An internal investigation by East Carolina University has led to the dismissal of longtime ECU head softball coach Tracey Kee and the program’s associate head coach Natalie Kozlowski.

ECU released a statement on Friday that said an investigation team found individuals on the coaching staff were not forthcoming to investigators, inappropriate comments were made to student-athletes in the softball program and the coaching staff encouraged the violation of university policy by others.

There also could be punishment by the NCAA. ECU is sending a full self-report to the NCAA in October concerning five possible secondary violations, including improper benefits.

“The culture of compliance was not being followed appropriately and completely in this program and the NCAA makes the head coach primarily responsible for that, but both coaches contributed,” ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said during a phone interview on Friday afternoon. “That led to multiple specific problems in the softball program, ranging from NCAA violations to emotionally hostile environments and other aspects such as improper benefits to our student-athletes.”

Kee and Kozlowski issued a statement on Friday through their attorney, Ben G. Irons II, stating that after the investigation was completed they were asked to resign, but they did not do so because that “would be interpreted as admissions of wrongdoing.”

“Throughout the university’s process to this point, we have had no opportunity to formally respond, to present evidence or to question those who accuse us,” the statement said. “In the future, we will have opportunities to defend ourselves and to protect our reputations. We look forward to those opportunities.”

When contacted on Friday, the attorney’s office said Kee had no further comment.
Kee, who played at ECU from 1987-90, had been the Pirates’ head coach since 1997. Sue Manahan is the only other head coach the Pirates have had since starting fastpitch softball in 1984.

Kozlowski had been an assistant coach at ECU since 2001, serving as the team’s associate head coach since ’07.

The investigation was sparked by an anonymous letter Ballard received on May 15 citing concerns with the softball program. Ballard declined to elaborate on the specifics in the letter.

The next day, Ballard put together an investigative team and the team’s inquiry included interviewing players, athletic administrators and reviewing recent travel and expense records.

The coaches were suspended on Aug. 31 pending the outcome of the investigation.

“We’re embarrassed by what this investigative team has found,” Ballard said.

According to the release, the Pirates would like to have a new head coach in place by the end of October and volunteer assistant coach Courtney Crews will direct the team’s activities in the meantime.

A fall schedule has not been determined for the team. The first spring practice is scheduled for Jan. 11 and the first game is Feb. 8.

Contact Ronnie Woodward at rwoodward@reflector.com, 252-329-9592 or follow @RonnieW11 on Twitter.
ECU dismisses softball coaches

GREENVILLE East Carolina University has begun the process to dismiss its head coach and associate head coach for softball after an internal inquiry into program complaints.

In addition, the university will proactively review operational processes, policies and procedures across athletics, Chancellor Steve Ballard said.

Head softball coach Tracey Kee and associate head coach Natalie Kozlowski are no longer affiliated with ECU softball, Ballard said. The two were suspended Aug. 31 pending the outcome of the inquiry.

The initial investigation found an emotionally hostile environment in the program, identified potential NCAA violations and noted shortcomings related to oversight of property and fiscal matters, according to Ballard.

On May 15, Ballard received an anonymous letter detailing concerns and on May 16 initiated an inquiry by the Office of Internal Auditing and the University Attorney’s office. The investigative team also included the faculty athletic representative, the university’s athletic compliance officer and the Office of Equity and Diversity.

The investigative team interviewed players, coaches, staff and athletic administrators and reviewed historical information going back 10 years, along with recent travel and expense records for the softball program and correspondence relating to it.

Among the investigative team’s conclusions: Individuals on the softball coaching staff were not forthcoming to investigators; inappropriate comments were made to student-athletes in the softball program; and the coaching staff encouraged the violation of university policy by others.
Dr. Gregory Chadwick was confirmed Friday as the permanent dean of the East Carolina University School of Dentistry during the ECU Board of Trustees’ regular meeting.

Chadwick, who has been serving as interim dean since September 2011, said he is looking forward to having permanent leadership in place at the dental school.

“It’s a true privilege to work at ECU and to work with the faculty assembled, the 104 students (in the School of Dentistry), in a beautiful new building, with the service-learning centers in the communities and with a board of trustees that supports you,” he said. “I can’t ask for anything better.”

The new dean said “potential is the word” when it comes to the two-year-old school.

“The potential is limitless when you look at what we can do in education and service for the people of North Carolina in rural areas while we’re educating our students,” he said. “On behalf of myself, my family, and because of the faculty, staff and students of the dental school, we thank you for this opportunity.”

The School of Dental Medicine operates one clinic in Ahoskie, where fourth-year students practice dental medicine.
However, the school is in the process of opening a total of 10 clinics in rural areas around the state, including those in Elizabeth City, Sylva, Lillington, Spruce Pine and Davidson County, over the next two years.

Chadwick’s appointment to the interim dean position came after the resignation of Dr. James Hupp, who stepped down as dean in August 2011 after a state auditor’s report found irregularities in Hupp’s travel expenses and other documentation, according to an ECU news release from 2011.

Chadwick, a native of North Carolina, earned his dental degree from the UNC School of Dentistry and after serving four years in the U.S. Navy. He spent his dental career practicing in North Carolina before coming to ECU.

Other business during Friday’s trustees meeting included:

The board will decide on an increase of tuition and fees for the 2014-2015 school year of between the 5.6 percent ECU is currently considering and the 6.5 percent authorized by the UNC system. A decision will be made at the November board meeting and submitted to the UNC Board of Governors in February.

The board approved proposals to name areas on campus in honor of people in the college of Health Sciences and Technology and Computer Science (laboratory space to be named the Keihin Controls and Instrumentation Laboratory with a $100,000 gift from Keihin Carolina Systems Technology Inc.); athletics (the men’s practice basketball court to be co-named for Mike and Janet Rogers and Don Whitaker with a combined gift of $250,000); and in Joyner Library (a gallery to be named for Janice Hardison Faulkner, a former ECU faculty member and former N.C. Secretary of State, for which the library and its advancement council are hoping to raise $150,000).

The board approved a change in policy to allow ECU to lease property without having to consult the State Property Office, Council of State and the state Attorney General as long as the lease doesn’t exceed 10 years.

The also board approved a proclamation honoring 50 years of desegregation at ECU.

ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard spoke on the need to increase graduate student stipends at the master’s degree level to help increase enrollment, especially considering that many academic and professional fields now require a master’s to be competitive.

Contact Katherine Ayers at kayers@reflector.com and 252-329-9567.
Eastern N.C. draws high-profile visitors

“North Carolina is a swing state and the eastern part of the state is, in a nutshell, where a lot of the swing voters are in this swing state.”

Michael Joffrion
Romney campaign’s state director

By Ginger Livingston
Monday, September 24, 2012

Local appearances by first lady Michelle Obama and Republican vice presidential candidate Paul Ryan this month demonstrate that the presidential campaigns are taking no votes for granted in 2012.

North Carolina has been viewed as a battleground state for months. While the bulk of the state’s voters live in Charlotte, the Triad and Triangle, eastern North Carolina has a core of voters that both sides want to win.

Star power

To reach these voters, and energize the volunteers who will woo them, the campaigns of Barack Obama and Mitt Romney have sent their star power to Greenville.

“North Carolina is a swing state and the eastern part of the state is, in a nutshell, where a lot of the swing voters are in this swing state,” said Michael Joffrion, the Romney campaign’s state director.

The Romney campaign is reaching out to socially conservative Democrats who are disappointed with the state’s high unemployment, which was 9.7 percent in August, according to recently released data.

The Obama campaign sees a changing North Carolina. It is a state with a growing number of black and Latino voters who go to the polls, and an influx of voters from other states who are more likely to support the president.
An important role

Greenville plays an important role in reaching those voters.

Among the 40 counties east of Interstate 95 that are defined as eastern North Carolina, Greenville has the largest television market, ranking 100th in the Nielsen designated market areas. Wilmington’s television market ranks 132. Greenville also is the home of East Carolina University, the third largest public university in the state and home to a multitude of first-time voters.

Earlier this year, the Greenville-New Bern-Washington television market ranked sixth in the country for spending on presidential political advertisements, according to a survey by NBC/SMG Delta, an ad tracking firm.

By late summer, ad spending by various groups had reached $56 million, according to data released by NBC/SMG Delta earlier this month.

Carmine Scavo, an East Carolina University professor of political science, said he has been surprised by the attention the presidential campaigns are giving the state because some polls suggest Romney will win the state.

Earlier this month an Elon University/Charlotte Observer poll showed Romney leading Obama 47 percent to 43 percent.

A Rasmussen Reports poll released last week showed Romney has 51 percent support among likely North Carolina voters compared to Obama’s 45 percent.

Other polls show the candidates’ are in a dead heat in North Carolina.

“The race is still close and we are in every way as committed to North Carolina as we were four years ago,” said Cameron French, spokesman for the Obama North Carolina campaign.

“When you have an election this close nothing is going to beat neighbor-to-neighbor contact (for securing votes),” French said.

Nothing is better for generating such discussions than the first lady asking volunteers to knock on their neighbors’ doors, which was the focus of her appearance at East Carolina University last week.

“When it was announced (Michelle Obama) was going to be here there was a tremendous wave of excitement among the students,” Scavo said.
Michelle Obama’s popularity has a celebrity-like quality, Scavo said, “The students are flattered by the attention so they are more likely to engage in voting.

“Some of these students need some kind of push to get involved,” Scavo said. “They are accustomed to getting emails, to getting (instant messages) but to see a Michelle Obama or a Paul Ryan, that’s much more personal.”

Scavo said that is why he has wondered if Ryan’s Labor Day appearance was a miscalculation.

“If he had waited the next day, the crowd would have been twice as large because there would have been more students on campus,” he said.

Young adult voters may not be the reliable voter base the Obama campaign is betting on, aid Jody Baumgartner, ECU associate professor of political science.

“You can only be fresh and exciting once,” Baumgartner said.

Obama was a once in a generation political leader, someone who was a departure from the typical candidate, someone who conveyed a new vision that appealed to new voters, Baumgartner said. The newness is gone.

But as long as the campaigns believe there is a first-time voter who can be persuaded or a key constituent who needs to be re-energized, Greenville and eastern North Carolina will remain in the political spotlight.

“There’s more elasticity here because you can put more of any investment here and expect a greater return,” Scavo said.

*Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or 252-329-9570.*
Franklin McCain, one of four men who led the Greensboro Woolworth’s sit-ins for civil rights in 1960, challenged East Carolina University students on Sept. 14 to find ways to leave the Earth better than they found it.

“It’s your life. You’re in control,” McCain said. “You should be ashamed if you don’t contribute.”

McCain was the featured speaker for Lead Week, sponsored by the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement, which spotlighted service in recognition of ECU as a leadership university. “We hope Lead Week will become a week of awareness,” said Ira Lawson, 23, of Timberlake, a second-year graduate student in communications.

McCain took students back to the months leading up to the Feb. 1 sit-in and the weeks after the historic movement against segregation, which forced blacks to use separate bathrooms and water fountains or denied their participation in many activities.

“I appreciate how passionate he is and how he tells his story so easily,” said Marcella Camara, 20, of Durham, a junior community health and nursing major. “For him to say that he never saw failure as an option is really inspiring.”

In 1960, McCain was a 17-year-old freshman at North Carolina A&T State University who had become fed up with the injustices he saw. He did all the
things his parents and grandparents told him to have a successful life: follow the Ten Commandments, attend Sunday school, get superior grades, respect elders, and never expect to be acknowledged or paid for his work. Despite his efforts, he was denied rights because he was black.

“There was no other reason for it,” he said. “I felt betrayed.”

After leaving Union County for college, he found friends who felt the same way. McCain and roommate Joseph McNeill lived near David Richmond and Ezell Blair Jr. at N.C. A&T.

The four decided to demonstrate their dissatisfaction in a non-violent and Christian way based on the influences of Jesus and Gandhi. They chose Woolworth’s where they could buy any items they wanted, but could not sit down and eat at the lunch counter.

It was about a one-mile walk from campus, and McCain said he was prepared to go to jail or die to gain his freedom, dignity and manhood.

“Fifteen seconds after I sat on that stool, I felt free,” he said. “I would not have felt cheated if I had died that very moment. There was complete peace, acceptance, invincibility.”

One of the greatest lessons McCain learned came from an elderly white woman sitting a few stools down. He thought her fixed gaze meant disapproval.

“That lady put her hands on our shoulders and said ‘I’m proud of you,’” McCain said. “Don’t stereotype anybody in your life. Get to know people before you conclude what they are. You not only owe it to them, but you owe it to yourself.”

A police officer came, but no one was arrested, and the store closed early. They decided to go back the next day, and asked people on campus to join them. But it took a while for A&T students to get involved. The first to help were three white students from Women’s College, now the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, whom administrators threatened to expel if they returned to the sit-in.

The movement spread to High Point and Winston-Salem, and about 70 other cities after the first week. As the weeks progressed, 67 students worked in shifts, occupying every stool, at the Greensboro store alone, McCain said.

They were spat on, their clothes were cut with razor blades, and they were called names, but they persevered. “Nothing was going to stop us because
we had a clear vision,” McCain said. “Leadership is actually learned and, for it to be effective, it has to be shared.”

He encouraged students to work for things they feel strongly about.

“If there is something you feel compelled to do, don’t wait for the masses,” McCain said. “Get out of the conspiracy of silence when you see things that are not right.”

He finally ate a sandwich at that lunch counter on July 26, once the store desegregated after six months of lost revenue from the sit-ins. McCain received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and biology in 1964 from N.C. A&T.

**Upcoming Events:**

**Monday:** Discussion, “Sex Trafficking: A Global and Local Social Problem,” 7 p.m. Rivers Building Addition, Room RW 105A. Clips from the film, “Half the Sky,” will be shown. Free.

**Tuesday:** Falls Prevention Screening and Education Fair for adults, caregivers and health care professionals, 9 a.m. to noon, Greenville Convention Center. Occupational therapy faculty and students will help provide free falls risk and health screenings. Call 752-1717.

**Wednesday:** Screening of “Small, Beautifully Moving Parts,” 7 p.m., Greenville Museum of Art. Meet filmmaker Lisa Robinson at this free Southern Circuit event.

Thursday: Bandorama concert presented by the ECU School of Music, 7:30 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Free. Call 328-6851 with questions.

See [www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm](http://www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm) for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
North Carolina quarterback Bryn Renner (2) embraces East Carolina University coach Ruffin McNeill following the Tarheels’ 27-6 win Saturday. Photo by Robert Willett.

McNeill sees progress for Pirates despite loss

By Luke DeCock - luke.decock@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL—Despite the frustration, despite the mistakes and the turnovers, Ruffin McNeill could see something beyond the 27-6 final score.

After three straight games on the road, the most recent and final Saturday’s loss at North Carolina, the East Carolina coach could see his team growing and developing. The Pirates’ mood was downcast. Their coach was slightly more upbeat.

“There’s a lot that we learned about this football team,” McNeill said.

“There’s a lot we have to continue to improve. We found out that we’re a pretty good football team. We’ve got a pretty good outfit in that locker room, and it bothers them to not do well and not to perform at a high level.”

Coming off an important Conference USA win at Southern Mississippi last week, the Pirates were unable to build on that momentum, but there were times when they weren’t far off.
Fullback Hunter Furr -- making his first Kenan Stadium appearance since transferring from North Carolina to East Carolina -- was stopped twice near the goal line in the first half and the Pirates settled for the first of two field goals.

“The second quarter was our best quarter,” Furr said. “I don’t think the defense knew what to do with us.”

It was only 10-6 at the half, before it all fell apart in the third quarter when the Tar Heels scored twice in four minutes after quarterback Shane Carden fumbled while being sacked deep in Pirate territory.

But McNeill was thrilled with the emergence of running back Vintavious Cooper, a junior-college transfer who had 85 yards rushing in the Pirates’ first three games and 68 on Saturday, including a 36-yard sprint.

And McNeill was happy with the way the Pirates started the game, particularly on defense, where the Tar Heels had trouble generating offense in the first half and the Pirates were a big play away from breaking the game open.

It may seem a little optimistic after a 21-point loss, but facts are facts: The Pirates are 4-15 against in-state ACC opponents since 2000 and have lost seven straight in ACC stadiums.

Going back home to Greenville to face UTEP in a night game -- always a unique experience at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium -- there’s a lot the Pirates need to fix. But there’s also a lot the coach is happy about, heading home with a 2-2 record and, despite Saturday’s loss, still very much in control of Conference USA’s East Division.

“We know how good we are,” Cooper said. “We know how good they are, not taking anything away from them, but we know how good of an offense we are and we know how good of a team we are. If we play together offensively, defensively and on special teams, we know we can put the game away. We just didn’t do that today.”

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Fence serves as blank canvas
By Michael Abramowitz
Monday, September 24, 2012

Walls and fences represent to most what poet Robert Frost described as barriers separating people in a community: “Good fences make good neighbors.”

But for the creative expression of a young artist eager to leap those barriers, they are merely blank canvases.

A group of those artists from Greenville and Pitt County seized their opportunity Saturday, brightening up a fence that fronts the construction site of the new Greenville Convention and Visitors Bureau at 423 Evans St. They were provided the outlet for their creative talents through the Youth Public Arts Project, a vision of the nonprofit Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge, located at 404 Evans St. just across the street from Saturday’s project.

The program brings at-risk youth in two age groups — 8-11 years old and 12-17 years old — to the arts council two Saturdays each month to work with professional artists to create various public art projects displayed throughout the community. Past projects include murals on the Park Theatre,
the former Taff Office Supply building, the Humane Society, planter projects and a bench project.

Projects also are created indoors and exhibited at local businesses and coffee shops through an effort called “tea cup exhibits,” said Cathy Brown, an art student graduated from East Carolina University and programs and finance director for PCAC.

“The children who show an interest in art and are in need of a positive influence are referred to us by their counselors in the Pitt County Schools system and receive closer attention from social workers at the ECU School of Social Work,” Brown said.

Children must be enrolled in school to participate. Brown said that most of the program’s young artists are hard-working students and stay involved in other extra-curricular activities in addition to their art interests. She said the council’s close relationship with the city, through Senior Planner Carl Rees, led to the painting project on the CVB fence.

“We both were getting coffee at The Scullery just down the street, and he told me that passers-by had said the construction site didn’t look very attractive,” Brown said. “He suggested having a fence put up and having the children paint it to beautify the site a little. The city supplied the paint.”

Passers-by have responded positively to the change, she said.

The temporary nature of many of the projects the children create doesn’t damper their enthusiasm, Brown said.

“They’re used to that idea now,” she said. “Most public art is temporary, but it’s always worthwhile for it to be there for a time. The kids know that. It gets them working together as a team invested in their community and (the presence of the art) helps deter vandalism.”

Devon Persons, 13, a student artist from A.G. Cox Middle School, put the finishing touches on a silhouette of a glass artisan then talked about his talents and dreams.

“I like expressing my talents and helping out the community at the same time,” he said. “That’s a good thing. I’d like to design my own house one day.”

Norma Hernandez, a senior at D.H. Conley High School, is in her fourth year a project member. She has self-nurtured her love of art and music since she was 5 years old, she said.
“I love coming here. Painting keeps the stress of school off me, and I get to make new friends,” said Hernandez, who hopes one day to attend medical school at ECU.

There is no charge for children to participate. The $30,000 Youth Public Arts Project is funded partially by the North Carolina Arts Council but relies heavily on private donations and community interest.

“We used to meet weekly, but funding challenges have forced us to limit our opportunities to every other Saturday,” PCAC Outreach Director Heather White said.

The Youth Public Arts Project is accepting applications into the 8-11-year-old group and limits group size to no more than a dozen older artists.

People interested in enrolling their children or who have an interest in donating or otherwise supporting the project can call the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge at 551-6947.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or 252-329-9571.
Scott Wagner's nursing career started with days spent stalking his mailman. Wagner is now on track to get his bachelor's degree in nursing through Wilmington's Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Nurses program. But a few months ago, he was working in construction, trying to figure out how to get a job in the medical field.

Then a friend told Wagner about the regional program, which would let him earn a bachelor's degree in nursing while working as a registered nurse. Wagner applied, and, so sure that this was the right program for him, began his pursuit of the postal service.

"I stood at the end of my driveway, and I could see him at the end of my road," he said. "I got in the truck and rode down there to get (my mail)."

Fortunately for Wagner, the envelope the mailman handed him was a thick one. He was in.

The program, which began in Wilmington this year, lets students like Wagner enroll in both Cape Fear Community College and the University of North Carolina Wilmington to earn both an associate's and bachelor's degree in nursing in four years. It's part of a statewide project started by the Foundation for Nursing Excellence in 2008 to increase the number of nurses in the state with advanced degrees, said Celeste Connelly, a registered nurse and student adviser for the program.

"Those (baby) boomer nurses are retiring, and that's a huge segment of the nurses out there," she said. "So our nurses are retiring; the general population of boomers is retiring and getting older."

And competition to get into already-established nursing programs in the area is fierce, Connelly said. UNCW has roughly 300 applicants for 50 seats in its nursing school each year, while CFCC has about 400 people vying for 80 spots.

The program, which accepts 10 students each year, guarantees students "a seat in the Cape Fear nursing program and the UNCW nursing program," Connelly said.
Through the program, students spend three years at CFCC, taking a year of prerequisite courses before moving into nursing classes. After the third year, students earn their associate's degree in nursing and take the state exam to become a registered nurse. The fourth year is spent taking online classes through UNCW while doing clinical work in local hospitals and health care facilities.

Several students in this year's program were already on track in the health care field when they found the program. Ashley Osborne and Nicole Marshburn are planning to become nurse practitioners. Wendy Pittillo turned down a spot in CFCC's licensed practical nursing program to get a seat in the regional program.

But for Wagner and Ashley Sholar, the new program marks a career change. Sholar, who has a master's degree in health care management from East Carolina University, decided to get back into the medical field after almost a decade away. She sent more than 150 resumes to hospitals with no success, she said, because she didn't have the clinical background employers wanted. Then she heard about the program.

Sholar got a phone call instead of an envelope when she was accepted into the program. But she was just as giddy as Wagner.

"I'm in the shower, and I start hollering in the shower," she said. "My parents come in and they're like, ‘What, have you fallen?’ And I'm like, ‘No, I got in!'"

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Robert F. Hodges "Bobby"

Robert Fields Hodges, member of both the East Carolina University and the North Carolina Sports Halls of Fame, passed away Friday, Sept. 21, in Greenville, N.C.

Bob was born Aug. 17, 1930, to Rena Mae Flowers and Floyd Hodges. He spent his childhood in Kinston, N.C., where he discovered his talent and passion for athletics. He starred in football and basketball at Grainger High School and remained a proud Red Devil all his life. Bob understood that the discipline of athletics and the involvement of caring coaches made all the difference in the path of his life, and he always strived to give that same strength of leadership to his players, his employees and his extended family.

Bob earned All-America honors in both basketball and football while attending East Carolina University. There he won the heart of ECU cheerleader Drue Bain of Erwin. They married in 1950 and were together until her death in 1993.

Bob later returned to ECU to obtain his master’s degree in Education Administration.

Bob was a member of the ROTC at ECU and later served his country as a captain in the United States Air Force stationed at Nagoya, Japan, and Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. While in the Air Force, he began his basketball coaching career. After leaving the service, he was the head basketball coach at Frederick College in Portsmouth, Va., Hillsdale College in Hillsdale, Mich., and Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, N.C. Bob
remained close to many of his former players and closely followed their subsequent coaching careers. He was always happy to provide advice, solicited or unsolicited, on strategy or how to improve a player’s shot.

After retiring from coaching, Bob was the headmaster of Cape Fear Christian Academy in Erwin, N.C., from 1978 to 1985. While living in Lillington, Bob became involved in Republican politics and later served in the administration of Governor Jim Martin. He joined the N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles in 1987 and was appointed commissioner in 1991. He retired in 1993.

Bob was inducted in the N.C. Sports Hall of Fame in 1993.

Bob and Drue retired to Wilmington, where Bob maintained an active lifestyle of golf, tennis and plenty of trips to see the Texas Longhorns basketball team and the ECU Pirates football squad. He spent time most days at the Wilmington YMCA, although he admitted that a larger percentage of time was devoted to socializing and relatively less in the actual gym.

Bob loved good food, good friends and a nice glass of Jack Daniel’s. He was an excellent dancer and was looking forward to showing off his shagging moves at his great nephew’s wedding. He was proud of his children and grandchildren, and also of the hundreds of young men he mentored in his coaching career.

Bob is survived by his longtime companion, Sarah Pearson of Wilmington, and his three children – Robert Fields Hodges, Jr. of Wilmington, Karen Hodges Matthews (Kim) of East Bend, N.C., and Sharon Hodges Hall (Charles) of Raleigh. He is also survived by five grandchildren – Robert Fields Hodges III, Kirk Fields Matthews (Emily), Kyle Hodges Matthews (Amy), Mary Drue Hall and Darcy Hines Hall, his siblings Geraldine Staton, and Neil Hodges, and a multitude of nieces, nephews and close friends.

Visitation will be at the Market Street Chapel of Andrews Mortuary, 1617 Market St. in Wilmington from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 24. The Memorial Service will be held at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25, also at Andrews Mortuary with a short graveside service to follow. Donations may be made to the Wilmington Family YMCA or the East Carolina Educational Foundation (the Pirate Club).

Online condolences may be sent to the family at

www.andrewsmortuary.com
Joseph F. Hallow Jr.

RALEIGH - Joseph Francis Hallow Jr., 80, of Raleigh died Thursday, September 20, 2012 at Rex Hospital. He was the son of the late Joseph and Magdalene Kannan Hallow. Visitation will be held Sunday from 4-6 p.m. at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home, 300 Saint Mary's Street, Raleigh. A funeral mass will be held Monday at 2:30 p.m. at St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic Church, 5801 Falls of Neuse Road Raleigh. Burial will follow at Raleigh Memorial Park. Joe was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Buchanan Hallow; a brother, Louis John Hallow; and sister, Mary Hallow Rice. He is survived by his sons, Joseph Francis Hallow III and wife, Barbara Bissell Hallow, of Charlotte, and Thomas Gregory Hallow and wife, Mary Fogle Hallow, of Raleigh; five grandchildren, Morgan, Jack, Rex, Brooke and Caroline. He is also survived by his two sisters, Agnes Hallow Kannan of Goldsboro and Josephine Hallow Barnes of Greenville; and one brother, George Joseph Hallow and wife, Judy, of Goldsboro. Joe was born and raised in Goldsboro, after graduating from high school, he attended East Carolina University. Biology major, he was also very involved in both performing arts and athletics. He played for the Basketball team and was captain of the Tennis team. Joe served in the United States Army 1954-1956. While serving in the Army, he received the National Defense Services Medal and Army Occupational Medal, while stationed in Germany. After his time in the military he moved to Baltimore and began a career in the beverage industry working for The National Brewing Company. He was later transferred to Charlotte where he met his wife Peggy. In 1969, he acquired a beer distributorship. He relocated the family to Greenville, NC and founded Hallow Distributing Company. He continued his entrepreneurial drive by founding the Hallow Window & Door Company in the early 1980's. Big Joe always had a love for small business. In addition to his love of family and business, he was an active member of St. Peter's Catholic Church where he touched many lives as both a friend and mentor. He was very philanthropic and gave his time and support to many causes such as Kiwanis Club and Pitt County Shriners. He had a deep passion for East Carolina and supported the University his entire adult life. He was a past-president of the East Carolina University Educational Foundation and lifetime member of the Pirate Club. His proudest Pirate
football memory was the 38-17 win over the Tar Heels in 1975. He resided in Raleigh for the last 20 years where he often spent time with friends and family. He was a proud member of the Raleigh Sports Club and often claimed to have the best friends a man could possibly have. Big Joe never met a stranger and had a bigger than life personality. His passion for life and his positive attitude made him a true joy to be around. He was a loyal friend and beloved Father and Grandfather that was always there for anyone who needed him. He was a strong Christian and believed in lifting people up and treating his fellow man with respect. He will be truly missed by so many and never forgotten.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society Donor Services, P.O. Box 4072 Pittsfield, MA 01202, or to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO BOX 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

Published in The Daily Reflector on September 22, 2012
Dermatologist joins Brody staff
Monday, September 24, 2012

Caroline Wooten

Dr. Caroline Wooten, a dermatologist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Wooten joined the Department of Internal Medicine as a clinical assistant professor. She has a medical degree from the Medical University of South Carolina and completed her dermatology residency at ECU.

Wooten is board-certified in dermatology. Her clinical and research interests are general, surgical and cosmetic dermatology.

Wooten sees patients at Moye Medical Center, 517 Moye Blvd.

Appointments are available by calling 744-3109.
Editor’s Note: The 300-word limit was waived for the following.

The undersigned represent 40 years of service on the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees and 10 years of service as chairs of that board. We have served under three chancellors and have seen countless jobs change hands over the past 15 years.

In our collective opinion, Holden Thorp is a principled, caring and dedicated individual who has the potential to be a once-in-a-generation type leader. When he was chosen to be chancellor, we all knew his experience had not fully prepared him for the job, but that he would grow into it. We all feel though, that his superior intellect and leadership qualities have already benefited the university in countless ways.

As an example, Carolina has risen to ninth in the nation in research funding at nearly $770 million last year. In addition, Thorp has begun a visioning process to maximize the relevance of the university in the 21st century. He has also become an excellent fundraiser as the University received pledges of over $330 million this past fiscal year.

History is full of examples of men and women who faced adversity early in their careers, learned lessons along the way, and became visionary leaders. Steve Jobs, Nelson Mandella and Margaret Thatcher are but a few.

But under the 24-hour news cycle and social media, it is very difficult for our new leaders to develop. Those in the public arena today find themselves under assault. Every decision is questioned, and there is a standard set that very few, if any, can meet. The net result of this overzealous scrutiny is that we are discouraging those with potential from serving in public roles. We respect the rights that come with a free press but at the same time, there is a responsibility to see and report more than one perspective.

In our opinion, Thorp’s resignation this week was a serious setback for the university and the state. Never have we seen more potential for leadership or more dedication to the university. Thorp is one of those unique leaders with the vision and know-how to move our university toward its full potential. One can make the case that he was slightly ahead of his time, but if that is true, then we have all failed to help build his potential. The university and
the state are the real losers here, and we hope that at some point, Thorp will reconsider his decision.

ROGER PERRY (2007-2009)
NELSON SCHWAB (2005-2007)
STICK WILLIAMS (2003-2005)
BOB WINSTON (2009-2011)

Former chairs
UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees
North Carolina Central University recently suspended the drum line in its marching band as it investigates allegations of hazing.

In 2011, the university formed a task force to review its guidelines on hazing, and a committee was created to develop new guidelines and strategies to ensure the Durham campus is free from hazing and student abuse.

The suspension is especially noteworthy after the death of a drum major for Florida A&M University’s famed Marching 100 band last November after a hazing ritual on a bus following a football game.

Suspension is appropriate action as Central looks into allegations of hazing, which has no place in the band or any other organization.

And, while the decision was right and justified, I’m sure it was especially difficult for the university to make.

Those familiar with the culture at historically black colleges and universities know that many students, alumni and fans revere their marching bands almost as much — or in some cases more — than their athletics teams. And, of course, the beating force behind the band is the drum line.

I was a flag girl (now they call them color guards) in the James B. Dudley High School band in Greensboro, and the band marched in the homecoming parade each year at N.C. A&T State University.

Dudley and A&T are historically connected: The formerly all-black high school is named for A&T’s second president, and they share the same colors — blue and gold.

Back in the day, the bands also were connected as we, the Marching Panthers, often called ourselves “Little Aggies” and tried to imitate the sound and moves of A&T’s “Blue and Gold Marching Machine.”

So the high step and theatrics, including dance moves and cadences, were just as much a part of our routine as the music, which still had to be precise.
It’s a good thing I was a teenager then because being in the band, marching and twirling long metal poles with flags attached, was the most strenuous aerobic exercise I’ve ever participated in — and the most fun.

The bands — both Dudley’s and A&T’s — ranked high among reasons to attend A&T’s homecoming festivities each year. Both marched in the parade, and the A&T band halftime show is always worth the price of a ticket, whether the football team wins or loses.

I know that Central’s band is similarly important to its students, alumni and fans.

But if any hazing is part of its activities, it has to march to a different beat.

Cherie Speller is associate editor for readership and community news. Contact her at cspeller@reflector.com or 252-329-9512.
UNC researchers help map the genetics of breast tumors

By Jay Price - jprice@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL—Researchers studying the genetic characteristics of more than 800 breast cancer tumors have found the genetic causes of some of the most common types.

The findings are a crucial step toward creating therapies customized to specific patients – so-called “personalized medicine.” That’s something many medical experts believe will eventually play a major role in cancer treatment.

The multi-institute research team included several scientists at UNC-Chapel Hill, where significant parts of the work were performed.

The findings were published Sunday afternoon in the online edition of the journal Nature.

The study is part of the Cancer Genome Atlas, a $275 million initiative of the National Institutes of Health aimed at mapping the genetics of at least 20 major kinds of cancer.

The researchers used half a dozen sophisticated methods, including sequencing the genetic information contained in cancer cells.

They examined tumors from 825 patients, probing the genetics of tumors of the four main subtypes of breast cancer, and analyzed the combined results of from all the various approaches.

Charles Perou, a distinguished professor of molecular oncology at UNC-Chapel Hill and a member of UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center, said the result was the most comprehensive blueprint of breast cancer diversity to date.

The cancer center was an original member of the atlas project and will receive more than $20 million in grants from the project to fund research.

For some tumors, the findings suggest that genetic weaknesses could become targets for therapy.

“Now we can see a patient who has a certain tumor type and we can look for a specific mutation that could be treatable with a specific medicine,” said Perou, who was a corresponding author of the paper.
In at least one case, a potential medicine is already undergoing clinical trials, he said.

Among the findings was that one subtype of breast cancer is genetically similar to a form of ovarian cancer, suggesting they may share the same genetic cause, and therefore may respond to similar therapies.

Indeed, some of the recent research has led scientists to begin thinking of cancer more as a disease defined by its genetic abnormalities than by the organ or other location in the body where it occurs.

Links have been found between some colon and skin cancers, and others between certain colon and breast cancers.

The atlas project was started about three years ago. It includes more than 150 researchers and more than two dozen institutions nationwide and in Canada.

It was made possible by recent advances in the technology required to map genetic material.

The breast cancer study is just the latest in several important findings that have come in rapid succession from the project. Earlier this month, the researchers announced similar findings about a major type of lung cancer, and in July, they published a study of the genetics of colorectal cancer.

The findings for the various cancers pave the way to extensive research into potential therapies.

In fact, Perou said, several clinical trials based on the work already are being designed.

Also, the study results can be used to re-examine some older research with relative ease because it radically narrows the amount of genetic material that must be studied in a given form of tumor.

The various recent findings have been called transformative by cancer experts, but they just scratch the surface of what the project is likely to find, Perou said.
UNC caps rough week with stirring rally for Holden Thorp

By Jane Stancill - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL–A tumultuous week at UNC-Chapel Hill ended Friday with an almost triumphant, feel-good rally for Chancellor Holden Thorp, four days after he announced he will resign.

Two years of athletic-related scandal had taken a toll on the 48-year-old chancellor, who on Monday announced plans to leave at the end of the academic year in June.

The throng of supporters Friday begged him to stay, but Thorp told them it is best that he step aside, for the good of his family and the university. He will return to the lab and the classroom as a chemistry professor.

In the next nine months, Thorp has pledged to implement changes in policies to prevent a recurrence of the trouble that dominated his tenure, including
academic fraud, improper tutoring and more recently, travel abuses by fundraisers. Next week, the university’s Board of Trustees will begin the process of finding someone to take Thorp’s place.

In the noontime sunshine Friday, hundreds gathered outside the historic administration building, where they scribbled thanks on a long scroll of paper — messages such as “We trust you Holden Thorp” and “Keep it together for the kids! You da best!” They wore buttons that said “Heels for Holden” and stickers that said “Thank you, Chancellor Thorp.”

The event was part pep rally, part love fest, part music happening. Student a cappella groups performed, and a popular student band called Mipso Trio sang Tom Petty’s hit, “I Won’t Back Down.”

Like the song lyrics, there was defiance in the air. For his handling of the athletic mess, Thorp had been pilloried in newspaper editorials, in online comments and on blogs. But on his turf Friday, he was a hero. A line of speakers, from mayors to housekeepers to doctors to students, spoke about why they admired Thorp.

“I won’t deny that the issues that surround the resignation are important, and they need to be addressed,” said Dr. Bruce Cairns, director of the N.C. Jaycee Burn Center in the university’s hospital. “But they don’t define this university, and they don’t define the job that Chancellor Holden Thorp has done over the years.”

Student Body President Will Leimenstoll said Thorp worked to build a place where affordability complemented, rather than competed with, academic excellence. The university isn’t perfect, Leimenstoll said, but the scandals have unfairly overshadowed the good. He encouraged a letter-writing campaign to newspapers across the state.

“As I understand it, Chancellor Thorp wants to step down because he’s tired and worn out,” Leimenstoll said. “He’s borne the brunt of the scandals of the past two years, constantly taking criticism from all directions on every move he makes. I don’t think he’s tired because he’s sick of serving the students, faculty or staff here. … I want the chancellor to rethink his decision to resign, but more importantly, I want us to do a better job of not leaving him, nor any future chancellor, to fight this on his own.”

Thorp was lauded for his open-door policy, his collaborative approach and his affection for students. One recalled that he would sing with students at graduation; another said he would “shake his booty” with students at orientation.
‘Always been on our side’

Leigh Fairley, a senior from High Point, said Thorp helped student leaders hone their ideas, and when they presented him with a good one, he suggested they run with it. “Chancellor Thorp has always been our side,” she said.

Brenda Denzler, a communications specialist with the Medical Foundation of North Carolina, called Thorp a principled man with “a strong sense of fair play and an unshakable commitment to openness and honesty.”

When things went awry, she said, “he has helped our community stand up with dignity and honor to accept responsibility, something that not all leaders would have countenanced.”

Some who have traditionally been at odds with university leadership backed Thorp on Friday, including the mayors of Chapel Hill and Carrboro and the university housekeepers, who won a lawsuit against the administration in the 1990s.

James Holman, a member of the housekeeping staff, credited Thorp with raising the minimum salary and sponsoring a community garden.

“Most of the housekeepers get vegetables every week from this garden,” he said. “This garden is great.”

Thorp and his family, bedecked in Carolina blue, emerged from South Building toward the end of the speeches, eliciting thunderous cheers.

‘Enormous challenge’

Earlier in the week, Thorp had admitted that if he had it to do over again, he would do some things differently. “I would get information sooner, I would take action sooner,” he said. “But I think it emphasizes what an enormous challenge we have to be the great public university that we are.”

Thorp has been criticized both for firing former football coach Butch Davis and for not firing him soon enough. He was derided for putting too much trust in Davis and in Julius Nyang’oro, the former African and Afro-American studies department head who was at the center of the academic fraud scandal.

And while Thorp initially had stopped a top fundraiser, Matt Kupec, from hiring his girlfriend, the mother of former UNC basketball star Tyler Hansbrough, Thorp later approved her hiring in another department. The two fundraisers eventually resigned when Thorp said he found their university travel was “personally driven.” Records show Thorp also flew with the fundraisers on several occasions, though not on the trips in question.
On Friday, he wasn’t making apologies, in what sounded like a stirring speech by an idealistic candidate on election night.

“These are challenging times in public higher education, but you are showing now that our future is bright,” he said, his voice rising. “We will not waver from our commitment to access to higher education. We will not waver from our commitment to access to health care. And we will not waver from our commitment to the pursuit of knowledge that satisfies human curiosity and enables citizenship and equity and prosperity. Together we are the light on the hill. Let it shine!”

Then he led the crowd in “Hark the Sound,” the school song, complete with arms locked, swaying side to side, and the final cheer, “Go to hell, Duke!”

Stancill: 919-829-4559
UNC-Chapel Hill football coach Butch Davis spoke by phone with a key person – the tutor who was under increasing scrutiny – as an NCAA investigation focused on possible academic fraud in the summer of 2010, new phone records show.

Jennifer Wiley, who had tutored several football players and also worked for the Davis family as a tutor to their son, made the call to Davis on Aug. 23, 2010 at 10:12 a.m.

They spoke for nine minutes, according to the records, which were released by a Davis family lawyer Friday after a two-year public records dispute over whether the records are public.

A judge in August ruled in favor of The News & Observer and a media coalition, deciding that the records reflecting university business conducted by Davis on a personal cell phone are public records under state law. The 136 pages cover March 2009 through November 2010.

Davis’ lawyer, Jon Sasser, said in an interview that the phone call that August day was made by Wiley to Davis “as a father figure.”

A UNC administrator, John Blanchard, had just contacted Wiley and sought to interview her, according to Sasser, and she wanted to talk with Davis about it.

“She thought he would know what was going on,” Sasser said. “Who this was, what it was about, and whether she should bring her father.”

Sasser said Davis did not know much at that moment, and directed her to get back in touch with Blanchard to have her questions answered, telling her, “I don’t have any answers for you.”

Wiley never met with UNC or NCAA officials, and her “failure to cooperate” contributed to sanctions brought against the university that include a loss of scholarships and a ban on post-season play this year. Davis was fired last year.

Davis did not direct Wiley to meet or talk with university officials, Sasser acknowledged Friday in an interview.
“He did not tell her not to go and he didn’t tell her to go,” Sasser said. He said that when the call ended, Davis was under the impression that she would.

“He assumed that she was going,” Sasser said. “He hung up with the impression that she would go.”

Asked why Davis didn’t follow up and encourage Wiley to speak, Sasser said that Davis was “gagged” by the ongoing investigations from talking with others about it in any depth.

It was the last phone call between the two, Sasser said.

The phone records show several other contacts before then. Sasser said those were related to Wiley’s work as a tutor for Davis’ son. Many phone numbers relating to personal calls were redacted from the phone records, as allowed by the judge who decided the issue. But Sasser said the coach did not redact those contacts with Wiley, which he considers to be personal, because he knows there would be interest in any contacts with her.

The phone records show that when the last call with Wiley ended, Davis then phoned his wife and they connected for 4 minutes. He didn’t make another call on the phone until after noon, according to the records.

Wiley would soon hire Joseph Cheshire, one of the state’s most prominent defense attorneys.

The NCAA report that detailed infractions by UNC-Chapel Hill says that, “From the time the investigation began, the former tutor refused to cooperate with the institution and enforcement staff.”

The infractions report says the tutor and her lawyer did not respond to multiple attempts to schedule interviews made between November 2010 and mid-January 2011.

The NCAA report says that it was emails uncovered in August 2010 that led to the focus on the tutor, who is not identified by name in the report. The emails showed that she may have provided tutoring for players at no charge, in violation of NCAA rules. Players then acknowledged in interviews that they received free help at the tutor’s apartment or at their off-campus homes.

The tutor had also paid for players’ parking tickets and paid airfare for football players, the NCAA said.

Wiley has refused interview requests.

Curliss: 919-829-4840
UNC-CH sends Tami Hansbrough records to NCAA

By Dan Kane - dkane@newsobserver.com

The NCAA has received several travel and hiring records related to Tami Hansbrough in the wake of the questionable travel at UNC-Chapel Hill that caused her and the vice chancellor for university advancement to resign from their fundraising jobs.

UNC officials on Friday afternoon made public a copy of a fax sent to Mike Zonder, the NCAA’s assistant director of enforcement, on Sept. 13. That is a day after Hansbrough resigned her position as a fundraiser for the office of student affairs and five days after the vice chancellor, Matt Kupec, resigned.

Their resignations followed a preliminary internal review by the university that found they had been taking fundraising trips that appeared to be personal in nature. Several of the trips involved basketball games featuring Hansbrough’s sons -- Tyler Hansbrough, a UNC star now playing for the Indiana Pacers, and Ben Hansbrough, a star with Notre Dame who played professionally in Europe last season.

Kupec and Hansbrough had been in a relationship that began nearly a year after she had been hired as a fundraiser for the foundation that serves UNC’s dental school. An internal review of spending within the foundation found that Hansbrough had traveled to 2009 NCAA tournament games in Memphis where Tyler was playing without getting proper authorization. She later reported the trip involved meeting and greeting donors.

She left the foundation for another fundraising job under Winston Crisp, the vice chancellor for student affairs, in February 2011. But months earlier, Kupec had tried to hire her to work under him directly. UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorp halted the hire because he was aware of their relationship, but he allowed Hansbrough to take the second job, which had been launched and funded by Kupec.

Thorp announced his resignation on Monday, though he will stay on as chancellor through the school year.

University General Counsel Leslie Strohm sent Zonder the fax after a conversation with him, the records show. She pointed out in the fax that Hansbrough had been hired to both jobs after proper searches that each included dozens of applicants. In both cases, Hansbrough was paid at the
upper end of the listed salary range, the hiring records provided to the NCAA show.

Strohm also gave the NCAA records Hansbrough generated showing her fundraising efforts at the NCAA tournament and a prior ACC tournament in Atlanta. The athletic department had been notified of those trips after the foundation audit, and determined there was no need to notify the NCAA, UNC officials said.

A synopsis of Hansbrough’s hiring and work history at the foundation -- which had been drawn up by its new executive director in response to an N&O records request -- was also faxed to the NCAA.

Strohm and Zonder could not be reached for comment on the communication, so the context of the records exchange is unclear. In the past, a university spokeswoman said UNC officials provide written notifications if they think a violation has taken place. No such notification is included.

UNC-CH spokesman Michael McFarland said in a statement: "After recent media reports about Ms. Hansbrough's trips, Leslie Strohm and an NCAA representative had a telephone discussion on September 13, 2012. After that discussion, we provided to the NCAA the information we released earlier today."

The NCAA could be interested in Hansbrough’s hiring and work history because she joined the university while Tyler Hansbrough was just beginning his final season on the team, one that brought UNC-CH a national championship. If the hires were not proper, they could be considered evidence of a special benefit being given to her son, which would be a violation of NCAA rules.

Kane: 919-829-4861
Drescher: Thorp shared traits with UNC hero Graham

By John Drescher - Editor - jdrescher@newsobserver.com

“Where are the Frank Porter Grahams and Bill Fridays of today?” asked an online commenter, referring to two of the University of North Carolina’s greatest leaders.

The comment was posted on newsobserver.com and printed in The News & Observer after UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Holden Thorp said he would resign the position and return to teaching.

The commenter raised a fair question. I think the answer is: Thorp is the Frank Porter Graham of today. Because he’s stepping down at age 48, Thorp isn’t likely to become as nationally known as Graham, who became a U.S. senator. But he shares many traits with Graham.

Graham was UNC president from 1930 to 1949. He attended the university as an undergraduate, taught at the university (history) and was devoted to the students, the faculty and the institution. He stopped on campus sidewalks to talk with students, knew their names and invited groups of them to his home. He listened to them. They called him Dr. Frank.

Like Graham, Thorp was born in Fayetteville and attended UNC as an undergraduate. He taught at the university (chemistry). He is devoted to the students, the faculty and the institution. He stops to talk with students, knows many of them by name and gives them his cellphone number. He listens to them. They call him Holden.

Thorp, who works in Graham’s old office, keeps a portrait of him there.

After Thorp said he was leaving the chancellor’s job, faculty members, trustees and students urged him to reconsider. That says much about Thorp.

Like Graham, Thorp is a trusting person, especially of members of the UNC community. After allegations surfaced about violations in the football program, including improper benefits from agents and inappropriate help from a tutor, Thorp embraced Coach Butch Davis. He did that even though Davis had hired a top assistant with a reputation among his peers for cutting corners. Thorp eventually backtracked and fired Davis.
When allegations arose about academic irregularities, Thorp praised the department head as “a great colleague.” Shortly after, Thorp accepted his resignation.

When UNC’s top fundraiser, also an alum, wanted to hire the woman he was dating, Thorp objected. But later he signed off on a plan for her to raise money while based in another office.

As one campus critic pointed out, UNC had a rogue tutor, a rogue assistant coach, a rogue agent, a rogue department head and a rogue administrative assistant. You could add to the list a rogue fundraiser and a rogue basketball mom. That’s a lot of rogues for one campus. Thorp wanted to believe the people who worked for him were honest and well-intentioned.

Naive sides

Graham was a humanitarian. Many considered him the finest man they had ever met. But in advocating for needed change in the South in the 1930s and ’40s, he sometimes aligned himself with groups that had questionable motives, tactics or leaders. Some of his loyal supporters thought Graham could be naive.

Thorp’s naiveté was about the corrosive tentacles of big-time college sports. Thorp is not a sports fan. Before he became chancellor, Thorp rarely attended UNC football games; he attended one as an undergrad and one as a faculty member. I once asked him why he hugged Butch Davis on the sidelines as the NCAA was bearing down on the football program.

“Because we beat Duke!” he said. True. But so had most every team, including UNC in 20 of the prior 21 matchups.

Mounting problems

Thorp believed there was a Carolina Way that did big-time sports the right way. Now the UNC football team is on probation and there’s evidence that a department head committed academic fraud to help athletes.

Problems were arising faster than Thorp could fix them. The athletic-industrial complex yields to no one. Not even Frank Graham could have tamed it.

Drescher: 919-829-4515 or jdrescher@newsobserver.com; on Twitter @john_drescher
ASU changes handling of allegations of sexual assaults

By Monte Mitchell

Appalachian State University has changed the way it handles allegations of sexual assault, following up on promised reforms after controversy arose last school year when two female students said they were raped by football players.

A new Interpersonal Violence Task Force met for the first time a few weeks ago, and the university is removing students from a formal role in judging whether another student is responsible for a sexual assault.

One woman said two players raped her in the spring of 2011 at an off-campus party, and the other woman said the same two players raped her at an off-campus party in the fall of 2011.

A university conduct review board, which includes students, heard the cases during a closed-door process. More than 125 students gathered in silent protest in March, drawing public attention to how the cases were handled and asking for changes.

One of the women filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights. As a result, the university signed a resolution agreement in April that required revision of procedures used to handle allegations of sexual harassment and the formation of the task force to make recommendations to address sex-based harassment.

The agreement also requires the university to survey students to assess the presence and effect of harassment based on gender, and students' awareness of their rights. The Office for Civil Rights will monitor the agreement until it determines ASU is in full compliance.

ASU plans to launch the survey this fall, and it is also starting a "Red Flag" campaign that educates students about how to respond when they see something inappropriate happening.

The university has created a three-member sexual misconduct board made up of faculty and staff.
Dean of Students J.J. Brown said it is a significant change to remove students from the process.

"These are highly complex issues and challenges, and it puts our students in a very difficult position to process it and process it as peers," he said.

Federal law requires a university to investigate an allegation that a student was a victim of violence by another student.

The university process doesn't preclude a separate criminal investigation. In these two cases, the Watauga County Sheriff’s Office investigated and turned over its findings to District Attorney Jerry Wilson, who declined to prosecute.

Chancellor Ken Peacock told trustees Friday that "we're serious about finding out when these things happen, and they will happen.

"When I say that, people think I'm taking it lightly," he said. "I'm not taking it lightly. I'm taking it very seriously. ... We take this as seriously as anyone in the state takes it, and that's something we will continue to do."

ASU has long counseled incoming students about issues related to drug and alcohol abuse, and about issues related to assaults and sexual assaults, but these new steps are linked to the concerns raised by the student protesters last spring and the civil rights complaint.

Some 1,300 incoming students attended recent sessions that included discussions on sex and consent.

In other news, the trustees learned that ASU has its highest enrollment in its history — 17,621 students, including those on campus, in distance-learning programs and at off-site campuses, according to preliminary data.
UNC harassment hearing will continue

By Tammy Grubb - tgrubb@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL—A hearing could continue this week into UNC’s handling of a sexual harassment claim against a former Housekeeping Department director.

UNC housekeeper Maria Isabel Prudencio-Arias testified last week at an administrative hearing at the UNC School of Law Moot Courtroom. She claims the university violated the state’s whistleblower act in handling her sexual harassment complaint, attorney Al McSurely said.

University Attorney Katherine Murphy contends the whistleblower act does not apply, because Prudencio-Arias’ complaint wasn’t filed with the Office of Human Resources.

UNC employees can request an administrative review or file a grievance in harassment cases. Ann Penn, an Equal Employment Opportunity Institute coordinator, said the initial report can be made to a supervisor or administrator, preferably in the employee’s department.

Prudencio-Arias contacted the university ombudsman. He referred her to Penn’s office, where she sought an administrative review.

Although Prudencio-Arias says she was fired in April 2011, the university says she has been a continuous employee since 2006.

She can only seek damages for violation of the Whistleblower Act, McSurely said.

The most important aspect of the case is “how insensitive the university was for three or four months,” McSurely said.

Penn said Thursday that she didn’t find enough evidence to support the claims of sexual harassment. However, Penn did find that former Housekeeping Services director Bill Burston acted inappropriately.

She also testified that Prudencio-Arias did her job poorly at the School of Government after an injury restricted her ability to work. Prudencio-Arias still works at the university.

Burston, who resigned last year, was not retaliating when he transferred her to other positions to address those issues, Penn concluded.
U-Va. board to accreditors: “There is no more explanation to give.”

By Jenna Johnson

The events of the summer leadership crisis at the University of Virginia — when the governing board asked the president to resign, then changed its mind and reinstated her — prompted some probing questions from its accrediting agency.

The day before U-Va. President Teresa Sullivan regained her job, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) sent a letter to the university raising concerns about the president’s dismissal and questioning the school’s compliance in three areas: integrity, governing board control, and the faculty role in governance. U-Va. originally had until July 31 to respond, but that deadline was extended to Friday.

In a response dated Thursday, the U-Va. Board of Visitors states that while the process of ousting and reinstating Sullivan “was flawed” and that “constituencies felt excluded,” the board was at all times in “full compliance with the [SACS] Commission’s expressed expectations, Virginia law, the University’s Board Manual, and University policy.”

The board states in this response that members had “true and honest reasons” for being disappointed with Sullivan’s performance in her first two years as president, and they were at first unable to share those reasons with the public because “personnel matters are held in confidence.” There were no “outside forces” that influenced the decision or actions, the board wrote.

The board says its reasons for being dissatisfied with Sullivan were provided in “the explanation regarding the general direction and future of the University previously provided to the University community.” (This likely refers to the list of 10 challenges facing U-Va. that board leader Helen E. Dragas released on June 21.)
“There is no more explanation to give,” the board wrote. “One can agree or disagree with the Board’s decision on the merits, but the stated reasons were, indeed, the reasons. There were, and are, no credible indicia to the contrary.”

Why is this interaction with the accreditors significant? Because, simply put, being accredited is very important to universities of all statures. Even being put on some type of probation is a black mark upon an institution, sometimes making it difficult to recruit students or faculty, obtain research grants or federal funding, hold steady in the rankings of top colleges, or convince alumni to make massive donations. The issue of accreditation has taken on a new significance in recent years, as for-profit institutions play a role in the higher education marketplace. (SACS is the accrediting agency for colleges in the southern states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.)

Soon after being reinstated, Sullivan traveled to Georgia to meet with accreditors and answer their questions. She has since excused herself from handling the matter.

* The board says that following the embarrassing errors and shortcomings of the summer, it has “taken steps to insure that policies, procedures and expectations are both improved and clarified so that future board practices are as exemplary as the University’s academic reputation.” In this, the board points to work done during its August retreat, the formation of new committees and the launch of a strategic planning process. A topic that the board says it plans to give attention: communication with constituencies such as students and faculty.

* The board refutes assertions that a small number of board members acted without the consent of the entire board. To this, the board states that “the factual account of the process leading to the President’s resignation does not support this view.” The board describes its members as “independent decision makers of considerable achievement and experience who listen well and often, but then make up their own minds on the issues of the day.”

The board also addressed the notion that it might have overstepped its role: “As a consequence of shared correspondence and public comment and commentary, it has been suggested that the Board or some of its members may have inserted themselves into curricular matters typically reserved to the faculty. Such a conclusion is unfounded.” The board also pointed out that while it can get input from faculty in the hiring, evaluation or removal of a president, it is not required to do so.
* The board also provided a two-page “narrative account” of what happened. Some milestones highlighted: In May and early June, the board’s top two leaders had conversations with each member of the board “about the president’s performance.” Then, “acting upon the belief that a Board consensus existed,” board leaders met with Sullivan and told her “that they believed they had the support of the BOV to ask that the President resign.” It mentions a meeting of the executive board on Sunday, June 11 — a meeting that I believe occurred on Sunday, June 10.
University Is Uneasy as Court Ruling Allows Guns on Campus

By DAN FROSCH

BOULDER, Colo. — During her 19 years teaching English at the University of Colorado Boulder, Karen Jacobs never gave much thought to whether one of her students was carrying a gun.

As the state’s flagship university, it had a longstanding firearms ban. So even in a place like Colorado, where gun rights are nearly as deeply cherished as John Elway and fresh snow, there was never a need for concern.

But ever since a State Supreme Court ruling in March forced the university to allow those with Colorado concealed weapon permits to carry their guns on campus, Ms. Jacobs and other faculty members have found themselves increasingly uneasy.

“This is a place where we depend on being able to speak our minds and offer sometimes controversial opinions in a free and open place,” she said. “The
feeling among a percentage of faculty is that this will create a climate of fear and intimidation.”

Over the last two months, with the school year in full swing, anxiety over the university’s new gun policy has risen — driven in part by the mass shooting at an Aurora movie theater on July 20 by a troubled University of Colorado Denver graduate student and by the deep scars that still cut through the state from the killings at Columbine High School 13 years ago.

Some teachers have spoken out publicly against extending the concealed gun policy to campus, fearful that an unstable student — who now, ostensibly, could be legally armed in their classrooms — might hurt them or a fellow student.

Last month, the chairman of the Faculty Assembly at the campus in Boulder, Jerry Peterson, told The Boulder Daily Camera that he would cancel class if he discovered one of his students was carrying a gun. And on Friday, faculty members gathered to discuss how to overturn the policy through legislative channels.

Gun rights proponents, conversely, have argued that lawful gun owners should not be precluded from protecting themselves on college campuses, and they contend that gun bans make those campuses less safe.

Besides, they say, anyone disturbed enough to open fire is not going to heed university policy.

“This gives us the right to protect ourselves, where currently, many colleges suspend that right,” said David Burnett, a spokesman for Students for Concealed Carry, a national group that advocates for the right to carry legally permitted guns on public college and university campuses.

According to the group, more than 200 colleges and universities in the country allow individuals to carry concealed firearms.

“Very often people come back and say allowing students to carry guns is a crazy, paranoid idea,” Mr. Burnett said. “But we’re not just talking about letting students carry guns. It’s only those people who already have the permits.”

Ever since a shooting at Virginia Tech University left 33 people dead in 2007, the issue of whether guns should be allowed on campuses has been hotly debated in statehouses around the country.

Some 21 states have an outright ban on concealed weapons on campuses, according to data compiled last month by the National Conference of State
Legislatures. Two dozen states leave it up to individual universities and colleges to decide.

Five states — Oregon, Mississippi, Wisconsin, Utah and Colorado — now have provisions permitting the carrying of concealed weapons on campuses, the group said.

The controversy here dates to 2008, when a conservative legal foundation brought suit against the University of Colorado on behalf of two students and an alumnus from the school’s Colorado Springs and Denver branches.

The suit was initially dismissed, but the state appeals court overturned the dismissal. After the university appealed, Colorado’s Supreme Court held that the school’s gun ban, in place for more than 40 years, violated a 2003 state law allowing concealed firearms.

John Davis, one of the plaintiffs in the case, and then a graduate student at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, said he had wanted to carry his Ruger p90 pistol on campus for protection, as he often found himself leaving school alone at night.

“I felt that the right to defend me and my family shouldn’t be taken away because some people are afraid of firearms and nervous around them,” said Mr. Davis, an Army veteran.

In the wake of the ruling, university officials have sought to soothe faculty fears, recently creating a policy that requires students who want to bring their firearms on campus to live in separate graduate student apartments and cottages.

Colorado law requires anyone with a concealed carry permit to be at least 21 years old. But the prospect of inserting a number of armed students, however small, into traditional college dorm life was a concern nonetheless, said Bronson Hilliard, a university spokesman. Of the school’s nearly 30,000 students, no one has requested the special housing yet, Mr. Hilliard said, and it is unclear how many students, if any, currently carry concealed guns. The university has continued to ban guns at ticketed athletic and cultural events.

But that has not quieted the nervousness among faculty members. This month, the University of Colorado Boulder provost, Russell Moore, convened a widely attended town hall meeting to address the issue.

“What was explained to the faculty was first of all, we understand what you’re saying, your fears, your concerns and your doubts,” Mr. Hilliard said. “But just being concerned about the situation doesn’t allow any faculty
member to simply cancel class or refuse to teach someone because of the mere concern that somebody is exercising their concealed carry rights in the classroom.”

At the campus meeting on Friday, State Representative Claire Levy, a Democrat from Boulder, said she planned to introduce a bill during the coming legislative session that would let the university’s Board of Regents decide whether guns should be allowed.

About 30 faculty members peppered Ms. Levy with questions, some raising their personal concerns about the new policy.

“There is a place where judgment is levied upon individuals, not unlike a court of law,” said Noah Molotch, an assistant professor of geography. “You interject a firearm and there’s potential for a confrontation.”