The Daily Clips

East Carolina University News Services

1001 East Fifth Street
Howard House
Greenville, NC 27858

(252) 328-6481
cunews@ecu.edu
http://www.ecu.edu/news/
ECU ready for first lady
By Ginger Livingston
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Parking
ECU officials say construction at Minges Coliseum will not interfere with the crowds that will gather today for first lady Michelle Obama’s appearance before campaign volunteers.

Construction of a new $15 million basketball practice facility and offices is being shut down today as planners finalize preparation of Williams Arena and final security checks are made for the first lady’s appearance at 5:45 p.m.

Obama will be encouraging volunteers to promote voter registration through GottaVote.com. She will make a similar stop in Durham earlier in the day.

Two entrances are being set up that will keep attendees away from the construction site, Lt. Chris Sutton, special events coordinator with East Carolina University Police Department said.

Individuals will have to pass through metal detectors and are being asked to leave all types of purses and bags at home, along with strollers, umbrellas, banners, signs and balloons, weapons and canned or bottle liquids, Sutton said.
Anyone with these items will have the option of returning them to their vehicle or throwing them in a trash receptacle, Sutton said. Items that are thrown away or seized cannot be returned.

Cameras will be allowed but not video recorders, Sutton said. Individuals are asked to leave their camera bags in their vehicles.

A “free speech” zone for individuals wanting to protest Obama’s visit will be set up in the silver parking area next to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Sutton said.

ECU officials have been fielding questions about why Minges was available for the first lady’s visit but Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan appeared at the university’s Student Recreation Center on Labor Day.

The university responds to requests as they are made, Jeannine Manning Hutson, an ECU spokeswoman, said. The Romney-Ryan camp specifically requested the student center while the Obama campaign asked for Minges.

The arena is expected to hold 6,000 people for the first lady’s appearance.

“Parking will be important. We want people to come early and be patient,” Sutton said.

Parking is available at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, Clark-LeClair Stadium, the former Stratford Arms apartments and the Belk building. Handicapped parking will be available in the Purple and Gold lot.

Parking will not be available at the Elmhurst grass lot since the school will be in session, Sutton said.

“It’s important for people to respect the school and not park in that area,” Sutton said.

Concessions will be available in the coliseum. Water will be available for people waiting in line, he said.

Campaign officials are not revealing how many tickets were distributed. The campaign headquarters on East Arlington Boulevard stopped at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday and there still was a line.

Campaign voters spent Tuesday evening preparing signs for display in the arena.

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.
ECU security tips

The following items will not be allowed in Minges Coliseum during Michelle Obama’s appearance:
- No bags including purses, pocketbooks, handbags, book bags, back pack or slouch bags. Diaper bags are the exception if accompanied by an infant or toddler.
- No strollers
- No weapons of any kind including firearms, knives, pocket knives pepper spray, etc.
- No signs or balloons
- No artificial noisemakers, confetti or silly string.
- No bottled or canned liquids.
- No writing utensils (pencils or ink pens)

- Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium
- Clark-LeClair Stadium,
- Former Stratford Arms apartments
- Belk building
- Handicapped parking, Purple and Gold lot.
RALEIGH, N.C.–When first lady Michelle Obama visits North Carolina on Wednesday, she'll work to get thousands of students at N.C. Central University and East Carolina University fired up about her husband's reelection bid and to urge them to register their friends to vote.

Voter registration drives are hard work, with volunteers carrying clipboards to search for potential voters, who must fill out paper forms and sign them by hand.

Now the Obama campaign is taking voter registration to a new level of technological savvy bound to attract those just as comfortable with an iPhone as pen and paper. The campaign's nationwide voter registration website, http://www.GottaRegister.com, also permits people in North Carolina, 10 other states and the District of Columbia to sign their names to a registration form remotely using their smartphone or tablet.

The technology from a California-based company lets the applicant's finger or stylus literally direct a mechanical pen at company offices that writes the person's identical signature on the voter registration form. The completed form is then mailed automatically to the elections office in the applicant's county for review. The first forms arrived in county offices this week, according to the State Board of Elections.

The so-called "wet signature" technology is another method by which the Obama campaign and other groups are complementing traditional voter registration drives in North Carolina, particularly for young people. For example, more than 63,000 young people who preregistered to vote as early as 16 years old thanks to a state law taking effect in 2010 are eligible to vote this November, according to Democracy North Carolina.

"We need a voting system that works for the 21st century electorate," said Chrissy Faessen, a spokeswoman for the youth-oriented "Rock the Vote." It is using the same technology in North Carolina and two other states with tremendous results, Faessen added.

Voter registration forms already can be found on the Internet, but North Carolina voters still have to print, sign and mail them.
The State Board of Elections and state Attorney General's Office evaluated the technology and determined it fits the requirement that a voter registration application is valid when signed by the applicant, wrote Don Wright, general counsel for the State Board of Elections.

Obama North Carolina campaign spokesman Cameron French said Tuesday most voter registration efforts still occur when campaign volunteers reach out to friends and neighbors.

Gottaregister.com and the Obama campaign's sister site, http://www.GottaVote.com, "are important tools that play a key role in ensuring our supporters have the opportunity to vote," in North Carolina and nationwide, French said in a statement.

The national Republican Party uses Facebook to help users walk through the voter registration process and create a printable document to mail. Republican National Committee spokesman Matt Connelly said the GOP and Mitt Romney's campaign "have a robust voter registration effort in North Carolina" as part of a broader volunteer effort that he said has exceeded campaign levels of four years ago.

The Obama campaign confirmed Tuesday that Allpoint Voter Services is providing the "wet signature" service. Allpoint spokesman Jude Barry said he expects more states will accept the technology because it provides a bridge to traditional government formats.

"You have an easy and simple user experience, and you have local registrars continuing to use their current paper-based process," Barry said. The result, he added, "is good for the voter."

Betsy Meads, a former Republican member of the Pasquotank County elections board, worries that someone using similar signature technology could collect personal information to commit fraud. "North Carolina should be protecting the voters instead of putting them at risk," she said.
A vision all his own
By Tony Castleberry
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

For a man who can’t see, Elexis Gillette has quite a vision.

Gillette, a 2007 East Carolina graduate, recently won his third Paralympic Games silver medal and holds the world record in the long jump, the event he competed in during the Games in Athens, Beijing and, earlier this month, London.

Even though Gillette plans to enter the 2016 Paralympics, the Raleigh native is already contemplating his life after athletics, and it’s a grand plan.

“I’ve got a slogan I want to get trademarked. I want to start a foundation, make some things happen that will be able to last other than going on a track and competing because, obviously, that won’t always be there,” Gillette said in a recent phone interview. “I want to do something that’ll last forever.”

Some would say he already has.

Gillette played baseball and basketball before going blind when his retinas kept becoming detached in 1992. He was 8 years old.

At Athens Drive High School, a track and field coach convinced Gillette to try the long jump and he enjoyed instant success, winning the first meet he entered at sports camp held for visually-impaired athletes.
Gillette only got better, taking silver in ’04 in Greece, ’08 in China and breaking a 19-year-old world record with a leap of 22 feet, 1 inch at the Desert Challenge Games in May of 2011.

While Gillette cites his athletic training at ECU as a major reason for his long jump prowess, he said the things he learned off the track were just as important to his growth.

“The biggest think about going to ECU was that it helped me out socially,” Gillette said. “Growing up and through high school, you had your parents do things for you. Going to ECU, I suddenly had to become that guy that makes decisions for myself. ... I had to step into that role of being a man and making decisions that would affect my future.”

While his sporting legacy is pretty secure, Gillette would no doubt love to add a gold medal to his collection of awards, but not winning in London didn’t put a damper on his England experience.

The well-traveled Gillette had been to London a couple of times, but this most recent trip stood out for a number of reasons.

“The facilities were amazing and the crowd was so incredible,” he said. “To go out there and compete with so many people cheering for you was pretty special. They even interacted with us. I was getting ready to jump and started clapping to get myself pumped up and the next thing I know, the whole crowd is clapping with me. The British fans are wonderful.”

Gillette dealt with a quad strain prior to the London Games, but didn’t use that as an excuse for not getting the gold. In fact, he seemed to have little trouble putting his third silver medal performance in perspective.

“Of course I wanted to win gold, but to overcome what I had to beforehand and take the silver, I’ll take it,” Gillette said. “I left everything I had on the track. I can’t be angry with that.”

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@reflector.com, 252-329-9591 or follow @tcastleberrygdr on Twitter.
Knee pain in women runners could be due to weak glutes

Researchers from East Carolina University compared 20 healthy male runners and 20 healthy female runners. Findings showed that women had 53 percent higher average gluteus activation than men. Researchers note that greater glute activation could lead to earlier fatigue, which could promote "aberrant hip and knee joint kinematics."

AFP RELAXNEWS

For female runners struggling with knee pain, a new small study points to weak glutes as a possible source.

Researchers from East Carolina University compared 20 healthy male runners and 20 healthy female runners. Findings showed that women had 53 percent higher average gluteus activation than men. Researchers note that greater glute activation could lead to earlier fatigue, which could promote "aberrant hip and knee joint kinematics."

All of the runners ran around 20 miles/32 kilometers a week and had up to six years of experience with running. Past research has shown that women suffer from a knee injury known as patellofemoral pain or patellofemoral pain syndrome (PFPS) twice as much as men.

The study was recently published online in the journal Clinical Biomechanics.

Prior research has suggested that weak hips could contribute to running injuries and that hip-strengthening exercises could help.
Editorial: Candidates target young voters
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

A little more than two weeks after the Republican Party’s candidate for vice president, U.S. Rep. Paul Ryan, rallied enthusiastic supporters on the East Carolina University campus, First Lady Michelle Obama will make the case for the Democratic ticket at Minges Coliseum. Expect today’s event, like Ryan’s on Labor Day, to be buzzing with the type of excitement commensurate with a presidential campaign.

Holding these events at East Carolina makes logistical sense, of course, since few venues are more centrally located or better suited to handle the crowds and security concerns endemic to political rallies. But it is particularly important for younger voters — those college-aged residents of this community — to hear the competing visions for the nation and take an active role in charting a course for the next four years.

When then-U.S. Sen. Barack Obama spoke to a packed house at Minges four years ago, his strategy to win the Democratic Party’s nomination was clear. He intended to generate enthusiasm among the nation’s youngest voters by promising a new way of doing business in Washington. It was an approach that his opponents — first then-U.S. Sen. Hillary Clinton in the primaries and Republican nominee John McCain in the general election — failed to match in Obama’s successful campaign.

Though every year, forecasters had called for the youth vote to make the difference, the turnout in 2008 finally justified those predictions. Studies showed a huge number of first-time voters four years ago, and a wide margin preferring Obama. Two years later, when the Republicans took control of the U.S. House, youth voting plummeted and the number of first-time voters fell dramatically as well.

That is not to say that a large turnout of voters between the ages of 18-29 assures a Democratic victory. But the entry of young voters is a potent force, one coveted by both campaigns. It is little surprise, then, that both Ryan and the first lady chose to appear on the East Carolina campus. What better way to energize and motivate a group that, according to the Pew Research Center, decided North Carolina in Obama’s favor four years ago?
Though people from all ages will be in attendance today, just as with Ryan’s appearance on Sept. 3, young voters there to see Obama should recognize the influence they wield this year. The election could well be decided by those attending East Carolina and Pitt Community College, and it is critical they take that responsibility seriously.
Commission rejects housing initiative
By Wesley Brown
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

A proposed initiative to permit a fourth renter in certain houses of the city’s university neighborhood met with opposition on Tuesday night from the Greenville Planning and Zoning Commission.

The 12-member advisory board at its monthly meeting rejected the University Neighborhood Revitalization Initiative, calling it a “dangerous precedent” that “directly contradicts” the Horizons plan, Greenville’s blueprint for future growth.

The ruling, though, is merely a recommendation and not one the City Council must endorse when it votes in October to change a three-decade old law that caps the number of unrelated people who can share a home in Greenville at three.

The new ordinance, if approved, will allow a fourth unrelated person in all homes with at least four bedrooms, 1,500 square feet of heated floor space and three off-street parking spaces between Elm, Fifth and Reade streets and the Tar River.

“This is not a pursuit of neighborhood livability,” said Commissioner John Weitz, who voted in opposition of the plan proposed by Greenville City Councilman Max Joyner. “It is not good democratic government. It is not sound fiscal responsibility and it is not in compliance with the Tar River University neighborhood plan.”

Weitz said the plan, a product of changing times, new government goals and dissatisfaction among property developers, “creates few winners,” namely landlords and homeowners who want to “abandon their neighborhood” to profit more on area houses.

In large part, the commission agreed, saying the initiative will overcrowd the area with student renters and possibly prompt policy takeover in other city neighborhoods.

The opinions widely echoed the views expressed in an hour-long public hearing, in which people who spoke in opposition of the initiative outnumbered those in favor four to one.
Members of the public who resisted the initiative labeled it as “political doublespeak,” a product of “special-interest legislation” that further positioned the area to become blighted with cars parked on lawns, rowdy parties, trash and debris and petty crime.

Two out of about every three of the 468 reported code violations in the proposed zone in the last fiscal year concerned weeded lots, trash and debris and parking on unimproved surfaces, police records show.

“Transient residents, such as students will be at greater risk of crime as this will concentrate more victims in a small area,” said Andrew Morehead, president of the Tar River University Neighborhood Association, the homeowner group representing the area most impacted if a change was enforced. “It’s a bad idea.”

Morehead presented the commission with as many as eight academic studies that showed home ownership results in less crime, higher property values and better neighborhood maintenance.

Greenville’s Chief Planner Chris Padgett said it was the opinion of city staff that the initiative provided for the “preservation, restoration and revitalization of the university neighborhood” by encouraging investment.

Padgett predicated the view by a detailed report that showed nine of North Carolina’s 12 major university cities allowed four or more unrelated people to share a home. Comparatively, Greenville had the lowest rate of home ownership at 38 percent, according to census records.

While Padgett could not say exactly how many homes would qualify for the new standard, Pitt County tax records indicate that currently 187 of the 1,261 homes in the proposed zone are up for rent and have 1,500 square feet floor space. The statistics could not confirm if the properties had four bedrooms or met the necessary parking requirements.

Frank Cassiano, a resident of East Fifth Street for 21 years, said many houses have 4,000 square feet, five and six bedrooms and a growing number are vacant and deteriorating due to a lack of interest among investors.

Cassiano said when he specifically chose the neighborhood as his home in 1991, 60 percent of it was owner occupied.

“Since then,” Cassiano said. “All I have done is watch my owner-occupied neighbors move away.”

Once a “glorious” place to buy property, now only nine homes are owner occupied on East Fifth Street, three of them by Cassiano.
“The rule is not working to preserve our occupants and now we have to recognize it is a renters neighborhood,” said Cassiano, in favor of the initiative.

East Carolina University student body president Justin Davis agreed, saying 79 percent of the area consists of college renters.

“If we allow students to come into an opportunity to live in nice houses by sharing cost, that is going to push the crime out and decrease commuter traffic, which will practically eliminate parking frustrations,” Davis said.

Maury York, a member of Greenville’s Historic Preservation Commission, said the initiative was not necessary, as there is already mechanisms in place to encourage investment, 40 percent federal and state tax cuts for housing rehabilitation.

“These investors do have the incentive to reinvest these properties,” York said. “Their doing so would be a win-win for the neighborhood, whereas the proposed overlay district would cause further deterioration.”

Contact Wesley Brown 252-329-9579 or wbrown@reflector.com.
Receiver after first win vs. Heels

“I haven’t beaten them yet in my career, and it’s really important to me as a senior.”

Andrew Bodenheimer
East Carolina receiver

By Nathan Summers
Wednesday, September 19, 2012

The year before Andrew Bodenheimer arrived at East Carolina as a walk-on wide receiver with former head football coach Skip Holtz, ECU stunned North Carolina in Greenville on a thrilling, last second field goal.

Since then, however, it’s been three straight losses for the senior former walk-on from Clemmons — 31-17 in 2009 and 42-17 in 2010 in Chapel Hill, and 35-20 last year at ECU. The Pirates (2-1) might not need a non-conference win at UNC (1-2) on Saturday, but they certainly want it.

“It’s definitely a dogfight out there for 60 minutes,” Bodenheimer said of his previous three showdowns with the Tar Heels, who lead the all-time series 11-2-1. “I feel like we’re always the underdog, which is fine by me. I’m OK with that, but we can’t let our emotions get too out of whack. We’ve got to be able to play physical, but focus on our job.”

A potential comeback was too little too late in last season’s clash, as the Tar Heels jumped out to a 21-0 lead by the early minutes of the second quarter and the teams traded scores after that.
Bodenheimer said his team needs to feed off last weekend’s big road victory at Southern Miss, and borrowed an oft-used Holtz phrase when he said the Pirates “need to be able to handle success.”

He said the Pirate offense proved something to itself in its second half comeback against the Golden Eagles by staying patient, but Bodenheimer can’t hide his eagerness at one more chance at a win over UNC.

“I think it’s a great rivalry, and the score hasn’t really reflected how we’ve played them the last couple of years,” said Bodenheimer, second on the team this season with eight receptions for 82 yards and a touchdown. “I’d like to get a win against them. I haven’t beaten them yet in my career, and it’s really important to me as a senior, just with this rivalry and for this school it’s a really big win. It’s just one win, but it’s a big win for us.”

Confident Carden

ECU quarterback Shane Carden’s first win was one to remember, not only because it came in his first start under center for ECU last week but also because it was a key Conference USA victory for the team.

With UNC preparation in full swing, the Pirates have mostly forgotten last weekend, but Carden and offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley are most certainly using it to emphasize the many positives, and to identify needed improvements.

“I’m happiest that I didn’t try to force anything,” Carden said after Tuesday night’s storm-delayed practice. “We’ve got to score more points than we did in the first half. We’ve got to play better, but no one ever got frustrated or started pressing.”

Carden threw for 171 yards with one pass TD and scored another on the rush against Southern Miss.

He said there were more points to be had against the Golden Eagles, and perhaps him recognizing that so easily is one of his many veteran traits.

“He did a great job taking care of the ball, and got us out of a couple bad situations and made a couple real veteran-type plays,” Riley said of Carden’s debut start. “There were some throws in the first half that he missed that he’d like to have back, but he was steady, and we didn’t play great around him in the first half. He was very patient, but what a great first start, to go in a place like that where not a lot of people go and win.”

Installation day
As always, Tuesday’s practice was almost exclusively devoted to the UNC game plan. Lightning in the area shortly before 5 p.m. forced a 30-minute delay, but the inclement weather cleared enough for the Pirates to complete a full session.

“I thought it went pretty good, but we had to readjust because we had to go in for 30 minutes and then come back out,” third-year head coach Ruffin McNeill said. “The second part we had to get them going again, but the first part went very well.”

Senior nose tackle Michael Brooks should have the green light to return to full duty on Saturday after he got what McNeill called extended work Tuesday.

Contact Nathan Summers can be reached at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
As Jazlyn Moore embarks on her freshman year of college, her mother, Lisa Moore, is going through the empty nest syndrome - feelings of sadness and/or grief experienced by parents after children come of age and leave their childhood homes.

**College-bound daughter will be missed**

**Pursuing her dancing dream at ECU leaves an empty nest**

Sending your kid off to college is kind of like having a baby. You know it’s going to be painful and you can’t imagine getting through it, but millions of people have done it so you know it’s possible.

After weeks of anticipation, planning and heartfelt goodbyes, I am now one of those millions. My nest is officially empty, and it is so bittersweet.

When I birthed my only child, Jazlyn, 18 years ago, I immediately and instinctually knew a love I had never experienced. In my hospital bed that night, I asked her angels to always watch over and protect the most precious
I’ve always joked that Jazlyn came out of the womb doing a time step. Movement and rhythm are her very essence, and she is never happier than when she is immersed in dance. She is now exploring her art as a dance performance major at East Carolina University. Like any parent, I am proud she is pursuing her lifelong dream.

Equally as proud is my mother, Rose Beebe, 89, who has been to practically every recital, school performance and musical theater production her granddaughter has been in. The two have always had a close bond, and that has deepened since Mom moved to a nearby Alzheimer’s care facility four years ago. Jazlyn has lovingly and patiently helped to care for Mom and has given her so much joy in the winter of her life.

Telling Mom goodbye was difficult for Jazlyn. As we plopped down on the bed next to Mom, she lit up.

“Girls, girls! I love my girls!” she said with a burst of enthusiasm.

We both gave Mom a hug and a kiss; then I told her Jazlyn had come to say goodbye because she was leaving for college.

Mom gasped, “She is? Where?”
“I’m going to East Carolina, Granny. I’m going to be a dancer,” Jazlyn told her.

“Ohhhhh!” Mom said with an excited and wavy inflection. Then she paused as if she was reflecting. “Didn’t I love you all the time?” she curiously asked Jazlyn.

“Since I was a baby,” Jazlyn said with a smile.

“Yes!” Mom confidently nodded as she laughed.

As I witnessed the sweet interaction between these women who are the centerpiece of my being, I realized life in the “Sandwich Generation” would never be the same. I have worked equally hard to take care of both them for the past few years, but now Jazlyn won’t need me as much. I would miss the daily dynamic the three of us shared.

The next day, as we excitedly set up Jazlyn’s dorm and roamed around campus, we both realized this would be the setting for bright beginnings and happy times – interesting classes, a career pursuit, new friends, parties, football games and maybe finding a special someone.

The time we had dreaded came too quickly. As we said goodbye, we clung to each other, not wanting to let go, tears streaming down our faces.

“I’m going to make you proud, Mama,” Jaz whispered, squeezing me tighter.

I assured her she already had, and kissed her goodbye. As I tearfully watched my baby walk away until she was out of sight, my heart felt a pang of grief. I sat with my emotions for a few minutes, and then embarked on the quiet, solo ride home to my empty nest, reflecting on the precious memories created by three generations of strong females.

And I asked the angels to watch over and protect both my girls.

Editor’s note: In Lisa Moore’s column, “Generations,” she writes about the challenges and healing she experiences as a member of the Sandwich Generation: those caring for a parent and a child.

Lisa Moore is a freelance writer. Have a story idea for Lisa? Email her at LisaMooreNC@gmail.com.
UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp receives a standing ovation as he addresses an emergency faculty meeting Tuesday, Sept. 18, 2012, at the FedEx Global Education Center in Chapel Hill, N.C. After Thorp’s remarks, the faculty adopted a resolution calling for the chancellor not to resign, and for UNC system President Tom Ross to not accept Thorp’s resignation.

**UNC-CH faculty to Holden Thorp: Please stay**

By Jane Stancill - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL—More than 200 UNC-Chapel Hill professors united Tuesday in an impassioned plea to Holden Thorp to stay in the role of chancellor beyond next year – a likely futile effort to hang on to a leader who is one of their own.

At a hastily called meeting, professors packed an auditorium and erupted into a standing ovation when Thorp walked in unexpectedly, one day after announcing he would step down as chancellor next June after two years of athletic-related scandals. The faculty members passed a resolution backing him and asking UNC system President Tom Ross not to accept Thorp’s resignation.
Thorp called the faculty gathering “one of the most moving experiences of my life.” Wearing a Carolina blue paisley necktie, he told the crowd that as much as he appreciated the outpouring of support, “my plan is to sit out there with you. And it looks really good right now.”

The emotional day, which one longtime professor compared to a faculty meeting just after the 1970 Kent State shootings, came with the realization that the university faces an uncertain future and a leadership vacuum. Provost Bruce Carney, the chief academic officer, announced his plan to return to teaching at the end of this academic year. And last week, UNC-CH lost its top fundraiser, Matt Kupec, who resigned abruptly amid questions about improper travel.

Thorp had recently launched a strategic planning process with campus trustees to create a “21st century vision” of the university, accompanied by an ambitious fundraising campaign that was to be led by Kupec.

UNC-CH’s Board of Trustees has scheduled an emergency meeting Wednesday to discuss personnel matters behind closed doors.

Presumably, the campus will launch a months-long process to find Thorp’s successor soon, so the strategic planning may have to wait until the next leader is in place. Meanwhile, Thorp will continue to be focused on implementing reforms to prevent future academic abuses related to athletics.

Former Chancellor James Moeser said that, in a sense, Thorp will have more freedom now. He will not to worry about media coverage and can make any tough decisions necessary to fix the problems, Moeser said.

“I don’t think actually there will be very much loss of momentum,” said Moeser, now a faculty member who was on hand at the meeting to support Thorp. “I really think this place is very strong. This affirmative response from the faculty today is a very telling sign of the commitment of the faculty here. … This is the faculty that has pushed us to be in the top 10 in federal (research) funding, which is an incredible feat.”

**Still a good position**

Despite the recent string of problems, Moeser said, he believes UNC-CH will attract top-notch leaders in the future.

“It’s a very difficult job,” Moeser said. “But it is still one of the best positions in American higher education. It’s one of the great universities.”

On Tuesday, some faculty expressed fears about whether the next chancellor would be more of a CEO-type who doesn’t have the same devotion to
academic ideals and faculty involvement in decision-making. Many, though, were not ready to look ahead. They regretted not having done enough to stand behind Thorp, and they desperately wanted him to stay.

“Universities are more than sports teams,” biology professor Greg Copenhaver said to applause from the crowd. “They’re more than training programs. They are a vessel for society’s hopes and dreams and values. It is my belief that Chancellor Thorp represents the best of those values – visionary creativity, civility, and a deep belief in shared governance.”

Other groups joined the chorus with their own resolutions, including an association of retired faculty members and the Employee Forum, which represents 12,000 staff members. On Friday, students and staff plan to gather at the center of campus in a show of support for Thorp.

Michael Gerhardt, a law professor, said Thorp never bent on his commitment to academic integrity or his affinity with faculty – “somebody who believes in each of us and everything that we do.”

Sue Estroff, a professor of social medicine, said each faculty member should also take responsibility for making the university a “leadable” place where someone like Thorp, who came from the faculty, can succeed.

She also said she is torn because she knows what he’s been through. “Personally, I don’t want him to take any more punches,” she said.

Thorp, 48, said he decided over the weekend that it is best for the university and for his family for him to leave the chancellor’s job next summer. He plans to return to his position as a professor in the chemistry department, where he has spent most of his career.

**Emergency meeting**

Jan Boxill, chairwoman of the faculty, said about a dozen faculty leaders met in an emergency session Monday night to try to come up with a plan to change Thorp’s mind.

She said the group was partially influenced by what happened at the University of Virginia in June, when an outpouring of faculty support helped lead to the reinstatement of President Teresa Sullivan after she was ousted by the university’s board.

Thorp was not forced out and has had support from trustees and the UNC system governing board. The situations are very different, Boxill said, but the common thread may be the power of faculty governance.
“We saw in Virginia how they mobilized so quickly, and that’s what we did as well,” Boxill said.

Stancill: 919-829-4559

**Thorp's payout**

Under UNC system policy, when Holden Thorp steps down as chancellor, he is entitled to a one-year research leave with pay before he returns to the classroom. His current salary is $432,600.

The policy also says that when he returns to the faculty, he is entitled to 60 percent of his current chancellor’s salary – $259,560 – or a salary “that is commensurate with the salaries of comparable faculty members in comparable positions.”

Thorp holds the title of Kenan Professor, an endowed chair, which means that he had already earned more than a typical faculty member.

UNC system spokeswoman Joni Worthington said his salary will be determined by the campus when he rejoins the chemistry faculty and will be based on a departmental analysis of comparable faculty. That analysis will take into account his Kenan professorship, Worthington said.

Staff writer Jane Stancill
Editorial

**UNC-CH should restrict plane use**

Tom Ross, president of the University of North Carolina system, has a clear “priority one” in the wake of the resignation of Holden Thorp, chancellor of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus. And no, it’s not thinking about a search committee for Thorp’s successor. It’s stopping the apparently casual and sometimes excessive use of aircraft by some university officials.

Yesterday, The News & Observer reported about the use of aircraft operated by Medical Air Inc., a company affiliated with the university that provides planes for medical doctors from UNC to travel to remote areas of the state to treat patients or train doctors. There are six aircraft in the fleet.

But the aircraft have been available, supposedly on a low-priority basis, for chancellors and other high-ranking university officials, including fundraisers such as former Vice Chancellor Matt Kupec.

It turns out that Kupec traveled some on the planes with Tami Hansbrough, who had fundraising jobs with the university’s dental foundation and later under another vice chancellor. The second job essentially was made possible by Kupec, with whom Hansbrough had a personal relationship. She is the mother of former UNC star Tyler Hansbrough, and she had another son who played basketball for Notre Dame.

**All business?**

Kupec and Hansbrough seem to have scheduled some travel, including on those Medical Air planes, to places where her other son, Ben, was playing for the Fighting Irish. The university’s development office paid for some trips. Both have resigned in the wake of these revelations. And now it emerges that Thorp was along on some other flights with them as well, though he says the trips were connected to university business.

Ross, who also has access to the planes, needs to order that Medical Air services are to be dedicated to the health care mission, and that other officials should request use of the planes only in exceptional circumstances. And those circumstances shouldn’t include bowl games or tournaments or even fundraising trips. Not now. Not after these disclosures.
Chancellors and their aides can travel commercial, with their expenses reviewed like everyone else’s. There shouldn’t be some sense of entitlement that condones this kind of perk as part of the job. If fans can get to bowl games in Arizona or wherever on commercial airliners out of RDU, so can chancellors.

**Way beyond reason**

On one trip, The N&O reported yesterday, Kupec and Hansbrough were in Montana and wanted to get back to Chapel Hill earlier than planned. So Kupec’s assistant called Medical Air and arranged for a plane to meet them in Chicago. The bill to Kupec’s office: $4,059. The idea that these planes could be requisitioned for officials’ personal convenience, leaving them unavailable for medical flights, is simply outrageous.

Of course, the university hasn’t provided many details and records about flights to The N&O, because an internal audit is under way. OK, but when it’s done, that audit must be released with all details included. This is public information and the people have a right to it.

There is troubling irony here. While this was happening, university officials were complaining about budget troubles and cutbacks in classes and stagnant faculty salaries. Yet some areas seemed to be quite comfortable.

And frankly, the contention that money spent on travel and schmoozing potential donors is an investment more than an expense is weak. Certainly one wants to nurture potential donors, but wining and dining and face-to-face meetings are hard to justify to the extent that Kupec was using them, especially when he had Hansbrough with him and just happened to be catching a Notre Dame basketball game.
UNC dental foundation report shows Tami Hansbrough's travel to see son play

By Dan Kane - dkane@newsobserver.com

UNC-Chapel Hill’s dental foundation released a three-year-old report Tuesday that said Tami Hansbrough did not receive proper approval for a trip to Memphis in which her son, Tyler, was playing for the basketball team in the NCAA Tournament.

Hansbrough was hired as an associate director for the foundation in December 2008 to raise money. UNC officials later said the trips were for fundraising, and the report includes an addendum in which her fundraising activities on those trips were listed.

The News & Observer had sought the release of the report after learning about issues with Hansbrough’s travel that ultimately caused her and Matt Kupec, the vice chancellor for university advancement, to resign last week.

Hansbrough and Kupec began a relationship while she worked for the dental foundation, and he later sought to hire her as a fundraiser in his department. Chancellor Holden Thorp did not allow that job to go through, but he later approved another fundraising job for Hansbrough in the student affairs office. Kupec’s office funded that job.

Hansbrough had a different boss as a result, but in the new job she continued to travel regularly with Kupec, and Thorp last week said his review found trips that appeared to be personal in nature. The trips included travel to cities in which Tyler and another son, Ben, were playing basketball games.

The foundation’s board sought the spending report after some foundation expenses increased dramatically. Credit card charges, the report found, had gone up from $9,300 to nearly $47,000 from 2008 to 2009.

The report found personal expenses for foundation employees and family members being charged to the foundation. The report said those charges included Hansbrough’s travel, several hundred dollars that the foundation executive director and the director of professional relations each spent for themselves and their spouses for what appear to be UNC-related cruises, and roughly $1,600 the executive director spent on himself for a trip that included his daughter and showed no stated business purpose.
The report said Hansbrough’s travel to the 2009 NCAA tournament in Memphis, at a combined cost of $1,000 for hotel and airfare, did not have proper approval, nor could the auditors find any history of staff being sent to such postseason football or basketball events.

“There was no supporting documentation to indicate any related development activities and/or donor involvement,” the report said.

A synopsis the foundation sent to the N&O along with the report indicates that Hansbrough met with donors and prospective donors on the Memphis trip and on another trip to the ACC men’s basketball tournament in Atlanta that year that was not mentioned in the report.

Included with the released documents are reports of Hansbrough’s activities during those trips that appear written by her. They list breakfasts, dinners and receptions in which she met with prospects and big donors. Many of the donors’ names are redacted.

Brad Bodager, the executive director of the foundation, resigned after the review. Attempts to reach him recently have been unsuccessful.

The firm that conducted the review, Davenport, Marvin, Joyce & Co. of Greensboro, found a lack of communication with regard to financial matters both within the foundation and with the dean of the dental school. It reported a “perceived lack of support on the part of the Dean related to questioning by the staff of the excessive and questionable spending by the Development office employees.”

The firm also recommended several measures to increase accountability, such as an annual travel plan that would explain why certain trips are needed, how much they would cost and how they would be funded.

The foundation’s current executive director, Paul Gardner, had denied the release of the report, saying the foundation is not a governmental entity subject to the public records law. He released the report at Thorp’s request.

Kane: 919-829-4861
Lance Thomas settles lawsuit, which could complicate NCAA's ability to get answers

By Laura Keeley - lkeeley@newsobserver.com

Former Duke basketball player Lance Thomas settled his pending lawsuit with the jeweler suing him for defaulting on a $67,800 payment, making a potential investigation much tougher for the NCAA.

“We have reached a settlement,” Mike Bowers, the attorney for Raefello & Co. wrote in an email. “I cannot make further comment.”

Terms of the settlement are confidential. While the NCAA and Duke will continue to work together on the matter, the jeweler will not be participating in any potential investigation. Bowers confirmed to the News & Observer last week that his client declined to talk to the NCAA.

The NCAA does not have subpoena power, so it cannot force the jeweler or Thomas to cooperate with an investigation.

Thomas purchased $97,800 worth of custom jewelry on Dec. 21, 2009, midway through his senior year. He made a $30,000 down payment and signed a purchase agreement to pay the balance within 15 days. Thomas defaulted on his payment. Raefello & Co. filed a lawsuit in January after repeated attempts to collect payment.

Unanswered are two key questions: How did Thomas get $30,000 for a down payment, and how was a college student extended a $67,800 loan?

Athletes are in violation of NCAA bylaw 16.01.3 if they receive extra benefits – such as loans based on future earnings potential – based on their athletic status. Any such benefit would be considered an “extra benefit” and put Thomas’ eligibility in jeopardy.

Finding answers will be more difficult without input from the jeweler.

“If everybody keeps their mouth shut and everybody refuses to talk to the NCAA, and by everybody I mean Thomas and the jeweler and whoever might have provided him this $30,000 if it did come from someone else, then there’s not much the NCAA can do if they don’t get information,” John Infante, a former assistant director of compliance at Colorado State who now writes a blog on compliance issues, said last week. “A lot of these extra
benefit cases, the person that provided the benefit might not be willing to talk to the NCAA.”

When asked how the settlement affected the NCAA’s position, spokesperson Stacey Osburn reiterated the organization’s Sept. 7 statement – “We are aware of the matter and have been in communication with the university” – and declined to comment further.

“The process remains the same in that Duke and the NCAA continue to work together on the matter,” Duke associate athletic director Jon Jackson said Tuesday in an emailed statement.

Neither Thomas nor Joe Crews, his attorney, responded to multiple phone calls seeking comment.

The NCAA must inform Duke in writing by Dec. 21, 2013 of its intent to investigate.

If the NCAA decides to investigate, it would not be subject to any type of due process, said David Ridpath, a former director of compliance at Marshall and current Ohio University professor who has testified before Congress on compliance issues. The organization’s power to investigate and punish at will stems from a 1988 Supreme Court case, NCAA v. Tarkanian ruled that, even though its membership was composed of state universities, the NCAA itself was not a state actor.

“It’s essentially considered a private club,” Ridpath said. “And in private clubs, they can make rules that might seem a little bit strange to the rest of us and get away with it.

“Right now, the NCAA does not have to provide due process, and they don’t have to answer to too many people with regard to their investigative and enforcement infractions processes that they have.”

Duke athletic director Kevin White, speaking generally about the challenges facing college athletics, said compliance is a major issue.

“It’s all-consuming, never-ending,” he said. “It’s something you have to be ever vigilant on and about. So many units, so many transactions, so many opportunities to find yourself in a highly unfavorable position that can discredit your institution, staff, student-athletes, so many people that are part of the enterprise.”

Keeley: 919-829-4556
Apartment owner filed claim against Thomas to collect rent

Former Duke forward Lance Thomas owed money to more than just Manhattan-based Raefello & Co. during his senior year.

Four months after Thomas failed to pay the remaining balance on five pieces of custom jewelry, the owner of his apartment filed a court complaint against him for failing to pay rent.

On April 16, 2010 – 10 days after Thomas helped Duke win the national championship – The Parc at University Tower filed a small claim action in Durham County District Court alleging Thomas had not paid $825.30 in rent. According to a copy of the complaint obtained by the News & Observer, Thomas, who is the sole defendant, failed to pay the rent due, and the owner gave him a 10-day grace period before filing the complaint.

Thomas was served by the Durham County Sheriff’s Office with a rent notice, which is the first step in the eviction process, on April 19, spokesman Paul Sherwin said. Thomas did not end up getting evicted.

The complaint was dropped on April 30, 2010 when Thomas and the representatives for the apartment complex failed to appear on the scheduled trial date. Scott Gould, a vice president of Sherman Residential, then the owner of the property, said in an email that Thomas paid in full before the company sold the complex in September 2010.

Thomas listed that same address – 914 Marilee Glen Court – on the purchase agreement he signed with Manhattan-based jeweler Raefello & Co. on Dec. 21, 2009.

Laura Keeley
At a Campus Scarred by Hazing, Cries for Help

By PETER APPLEBOME

BINGHAMTON, N.Y. — One student said she feared for her boyfriend’s health and ability to do his schoolwork because he was coming home from fraternity pledging around 4 a.m. with gashes and cuts on his hands and elbows that reopened daily.

A parent said her son returned home with a shaved head and injuries, from running barefoot on a bed of rocks, that required an emergency room visit and subsequent treatment.

Another student said he was hazed night after night, until right before morning classes. He wrote in an anonymous e-mail to the university, “I was hosed, waterboarded, force-fed disgusting mixtures of food, went through physical exercises until I passed out, and crawled around outside in my boxers to the point where my stomach, elbows, thighs and knees are filled with cuts, scrapes and bruises.”

It is a new school year at Binghamton University, one of the most prestigious public institutions in the Northeast. But the most urgent order of
business is one left over from the last school year — a hazing scandal that forced the university to suspend pledging and induction at all fraternities and sororities.

The university has a new dean of students and a renewed focus on curbing hazing. But a review of complaints submitted to the administration last year indicates just how overmatched Binghamton has been. While student deaths at Cornell and Florida A&M Universities last year have drawn widespread attention to dangerous behavior in student organizations, the reports, obtained recently by The New York Times, provide a rare look into the fraternity and sorority culture on an American campus.

Sunni Solomon, the university’s assistant director of Greek life from 2010 until July, said in an e-mail, “My entire tenure from start to finish, I was scared to death that someone was going to die.”

No one died. But the reports, mostly anonymous e-mails and phone calls, depict students, parents and alumni essentially begging the university to find a way to crack down on hazing.

One student said his friends seemed “always weary, anxious and even paranoid” as a result of the hazing. “I am worried about their safety as they seem to no longer care about what is done toward them,” the student wrote.

One father cited text messages from his son, which could “only be interpreted as desperately reaching out for help.” He said they included descriptions of being forced to stand out in the cold in his underwear, prevented from sleeping for prolonged periods of time and not being allowed to leave the fraternity all weekend. “To be frank, I am shocked and mortified that this is allowed to go on at your institution,” he wrote.

One junior, who expressed great love for the university, relayed accounts from two pledges. One said her sorority threw pledges into a freezing shower where they had to recite the Greek alphabet. Another reported being forced to eat concoctions meant to make pledges vomit on one another and to hold hot coals from hookahs in their hands. The e-mail concluded: “Save the innocent and naïve who can’t seem to save themselves.”

Forced drinking, a staple of college hazing, comes up in a few reports. There also were reports of students’ getting frostbite from walking barefoot in the snow. One said pledges, blindfolded, driven miles from campus and relieved of their phones, were expected to find their own way home. Another said a fraternity branded pledges on the leg, back or buttocks.
Several reports claimed that some of the hazing continued even after organizations received warnings or after the university suspended pledging.

Officials at Binghamton — part of the State University of New York system — declined to say whether individual students had been disciplined but said 3 of the 53 sanctioned Greek organizations were currently banned from recruiting members. The university’s Web site says one sorority received a disciplinary warning, one fraternity was placed on probation and two fraternities remain under investigation.

Separately, two national sororities canceled charters of their Binghamton chapters in 2011 after a review of the sororities and the Greek culture on campus.

Part of the problem, university officials said, was that few victims were willing to come forward, so allegations were hard to verify. A number of the complaints, which were provided to The Times by someone alarmed at the severity of the hazing, came secondhand or thirdhand from worried girlfriends, alumni or parents.

Only 10 percent of Binghamton’s 14,700 students are members of social or professional fraternities and sororities, making Greek life a less dominant part of campus life than at some other schools. Mere numbers, though, do not tell the tale.

Housed, for the most part, in shabby, rambling houses and in apartments close to the bustling bar scene in Binghamton’s struggling downtown, Greek organizations are central to the campus’s social life. Most students go to parties there. With the distance from campus about three miles, the students are far from the eyes of administrators and the campus police. The problem is compounded by the presence of unsanctioned fraternities, some with rowdy reputations.

Although hazing is a crime in New York State, no one was charged in Binghamton. In April, the Binghamton police visited Alpha Pi Epsilon, also known as APES, an unsanctioned fraternity housed in a 9,600-square-foot Greek Revival mansion near downtown. There had been reports of nightly hazing involving “rigorous exercise, alcohol consumption, paddling and ‘waterboarding’ where the pledges were being hosed down,” a police report said. It added: “Information was also reported that some of the pledges had acquired pneumonia from the ‘waterboarding.’ ”

Sgt. Michael Senio said that without a sworn complaint from someone willing to come forward, the police could not enter the building where the
occupants, according to the report, responded with “a lot of attitude and very little cooperation.”

Sergeant Senio said: “I can only speculate what was going on, but we could see the basement, which was like a disgusting-looking dark dungeon with hoses and standing water on the ground.”

Members declined to comment when a reporter visited the house last week.

The excesses of Binghamton were not new. A 2005 editorial in the student newspaper, Pipe Dream, said the university was hypocritical in pretending that pledging was anything other than “a semester of naughty secret hazing.” It continued: “This isn’t a playground. This is a madhouse. We’ve turned Greek life advisers into Casablanca’s Captain Renault who is shocked, shocked to find there’s hazing (and parties) going on here.”

The newspaper’s current editor in chief, Daniel Weintraub, says hazing remains an open secret. “The view of the majority of the student body is that everyone knew all this was happening and no one cares,” he said. “People think, ‘If you want to be hazed, go join a frat; if you don’t want to be hazed, don’t join a frat.’ ”

Samantha Vulpis, president of Binghamton’s Panhellenic Council, representing four sororities, said the university should have focused on the worst offenders rather than groups engaged in what she characterized as benign bonding exercises. “I know what the chapters in my council were doing, and none of it put anyone in danger,” she said.

But Zach Stein, president of Binghamton’s Interfraternity Council, which represents 18 fraternities, said Greek life at Binghamton had to change. “We’re at a critical tipping point,” he said. “We could either lose the whole system or make it great. It’s not going to remain the same no matter what.”

Brian T. Rose, the university’s vice president for student affairs, said the biggest shock to him was how many organizations were the subject of complaints. “It gave me a sense of pervasiveness about the problem that surprised me,” he said.

April Thompson, the new dean of students, said Binghamton was working with national fraternity and sorority organizations and bringing in advisers to review the system. She said the university was looking for incentives to attract students to recognized Greek organizations, which the university has some control over, rather than unsanctioned ones. The university said
incentives could include scholarships for organizations that excel academically, support for events and assistance with recruitment activities.

In a letter to students, Ms. Thompson said organizations must register all members, be in “full recognition” status with the university and, if necessary, sign administrative agreements with the university to take in new members.

Mr. Rose said there needed to be a long-term approach to curbing hazing. “It’s not going to be one semester,” he said. “It’s not going to be one year.”

But he emphasized that unless students were motivated to change the culture, “the game of trying to police 50-something different organizations across I don’t know how many miles of the city of Binghamton is not something we’re going to be able to do.”

Samme Chittum contributed reporting.