THE DAILY CLIPS

September 22, 2010

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
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    Business Week
    Time

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**Parkinson's group to meet**
The Eastern NC Parkinson's Support Group will meet from 3-4:30 p.m. Sunday in the Cypress Glen Auditorium. Laura J. Ball, an associate professor in communication sciences and disorders at East Carolina University, will speak on “Speech Changes Common among Patients with Parkinson's and Therapeutic Strategies.” For more information, call 321-6001 or 717-6070.

**Town hall meeting**
Greenville City Councilwoman Marion Blackburn will hold a District 3 town hall meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday in ECU's Mendenhall Student Center. Information on crime and safety, code enforcement, apartment safety, downtown safety and a non-alcoholic venue will be presented. E-mail info@marionblackburn.com.
Jolly Trolley puts entrepreneur in the driver’s seat

BY LYNSEY HORN
The Daily Reflector

He was once known as the “birthday guy” who embarrassed local restaurant-goers on their special day but has since left that nickname behind and is now known as the “Jolly Trolley man.”

Patrick Brown wants to entertain people and promote Greenville. In an effort to combine these two wants, he started The Jolly Trolley, providing an alternative way for people to travel.

About three months ago, Brown decided he wanted to buy an ice cream truck to drive around his neighborhood.

He found a truck in an ad and was prepared to purchase the vehicle when he saw a trolley for sale on the other side of the page. He quickly forgot about the ice cream truck and decided the trolley was the way to go.

After researching how trolleys were painted and cared for when they were a common mode of transportation, Brown spent past three

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months hand painting and preparing his trolley for business. The Jolly Trolley has been showing off its new paint job throughout Greenville for the past two weeks. On the first two home football game days at East Carolina University, The Jolly Trolley, with its pirate head logo posted on the front end, was picking up fans and tailgaters.

Brown said he already has a few reservations and has been talking to restaurants, businesses and the chamber of commerce about working events in Greenville such as Freeboot Fridays.

Besides the work he put into preparing the trolley, there were a few things Brown had to get in order to start his new business. To drive the trolley, he had to obtain his Class B driver’s license. He also had to post a for hire sign on the trolley in order to pick up and drop off.

Brown is the only driver, but people say he is the right man for the job. “My friends and people who know me keep telling me, ‘If anyone is going to pull it off, it will be you,’” Brown said.

He has experience entertaining people from his work as the “birthday guy,” and he also has done some stand-up comedy. Besides making a few bucks and having some fun, Brown just wants to help out the area.

The Boy Scouts recently were fundraising outside Kmart so Brown started making stops there to bring them more business. He also has a deal with the Masonic Temple to help raise money.

Brown says he is proud of how quickly The Jolly Trolley has gained attention and says it’s been a “wild experience.”

To book a reservation with The Jolly Trolley, visit www.GreenvilleJollyTrolley.com or look for it on weekends and game days.

Contact Lynsey Horn at lhorn@reflector.com or (252) 329-9574.
ECU soccer team to sell jerseys for cause

The Daily Reflector

East Carolina hires Lea as director of ticket sales; Pirate volleyball team hosting clinic Saturday.

The East Carolina women's soccer team will hold its second annual Riley's Army Auction on Oct. 3 following its game against Conference USA rival Tulsa at the North Campus Recreation Complex.

The Pirates will wear pink jerseys at the game and will auction them to help raise money for the Riley's Army charity.

Prior to the start of the game, the Pirates will host a breakfast catered by Panera, a one-mile walk around the complex and a field day for kids to play with other athletes, PeeDee, the Pirate cheerleaders and other volunteers.

The walk will begin at 11 a.m. followed by the field day and silent auction at noon.

Riley's Army, founded in April of 2007, supports 10-year-old Greenville resident Riley Philpot, her family and others in the area with children battling cancer. The charity recruits and trains volunteers to sit with pediatric cancer patients and their siblings, as well as provide meals, financial, logistical, spiritual and other types of support.

At age six, Riley was diagnosed with a Wilms' tumor on her right kidney. A Wilms' tumor is the most common malignant tumor of the kidneys in children. After what appeared to be a successful...
PIRATES
Continued from C1
operation and removal of the tumor, the cancer returned and several spots on her lungs were found.
She endured another round of procedures and treatments and appeared to be on her way to a full recovery and remission until the cancer returned again. Riley continues her battle with cancer today.
During the game, ECU’s players, coaches and team trainer Jen Merrill will wear pink jerseys that will be up for auction. Fans can place their bids at a table set up next to the bleachers at the North Campus Recreation Complex.
Bidding will start at $20 per jersey and increase in increments of $5. Bidding will end with five minutes remaining in the second half.
Volunteers from Riley's Army will determine the winning bid for each jersey. Winners must pay with either cash or check immediately after the match, at which time each player, coach or trainer will present the winner with his or her jersey.

Pirates hire Lea
Haig Lea has been appointed Director of Ticket Sales at East Carolina University, according to an announcement from Assistant Athletics Director for Marketing and Ticketing Scott Wetherbee on Tuesday.
Lea’s acceptance of the new post marks the Greenville native’s return to eastern North Carolina after a five-year tenure with the Carolina Mudcats, a Class AA affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds.
For the last four seasons, he directed a Mudcats' group sales effort that consistently produced revenue increases, including a 25 percent jump during his initial year of leadership in 2007. In addition to meeting account management initiatives and maintaining customer service satisfaction, Lea, 28, also was responsible for the planning and game-day execution of the club’s corporate and group events for local businesses and organizations.
Lea, who headed the training and supervision of the group sales team, interns and a 10-member game-day employee staff, also assisted the team’s box office with preseason and daily ETIX Ticketing program operations.

ECU began the final round in 13th place, but shot 3-under as team to move up three spots.
ECU junior Harold Warner was the lone Pirate to finish in the top 30, taking 26th place. Varner carded a 54-hole total of 2-over 218 (70-75-73). He was 1-over in the final round.
Senior Warren Straub (74-78-70) and junior Adam Stephenson (72-79-71) tied for 39th at 3-over 222. Straub carded a final round score of 2-under 70, while Stephenson finished the third round at 1-under.
Junior David Watkins and redshirt freshman Ryan Eibner both shot par Tuesday.
Eibner, competing in his first intercollegiate tournament, tied for 45th at 8-over 224 (77-75-72). Watkins finished with a 9-over 225 (74-79-72).

ECU volleyball clinic
The East Carolina volleyball team will hold a kid’s clinic on Saturday at Minges Coliseum before its Conference USA opener against UTEP.
Registration begins at 11 a.m. and will last until 11:30, after which the squad will provide instruction and teach the fundamentals of the game.
At 12:30 p.m., participants will be given t-shirts and the chance to make posters in support of the Pirates. Lunch will also be provided. The Chick-Fil-A cow, PeeDee and the ECU cheerleading team will be on hand during the clinic and the match.
For more information, call the volleyball office at (252) 737-1426 or visit www.ecupirates.com.
— ECU Media Relations

Lea, who has already assumed his duties, is a 2004 graduate of East Carolina, where he earned a degree in business administration. He followed with a master’s degree in exercise and sport science from ECU in 2006, and is currently pursuing a master’s in business administration.

Golfers finish 10th
BURLINGTON, Iowa — The East Carolina men’s golf team concluded the second annual Golfweek Conference Challenge at the par 72, 7,360-yard Spirit Hollow Golf Club with a 10th-place finish.
The Pirates ended the tournament Tuesday by carding their best round of the event with a 285.
Their third-round tally left them with a three-day total of 882 (290-307-285).
UNCW women's basketball coach apologizes after player punishment goes too far

By Brian Hull
Brian.Hull@StarNewsOnline.com

Published: Tuesday, September 22, 2010 at 6:58 p.m.

UNC-Wilmington women's basketball coach Cynthia Cooper-Dyke apologized Tuesday for an extreme form of punishment one of her players endured under the supervision of an assistant coach.

Julia Finlay, a junior guard from Hicksville, N.Y., was forced to lie on her back Monday afternoon and log roll nonstop the 94 feet from baseline-to-baseline in Trask Coliseum.

The punishment continued for 30 minutes. Finlay made roughly a dozen trips down the court.

Assistant coach Johnetta Hayes and an unidentified person stood on the northwest corner of the court and observed. Finlay vomited three times during the episode, which occurred while the men's basketball team was undergoing a full team workout on the court.

Athletic director Kelly Mehrtens said she was still gathering information on the incident and was not prepared to make a statement.

Cooper-Dyke was out of town on Monday when the punishment took place. She said her assistant, Hayes, suggested the log rolls.

"It was never meant to demean or degrade or in any way hurt anyone," said Cooper-Dyke. "Certainly not our program and first and foremost Julia."

Finlay was being punished for getting kicked out of practice last Thursday. Typically, Cooper-Dyke said she demands players run a series of sprints when they show behavior "unbecoming a Lady Seahawk." But she opted not to make Finlay run because she's suffering from a case of plantar fasciitis, a common foot injury among basketball players. The extent of that injury is unclear and Finlay had not missed any previous workouts due to it.

"That idea, that drill, will never happen again," Cooper-Dyke said. "I assured her parents of this as well. It's just a situation where we were looking for some alternatives – bad choice."

Finlay was ghastly white and appeared disoriented when Hayes finally handed her a white towel, signaling the end.

There was no athletic trainer in Trask Coliseum for at least the first 15 minutes, during which Finlay vomited twice.

Medical experts consulted Tuesday agreed that the punishment was bizarre and severe, though unlikely to produce any lasting repercussions.

"It messes with your equilibrium and I don't think it's something safe to do," said Josh Canipe, lead trainer for New Hanover County Schools athletics. "It's very
strange. I've never seen it. It's definitely alarming."

Cooper-Dyke called Finlay's parents, Donald and Ann, on Tuesday and apologized.
The Finlays declined comment when reached at home.

"I regret this. I am a person and coach of integrity," Cooper-Dyke said. "My coaching
staff has the same level of integrity and I hold them to that as well. I'm the head
coach, even though I wasn't in attendance it's still ultimately my responsibility and I
take that seriously."

Cooper-Dyke was hired as the Seahawks coach on May 13, following five seasons at
Prairie View A&M. During her tenure, Prairie View was placed on probation and lost
three scholarships for major violations that included unauthorized practices.

She was inducted into the Naismith Basketball Hall of Fame in August.

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The Medicaid-college connection

By Peter Orszag

Over the past few weeks, millions of parents sent their children off to college. But amid the packing and unpacking (and in some cases, the tears), most probably didn’t realize how increasing health care costs are harming their kids’ education.

Consider this: In 1980, a new associate professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a leading public school, earned about the same amount as one at the University of Chicago, a nearby leading private school; ditto for the University of Texas at Austin and Rice University.

By 2000, new associate professors at the University of Illinois and the University of Texas were earning about 15 percent less than their counterparts at Chicago and Rice. And by this year, the differential had widened to 20 percent.

Money may not be the only thing motivating professors, but over time this growing salary gap will undoubtedly pull the talented ones away from public higher education – the colleges and universities that three-quarters of our students attend.

What does health care have to do with any of this? Research I’ve done with Tom Kane of Harvard and the Gates Foundation finds a surprisingly strong connection: Over recent decades, as state governments have devoted a larger share of resources to rising costs of Medicaid, the health care program for the poor, they have cut support for higher education.

Our research suggests that states tend to rob education to pay for Medicaid during economic downturns. And when the economy recovers, the money for education usually doesn’t get restored. To day, as in other business cycles, states are cutting back. Georgia reduced higher education financing by 7 percent for fiscal 2011; Washington reduced spending for the University of Washington by 26 percent over this year and next. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, since 2008 at least 43 states have made cuts to financing for public colleges and universities or have increased tuition.

Tuitons have risen significantly and now account for 37 percent of total public higher education budget, up from 25 percent in 1985.

That’s because, just 30 years ago, state appropriations generally accounted for about four times the revenue of tuition – so offsetting a 20 percent reduction in state support would require raising tuition by 80 percent. This is simply not politically feasible.

The result, as we’ve seen, is that public colleges haven’t been able to stay competitive with private universities on salaries and spending on students. It might be possible to trim some more fat, but ultimately quality is going to suffer.

The evidence suggests that may already be happening. The U.S. News and World Report college rankings are hardly perfect, but they do provide some perspective. In the 1987 survey, there were eight public schools among the top 25; this year there were only three, and none in the top 20. In 1987, the top-ranked public university (the University of California at Berkeley) came in fifth. By 2010, Berkeley was still the top-rated of the public universities, but it had fallen to 22nd overall.

How can we reverse this trend? One step is to provide more federal support for Medicaid when downturns hit, because that is when states tend to put the squeeze on higher education. So the temporary Medicaid help provided by Congress and the Obama administration over the past two years may have not only helped avoid cutbacks in Medicaid while bolstering the economy, but also improved your child’s college education.

The more fundamental response, however, is to get a better handle on rising health care costs. Containing health care costs is not just an abstraction central to addressing our long-term fiscal gap. It is also central to raising workers’ take-home pay because increasing costs for health care are holding down wages.

And perhaps most unexpectedly, slowing the growth of health costs might be among the best things we can do to help the next generation attend a high-quality public college.

The New York Times

Peter Orszag, the director of the White House Office of Management and Budget from 2009 to 2010 and a distinguished visiting fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, is a contributing columnist for The New York
Rising Demand, Rising Tuition
Interest in legal education remains high, despite diminished job prospects

By Katy Hopkins

Tuition has risen for the 2010-2011 academic year at law schools across the country, even as jobs in the industry disappear by the month. The most recent figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that 4,000 jobs in the legal sector were cut in June and July, capping a 12-month stretch in which the field lost about 17,000 positions. Summer associate programs, often a stable track to future employment for law students, also fell victim to a sour economy.

But more law school admission tests were administered in the most recent testing year than ever before. From June 2009 to February 2010, there were 171,541 requests for the LSAT, a 13.3 percent increase from the previous year, says Wendy Margolis, communications director at the nonprofit Law School Admission Council, which administers the test.

With demand and costs climbing while job prospects diminish, what's happening to the value of a legal education? The answer is debatable, at least for the J.D. credential itself, says William Henderson, a professor at the Indiana University--Bloomington Maurer School of Law. "I think [law school] makes you a better problem solver, but... is it worth $50,000 a year?" he says. "For signaling value, the answer is increasingly 'no.'"

Aiming high. Henderson notes that in this economic climate, even a degree from a top law school does not guarantee a job. But Ann Levine, a law school admissions consultant, says that dimming job prospects and increasingly high tuition have yet to deter those in her nationwide client pool from seeking elite placements.

"I had thought people would be more concerned about scholarships and willingness to let go of ranking a little bit. I was wrong," Levine says. "People want to generally go to the best law school they can get into, regardless of costs."

One of Levine's clients, Oriana Pietrangelo, turned down several full rides in favor of a partial scholarship this fall to Notre Dame Law School, a highly ranked school whose "name goes fairly far," Pietrangelo says.

"It would have been nice to not have any debt," she says. "But I feel like I'm more likely to have a better job and higher paying salary going to Notre Dame as opposed to somewhere else."

While "everyone talks about the cost of tuition," Levine says, "it's actually not going to impact demand greatly because I think people see it as somewhat inevitable and beyond their control."

Reasons for tuition increases vary by school, though the pattern is that tuition rarely goes down. Instead, relatively small tuition increases are touted as big news. At Vanderbilt University Law School, tuition will increase 2.7 percent to $44,900 before fees, the smallest uptick in 44 years, according to the school.

Public law schools are feeling the heat of tight state budgets. Funding for higher education has been slashed in at least 43 financially strapped states, according to a report from the nonprofit Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Higher education funding in Texas, for example, was reduced by $73 million, and public universities in Indiana saw a $150 million decrease this year. The budget pressures are pushing tuition upward.

Still, law school officials voice continued support for ambitious students choosing a legal education, especially when the curricula embrace the changing tides of the professional market.

"I think that law school remains a great investment because of the kinds of analytical skills law school teaches," says Paul Schif Berman, dean of Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, "whether you end up practicing at a law firm, or going into business, or going into government."
How student fees boost college sports amid rising budgets

Updated 5h 8m ago

By Steve Berkowitz, Jodi Upton, Michael McCarthy and Jack Gillum, USA TODAY

Students at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, whose football team is shown before its game against Marshall on Sept. 18, approved a $60-per-semester fee to help finance construction of a new campus arena/convocation center. The building is scheduled to be completed in 2011.

Linda Randall says her daughter, Randi-Lyn, a student at Radford University in southwestern Virginia, is not a "die-hard" follower of the Highlanders sports teams.

Even so, by the time Randi-Lyn graduates in 2012, her parents probably will have paid an average of nearly $1,000 a year in fees to the school's athletics department. They just didn't know it from the school's billing statements or website.

"We're looking at five years because she changed majors. That's $5,000," Randall says. "That's one of her loans. That would have paid rent off-campus for a year. It's kind of disheartening. I don't think I'd have as much of a problem with it if I knew I was paying it. With what we're paying, it doesn't seem right."

Like most other schools in NCAA Division I, Radford relies on student fees to help support ever-expanding athletics budgets. Many schools, including Radford, do not itemize where those fees go for those who pay the tuition bills, USA TODAY found in an ongoing examination of college athletics finances. The amounts going to athletics are soaring, and account for as much as 23% of the required annual bill for in-state students.

Students were charged more than $795 million to support sports programs at 222 Division I public schools during the 2008-09 school year, according to an analysis of thousands of pages of financial documents. Adjusting for inflation, that's an 18% jump since 2005, making athletics funding at public schools a key force in the rapidly escalating cost of higher education.

CHAT: Discuss student fees and college athletics. Wed., 11 a.m. ET

STUDENTS: Unaware of usage of fees and less interested in athletics

DISCLOSURE: Laws in place in Virginia and Tennessee

ANALYSIS: Percentage of tuition that goes to athletics

DATABASE: What NCAA schools spend on athletics

At nearly all schools, various mandatory fees are tacked on to tuition, and can cover everything from student health care to computers. But the largest
portion often goes toward running the school's athletics department. In exchange, students typically get free or reduced admission to sporting events.

But when demand exceeds available student seating, some students can get shut out. Many aren't interested in the games anyway.

"She does go to some of the games," Linda Randall says of her daughter, "and it's nice that they let them in free. ... But she's going there for the (academics); she's not going to fund athletics."

There were 42 Division I athletics departments that reported receiving no student-fee money in 2009, but some of those schools say student-fee money is included in institutional funding provided to athletics programs. Many schools help cover the gap between their athletics departments' expenses and revenue because they regard sports teams — especially football and men's basketball teams — as important parts of campus life and excellent vehicles for generating publicity and alumni support.

A University of California-Berkeley faculty group seeking ways to reduce the campus' financial support of athletics acknowledged in a recent report that besides having a "significant" impact on the school's $250 million in annual academic fundraising, Cal's wide-ranging and successful sports program "adds to campus spirit and unity, provides free advertising for the campus, helps in branding, and provides a link and outreach to alumni."

But at NCAA Division I schools, athletics spending has been rising at a faster rate than increases in academic spending, prompting various higher-education groups to call for a change in priorities.

At least six schools — all in Virginia — charged each of their students more than $1,000 as an athletics fee for the 2008-09 school year. That ranged from 10% to more than 23% of the total tuition and mandatory-fee charges for in-state students, the primary customers at most public universities.

Sandy Baum, a policy analyst for the College Board and co-author of the organization's annual Trends in College Pricing report, asks: Is athletics "10% of what you're getting out of college?"

At least five states, including Virginia, ban or limit the use of public and/or tuition money for athletics. For some schools in those states, relatively large fee charges become an alternative. In other states, on top of dedicated fees that might or might not have been approved by students, athletics departments often get other financial support from their schools.

The Randalls are not the only parents who were unaware of the scope of the athletics fees. Among the 20 schools nationally that had the highest estimated per-student athletics fee charges in 2009, based on a USA TODAY analysis, 15 schools confirmed that they do not disclose their per-student athletics fee charges on their billing statements, websites or in other official school publications.

Officials at four of those 15 schools — Radford, James Madison, Longwood and Norfolk State, all of which are in Virginia — said the information could be found in an appendix of a state report.

At Virginia Military Institute, the athletics fee figure is "buried in our budget," says Col. Stewart MacInnis, a spokesman. "I had to go dig it out myself. It's not where anybody would go look for it. You've identified a weak spot."

Some schools don't reveal how much students pay toward athletics, to try to avoid controversy.

"Why would you?" asks Jack Boyle, vice president for business affairs and finance at Cleveland State, which was just outside the top 20 in estimated per-
student athletics-fee charges.

"...Whenever we spell something out, somebody decides they don't want that service. We don't spell out in tuition that 1.8% of it goes to run the religion department. 'I'm an atheist. Why should I pay for them? I'd never go to any of their courses.'"

'A matter of transparency'

Schools' reluctance to make public how much athletics departments get from student fees runs counter to federal, and some state-level, efforts to require greater transparency of college costs.

The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 this year began requiring schools to annually report to the Education Department separate figures for tuition and required fees. (They had been allowed to report a combined figure.)

Starting in July 2011, schools with the largest percentage increases in price over the previous three years will be listed by the department and required to report the reasons for the increases and what will be done to cut costs.

In May, the University of California system voted to force greater disclosure of how its schools use money from a fee that can fund certain programs, including athletics. Each campus will have to maintain a website that says how the spending of that money compares with the spending recommended by the campus' student-fee advisory committee.

In June, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics advocated making student fees apparent as a means to reform athletics spending.

"At a time when the cost of attendance at college is going up at a very high rate, it's a matter of transparency and fairness and equity that people ought to know what they're spending their money on," commission co-chairman William E. Kirwan, chancellor of the University System of Maryland, said at that time. "I think that is a way of bringing pressure to bear — this transparency and this exposure of revenues and expenditures — and beginning to put a hold on, to tamp down, the rate of increase (of spending) in intercollegiate athletics."

After Kirwan's comments, USA TODAY found that two schools in the Maryland system were among the top 20 in estimated per-student athletics fee charges in 2009. Maryland-Baltimore County specifically disclosed its athletics fees on its website and the university system's; Towson provided only the amount of what the bursar's office's website called a "University Fee."

"We do not itemize each cost or fee," bursar Thomas Ruby says. "We do not get into that detail. That's how this university operates."

Kirwan said in early August that Towson's athletics fee is "in the public domain" because it was discussed at a system board of regents public meeting, but "it isn't as transparent as I think it should be. It ought to be more transparent on the website, and it will be addressed."

Within two days, Towson's athletics fee — $767 per student for the 2010-11 school year — had been posted on the university system's site; it remains unspecified on Towson's site.

The Center for College Affordability and Productivity, a Washington, D.C.-based research group, plans to survey students to see how many are aware of athletics fees. But even the center acknowledges that increasing accountability is tough — mostly because even if students are aware of the fee, they rarely are clear on the true cost, administrative director Matthew Denhart says.

Many students pay their college bills with loans, so they don't think about what the true cost will be.
And third-party payers — parents, scholarships, Pell Grants — pass on the cost to someone else.

"There's a lot of, 'I'm not paying for it anyway, so why fight it?'" Denhart says.

'Absolutely getting nothing' from fee

There are those who are trying to fight athletics fee increases or the fees themselves.

Kentucky state Rep. Joni Jenkins filed a bill this year to prohibit public universities from charging commuter students mandatory athletics and meal-plan fees. Her bill was never taken up by a state legislative committee, but she says she plans to refile the bill soon so it will be heard in the next legislative session starting in January.

"I represent a middle-class district where parents are struggling and students are struggling," Jenkins says. "So many of the students from my district are part time because they can't afford to go full time, and they have to work, and they are absolutely getting nothing out of that athletic fee."

She believes commuter students and others should be able to opt out of paying athletics fees, although she acknowledges that for "some of the smaller schools that don't have the same revenues, (an athletics fee) does keep their non-revenue sports going."

At Montana, however, the student body rejected a proposed athletics-fee increase, overriding action by elected student leaders. Representatives from the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) approved a plan to boost the athletics fee to $144 annually from $92, but other students were so outraged that they forced the issue to be put to an all-campus vote in May. The plan was defeated by a 2-to-1 ratio.

ASUM President Ashleen Williams, who supported the fee increase, predicts the issue will come up again in the fall. "Sometimes you have to make hard decisions," she says. Relying heavily on ticket revenue to fund athletics is a "really risky game" because sales — which have been Montana's largest or second-largest revenue source each of the past five years — can wane if teams don't win.

Hawaii's athletics department had been trying to rely on the $23 million a year it generated from ticket sales, donations, television and marketing, plus an additional $10 million in direct and indirect support from the university. But by this summer, the department had accumulated about $10 million in debt and was adding to that at a rate of $1.5 million to $2 million a year. Over the objections of undergraduate and graduate student organizations, the state board of regents voted in July to impose an athletics fee for the first time.

Beginning in January, students will be charged $50 a semester, an amount that is projected to increase the athletics department's net revenue by about $1.8 million a year; the fee money will be available for any purpose except staff compensation or benefits.

"It showed a pretty messed-up sense of priorities," says Amy Donahue, chairwoman of the University of Hawaii Graduate Student Organization's advocacy committee. "If we're going to pay, it should reflect the priorities of the university and benefit the entire university community."

Associate athletics director Carl Clapp says the department hopes the fee will have such a benefit.

Athletics "is by no means the most important part" of the university, Clapp says, but "a strong, successful athletic program is very important to the connection with alumni, donors and leaders in the state, and it magnifies the university not only in Hawaii but beyond the state. That's the visibility that the athletics program can have."

'We don't ask where it's going'
At some schools, students have been willing to approve fee increases for a variety of purposes.

In March 2009, Bowling Green students voted to approve a $60-per-semester fee to help finance the construction of a new campus arena/convocation center — and the measure carried by a ratio of more than 2 to 1. (The school won't collect the fee until the arena's completion, scheduled for 2011.)

Also that month, Utah State students voted 53% to 47% to more than double their athletics fee to nearly $120 a semester as part of a funding plan to help the school have a more viable program in the NCAA's elite-level Football Bowl Subdivision.

There are students who say they don't mind paying sizable athletics fees, regardless of whether the fees are specifically disclosed. James Madison University was another school among the top 20 in estimated per-student fee charges that did not disclose its specific athletics fee ($1,080 in 2008-09, according to the state report the school cited). Student body President Andrew Reese says that "it's not cause for much concern for (students)" because the school provides free admission to events, puts student sections in prime seating areas, and "athletics is a very big part of the student culture."

Cleveland State junior Andrew Sobczak says, "I personally would like it if I knew what I was paying for — and where the money was going." But he has no problem with most of his overall fee money going toward intercollegiate athletics: "How much? That can be questionable. But I think it should. If you want to go to school, part of the whole school atmosphere is sports as well."

If students know little or nothing about general fees, Sobczak says, it's partly their own fault for not being more educated consumers. "We don't question it, we don't ask where it's going, we don't do any of that. So it's definitely partly our fault that the system works that way."

Boyle, Cleveland State's vice president of business affairs and finance, says that if students don't want their money going toward sports, there are options such as online schools and schools such as the University of Phoenix that do not have sports.

At Cleveland State, general fees are considered part of tuition, Boyle says. The money from collected fees generally is sliced up three ways, he says. About 40% goes to paying off debt from new student buildings. About 45% goes to athletics. The rest funds activities such as student government.

Linda Randall says being told about Radford's athletics fee "up front would have been better. We still would have sent her there. She loves it. She's happy. But it would have been nice to know."
U of Fla. proposal to ease crowding: No fall classes?

Posted 14h 55m ago

By David Moltz, Inside Higher Ed

The University of Florida is considering a proposal that would give incoming students the option of taking classes during the spring and summer terms only, bypassing the fall semester, to ease the strain on its crowded facilities. Though most on campus seem to be in favor of providing an opportunity for nontraditional scheduling, a state law must be altered for the university to move ahead with the plan.

Joseph Glover, the university’s provost, pitched the idea at a Florida Board of Governors meeting last week; he described it as a productive, efficient way to admit more students to a university for which there is high-demand.

"U.F. is a large institution and, basically, in the fall semester the Gainesville campus is full to capacity," Glover said. "We do have extra capacity in spring, after winter graduation, and lots of capacity in the summer. So the thought came to us, what's so sacred about fall-spring? What if we offered our students the ability to be spring-summer? We see more and more students who are opting for innovative programs. I think there would be a market for students who would be interested in doing this for a variety of reasons."

ON THE WEB: In the midnight hour

MORE FROM INSIDE HIGHER ED: School’s (NOT) out for the summer

The idea is still in its nascent stages, but Glover imagines that the university would give applicants the option of stating their preference for fall-spring only, spring-summer only, or either up front. Students in spring-summer format would not be blocked from taking fall classes altogether, just courses in residence. In other words, students on this alternative schedule could do things like study abroad or enroll in distance education courses. This limitation would apply for the entire time these student spend at the university — and thus differs significantly from the way many colleges admit some first-year students for the spring semester, but those students are from then on enrolled on a standard schedule.

This year, the university has nearly 6,400 first-time freshmen, and Glover notes that the incoming class size has remained relatively static for the past three years. If the spring-summer option is offered, he said the university would expand its incoming class by about 250 students who would take advantage of it, while maintaining the average 6,400 students in the traditional fall-spring model. Glover added, however, that the university is considering yet another option: limiting the spring-summer scheduling option to incoming transfer students only.

In either case, student leaders on campus seem to appreciate the administration's move to give them more control over their own scheduling.

"I think it’s a great initiative to maintain enrollment from our students in these semesters where there seems to be a drop," wrote Virlany Taboada, senior and treasurer of the Student Government, in an e-mail. "I’ve been a student that has gone to school fall, spring, and summer for my four years here and I can definitely say that taking classes in the summer has helped not only my [grade point average] but it’s a more relaxed environment that I think has contributed to my academic success. My hope would be that by having students not take classes in
the fall we'll see an increase in grade point average and perhaps a decrease in stress and anxiety levels."

Faculty leaders are also open to the idea.

"It's an innovative idea," said Mary Ann Ferguson, chair of the Faculty Senate and professor in the university's College of Journalism and Communications. "I'm glad to see the university is trying to better utilize our resources. I have some concerns about how that it'll work with programs where students take an intro class in the fall and a more advanced class in the spring. Otherwise, I don't see any serious downsides. I'm sure we'll work through those issues."

As most university faculty members are nine-month employees, some would have to be encouraged to teach summer classes to help boost offerings for these students. Still, they would be paid on a supplemental contract for their extra work.

"I suppose if faculty felt pressure to teach during the summer, there would be issues," Ferguson said. "But I haven't heard any strong resistance. We're always able to find those willing to teach during the summer."

In order for the university to make this offer, however, it will have to ask the state legislature to change a statute. Current state law bars public institutions from requiring students who bring in at least nine credits of college credit upon entry — such as those from Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate classes — to attend at least one summer term. At the University of Florida, "virtually all" freshmen bring at least nine credits with them. Without revoking this exemption, the university, technically, would not be able to require students who voluntarily select the spring-summer enrollment option to take summer courses.

"We need to speed student progress toward graduation and maximize use of our facilities," said Glover, who noted that officials from other state institutions at the board meeting noted their support for institutional control over their own summer term policies. "This change would enable us to create this program."

Kelly Layman, board spokeswoman, confirmed the board's support of this push for legislative change. She said this, in addition to a rewording of board policy, would ensure that Florida students that have Bright Futures Scholarships — the state's lottery-funded merit-based scholarship — would still receive funds if they took advantage of the spring-summer scheduling. Currently, those receiving these scholarships are not eligible for funds if they enroll in summer courses.

"We need higher baccalaureate attainment in Florida," Layman said. "If this helps increase that, then the Board of Governors is for it."
E-learning: University of Texas home to library without books

Updated 1d 21h ago

By Steve Kolowich, Inside Higher Ed

The difference between the University of Texas at San Antonio's Applied Engineering and Technology Library and other science-focused libraries is not that its on-site collection is also available electronically. It is that its on-site collection is only available electronically.

The idea of a libraries with no bound books has been a recurring theme in conversations about the future of academe for a long time, and it has become common practice for academic libraries to store rarely used volumes in off-campus facilities. But there are few, if any, examples of libraries that actually have zero bound books in them.

UNTESTED: Can college students learn as well on iPads, e-books?

Some libraries, such as the main one at the University of California at Merced, and the engineering library at Stanford University, have drastically reduced the number of print volumes they keep in the actual library building, choosing to focus on beefing up their electronic resources. In fact, some overenthusiastic headline writers at one point dubbed Stanford's library "bookless." But that is "a vision statement, not a point of fact," says Andrew Herkovic, the director of communications for Stanford's libraries.

San Antonio says it now has the first actual bookless library. Students who stretch out in the library's ample study spaces — which dominate the floor plan of the new building — and log on to the its resource network using their laptops or the library's 10 public computers will be able to access 425,000 e-books and 18,000 electronic journal articles. Librarians will have offices there and will be available for consultations.

ON THE WEB: Is a campus library valuable?

INSIDE HIGHER ED: The joy of stacks

Students used to get their engineering and technology books from a collection at the campus's main library. That collection is still there, and books from it are available upon request. But at the new library dedicated to that specialty, the only dead trees are in the beams and furniture.

The fact that San Antonio has actually built a literal version of what many in the industry hold up as symbol of the inevitability of electronic as the prevailing medium in academe may be commendable, but it is not "earth-moving," says Roger Schonfeld, the managing director of Ithaka S+R, a nonprofit that promotes innovation in libraries and elsewhere. Many libraries, especially science and engineering ones, have started moving their print volumes out of the building and into remote storage.

Lisa Hinchliffe, president of the Association of College and Research Libraries and head of the undergraduate library at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, says that her institution, along with several others, has embedded librarians in various department buildings. Their offices in those building, it could be argued, constitute bookless libraries inasmuch as they are places where students and professors go to learn about how to use campus collections that can be accessed from anywhere.
More interesting than the fact that San Antonio's newest library has no printed books in it is the fact that more and more libraries are devoting less space to printed books, and are thus reimagining the physical space of the library, Hinchliffe says. Whether the building houses half of its former print collection or none of it, the evolution of the library as a physical hub is something nearly every library is dealing with.

As a shared space for discovery, socializing, and studying, the library is still very much relevant and in demand, says Krisellen Maloney, dean of libraries at San Antonio. That is why the university invested $82.5 million in a new library building instead of just putting librarians in offices around campus, Maloney says. "You study and work in the library," she says. "That's how libraries have always been. When people come to the library with books, they're not necessarily using the books. They're also there for the services — to consult, get instruction, find content, and use the content."
College bans Facebook, Twitter, all social media this week

By Dan Kitwood, Getty Images

The social networking site Facebook is displayed on a laptop screen.

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — A central Pennsylvania technological college with fewer students than many Facebook users has friends in blacking out social media for a week.

The bold experiment at Harrisburg University of Science and Technology — which has drawn praise, criticism and even a jab on late-night TV — means students and staff can't access Facebook, Twitter or a host of other ubiquitous social networks while on campus.

Provost Eric Darr said the exercise that began Monday is not a punishment for the school's 800 students, nor a precursor to a ban, but a way for people to think critically about the prevalence of social media.

The blackout comes on the heels of a report that Web users in the U.S. spend more time socializing on Facebook than searching with Google, according to data released last week from researchers at omScore Inc.

Still, Darr said he can't believe the controversy generated in the Twitterverse, blogosphere and academia, with some accusing the school of inflicting "a terrible thing and an infringement up on people's rights."

"By and large, the students are supportive of the whole exercise and don't get so worked up over it," Darr said.

On campus, attempts to log in to MySpace or LinkedIn return the message: "This domain is blocked." E-mail, texting and other Web surfing is still allowed, but not instant-messaging.

Student Ashley Harris, 22, said the blackout has freed her to concentrate on her classwork instead of toggling on her laptop between social networks and the lesson at hand.

"I feel obligated to check my Facebook. I feel obligated to check my Twitter. Now I don't," Harris said. "I can just solely focus."

Part of Harris' willingness to disconnect stemmed from her feeling that the experiment demonstrates the young university's focus on innovation. The private nonprofit institution was founded in 2003 and operates out of a 16-story building in downtown Harrisburg, the state capital about 95 miles northwest of Philadelphia.

Adam Ostrow, editor-in-chief of the social media...
news site Mashable.com, said he'd be interested to see if the university collects any hard metrics from the ban, such as better class attendance or more assignments turned in on time.

But he doesn't think a blackout is feasible over the long-term. Though Facebook has been blocked in some workplaces as a time-waster, it is a crucial tool for college students to coordinate social schedules, organize events, plan study sessions and collaborate on assignments.

"You really can't disconnect people from it in the long run without creating some real inefficiencies and backlash," said Ostrow.

Ironically, the university hosted a social media summit on Wednesday — mid-blackout. That caused some angst for guest speaker Sherrie Madia, communications director for the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School, who, like many, is used to tweeting during conferences.

She said the buzz around the ban has started a much-needed conversation about effective use of social media and how to balance online life with the world offline.

"Do we really want to be enslaved to Facebook or Twitter?" Madia said. "Once you create anything in social media, you have to feed the beast. When you stop adding content, you disappear."

The university has created course work around the ban, and some students will write essays about their experience. Comedian Jimmy Fallon joked in Monday's late-night monologue that he knows the title of those essays: "We All Have Smart Phones, Dumbass."

Darr acknowledged students can use smart phones to bypass the university's computer network or go to a nearby hotel for unblocked WiFi. And at a tech-centric school, he said, some students will try to get around the firewall just to prove they can.

Yet if people feel that compelled to check status updates or Twitter replies, that's important to know.

"I want an honest reaction to the experiment," Darr said.

The provost also confessed to some trepidation:

College officials can't use social networks this week either for student recruiting, business networking or curriculum planning.

"Next week, I will be as thankful as the next person we're back on social media," Darr said.

So will junior Giovanni Acosta, 21, who said he's been texting up a storm trying to coordinate social events without Facebook and Twitter.

But student Dan Warzeck, 36, said it doesn't bother him — he prefers face-to-face communication and doesn't even have texting on his phone.

"I'm not one of these people who puts their life online," Warzeck said. "My friends have my phone number if they really need to get in touch with me."

Harris thought for sure she'd cheat on the blackout, but to her surprise she's embraced it — although she does draw a line in the sand.

"I don't know if I could turn off my phone," Harris said. "I don't know if I could be that liberated."

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