg**

Founded in 1992, the New Century Chamber Orchestra looks for fresh, exciting ways to present classical music. The program will include Mendelssohn’s Sinfonia No. 10 in B minor, William Bolcom’s Romanza for Violin & String Orchestra, Heitor Villa Lobos’ Bachianas Brasileiras No. 5 and Strauss’ Metamorphosen. World-renowned violin soloist, chamber musician, and recording artist Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg was appointed music director and concertmaster in January 2008, bringing with her “a new sense of vitality and determination, as well as an audacious swagger that is an unmistakable fingerprint of its leader” (Gramophone Magazine).

**Feb. 12: Nordic Voices**

Nordic Voice is an a cappella vocal ensemble from Norway that has gained a reputation as one of the leading vocal ensembles in their genre in the world. The program is “Ciel,” which translates as both “heaven” and “sky” in Norwegian (as well as in Swedish and French). On stage, “Ciel” is illustrated with music from Lasse Thoresen’s “Himmelske Fader” (Heavenly Father) and “Solbøn” (Prayer to the Sun), Johannes Ciconia’s “Le Ray de Soleil,” Marianne Isaksson’s “Ciel” and the “Trois beaux oiseaux des Paradis” of Maurice Ravel.

**Feb. 28: River North Dance Chicago**

Highly skilled and emotive dancers, stimulating music, and bold, commanding choreography are the hallmarks of River North Dance Chicago, led by artistic director Frank Chaves. They will present a varied program covering the complete spectrum of human emotions.

**March 21: Frank Vignola Trio featuring Bucky Pizzarelli**

Vignola’s stunning virtuosity made him the guitarist of choice for top musicians including Ringo Starr, Madonna, Donald Fagen, Wynton Marsalis, Tommy Emmanuel, the Boston Pops, the New York Pops and guitar legend Les Paul (who named Vignola to his “Five Most Admired Guitarists List” for the Wall Street Journal). Vignola’s jaw-dropping technique explains why the New York Times deemed him “one of the brightest stars of the guitar.”
April 9: Bobby McFerrin

To some, McFerrin will always be the guy who sang “Don’t Worry Be Happy.” And he is that guy; he wrote and sang that global No. 1 hit more than 20 years ago. But if that song is all you know about McFerrin, YouTube him, and be prepared for a serious mind boggle. You’ll find his unparalleled interpretations of Beatles songs, his collaborations with the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Chick Corea and Robin Williams, and his condensed version of “The Wizard of Oz.” You’ll see him conducting the Vienna Philharmonic and Consorting with the Muppets. At ECU, McFerrin and his band support his upcoming album, “Spirit You All.”

April 13: Big Nightmare Music: Igudesman and Joo

Aleksey Igudesman and Hyung-ki Joo are two classical musicians who have taken the world by storm with their unique and hilarious theatrical shows, which combine comedy with classical music and popular culture. Their dream is to make classical music accessible to a wider and younger audience. Enjoy the follies as Igudesman assists the small-handed Joo in performing works by the big-handed Rachmaninov. Bust a gut if Joo sings “Don Giovanni” in the style of the Bee Gees’ Barry Gibb, with a British-inflected Korean accent, no less. They will be joined by the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Dmitry Sitkovetsky.

Contact Kristin Zachary at kzachary@reflector.com and 252-329-9566. Follow her on Twitter @kzacharygdr.
Asides

ECU film fest

Authors near and dear to North Carolina will speak Friday and Saturday at the Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming at Eastern Carolina University in Greenville.

The ninth annual event, whose theme this year is “Litflix: Adapting North Carolina Literature into Film,” will feature Charles Frazier as the keynote speaker at 4 p.m. Saturday. His novel “Cold Mountain” was adapted into a film that garnered seven Academy Award nominations.

Daniel Wallace, author of “Big Fish,” which was adapted into a film directed by Tim Burton and starring Ewan McGregor, will give a reading at the event’s luncheon on Saturday.

On Friday, historian Timothy Tyson will speak about the film adaptation of his book “Blood Done Sign My Name,” and the Roberts Award for Literary Inspiration will be presented to eastern N.C. poet James Applewhite.

All workshops and presentations at the event, presented by ECU’s Joyner Library and the North Carolina Literary Review, are free, except Saturday’s luncheon, which costs $15. Details: www.ecu.edu/lithomecoming or 252-328-6514.

Classical series begins

The N.C. Symphony will launch this season’s state-spanning classical concert series Thursday in Chapel Hill.

The program includes several works familiar to even the casual listener, including Brahms’ First Symphony, Mozart’s overture to “The Marriage of Figaro” and a selection from Berlioz’s “Romeo and Juliet” symphony.

UNC’s Letitia Glozer will hold a pre-concert talk in UNC-Chapel Hill’s Gerrard Hall at 7 p.m. Thursday. The concert will be in Memorial Hall, 114 E. Cameron Ave., Chapel Hill.

Regular tickets are $18-$50; senior tickets are $31 and students can get in for $10. After the Chapel Hill performance, the symphony will present the program in Fayetteville, New Bern and Wilmington.
For tickets and more information, visit www.ncsymphony.org or call 919-733-2750.

**Mixed media exhibit**

Natural scenes from North Carolina inspire “Echoes and Essences,” an exhibit of mixed-media prints by Wilmington-based Janette Hopper at the N.C. Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

The exhibit, through Sept. 30, explores the state’s beaches, mountains and blackwater swamps, which Hopper, former art department chairwoman at UNC Pembroke, got to know during artist residencies with the National Park Service and Bald Head Island.

The Nature Art Gallery is on the top floor of the Museum Store, in the main building, 11 W. Jones St. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. Details: 919-733-7450, ext. 369.

**Foreclosure art**

Two artists take different approaches to examining the housing crisis in an exhibit titled “Underwater: Interpreting the Foreclosure Crisis” now on display in Raleigh’s Artspace.

Joelle Dietrick, who has lived in Florida and California – states among the hardest hit by foreclosures – presents animations and inkjet prints that combine images of foreclosed homes with Sherwin-Williams’ 2007 predictions for the year’s hottest paint colors.

David Wells’ “Foreclosed Dreams” series features photos of homes taken just after foreclosure, when families have moved out but the process of cleaning out the homes for resale has not yet begun. Some of the most recent photos in the series were taken in the Triangle.

“Underwater,” which runs through Oct. 27, is in Artspace’s Gallery Two, 201 E. Davie St., Raleigh. For more information, visit www.artspacenc.org.

**Celebrating Japanese art**

UNC-Chapel Hill’s Ackland Art Museum is celebrating Japanese art with “A Season of Japan,” a series of special exhibits spanning the fall.

The museum will add visiting exhibits of prints, short films and posters to its permanent collection of woodblock prints, screens and scrolls, photographs and ceramics.

The art will be accompanied by concerts, lectures and tastings of tea and sake.

For a complete list of exhibits – there are 10, and some close as early as mid-October: www.ackland.org.

The Ackland Art Museum is at 101 S. Columbia Street in downtown Chapel Hill.
Woodworking is a favorite activity of Dr. Leonard Trujillo, who heads up the occupational therapy department at East Carolina University.

Now his longtime hobby is showcased through Nov. 6 in Laupus Library’s fourth floor gallery on the health sciences campus.

Trujillo, associate professor and chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy in the College of Allied Health Sciences, has about 30 pieces in “Artistry in Wood: Reflections of Past and Present, Preserved Forever.” Several are competition award-winners or favorites from Trujillo’s home.

“Together they depict the different areas of study illustrating my level of work and interests in carving,” he said. Most are ‘high bas relief,’ an ancient form of sculpture where a solid piece of wood is carved so that the subject projects from the background.

“I essentially love working with wood, the smells, the feel, the way you can shape it, the way it gives you back a special quality when you work with it,” he said.

As an occupational therapist, Trujillo sees the process of carving wood as “constructive destruction” because he has to destroy or cut into a block of wood to create change. As an administrator, he said it is important to have an outside interest.

“It allows us step away from our work and come away refreshed,” Trujillo said. “Wood carving gives me the opportunity to spend some outside
energies toward creating and doing something that, in the end, I have something tangible rather than just having gone to dinner or a movie.”

In the early years of occupational therapy, woodworking was seen as a traditional, masculine hobby and often used like other crafts or activities as part of patient therapy. Now, an occupational therapist would help someone in rehabilitation return to wood carving if it was an important part of his or her life, he said.

Trujillo has been carving wood since early childhood but became more serious when he took a basic woodcarving course in the late ’70s while in the U.S. Air Force. He enjoys creating lifelike images of people, barns and nature scenes and many reflect his love of travel and nature. He works out of his home with hopes of owning a studio one day.

The fall semester exhibit is the second in the Art as Avocation series, which Laupus Library began earlier this year as a way to highlight the artistic talents and self-expression of faculty, staff and students from the Division of Health Sciences who often pursue demanding health care and higher education careers.

Visitors are welcome during normal operating hours posted at www.ecu.edu/laupuslibrary or call 744-2219. Visit www.ecu.edu/laupuslibrary/events/artasavocation/ to learn more about the artist or series.

Alumni Award recipients to be honored in October

The East Carolina Alumni Association will honor eight alumni and supporters with the 2012 Alumni Awards during homecoming events on ECU’s campus.

They will be honored as outstanding, distinguished, or honorary alumni on Oct. 12 at the Greenville Convention Center. A cocktail reception will begin at 6 p.m. followed by dinner and presentation of awards at 7 p.m.

The most prestigious award given by the alumni association, the Outstanding Alumni Award recognizes exceptional achievement in the recipient’s profession or civic affairs. This year’s recipients are Dr. Sharon Allison-Ottey ’95, Robert Benzon ’71, and Robert Rankin ’70.

The Distinguished Service Award is given in recognition of dedicated service, volunteerism and leadership in the alumni association and university. This year’s recipients are Sabrina Bengel, Kay Chalk ’76, and Robert Rippy ’75, ’96.
The Honorary Alumni Award is given to those who did not graduate from ECU but have claimed the university as their own through substantial service and loyalty. This year’s recipients are Dr. Charles Coble and Edgar Loessin (posthumous).

“These individuals represent the high caliber of alumni and friends that East Carolina has become known for,” said Paul J. Clifford, alumni association president. “Their accomplishments, commitment, and service to ECU serve as an example to Pirate Nation. We are honored to recognize them with these awards.”

Tickets to the ceremony and dinner are available through Oct. 2 at $40 for alumni association members and $50 for non-members by calling 328-6072 or visiting www.piratealumni.com

Professors to be inducted in academy

Two professors in ECU’s Department of Kinesiology have been named fellows of the National Academy of Kinesiology and will be inducted during the national organization’s annual conference from Sept. 20-22 in Portland, Ore.

The new fellows are Dr. Paul DeVita, a professor and director of the Biomechanics Lab; and Dr. Matthew Mahar, a professor and director of the Activity Promotion Lab.

DeVita and Mahar are among nine academicians named in this year’s class of NAK fellows.

Mahar received his undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at Cortland and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Houston. He joined the ECU faculty in 1993. Mahar received the UNC Board of Governors’ Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award in 1997-1998 and ECU’s Scholar-Teacher Award in 2000.

DeVita, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., has taught at East Carolina since 1995. He received his undergraduate degree in biology from the State University of New York at Binghamton and his master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Oregon. DeVita specializes in aging and osteoarthritis research.

They join two other ECU kinesiology professors who previously were named NAK fellows. Dr. Joe Houmard was inducted in 2006 and Dr. Peter Farrell was inducted in 2008.
The National Academy of Kinesiology is an honorary organization composed of fellows who have made significant and sustained contributions to the field of kinesiology through scholarship and professional service. There currently are 137 active fellows in the organization.

A total of 514 fellows have been inducted since the academy’s founding in 1930.

The Department of Kinesiology is a part of the College of Health and Human Performance.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Friday & Saturday:** Ninth Annual Eastern North Carolina Literary Homecoming, Joyner Library. Visit http://www.ecu.edu/lithomecoming for a full schedule of events.

**Saturday:** ECU School of Music Orchestra concert, 7:30 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Free.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
Thanks to the fine investigative reporting by the newspaper, everyone in Greenville now knows that City Councilman Max Joyner owns 23 rental houses in the university area. And, at least one of these is in violation of the city law that says not more than three unrelated persons can live in a rental house. Joyner has been a major proponent of changing this “three-unrelated” rule to allow more unrelated people to live in rental houses in Greenville.

This certainly looks like a serious conflict of interest between Joyner’s rental house business and his obligation to act objectively as a public servant. It seems quite unlikely he would vote against the proposed change to allow more people in rental houses when voting for the change could directly increase his future business income?

In view of this conflict of interest, the mayor and other council members should insist that councilman Joyner recuse himself from any further deliberations and votes on the proposal to change the “more than three” law.

It would have been far better for Joyner to have disclosed his business interests and recused himself as soon as the council took up this issue.

As the newspaper noted, this is the level of openness and transparency the public should get from all its public servants.

CARL HUBER
Greenville
We should all thank Greenville City Council members Calvin Mercer and Marion Blackburn for opposing the attempt to change the “three-unrelated” rule in the college area. We lived in a New Hampshire town, two blocks from the student union (Plymouth State University in Plymouth, N.H.).

The town had no such rule, and in the 15 years we were there, the area around us deteriorated considerably in terms of aesthetics, cleanliness, safety, noise and the amount of green compared to concrete. Families and older folks moved out, which only intensified the downward spiral. It was a sad thing to watch.

There has been talk recently about positioning Greenville as a retirement mecca. If you have to get in the car for everything — every carton of milk you need, every roll of scotch tape you run out of — many retired people will not consider Greenville a mecca. The sidewalks are great, but they have to go somewhere.

The real pity is that the small, simple houses in the college area might appeal to retired people (with a small, tasteful-looking shopping area at the beginning of the uptown commercial center) but by considering a change in the “three-unrelated” rule, the city is moving in the opposite direction.

ANNE HOYER
Greenville
Dr. Reginald Obi, a kidney specialist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Obi is an assistant professor in the Department of Internal Medicine at ECU. He has a medical degree from the University of Nigeria College of Medicine.

Obi completed residency training in internal medicine and a fellowship in nephrology and hypertension at ECU. He also has a master’s degree in health administration from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Before joining ECU, Obi was a hospitalist with UHS Physicians in Greenville, and he also worked at Washington County Hospital in Plymouth.

Obi is board-certified in internal medicine. His clinical interest is glomerulonephritis, a type of kidney disease in which the part of the kidneys that helps filter waste and fluids from the blood is damaged.

Obi sees patients at ECU Physicians Nephrology and Hypertension at 2355 W. Arlington Blvd. in Greenville. Appointments are available by calling 744-1816.
Around the Triangle

UNC orders disclosure for tuition aid

CHAPEL HILL Parents of UNC system students will get a more detailed rundown of where their tuition money goes on tuition bills starting next year.

The UNC Board of Governors voted Friday to allow UNC campuses to determine whether to set aside campus-based tuition revenue for financial aid for needy students. But campuses must disclose on tuition statements how much is set aside and what the tuition is used for.

The policy will be in place in 2013-2014 and 2014-2015 and will then be re-evaluated.

Previously, campuses were required to set aside at least 25 percent of tuition proceeds on each campus. Now, individual campuses will be able to analyze their own students' financial aid needs and decide whether or how much to designate for low-income students.

From staff reports
Thorp questioned by UNC board about fundraisers

By Jane Stancill - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL—UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp answered questions from the UNC Board of Governors for nearly an hour Friday at a closed-door meeting, where he explained the latest scandal to rock the campus.

Thorp acknowledged that the week had been difficult in the aftermath of the resignations of the university’s top fundraiser, Matt Kupec, and Tami Hansbrough, a gifts officer and mother of former UNC-CH basketball star Tyler Hansbrough. The two, who have been in a romantic relationship, stepped down after Thorp found that they had charged questionable travel expenses.

The situation emerged after The News & Observer sought records about the activities of the fundraisers.

Board Chairman Peter Hans and UNC President Tom Ross declined to disclose what was discussed in the session, which was closed to the media under legal provisions that protect personnel information. But Ross said board members he had talked to before and after the meeting expressed the view that Thorp had handled the issue appropriately.

Hans offered this assessment of Thorp’s performance: “Chancellor Thorp has performed well by many measurements, in terms of research funding, quality of the student body, private fundraising, a number of metrics. And of course, it’s equally clear he needs to be successful in clearing up some lingering issues on campus.”
Ross praised Thorp for the speed with which he handled the recent problem. “The chancellor, in this most recent situation, acted quickly, decisively in a circumstance that was clearly inappropriate,” Ross said.

He also said Thorp had taken several actions to deal with academic fraud in the African and Afro-American Studies department, where no-show classes had been heavily enrolled with football and basketball players. The measures are designed to make sure that something like that never happens again, Ross said.

However, Ross added, “Every time something like this happens, there are concerns, both by the board, by the president, by lots of people, and we continue to be vigilant in our responsibility to watch the circumstance closely.”

About a year ago, Thorp had a thorough review, which happens on a four-year cycle, Ross said. He will undergo a less detailed two-year evaluation in the next year.

**Hansbrough’s job**

Kupec had initially established a new fundraising position in his office, and Hansbrough was interested in it. But Thorp said he intervened to stop that because of their relationship and the university’s nepotism rules.

Kupec then pushed for a fundraising job under the supervision of Winston Crisp, the university’s vice chancellor for student affairs. Hansbrough applied and got the position. Both Thorp and Crisp approved the arrangement, which allowed the university to bypass concerns about the Kupec-Hansbrough relationship. Hansbrough’s $95,000-a-year salary was funded through Kupec’s office.

Thorp described the UNC board as supportive of him when he emerged from Friday’s closed session, which lasted about 50 minutes.

“I just talked to them about the situation and answered their questions,” Thorp said. “They were appreciative of how hard this has been, frustrated with the way it takes away from all of the positives. I mean, this is the same month when we broke the top 10 in federal research support, and we can’t get anyone to write about it because we’ve got this. So I think there’s a lot of frustration about that, but I feel very good working for this board.”

A few weeks ago, UNC-CH announced that it had risen from 16th to the ninth-ranked university in the nation in the level of federal research dollars, which totaled nearly $546 million in fiscal 2010.
Ross called it “a huge accomplishment” and said UNC-CH has many more positive stories that go untold.

“From all the information we have at this point, … there is one professor and one departmental assistant that did something wrong,” Ross said, referring to the African studies department. “And now we have one vice chancellor and one fundraiser that did something wrong, and those people are no longer with the university. There are a lot of people – a lot of faculty, a lot of staff – that continue to go to work every day at that university and make it great.”

‘Unfortunately fairly frequently’

Thorp said an internal audit regarding the fundraisers’ travel expenses continues and could be finished in a few weeks. The state auditor’s office has been notified about the internal audit but so far is not involved in the review, he said.

“It’s a high-profile story, but it’s the kind of incident that comes up unfortunately fairly frequently in universities,” he said, adding that UNC-CH’s internal audit department deals with questions about improper charges by employees routinely.

Thorp said the university eventually may decide to hire outside help in tightening controls on travel expenses by employees.

Several reviews of the academic fraud are under way, as well as a State Bureau of Investigation probe of possible criminal conduct. A Board of Governors panel is looking into UNC-CH’s handling of the matter, and Thorp brought in former North Carolina Gov. Jim Martin and an outside consulting firm to conduct an independent review of academic issues. That work continues.

“It’s been a tough couple of years, and it’s hard,” Thorp said. “But I feel like we’re identifying problems that have arisen because of policies that have been around for a long time. It’s frustrating to keep finding a new one, but if we find them we can correct them, and I think the decisive action we took on this one sends a strong message. It also shows us that there’s one more thing that we need to have strong oversight on.”

Thorp said he’d rather not be consumed with such problems, but added, “We’ve entered an era where there is more scrutiny and more need for accountability, and we’re responding to that.”

Stancill: 919-829-4559
**UNC foundation shields records**

The Dental Foundation of North Carolina declined this week to make public a report that details some of the travel spending that Tami Hansbrough did while working there.

Paul Gardner, the foundation’s executive director, provided a synopsis of her time there that included details from the report. But he said the foundation did not have to produce the report because it is a nonprofit and not a governmental entity, and therefore not covered by the state’s public records law.

The foundation raises money for UNC-Chapel Hill’s School of Dentistry, and state records show Gardner is a university employee.

Hansbrough worked for two years as a fundraiser for the foundation before being hired to raise money for UNC-CH’s Student Affairs office.

The synopsis said Hansbrough, the divorced mother of former UNC basketball star Tyler Hansbrough, was hired Dec. 8, 2008, just as her son was beginning his senior year and final season on the team – one that would bring the university a national championship. She won the job after a search that included 40 other applicants.

Hansbrough took fundraising trips to the ACC Tournament in Atlanta and the NCAA Tournament in Memphis in 2009. The synopsis listed expenses related to the Memphis trip of roughly $1,100. No expenses were listed for the ACC trip.

The synopsis said Hansbrough met with donors and prospective donors on both trips, and did not charge the foundation for game tickets. The information was shared with UNC-CH’s athletic department.

The synopsis said Hansbrough raised nearly $5 million while with the dental foundation.

Staff writer Dan Kane
Online Mentors to Guide Women Into the Sciences

By TAMAR LEWIN

Hundreds of prominent women working in science, technology, engineering and math will become online mentors for college students next month, part of a six-week program to encourage young women to pursue careers in STEM fields.

“I think of this as a MOOC — a massive open online course — and a big mentor-fest,” said Maria Klawe, the president of Harvey Mudd College and a sponsor of the project. “Getting more women into STEM is my passion in life, and every institution that’s set up mentorship programs for young women has been successful at increasing their numbers, so I think this can make a real difference.”

The program has no curriculum, no exam, no grades and no credit — just a goal of connecting young students with accomplished women working in STEM fields. Prominent universities — including the California Institute of Technology, Cornell, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Harvard, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Princeton, Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley — have been quick to sign on, contributing mentors and publicizing the program to students.

“I thought this was a great idea as soon as I heard about it,” said Dennis Berkey, the president of Worcester Polytechnic Institute. “Young women in STEM, more than young men, have a lot of questions about what kind of career they’ll have, whether the rewards are based on performance or the old boys’ network, whether it’ll let them make a positive impact on the world, and how it will relate to their aspirations for family.”

While women now earn more college degrees than men over all, they lag in STEM fields — particularly computer science and engineering, where they earn less than 20 percent of all undergraduate degrees.

To help raise those numbers, Dr. Klawe has lined up six prominent women as lead mentors, including Mae C. Jemison, the first black female astronaut; Jacqueline K. Barton, the chairwoman of the chemistry department at Caltech; and Padmasree Warrior, Cisco’s chief technology officer — as well as nearly 300 other mentors. They will answer questions submitted online by
students at any of the universities participating in the project, which is known as Women in Technology Sharing Online, or WitsOn.

Undergraduates at other colleges can participate by getting a faculty member to nominate them. Although the program is especially designed for women, men will also be able to ask questions.

According to the Web site, the project could even lead to jobs. “We will do our best to connect students who are interested in positions with mentors’ organizations that have positions to fill,” it says.

A test forum in May attracted more than 800 questions in a day, according to Pooja Sankar, the founder of Piazza, a WitsOn sponsor. Young women had a wide range of queries: “How sexist is programming?” “How did you get where you are?” “Do you have time for your family?” “When is it right to correct misunderstandings about women in technology fields and when do you have to just let it slide?” And, inevitably, “Can I work for you?”

Ms. Sankar, who went to engineering school in India, said that given her own awkward experiences in school, she had long wanted to offer support to female students.

“I was embarrassed to look at a boy, much less ask a question about homework,” Ms. Sankar said. “I didn’t have a support group, and I thought it was because I was growing up in a traditional society. What was such a surprise, when I was at Facebook and Sheryl Sandberg had a session for women engineers, was that American girls, even if they’d gone to coed high schools, felt the same sense of isolation.”

Jacqueline El-Sayed, a professor of mechanical engineering at Kettering University, said WitsOn could help bolster the confidence of women who think differently from their male classmates — giving answers that are correct but unexpected, and in response getting what some call “the look.”

WitsOn’s somewhat unstructured approach is in some ways similar to the earliest massive online courses, created years before Harvard, M.I.T., Stanford and other leading universities started offering free online versions of their traditional campus classes. Like WitsOn, the first MOOCs were meant to help form connections online rather than provide a formal curriculum. The participants shaped the content, often interacting in so many different online threads that no student or teacher could follow all of them.

“In a connectivist MOOC, people get out of it what they put into it,” said Stephen Downes of the National Research Council of Canada, a pioneer of the early MOOCs. “It’s something like a Yahoo group or other interest-
based community. But it has a start date and an end date, and it pulls people out of different networks and plops them into a new one, which results in new connections and gets people hearing new voices.”

WitsOn is not the only connectivist MOOC starting this fall. Athabasca University in Alberta — along with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; Educause, a nonprofit organization focused on information technology; The Chronicle of Higher Education; and others — will present one called Current/Future State of Higher Education.

Empire State College, a division of SUNY, will offer VizMath, which Carol Yaeger, a leader, said would be about “the visualness of math — things like math in art, Escher’s work, and exploring hyperbolic curves through knitting.” Participants will have the option of taking the class for credit at Empire State.
Connor Zwick, 19, saws a profile for his “coco controller,” a game app for smartphones. Thiel fellowships reward young people for forgoing college to dive into practical work on ideas.

Forgoing College to Pursue Dreams

By CAITLIN KELLY

EDEN FULL should be back at Princeton by now. She should be hustling to class, hitting the books, acing tests. In short, she should be climbing that old-school ladder toward a coveted spot among America’s future elite.

She isn’t doing any of that. Instead, Ms. Full, as bright and poised and ambitious as the next Ivy Leaguer, has done something extraordinary for a Princetonian: she has dropped out.

It wasn’t the exorbitant cost of college. (Princeton, all told, runs nearly $55,000 a year.) She says she simply received a better offer — and, perhaps, a shot at a better education.

Ms. Full, 20, is part of one of the most unusual experiments in higher education today. It rewards smart young people for not going to college and, instead, diving into the real world of science, technology and business.
The idea isn’t nuts. After all, Bill Gates and Steve Jobs dropped out, and they did O.K.

Of course, their kind of success is rare, degree or no degree. Mr. Gates and Mr. Jobs changed the world. Ms. Full wants to, as well, and she’s in a hurry. She has built a low-cost solar panel and is starting to test it in Africa.

“I was antsy to get out into the world and execute on my ideas,” she says.

At a time when the value of a college degree is being called into question, and when job prospects for many new graduates are grimmer than they’ve been in years, perhaps it’s no surprise to see a not-back-to-school movement spring up. What is surprising is where it’s springing up, and who’s behind it.

The push, which is luring a handful of select students away from the likes of Princeton, Harvard and M.I.T., is the brainchild of Peter H. Thiel, 44, a billionaire and freethinker with a remarkable record in Silicon Valley. Back in 1998, during the dot-com boom, Mr. Thiel gambled on a company that eventually became PayPal, the giant of online payments. More recently, he got in early on a little start-up called Facebook.

Since 2010, he has been bankrolling people under the age of 20 who want to find the next big thing — provided that they don’t look for it in a college classroom. His offer is this: $50,000 a year for two years, few questions asked. Just no college, unless a class is helpful for their Thiel projects.

A cool hundred grand, no strings attached? You won’t be shocked to learn that it is harder to get a Thiel Fellowship than it is to get into Princeton. Mr. Thiel (Stanford ’89, Stanford Law ’92) has grabbed headlines with his outlandish offer. Less has been said about the handful of plucky people who have actually managed to snag one of his fellowships in hopes of becoming the next Gates or Jobs. The first Thiel fellows are now in their second year of the program. Twenty new ones were selected this summer.

Applications for 2013 are not yet being accepted; the due date will be posted this fall at ThielFellowship.org. Candidates must be under 20 when they apply. The final step is straight out of Silicon Valley: applicants get two and a half minutes to pitch their ideas to would-be mentors, most of them successful entrepreneurs.

A CNBC documentary about the fellowship, “20 Under 20: Transforming Tomorrow,” was broadcast this summer, and showed the range of those pitches. One young woman proposed a novel curriculum for students overseas and apologized for being flustered at the podium. Another ignored the instructions and spoke from the middle of the stage, TED-style. Then
they and the others waited for would-be mentors in the audience to ask more questions.

Over the last two years, 44 Thiel fellows have been chosen after layers of reviews by 15 to 20 people. They don’t exactly represent a cross-section of the nation. Most of these young people are white or Asian, and men. Only four are women. Applications have come in from 42 countries, from Bhutan to Ethiopia to Guatemala, but only six fellows have been selected from outside the United States — four from Canada, one from Britain and one from Russia. A quarter of applicants apply directly from high school or home schooling.

MS. FULL was studying mechanical engineering at Princeton when she applied, hoping to develop a hardy, low-cost solar panel that follows the sun’s path. She calls it the SunSaluter. She is starting to test the latest iteration in Kirindi, Uganda, and Karagwe, Tanzania.

She left Princeton after her sophomore year, and she says the learning curve has been steep.

“I spent the first year of the fellowship learning a lot about the solar industry, what it takes to get a product to market, what I’m good at,” she says. “The timing was perfect.”

But testing the SunSaluter in Kenya, as she did earlier, offered unexpected lessons. Local children played with it, trying to unscrew the bolts. And Ms. Full, who is Asian-Canadian, was an object of fascination in villages.

“In the real world,” she says, “you don’t know what’s going to happen.”

She has had to learn to depend on the cooperation of strangers — no small feat for a woman who is used to talking fast and moving faster.

“One of the most important lessons I’ve learned is you have to be pretty flexible,” she says. “Some days, I just want to go back to college.”

Ms. Full is friends with another Thiel fellow, Laura Deming, 18. Ms. Deming is clearly brilliant. When she was 12, her family moved to San Francisco from New Zealand so she could work with Cynthia Kenyon, a molecular biologist who studies aging. When Ms. Deming was 14, the family moved again, this time to the Boston area, so she could study at M.I.T.

“Families of Olympic-caliber athletes make these kinds of sacrifices all the time,” says Tabitha Deming, Laura’s mother. ”When we lived nearby in
Boston, we were lucky to see her once a month. She never came home for weekends.”

John Deming, Laura’s father, graduated from Brandeis University at the age of 35 but says he disdains formal education at every level. His daughter was home-schooled.

“I can’t think of a worse environment than school if you want your kids to learn how to make decisions, manage risk and take responsibility for their choices,” Mr. Deming, an investor, wrote in an e-mail. “Rather than sending them to school, turn your kids loose on the world. Introduce them to the rigors of reality, the most important of which is earning your own way.” He added, “I detest American so-called ‘education.’”

His daughter’s quest to slow aging was spurred by her maternal grandmother, Bertie Deming, 85, who began having neuromuscular problems a decade ago. Laura, a first-year fellow, now spends her days combing medical journals, seeking a handful of researchers worth venture capital funding, which is a continuation of her earlier work.

“I’m looking for therapies that target aging damage and slow or reverse it,” she says. “I’ve already spent six years on this stuff. So far I’ve found only a few companies, two or three I’m really bullish on.”

She, too, has tasted failure. “The venture capitalists I met out here were skeptical at first,” she says. “People say no all the time. I had a lot of bad rejection at the start. It took a couple of months to get them to understand that while early-stage research isn’t profitable, it can be later if you structure the company very well.”

But thanks to the Thiel Fellowship, access to some of the nation’s most successful businesspeople is quick and easy. “I made a list of the 50 people I wanted to meet, and I’ve met almost all of them,” she says. “It’s really the connections you have and the people you know. I’ve had really positive feedback and gotten some really large amounts of money.”

Her father calls her Little Miss Relentless. Not all parents are initially so enthusiastic, however.

Another Thiel fellow, Noor Siddiqui, 18, is the daughter of parents who were born in Pakistan. “This is shocking for my parents,” she says. “It’s not the safest road. I had to apply in secret.” But she has postponed college — she was accepted to Brown University, the University of Chicago and the University of Virginia, among others — to try to help poverty-level workers
in developing countries connect with North American businesses. Her parents now know about the fellowship, and are supportive.

Frances Zomer, who runs her own accounting firm in Toronto, wasn’t thrilled when her son, Christopher Olah, 19, decided to leave the University of Toronto, a top-ranked Canadian school. He had already spent a year there studying math.

“The hardest part was him not going back to school,” Ms. Zomer says. “The door had closed.”

Now Mr. Olah divides his time between his mother’s home in Toronto and a so-called hacker hostel, for aspiring tech entrepreneurs, in the Bay Area — and Ms. Zomer has changed her mind completely. “This is stuff you don’t learn in a classroom. He’s blogging, he’s teaching, he’s writing software,” she says. “I think it’s brilliant. I know so many people who’ve gotten a B.A. and have nothing to show for it.”

But what if Silicon Valley doesn’t work out?

“Failure has crossed my mind,” Ms. Zomer acknowledges. “There are three possibilities. He’s extremely successful and he stays. He’s not successful and he stays. He can always come home. It’s his life.”

Dylan Field, 20, had already interned for Flipboard, the app for browsing news and social media, when he won a Thiel Fellowship. He left Brown to work on a browser-based photo application — a sort of no-cost, easy-to-use, amateur-friendly competitor to Photoshop, which is designed for, and largely sold to, professional users.

When it comes to regular folks, “most of our creative tools are broken right now,” Mr. Field says. “If I have an idea without the tools to bring it to reality, that’s a moral wrong. Our tools need to be improved and made accessible. I think that market is huge.”

He has become close friends with Mr. Olah, who is writing software to enable three-dimensional printing.

Mr. Olah, who volunteers much of his time when in Toronto, is unusual in this group of innovators, many of whom are intensely driven to market their creations. “I’m not starting a company right now,” he says. “I want to make awesome tools available to other people.”

Connor Zwick, 19, left Harvard to work a game application for smartphones — he calls it the “coco controller” — that he hopes will “revolutionize
mobile gaming.” For him, as for several other fellows, the Thiel Fellowship’s gifts of time, money and access seem almost an afterthought.

If fellows focus all their energy on the fellowship and not their own work, “you’re doing something wrong,” he says. “You’ve lost focus. The benefit is the validation for our ideas. The money is nice, but I already have enough income from my projects that I don’t need it.”

SOME people question Mr. Thiel’s blunt dismissal of the college experience, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Anthony Carnevale, director of the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University, says that the fellowships themselves are nice, but that the message is destructive.

“These very unusual and talented kids are in a very high-powered learning environment,” Mr. Carnevale says. “They’re enormously privileged people who’ve been allowed to develop all their horsepower with no constraints. I think it makes you an odd duck.”

A college education remains essential for people from less privileged backgrounds, says Carmen Wong Ulrich, co-founder of Alta Wealth Management, a three-woman investment firm in New York City. “Many African-Americans and Asians can’t even afford to ask the question, ‘Is college worth it?’ ”

Ms. Ulrich, born in Harlem, grew up in a family of six. She and her mother worked as waitresses. Today, she mentors young Latinos.

“We’re not all starting from the same starting line,” she says. “While I certainly support some of Mr. Thiel’s ideas, his kids are miles ahead of too many others. Go to Silicon Valley? Start your own business? Many of us are the first in our family to even attend college.”

Mr. Carnevale says of the program: “It’s a lab experiment. We’ll see.”