THE DAILY CLIPS

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Men don heels during 'Take Back the Night' march
“It’s not every day you see a bunch of men walking in women’s shoes.”

By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, September 20, 2011

A few dozen male students from East Carolina University walked a mile in the shoes of their female peers Monday night. Literally.

Wedges, platforms, sandals and stiletto heels were paired with athletics socks and hairy legs for an awkward stroll down College Hill Drive, along 10th Street and through campus.

The annual “Take Back the Night” march drew more than 200 participants protesting violence against women, though the men attracted the most attention. Sophomore James Crouch lurched along in pointed-toe mauve heels, supported by two female friends.

“It hurts very much,” he gasped. “I don’t know how ya’ll wear these things.”

The women around him offered helpful advice — “Point your toes in the direction you’re going!” — and insisted they’d practice before next year’s march.

Jonathan Caban, a junior, navigated the pavement more gracefully. He said he was proud to help raise awareness about the prevalence of sexual assaults not only against women, but men, too.

“It’s inspiring how many men are out here participating,” he said, standing tall in black suede peep-toes. “I’m proud of my fellow ECU Pirates.”
Caban said the crowd was smaller last year when it passed him as he stood watching from an athletics field. This year, a female friend made sure he wasn’t on the sidelines.

The event is organized by the student group Voices for Victims and the East Carolina University Police Department. Chief Scott Shelton marched for the cause in fuchsia flats with bows and sequins on the toes.

“I was expecting heels,” he said, glancing down at the shoes he was provided. “I’m not disappointed.”

Voice for Victims President Justin Salisbury said that the heels are a sure way to bring attention to an important issue.

“It’s not every day you see a bunch of men walking in women’s shoes,” he told those who assembled after the march outside of Joyner Library. “Some people think it’s funny. Some of you still do. That’s OK.”

But the story shared next by Mollie Daniel proved a sobering reminder of what is at stake.

Daniel was a victim of date rape during her second weekend as a freshman at ECU. She went with her roommate to a house party one night, and the roommate’s boyfriend fixed her two drinks. Not long after consuming them, Daniel blacked out.

“I remember nothing,” she said Monday. Daniel woke up the next morning “naked, groggy and scared ... bruises on the backs of my arms.” It took her a week to tell anyone.

“I thought it was all my fault,” she recalled. “I should have not had those drinks.” That thinking was faulty, she now says. The victim is never to blame.

“I know violence against women is something that a lot of people just aren’t aware of,” Shelton said. “I believe in the cause.”

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or 252-329-9566.
Dems hear from local leaders on tour
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Tuesday, September 20, 2011

WINTERVILLE — Educational leaders discussed the challenges that budget cuts have placed on their institutions during a meeting with 11 state legislators at Pitt Community College on Monday afternoon.

Legislative Democrats are holding a series of meetings this week to learn about the budget’s effects and to show their support for education and economic improvements. “We thought it was necessary once we got out of one of our many sessions last week that we needed to travel across the state hearing from you,” said Rep. Marian McLawhorn, one of three Democrats who are part of Pitt County’s five-person legislative delegation.

More than 40 people — from local community colleges and public schools, East Carolina University, elected municipal and county officials and local Democrats — attended the Winterville session.

Pitt Community College President Dennis Massey said he was glad to see the legislators. “I think too many times the Legislature makes decisions but doesn’t know what is happening in outlying areas,” he said.

PCC students experienced a $10-per-credit tuition increase, which equaled a 20 percent increase. The school has seen an increase in students applying for financial aid, but less money is available for them, Massey said.

Pitt County Schools Superintendent Beverly Reep held up a battered textbook and reminded legislators it has been two years since the state has funded textbook purchases.
It would cost Pitt County $1.2 million to replace all math textbooks in grades six through 12. School officials are reluctant to locally fund the replacements, fearing the state would make it a permanent local requirement, she said.

Reep said Pitt County Schools has improved its graduation rates and reduced the number of dropouts while facing financial constraints and no pay raises in four years. She worries legislators will think it’s OK to continue limiting resources.

“You can’t help but take an image back with you of these torn textbooks and the difficulties that schools are facing,” said Rep. Joe Hackney, D-Orange, former speaker of the House.

“We take pride in North Carolina in our educational progress, but we feel right now we are going backwards. We don’t think the people of North Carolina in the next election will decide to keep cutting public education.”

Rick Niswander, vice chancellor for administration and finance at ECU, reminded legislators that their support of the dental school has resulted in the first class of 52 students starting in August.

“East Carolina University is very grateful for what the state was able to do this year,” Niswander said. “As we move forward we will continue to be stretched fiscally.”

Budget cuts resulted in 250 people no longer being employed at the university, including 180 faculty members whose yearly contracts were not renewed. Niswander said troubles with the university ripple across the state’s economy.

A recent economic impact analysis shows ECU has a $3.2 billion impact on the state’s economy, with $1.7 billion of that being centered in eastern North Carolina, he said.


Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.
Editorial: ECU's conference question
Tuesday, September 20, 2011

East Carolina University did not play a game on Saturday, but this weekend may prove to be among the most important for the future of the Pirate football program. The Atlantic Coast Conference welcomed two additions to its 12-member league, raiding the Big East Conference for the second time in eight years and instigating a tectonic shift in the world of college athletics.

The Big East once seemed to be an attractive destination for Pirate sports teams, but the league lost some of its shine with this weekend’s defections. What seems clear is that the ACC’s move will have vast reaching repercussions and East Carolina officials — exhausting their many political and professional connections — must seize the best opportunity available.

Reports leaked Friday night and confirmed Saturday morning indicated that Syracuse University and the University of Pittsburgh were set to join the ACC. While it followed on the heels of a courtship between Texas A&M University and the Southeastern Conference, this was the most significant conference news to emerge since last year when two teams defected from the Big 12 Conference.

By the end of the weekend, the ACC had constructed a powerful basketball conference and improved its standing in the landscape of college sports. However, it also cast a long shadow of uncertainty for many other institutions, including East Carolina. The Pirates have never been a great fit in Conference USA, which includes six schools located west of the Mississippi River and lacks admission to the Bowl Championship Series, the convoluted and exclusionary national championship system for college football.

Geographically, East Carolina’s natural home would be in the ACC, since the Pirates are the state’s only Division 1 football program outside that conference. The ACC’s
emphasis on academic partnerships between member institutions would be a tremendous benefit to eastern North Carolina, as well. While East Carolina may not immediately compete well in some sports, it has shown a propensity to defeat in-state rivals on the gridiron and would bring tremendous passion to the stands.

However, the goal must be to find a conference home that makes sense athletically, financially and academically, be it in the ACC, a retooled Big East or elsewhere.

East Carolina Chancellor Steve Ballard and Athletic Director Terry Holland released a letter on Monday, turning fans’ focus to filling up Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Saturday. The university is in fine hands under their direction at this critical hour, a moment that East Carolina cannot afford to squander.
Ruffin McNeill has been around college football long enough to know there is no statistic more vital or more profitable than the one highlighted by stadium scoreboards on Saturdays.

The second-year East Carolina head coach, like 119 other head coaches, awoke Monday knowing the race among the Bowl Championship Subdivision conferences to expand to 16 members each — which has been slowly brewing ever since the Atlantic Coast Conference expanded early in the millennium — has begun in earnest.

Over the weekend, the ACC took the first big leap by accepting Pittsburgh and Syracuse as its 13th and 14th members.

As he has done many times before, McNeill reiterated on Monday his feelings on ECU’s many selling points in the event of the Pirates being asked to join the ACC or any other BCS leagues seeking new membership. Simultaneously, he didn’t waiver one bit on his singular focus toward the next game on the schedule — the Pirates’ Conference USA opener against UAB on Saturday.

“We really have all the makings here,” McNeill said of ECU, which could be in the running to become either the 15th or the 16th team in the ACC, or could land elsewhere as schools are ready to emigrate from various leagues to align themselves with the BCS and its budding mega-conferences. “If Conference USA were to dissolve and somebody picked East Carolina, they’re getting a blessing because we have the total package.
“You want fan support? We have it. You want facilities? We have it. You want market value? We reach from here, eastern North Carolina, to Raleigh to Charlotte and up into Virginia.”

**ECU statement**
ECU director of athletics Terry Holland released a statement in conjunction with chancellor Steve Ballard on Monday evening restating the athletic department’s aim to put ECU in the best position possible.

“Recent announcements related to conference realignment have created an atmosphere of urgency and uncertainty across the nation for institutions, athletic departments and fan bases at those institutions,” the statement said. “The leadership at East Carolina University is actively engaged in conference realignment discussions and remains aggressive in positioning the athletics program in an ever-changing conference landscape.”

**Self-improvement**
At the risk of making his players narcissistic, McNeill spent his team’s bye week telling the Pirates to focus on themselves, in much the same way he feels teams like Virginia Tech do.

When 0-2 ECU puts two full weeks of practice onto the playing field Saturday against UAB, McNeill wants his team to win first and foremost, but also wants ECU to show progress in worrying less about its week-to-week opponent and more about its own influence on games.

“They do not worry about who they play,” McNeill said of the Hokies, a 17-10 winner over ECU two weeks ago. “They do what they do, on all three sides of the ball. I’d like to get our program to that point, where we don’t really worry about who we play, we do what we do.”

**Injuries**
McNeill said he was hopeful to have sophomore wide receiver Justin Jones and sophomore inside linebacker Kyle Tudor back from their respective knee injuries soon, but said it won’t be in time for this weekend’s game.

Also stuck on the shelf indefinitely are offensive lineman Drew Gentry (left knee), center Mack Helms (concussion) and OL/deep snapper C.J. Struyck (right ankle). Reserve linebacker James Craig (right leg) is questionable.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
Poor Women Get More Unneeded Breast Cancer Surgery

Old, poor and Hispanic women are all more likely to have lymph nodes under the armpit removed unnecessarily during breast cancer surgery, a new study finds.

That's despite 2005 guidelines recommending a gentler surgery that spares most of the lymph nodes, avoiding side effects like pain, swelling and numbness down the line.

Based on a California cancer registry, researchers found that more than a third of some 18,000 women who had undergone mastectomy for early-stage breast cancer had had their lymph nodes removed as well, a procedure known as axillary lymph node dissection, or ALND.

Yet all of these women had node-negative tumors, meaning the cancer hadn't spread beyond the breast.

Since the mid 2000s, the American Society of Clinical Oncology has urged doctors to consider removing only the lymph nodes closest to the tumor, called sentinel lymph nodes, to see if the disease has spread beyond the breast.

Even if it has, a study released earlier this year in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggested removing the lymph nodes doesn't help women live longer, as long as they are getting radiation and chemotherapy.

Dr. Sharon Lum, a breast surgeon who worked on the new study, said certain women appeared to be more at risk of having their lymph nodes removed for no apparent reason.

"The women that were getting this unnecessary surgery were more likely to be of lower socioeconomic status, were older, or were Hispanic," Lum, of Loma Linda University in California, told Reuters Health.

It's hard to tease out why that is based on the registry data. The gentler surgery isn't more expensive, Lum said, but it does require more
coordination between different departments, adding an extra step that some surgeons might prefer to avoid.

"There are surgeons that choose not to do it, and there are patients that don't know it's better," she explained. "The take-home message for patients and surgeons is, you have to be educated about the downstream consequences of the surgery you choose to do."

In an editorial published along with the study in the Archives of Surgery, Dr. Jan H. Wong, of East Carolina University in Greensville, North Carolina, says the study raises troubling questions.

"Do these data lend further evidence to the difficulty of translating evidence-based recommendations of care into clinical practice? If so, what are the reasons for this and how might this be corrected? Might these data suggest the selective management of women with early breast cancer based on the level of insurance coverage?" Wong writes.

He adds that the study is "a wake-up call that health care systems need to more rigorously examine the process of care and to intervene with corrective action where appropriate."

UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp, flanked by former football coach Butch Davis and athletic director Dick Baddour, right, in 2010. Baddour outlined UNC’s response to NCAA allegations on Monday.

**UNC's self-imposed sanctions**

The University of North Carolina self imposed football sanctions on its football program Monday as a result of an NCAA investigation. The penalties were:

Two years of probation.

Loss of three scholarships in each of the next three years.

Vacating all wins in the 2008 and 2009 seasons.

A $50,000 fine.

**What’s next?**

UNC is scheduled to appear in front of the NCAA’s Committee on Infractions on Oct. 28 in Indianapolis. The committee is judge and jury in the case and will decide whether to accept UNC's self sanctions or add to them.

**UNC puts its football team on probation, forfeits wins**

BY KEN TYSIAC - Staff Writer

The University of North Carolina has placed its football program on two years probation and vacated wins from the 2008 and 2009 seasons as a result of an NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits and academic misconduct.

UNC's response to the NCAA's June 21 Notice of Allegations, which was due Monday and released - with redactions - to the public, detailed the
school's self-imposed sanctions. The school also reduced the football program's scholarship allotment by three in each of the next three academic years and fined itself $50,000.

The university's formal response precedes UNC officials' scheduled appearance at an Oct. 28 hearing held by the NCAA's Committee on Infractions in Indianapolis. That committee will decide whether to accept the self-imposed sanctions or to hand out additional penalties against a Tar Heels football program accused of nine major NCAA violations.

During a telephone conference with reporters, UNC athletic director Dick Baddour did not try to predict how the NCAA would respond.

"We were very serious in our approach," Baddour said Monday. "We didn't look at it from the standpoint of trying to figure out what they might do. It was only about what we felt like we should do."

Now in its 16th month, the NCAA's investigation into academic misconduct and impermissible benefits resulted in 14 UNC football players being held out of games in 2010, with seven missing the entire season. Former associate head coach John Blake, who's accused of working for the late agent Gary Wichard while at UNC, resigned at the university's request in September 2010.

Head coach Butch Davis, who was not personally cited in the report, was fired in July as chancellor Holden Thorp grew frustrated with continuing damage to UNC's reputation.

The university's response to the NCAA was drafted with the input of athletic department and university administrators, UNC legal counsel and outside counsel. The 111-page report was drafted by lawyers William King and William Brooks of Birmingham, Ala., who specialize in representing schools charged with NCAA violations.

"We have acknowledged our violations, and we've responded in the way you would expect of this university," Thorp said in a statement. "We think that the sanctions we have proposed accept responsibility and, at the same time, give our current and future student-athletes and coaches every opportunity for success."

**Bowls not addressed**

Michael Buckner, a Florida-based lawyer who represents schools that run afoul of the NCAA, is not associated with UNC's case, but he said UNC's self-imposed penalties appear appropriate.
Buckner said the big question was whether UNC would impose a postseason ban on bowl-game appearances; Baddour said UNC considered it and decided it was not appropriate. According to Buckner, schools whose current teams don't appear likely to qualify for postseason play often will self-impose such a ban for a given year.

But UNC is 3-0 and needs just three wins in nine remaining games this fall to become bowl eligible.

"The other self-imposed penalties seem right in line with what you want to show the committee you're serious without overpenalizing yourself," Buckner said.

The number of scholarships that is appropriate for a school to cut on its own is difficult to determine, Buckner said, because the Committee on Infractions has been inconsistent on that issue.

UNC also outlined corrective measures, including:

Changes in the academic support program for athletes, including adding staff members and hiring more experienced personnel.

Requiring staff members to disclose current or past involvement with agents.

Enhanced education regarding agents, benefits and tutors' assistance, and a more restrictive agent contact policy.

Adding a member to the UNC compliance staff.

UNC's response indicates its agreement with the first eight major charges outlined by the NCAA, except for minor discrepancies involving amounts of benefits. The school also states as a mitigating factor that some benefits were repaid in cash almost immediately, and some were the result of friendships with former UNC players that current players did not think were impermissible.

On the ninth allegation - the university's failure to monitor the conduct and administration of the football program - UNC resists some of the NCAA's charges. Regarding the university's failure to monitor football player use of Twitter and social networking, UNC says the NCAA's constitution and bylaws don't mention any institutional responsibility to monitor athletes' communications "on undefined and ever-multiplying 'social networking' sites."

Baddour said there was significant debate on whether to contest that allegation, but UNC officials ultimately decided they had done what's expected of them. Buckner said he agrees with UNC in contesting that issue.
but said the NCAA in the past has held schools responsible for monitoring areas that aren't specifically mentioned in legislation.

"I think UNC and other schools are now taken aback because they didn't realize that was an obligation," Buckner said. "It will be interesting to see how the committee treats that."

UNC also argues that its staffers were unaware of former Tar Heels player Chris Hawkins' status as an individual triggering NCAA agent legislation when he was allowed in the football weight room with his friend, former Tar Heels running back Willie Parker. Hawkins was charged with providing $886 in impermissible benefits to UNC players.

**New information**

Some new information came to light in the report:

In April 2010, UNC received an anonymous tip that tutor Jennifer Wiley provided improper academic assistance to a football player. The player was interviewed three times and repeatedly denied the charge, and the person who provided the tip declined to be interviewed, so UNC was not able to establish that a violation occurred.

Nebraska had staffer and former UNC assistant coach Marvin Sanders attempt to keep Blake from continuing to contact Cornhuskers defensive end Ndamukong Suh after the 2008 season ended. Suh was an underclassman trying to decide whether to enter the NFL draft; the NCAA now charges Blake with working for agent Wichard while at UNC. Sanders said he contacted then-UNC assistant Tommy Thigpen, who later told Sanders he had relayed the message to Blake, according to the report.

UNC has reported four Level II secondary, or minor violations, including an impermissible phone call by Blake, who resigned in September 2010. According to the university, Blake called a football recruit twice in a week when only one call was allowed. The recruit was identified by The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer via phone records as Sharrif Floyd, who later signed with Florida.

Baddour said one of his operating principles throughout the investigation has been full cooperation with the NCAA.

"I'm comfortable with the quality of the investigation," Baddour said. "I'm comfortable with the process we used to come up with the penalties that we self imposed. I think they're entirely appropriate."

ktysiac@charlotteobserver.com or 919-829-8942
**Excerpts from UNC's response**

Excerpts from UNC-Chapel Hill's response to the NCAA's notice of allegations. UNC released the response Monday.

**Self-imposed penalties**

Page 7: The University is embarrassed and disappointed by these violations. It has attempted to respond in an appropriate and timely manner to the issues it confronted, student-athlete eligibility and employment decisions among them. The University has taken the same approach with regard to self-imposed penalties. It understands and acknowledges it is responsible for [redacted] and [former UNC associate head coach John] Blake's conduct that violated bylaws with institutional implications. As a result, the University will vacate wins for the 2008 and 2009 seasons in their entirety. The University also will reduce the number of initial and total grants-in-aid as follows: (a) a reduction of three initial and total grants in aid for the 2012-2013 academic year; (b) a reduction of three initial and total grants in aid for the 2013-2014 academic year; and (c) a reduction of three initial and total grants in aid for the 2014-2015 academic year. The University also will self-impose two years of probation. Finally, the University will pay a monetary fine of $50,000.

**Social networking**

Page 62: The University does not agree that the information contained in Allegation No. 9 (b) is substantially correct or that a violation of NCAA legislation occurred. Allegation No. 9 (b) is unprecedented. No NCAA member institution has ever been found to have violated NCAA legislation due to an alleged failure to monitor "social networking activity" of student-athletes. The NCAA constitution and bylaws are silent with respect to any alleged institutional obligation to monitor the day-to-day communications of all of its student-athletes on undefined and ever-multiplying "social networking" sites. If the Committee agrees with the enforcement staff that a member institution is required to monitor student-athlete communications on all social networking sites, the University agrees that it did not do so. The University believes, however, that for the period relevant to this Allegation, its efforts to monitor football student-athlete social network communications were consistent with the requirements of NCAA legislation and the monitoring efforts of other institutions.

**John Blake's contact**

Page 74: The enforcement staff interviewed Marvin Sanders on January 21, 2011. Sanders reported that two independent sources - Sanders' agent, Shane Meacham, and an unidentified high school coach in Los Angeles, California - informed him
that Blake had attempted to contact then-Nebraska football student-athlete
Ndamukong Suh shortly after the 2008 college football season, during which time
Suh was contemplating entering the NFL draft. Sanders reported that he informed
Nebraska head football coach Bo Pelini about the rumors, and that Pelini
instructed Sanders to contact the University of North Carolina coaching staff to
ask them to refrain from contacting any Nebraska players. Sanders contacted then-
linebackers coach Tommy Thigpen at the University of North Carolina and asked
him to tell Blake to refrain from contacting Suh. Sanders stated he had no
knowledge about whether anyone on the University of Nebraska’s coaching staff
confronted Suh about the rumor. Sanders also stated that he followed up with
Thigpen after the initial phone call, and learned that Thigpen had relayed the
message to Blake.
Independent study classes serve a purpose at universities. With proper oversight, they can give a student a chance to focus intensely on one specialized field of interest under the close watch of a professor. They add variety to the academic mix, something outside the ordinary that can challenge a student with extensive reading and writing requirements.

Was that the case with independent studies courses in the African and Afro-American Studies department at UNC-Chapel Hill, where over the past five years, football players made up 20 percent of the students enrolled in such classes? The university is reviewing the courses and the policies that govern them to endeavor to find out. It must be rigorous in that pursuit, for the controversy surrounding the football team can be put to rest only with full disclosure of internal and external problems and solutions now, and by establishing safeguards for the future.

(The university yesterday announced its response to allegations from the NCAA, governing body of college sports, which will rule on possible sanctions against the university next month. In an effort to blunt possible penalties from that group, the university said it would vacate 16 wins from the 2008 and 2009 seasons and impose what appear to be other fairly minor penalties.)

This embarrassing episode started as a short story but now is a book without a final chapter in sight. It focused at one point on players' contacts with agents (and a former assistant coach's connections to one agent in particular). It expanded to questions about academic tutoring and then a department head's handling of a plagiarized paper and that same department head's enrollment of another player in a class that the department head taught.

Julius Nyang'oro has resigned as department chair of African and Afro-American Studies but retains his professorship. He is the teacher who apparently missed plagiarism in a paper submitted by football player Michael McAdoo and enrolled former player Marvin Austin in an upper-level course when Austin was a freshman.
The large number of football players, percentage-wise, enrolled in the department's independent studies courses proves nothing in itself, but it certainly deserves scrutiny.

Although it appears to be late in coming. It's disturbing, for example, that the university is having trouble producing syllabuses (summaries of course material and guidelines) in some of the upper-level courses taught by Nyang'oro, and that university officials can't as of yet confirm where and when one of Nyang'oro's classes was taught.

A university's operational structure may be historically looser than, say, a private business, but any university must set standards of performance for its faculty and itself in terms of what courses are offered and what the expectations for students are in that course.

And when the athletics enterprise is known to be a powerful one with friends in high places, the school must be aware of pressures that can be brought to bear on the academic enterprise, including the potential for special treatment for athletes.

At universities more famed for their football teams than for their academic excellence, it may be no big deal to "take care of" football players. But UNC-Chapel Hill has in its history never entertained that kind of perspective, though doubtless there have been pressures from some boosters to lighten up.

The outcome of this academic investigation, and steps taken to address any problems that are discovered, must ensure that UNC-CH remains on the path of high and unbending standards, and will not waver in the name of becoming a "big-time" football school.
Male teachers are a rarity in classrooms

By Amanda Greene

Chuck Gore retired from the Navy as a commander after 24 years, but he took his nautical love into his second-grade classroom at Carolina Beach Elementary School when he entered his next career as a teacher.

Students are gunner's mates, signalmen and quartermasters sailing on the U.S.S. Excel.

"Welcome aboard" is the standard greeting for visitors.

But Gore is unique not just because of his classroom style but because of his gender.

Male teachers are a rare breed, especially in elementary schools, no matter whether in New Hanover County, North Carolina or nationwide.

The concern, some education experts say, is that fewer men in the classrooms results in less diverse role models for students.

The lack of male and minority male teachers is just one of the topics the New Hanover County Schools Equity Advisory Commission is discussing as it meets Wednesday afternoon. The group, which formed this year, is trying
to address many different issues of equity within the district, including how to bring more men into its classrooms like Gore.

After raising his children and coaching little league baseball, Gore felt comfortable with an elementary age group – whether it's teaching his students the difference between fantasy and realistic fiction or more complex addition and subtraction concepts.

"I decided to go into elementary education because I felt I was needed. There weren't very many men in my classes at UNCW," Gore said. "A lot of men view students of this age as more of a nurturing field, and they think that's more in line with a woman's work, to be nurturing."

**A small part**

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated men were 18.2 percent of the total teacher population in elementary and middle schools across the country last year.

In North Carolina during the 2010-11 school year, there were about 19,000 male teachers versus 75,900 female teachers, according to N.C. Department of Public Instruction numbers.

Local school systems are on par with state and national male teacher statistics.

In New Hanover, Pender and Brunswick counties, men make up about 20 percent of the teaching pools.

In New Hanover County, where the student population is splits about evenly between girls and boys, only one in five teachers are men. There are 347 male teachers in the county's classrooms, compared to 1,421 female teachers.

The majority of those male teachers, however, are at the middle school and high school levels. Most elementary schools in New Hanover County have five or fewer male teachers, and many of those teachers are in specialized fields such as technology, exceptional children or physical education.

The same is true for Pender County with 101 male teachers and 370 female teachers. And in Brunswick County, where there are 154 male and 609 female teachers. In Brunswick County elementary schools, just 22 out of the 352 teachers are male.

Minority male teachers are even rarer.
African American male teachers make up just 2 percent of the teaching population nationally, according to Department of Education statistics. And in January, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan began a renewed push to attract more black men to the teaching profession.

The lack of African American male teachers was a concern for the equity commission as well as for Brunswick County Schools, which counted only one African American male teacher in all of its elementary schools.

**Many reasons**

Walking the halls at Lincoln Elementary School in Bolivia, third-grade teacher Settle Dawkins often hears children he doesn't know call out his name, highlighting his role model status in the school.

"Most schools that I've been in there were only one or two male teachers," he said. "I realize there are a lot of broken homes, and the children respond to me differently, and it also does good for the female and male students. They think it's neat to have a male role model. I've been called daddy a couple of times."

Education experts say there are several reasons why men are avoiding the teaching profession.

One reason, some say, is because many young men don't view teaching as a way to fulfill the stereotypical breadwinning role. The median income for a teacher in North Carolina is $46,850.

"I think the overriding thing is the salary, and even though education has changed and females are the breadwinners of some families now, males see that as a deterrent to coming into that field, especially elementary education," said John Welmers, New Hanover Schools' assistant superintendent for human resources.

Welmers said some male teachers the system wanted to hire were wooed away by private industry that could pay twice what the schools could give and also offered to pay off the students' college loans.

"There's also this perception that because of the proximity men have to young people, they're afraid of being caught in a situation where they're accused of being inappropriate with a minor. That's a real fear," said Donyell Roseboro, associate professor at the Watson School of Education at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

Also, the General Assembly voted this year to end soon the 25-year-old Teaching Fellows education scholarship program, which included a focus on
recruiting male and minority students who wanted to become teachers. Roseboro said many education schools are wondering how they will fill that void.

Men "are just not in the pipeline. The supply just does not support the need right now," said Danny Bland, director of teacher recruitment for Teaching Fellows. "We were one of very few entities focusing on that specific issue."

**History repeating?**

Getting a Teaching Fellows scholarship was the deciding point for Justin Fischetti's teaching career.

Today, the former Laney High School and UNCW student teaches AP U.S. History at Southern Lee High School in Sanford.

He said the tough budget times have made the education field less attractive for some.

"Right now, teachers in North Carolina are on the fourth year where we haven't gotten raises," he said, "and there's not as many incentives for a student in high school to think about becoming a teacher."

Fischetti said men who are considering the teaching field need to focus on specializing in core subjects.

"At the high school level, most of the men have something to do with athletics, but if we look at the core classes of English, math and science, there are still more women," he said. "I think more male students need to have male teachers they respect and look up to in the academic world as well as in athletics."

The tide could be changing for men in the classroom.

If history repeats itself, Bryan Nelson, director of the Minnesota-based research group MenTeach, believes a new crop of male teachers in the U.S. could be on the horizon.

In the last few years, Nelson has fielded more calls from returning veterans from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan who are considering teaching.

"There have been two points in history when the percentage of men in teaching has gone up – in 1929 with the Great Depression and around 1945 when men were coming home from World War II with the GI bill," Nelson said. "Now, we have a bad economy once again and a lot of soldiers coming back with generous GI bills. They've seen a lot of harsh, horrible things, and they want something hopeful. I see this changing."
Kevin Guskiewicz

UNC-Chapel Hill researcher receives MacArthur grant

By CARYN ROUSSEAU - Associated Press

CHICAGO A Chicago skyscraper architect, a New York City children's choir founder and a North Carolina scientist who studies how to prevent sports-related concussions are among the latest 22 recipients of the no-strings-attached MacArthur Foundation "genius grants."

The $500,000 fellowships for 2011 were announced Tuesday by the Chicago-based John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Kevin Guskiewicz's studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill have made strides in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sports-related concussions. Guskiewicz, 45, said he wants to use some of the grant money to develop rehabilitation plans for athletes and soldiers who suffer concussions. The foundation noted Guskiewicz's combination of laboratory and on-the-field investigations to further his research.

"It's sort of like piecing together a puzzle," he said. "We still have several more pieces of the puzzle to put in place."

Recipients largely don't know they're in contention for the annual awards, and often learn they're winners with an out-of-the-blue phone call informing them they'll receive the money over the next five years.

"I was dumbfounded, I actually cried," said Francisco J. Nunez, 46, founder of the Young People's Chorus of New York City. Nunez finished what he called a "very strenuous" board meeting when he received a call from a phone number he didn't recognize.

"I get this call from a gentleman," Nunez said. "He tells me to tell whoever I'm with to leave and go into a private room. Next thing I know I have to sit down at my desk. I started shaking."
Recipients can spend the money however they like, but many like Nunez say the honor of the fellowship makes them focus on what they would accomplish in their fields if only they had the means. And now they do. His group's many choir programs have more than 1,000 young singers.

"I feel like I have an opportunity here and a challenge to figure out something really great," he said. The foundation cited him for "shaping the future of choral singing for children."

Even though they're referred to as the "genius grants," MacArthur Foundation President Robert Gallucci said the more attractive quality is creativity.

"We hope we're giving these people an opportunity they wouldn't otherwise have to pursue their area or interest and let that spirit that has driven them to be free to accomplish more in the future," Gallucci said. "We're aiming here at the future."

As in previous years, a wide variety of fields are represented on the list of recipients, including both arts and sciences. This year's list includes a former U.S. poet laureate, an elder rights lawyer, an evolutionary geneticist, a jazz percussionist, a cellist and a developmental biologist.

The foundation relies on hundreds of anonymous nominators to offer names to be put in contention for the grants. Nominations only are accepted from the list of anonymous nominators. Recipients often say they have no idea who nominated them. Names are then given to a selection committee of about a dozen anonymous members. They meet regularly to review nominations, narrow the list and then make final recommendations to the MacArthur Foundation's Board of Directors.

Including this year's recipients the MacArthur Foundation has awarded 850 genius grants since 1981.

Jeanne Gang, 47, was the architect of Chicago's 82-story Aqua Tower and her firm, Studio Gang, puts a focus on green building and sustainable design. MacArthur cited Gang's designs for challenging "the aesthetic and technical possibilities of the art form." Gang said she will put together a plan for the grant money and methodically follow it.

"I've always tried to maintain a very experimental side and research side of our practice," Gang said. "(The grant) will feed into our research, our prototyping, our creativity."
Kevin Guskiewicz's studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill have made strides in the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of sports-related concussions. Guskiewicz, 45, said he wants to use some of the grant money to develop rehabilitation plans for athletes and soldiers who suffer concussions. The foundation noted Guskiewicz's combination of laboratory and on-the-field investigations to further his research.

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Some MacArthur money could go to the ECO Girls project in southeastern Michigan. Tiya Miles, 41, started the project when she was on sabbatical from her job as a history professor at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. The environmental mentorship program connects urban girls with college students, she said.

"We've been getting some small grants, but I didn't know how I was going to fund this project," Miles said.

Miles' scholarship focuses on the history and legacy of slavery in the U.S. and the relationships between African and Cherokee people in early America. The foundation said Miles is "reframing and reinterpreting the history of our diverse nation." The grant money affords her the luxury of taking time to think and reflect on her future, Miles said.

"I have lots of plans that I could imagine," she said.

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Online:
MacArthur Foundation: http://www.macfound.org/
Online: http://www.macfound.org
UNC launches high-tech scrapbook
BY TOM BREEN - Associated Press

RALEIGH The era of the shoebox-as-storage-facility, with its old photographs, creased love letters and third-grade report cards, is drawing to a close as the digital age generates more records than ever but fewer physical artifacts to accompany them.

Gary Marchionini, dean of the School of Information and Library Science at UNC-Chapel Hill, has helped devise what could be a one-stop successor to those cardboard boxes and filing cabinets: the LifeTime Library project.

The idea, being used by this fall's incoming crop of about 60 students in the school, is to create a personal digital archive maintained by the university that will last as long as the student does: a collection of course work, transcripts, photos, music, videos, medical records and anything else people might want to preserve.

"We're really developing digital lives that are paralleling our real, or analog, lives," Marchionini said. "What if we actually helped students when they're here at UNC think about this more seriously by giving them more storage space where they could manage their own digital lives and keep that available to them after they graduate?"

It may be some time before the project is available to all students, with concerns over security and cost among the biggest obstacles.

Server space is a precious resource at universities, and UNC, like most others, deletes the data files of students once they graduate or leave to make room for their successors. Many students preserve their college experience, from class notes to photos, on laptops or social networking sites, but hard drive crashes are routine and data backup habits are not widespread.

"They leave and they've got their laptop, but if their laptop dies, that's it," Marchionini said.

There are companies that provide similar services for a fee, but Marchionini sees the LifeTime Library project as a prospective model for public universities. The archive can be updated by students forever, so they could
augment college memories with material from work, family and other activities.

"It's a way to stay in touch with your university and be an active alum," he said.

But as with virtually any digital database, privacy and security are prominent among logistical concerns. Privacy advocates worry such comprehensive archives could become irresistible targets for criminals.

"If you add this additional information to student profiles, you make these databases even more attractive to data thieves," said Lillie Coney, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

High-profile breaches of security at well-protected databases have become all too familiar, Coney said, making it crucial that any such projects follow the best practices for digital storage.

"There are public goods that can be accomplished by doing this, but it has to be done appropriately," she said.

The LifeTime Library project is using UNC's security resources along with other safeguards, Marchionini said, but as the project evolves security will be an area he hopes to refine. Ultimately, he hopes the LifeTime Library will be available to all UNC students, but a number of logistical hurdles, cost foremost among them, stand in the way.

"The issue is, how do we support it," he said. "If you think of it over 20 or 30 years, it's an enormous undertaking."
Tweets about Bowie State dorm stabbing traveled faster than university text messages

By Jenna Johnson

Last Thursday, a Bowie State University student was fatally stabbed in her on-campus apartment about 8 p.m. As with any news event lately, details quickly spread through social media, with students reporting on Twitter that the victim had been stabbed by her roommate during a fight involving an iPod.
Hours before the media had firm details to report, students and others had tweeted the names of the two students, along with their Twitter handles, and offered condolences.

The first tweet from the university’s Twitter account — @BowieState — didn’t come until Friday morning about 5 a.m., when an official statement was posted online.

Instead of using its Twitter account (which has less than 1,500 followers) to communicate with students, the university used its opt-in text messaging emergency alert service.

The first of seven messages from BSU Director of Public Safety Ernest Waiters was sent at 9:24 p.m. Thursday: “PG County Police is investigating a stabbing that occurred inside Christa McAuliffe Hall about 8:00pm. The incident occurred on the 2nd floor.”

At that time, many students were attending a Homecoming comedy show, and news was just beginning to spread on Twitter, according to the Baltimore Sun.

Five minutes later, another message: “If you saw anyone running from the second floor you are asked to contact P.G. County Police or BSU Police.”

The next three text messages told students that no one could leave or enter the housing complex where the stabbing occurred. Those who lived there and couldn’t get inside were directed to the Center for Learning and Technology. The last message in that series arrived at 11:16 p.m.

The next message was sent at 4:16 a.m. the next morning: “Due to the tragic event on campus Thursday evening. All class and day activities have been cancelled for Friday.”

In between, students looked to Twitter and local media reports for new information, including that the suspect turned herself in to police at about midnight.

Several students that I talked with on campus Friday said they stayed up nearly all night, trying to track down news on their own. In one residence hall, students locked themselves in their rooms and were afraid to venture outside alone, as they didn’t know if the suspect was still at large.

"It was really scary, and everyone was locking their doors and asking, 'Will you walk with me to the bathroom?'" said Jasmine Harvey, 19, a sophomore psychology major from Upper Marlboro.
On Thursday night, officials focused their attention on alerting students to the immediate threat and responding to the needs of students directly affected, said university spokeswoman Cassandra Robinson. She emphasized that the university did not have much information that night to share with students, as the Maryland State Police controlled the investigation.

On Friday, the university posted a state police statement about the case on its Web site and hosted a campus-wide meeting to update students on what had happened and offer counseling services.

Twitter and social media kept coming up during the meeting, which hundreds attended. The university police chief begged students to stop spreading misinformation about the case online. And a counselor said that while social networks can provide a feeling of support and comfort, students should not only talk there.

“During this time of high emotion, we encourage you to talk face-to-face and not so much over social networks,” said D. Fredrica Brooks, “because in your anger and your disappointment, you may say things that you can’t take back.”

By Jenna Johnson | 05:12 PM ET, 09/19/2011