THE DAILY CLIPS

September 27, 2010

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
Marching bands get fans fired up

By Jackie Drake

The Daily Reflector

Sunday, September 26, 2010

The cheerleaders dance to it, the crowd sings and shouts along with it, and the sports teams rally to it — it's the music of high school and college marching bands.

Every fall, football fields and stadiums are filled with the rat-tat-tat of snare drums, the blast of horns and the colorful twirl of color-guard flags. It would be hard to imagine a football game without the halftime show or the school fight song in the stands.

"The marching band is the first to stand up and cheer when something happens on the field," says John Franklin, director of athletic bands at East Carolina University. "We help get the stadium pumped up. We're the musical soundtrack to the action on the field."

"You never lose the excitement at every game," said ECU junior piccolo player Megan Sweeney. "Being a part of that atmosphere is very exciting."

"We march to the stadium and play the national anthem, and we're in the stands the whole game," said South Central High School marching band director Eric Bentz, who worked for two years as a staff member with the ECU marching band.

Along with being a major source of school spirit, marching bands represent their school, town and state wherever they go. Recognized by their emblazoned uniforms, they are a symbol of their community at sporting events, competitions with other bands, and out-of-state trips.

"We serve as musical ambassadors for the university," Franklin said.

"We're a very public part of the school," said Joanne McGowan, marching band director at Ayden-Grifton High School. "People have stopped our principal to tell him how good the band is."
"My favorite part of band is halftime shows," said J.H. Rose senior Kelly Darden. Darden is the drum major or student conductor who leads performances. "All eyes are on us and it's our chance to prove to everyone how good we are. When you put that uniform on, a whole different person comes out. It makes you feel strong, part of one unit. It gives us a sense of pride; I'm proud to represent my school."

"We're trying to build community support for the band by getting out in it," said D.H. Conley band director Ben Fonville. "We ask for support from the community but also give back."

While both college and high school marching bands contribute to school sporting events, a major difference is that high school marching bands compete against other bands. At a Saturday high school marching band competition, halftime is gametime as the halftime-show performances are judged and scored on marching precision, musical skill, creativity and overall impact.

"Competitions are great, Saturdays are a lot of fun for students," says J.H. Rose marching band director Russell Knight. "The students all support each other even though they're competing, and they enjoy performing for a knowledgeable audience that's there for the band, where at a game people generally know more about football."

In addition to attending competitions, J.H. Rose High School also hosts the Greenville Band Classic competition each season. The event has hosted as many as 26 high school bands in past years. This year the event will be Oct. 16. "It's a great day," Knight said.

Another difference between high school and college marching band is that high schools select one show and work on it for the entire season and take it to all their competitions; college bands present a completely new show for each home game.

East Carolina University hosts a band day for local high school bands at one home game each season that is traditionally well attended by the Pitt County high schools. This year the event will take place at the Oct. 23 homecoming game against Marshall University. Last year's event featured more than 1,500 band students as high school bands joined the Marching Pirates on the field for halftime.

Whether performing for a stadium of 50,000 people or bleachers with several hundred, it takes a lot of work to make a show look and sound good. In college, marching band is usually a class with credit, while at high school it depends on the individual school; sometimes it's an academic class during the day, an extra-curricular class that's after school but still graded on attendance and participation, or more like an after-school organization or club. Most bands select members by audition but some open the group up to anyone interested. In addition to regular rehearsals, most bands have a week or so of band camp or pre-season training in August.

The marching band season lasts from the heat of late summer to the chill of early winter, and except when it's raining so hard instruments would be damaged, the marching band is usually outside working in the elements just as much as the football team.

"You have to be really committed," Knight said. "At Rose, typically the students put in seven extra hours a week at rehearsals, and if there's a Friday football game and Saturday competition, it's more than 20 hours a week they're spending together, easily."
Freshman Courtney King, a South Central flute player, said her favorite part was learning drill, or the diagrams of each formation the band makes. “I like doing it really well,” she said.

“The hardest part is learning drill, but my favorite part is the competitions where we get to perform, it's really fun,” said color-guard member LaQuinta Roundtree, a junior at South Central.

“It feels like work when it's hot outside and we're learning drill on the field, but I love playing my drum, music is my passion,” said junior South Central snare player Romeo Garcia.

Even with the long hours and hard work, students enjoy the camaraderie of performing with their peers. Though the students come from different grades and areas of study, they are close groups that are bound by the shared overall experience.

“Membership ranges across the university, not just music majors,” Franklin said. “Every department or major is represented.”

“Marching band itself is like a family,” said ECU baritone player Mike Miller.

“The different sections mix up grades,” said McGowan. “Our trumpets have three seniors and one freshman. They do mingle and often the upperclassmen will voluntarily take on a younger buddy to help. Because of the bonds the students have in band, they become stronger and more confident people.”

“They really enjoy the performance aspect, but the group they’re performing with I think brings the most joy,” said Farmville Central band director Dan Kilgore. “It's really one of the most tight-knit groups in the school. They love sharing their talents and pride with the rest of the school and the community.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or (252) 329-9567.
Joyner Library adds Southern writers collection

ECU News Services

The J.Y. Joyner Library at East Carolina University has acquired the literary collection of Stuart Wright, an noted bibliographer and collector whose work focuses on Southern poets and novelists.

The works have been on loan to the library for several months, but now they will be part of the permanent collection.

A native of North Carolina and a graduate of Wake Forest University, Wright lives in Ludlow, England. He is perhaps best known for his published bibliographies of American writers such as A.R. Ammons, James Dickey, Richard Eberhart, George Garrett, William Goyen, Randall Jarrell, Andrew Nelson Lytle, Walker Percy, Peter Taylor and Reynolds Price. He developed close relationships with many of the writers represented in the collection.

The Wright Collection consists of more than 3,000 printed works and 5,000 manuscripts. Included are portions of the private libraries of Eberhart, who taught at Dartmouth College; the English poet Donald Davie; and Southern writers such as Jarrell, John Crowe Ransom, Peter Taylor and Robert Penn Warren, as well as many first editions of books they wrote.

Many of the books contain significant inscriptions, annotations and insertions that shed light on the writers' thought processes and their relationships with their peers.

The collection also contains significant manuscript material, including notebooks and letters, by Madison Smartt Bell, Eberhart, Jarrell, Ransom, Taylor and Warren.

Among the manuscripts are holograph letters written by Taylor to his wife during World War II, notebooks and a virtually complete collection of poems written by Jarrell, and Warren's typescript of the 1949 screenplay for "All the King's Men."

Other writers represented by books or manuscripts include Ceanth Brooks, Robert Lowell, Lytle, Merrill Moore, Katherine Anne Porter, William Styron, Allen Tate and Eudora Welty.

Appraiser Lynn Roundtree of Chapel Hill described the collection as "an extraordinary accumulation of rare first printings, association copies, authors' copies, dedication copies, authors' presentation copies, and literary papers of many of the finest American poets, novelists, and short story writers of the 20th century."

Of particular note is the inclusion of materials by five poets laureate, making the collection of great value to students and scholars who will be able to see the creative process on display through the manuscripts and published works of these poets.

"This collection will be an incredible boon to ECU students and faculty and will attract scholars at Greenville from throughout the U.S. and English-speaking world," Larry Boyer, dean of Academic Library and Learning Resources, said.

Preliminary inventories of the collection have been completed, and all materials are available for research in the library's Special Collections Department.

For more information on accessing items in the Wright Collection, contact the Special Collections Department at 328-6671.

Black student graduation rates

ECU has been praised for graduating black students at rates similar to their white counterparts, defying a national achievement gap.

A report from Education Trust, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that works to close achievement gaps, in August recognized ECU and two other universities in the UNC System, UNC Charlotte and UNC Greensboro, as "leaders" in graduating black students.

"The success of these institutions is due partly to consistent and strong leadership from the UNC system, which has worked for the past decade to increase the number of North Carolinians — particularly minority students — with college degrees," wrote the report's authors, Mamie Lynch and Jennifer Engle.

Among black ECU students, 56.2 percent graduate, compared to 55.4 per-

See NOTES, B6
cent of white students.

Nationally, black students earn bachelor’s degrees from four-year institutions at rates nearly 20 points below those of their white peers, according to the report.

Education Trust analyzed federal data for 293 public and 163 private colleges. Rates cited are three-year averages, based on statistics for 2006-08. For-profit and historically black institutions were not examined.

This is the second time Education Trust has cited ECU’s success in graduating black students. In 2004, the organization noted that ECU’s graduation rate among black students was almost double the rate of similar universities.

To see the report, visit www.edtrust.org.

School of Music seeks students for lessons

The ECU School of Music is seeking fourth-through sixth-grade beginning violin, viola, cello and bass students to participate in a teaching practicum for undergraduate music education students.

String students with some experience in sixth through eighth grade may also participate in skill-level-appropriate classes.

The program, partially funded by a National String Project Consortium grant, seeks to increase the number of children playing stringed instruments and to alleviate the shortage of public school orchestra teachers by training the next generation of string educators.

Ahmed holds an undergraduate degree in civil engineering from the University of Engineering & Technology in Lahore, Pakistan. He earned master’s and doctorate degrees in civil engineering, majoring in construction management, from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta.

Ahmed has held positions at Capital Development Authority in Islamabad, CRSS-AMC Construction Managers in Atlanta, the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta and Hong Kong Polytechnic University in Hong Kong.

“We’re looking forward to the new ideas and programs that Dr. Ahmed’s experience brings,” department dean David White said. “The construction management program will continue to thrive under his leadership.”

Upcoming events:

Monday: Lecture, “When Janey Comes Marching Home,” presented by author Laura Browder, 3:30 p.m., Wright Auditorium. This free event is part of the College of Business Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series.

Thursday: “Orpheus Descending” begins its run at 8 p.m. in McGinnis Theater and continues until Oct. 5. For tickets to this School of Theatre and Dance production, contact www.ECUARTS.com or call 1-800-ECU-ARTS.
THOMAS DOUGLASS, associate professor of English, and Maury York, assistant director and head of Special Collections at Joyner Library, discuss one of the 3,000 printed works in the Stuart Wright Collection, which focuses on Southern authors.

ECU BOARD OF TRUSTEES member Steve Jones receives his flu shot from ECU clinical pharmacist Kennedy Blount after the board's meeting on Sept. 17. Flu shot clinics on campus will begin soon.
COMMUNITY

[Box: Women's agenda assembly]
The East Carolina University Women's Studies Program and N.C. Women United will present the Women's Agenda Assembly-Pitt County from 1-5 p.m. in Room 1031 of the Bate Building at ECU. Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. Participants will hear recommendations from the N.C. Women United 2008 Draft Women's Agenda and will discuss and prioritize the issues to determine the community's Women's Agenda. For more information, contact Rebecca S. Powers at 328-4885 or powersr@ecu.edu.
Pirates worth watching

East Carolina was off this weekend, and I miss the Pirates already.

In what is becoming an increasingly strange season for the ACC and its North Carolina members, East Carolina stands out as a beacon of on-field entertainment. The Pirates' blend of no-holds-barred offense and many-tackles-missed defense is the most exciting thing to happen to college football in this state in a long time.

N.C. State's 4-0 record has given Wolfpack fans something to cheer about, particularly with Russell Wilson playing like an ACC player-of-the-year candidate. And North Carolina's first win, with T.J. Yates continuing to confound his critics, was a welcome distraction for Tar Heels fans from UNC's off-the-field issues.

On the other hand, the situation is grim for Duke and Wake Forest. Defense is a dirty word for both teams, and at this moment, about all they have to look forward to this football season are the continuing off-the-field travails of the Tar Heels.

DECOCK
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1C

While that disarray may be entertaining for non-Carolina fans, there's no need for schadenfreude to enjoy what's happening in Greenville.

First, there's Ruffin McNeill, the former ECU defensive back who won lots of games as the defensive coordinator at Texas Tech under noted pirate fanatic Mike Leach. McNeill's defense hasn't given Pirate fanatics much to cheer about, but the offense he brought with him from Lubbock in the person of baby-faced offensive coordinator Lincoln Riley has lived up to expectations, if not beyond. With former Boston College starter Dominique Davis pulling the trigger on the fast-moving spread offense, the Pirates are a threat to score at any time - particularly when he's throwing to Dwayne Harris, a potential Conference USA player of the year.

They've even been able to run the ball effectively, largely via the legs of Greenville native Jonathan Williams.

The opener against Tulsa was an instant classic, a stirring opening to the post-Skip Holtz Era even if Davis' last-second lob had fallen incomplete, instead of into the extended hands of Justin Jones for the winning touchdown. The two teams scored touchdowns on 10 straight second-half possessions.

It's a good thing East Carolina put in a new scorecard over the offseason. If they hadn't, the old one would have needed replacing after that game anyway.

Then there's McNeill himself. In a sport where almost all coaches are mercenaries in search of the next job, next raise or next contract extension, McNeill's visible delight in coaching his alma mater is refreshing. His long-term prospects remain uncertain, but for now, it's hard to imagine a better start - or someone to whom it would matter more.

It's early, but ECU has established itself as the team to watch, literally, if not figuratively. It took care of business in Week 2 against Memphis and gave Virginia Tech all the Hokies could handle last week before fading in the second half.

Even when Pirates lose in this transition season, they're going to lose with style.

So this weekend, they relaxed and football went on without them. And next weekend, East Carolina travels to North Carolina for the first of two in-state games on the schedule, a game that figures to be worth the wait - and worth watching.

luke.decock@newsobserver.com, twitter.com/LukeDeCock or 919-829-8947

SEE DECOCK, PAGE 6C
ECU graduate student awarded Latney Pittard Memorial Scholarship

Jesse Spence, a graduate student at East Carolina University has been awarded the Latney W. Pittard Memorial Scholarship for the academic year of 2009-10.

The Latney W. Pittard Memorial Scholarship is presented annually by Pittard Perry & Crone, Inc. in memory of the firm founder to an outstanding accounting student at East Carolina University.

Spence, the son of Michael and Sharon Spence of Elizabeth City, is a graduate student in the master of science in accounting program at ECU. He is a member of Beta Alpha Psi and a former officer of the Student Accounting Society.

Spence also served four years in the U.S. Army as an All-source Intelligence Analyst.

Pittard Perry & Crone Inc., founded in 1964, has offices in Belhaven, Clayton, Goldsboro, La Grange, New Bern, Raleigh, Williamston and Wilson offering a full range of services. Pittard Perry & Crone, Inc. serves individuals, businesses, governments and nonprofits including pension plans, health care, construction and agribusiness niches.
CALENDAR

- **OCT 6**: The Small Business and Technology Center at East Carolina University offers a “Proposal Writing Basics” seminar from noon to 2 p.m. at the Willis Building. The seminar is designed for companies already registered to do business with the government that want to understand what the government is requesting from a proposal. Call 737-1385 to register.

- **OCT 12**: The Small Business and Technology Center at East Carolina University offers a “How to do Business with the Government” seminar from noon to 2 p.m. at the Willis Building. Companies doing business with local, state or federal government agencies are invited to share their experiences and lessons learned with other business owners, and pick up some tips on how to be more successful. Call 737-1385 for more information or to register.

- **OCT 13**: The East Carolina University School of Social Work lecture series presents “Addictions A-Z” from noon to 2 p.m. at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU. For more information or to register, call 328-9198 or (800) 767-9111 or visit online at www.cpe.edu.edu.
UNC expo caps science festival

BY WHITNEY L.J. HOWELL - CORRESPONDENT

CHAPEL HILL -- With the balloons, tables, music and families scattered around the McCorkle Place scene might have been mistaken for freshman orientation or Family Day.

But after one overheard question - "How does the heart keep working after a person dies?" - it was something more.

The first UNC Science Expo drew hundreds of science enthusiasts of all ages to the UNC-CH campus to answer questions about successful organ transplantation.

The Expo was the first event of its kind and a capstone to the multiday N.C. Science Festival around the state and make it accessible to everyone.

Exhibits featured information about medical conservation, physics, marine biology and more.

Many people also took advantage of the opportunities to ask questions, such as nanotechnology, climate change and energy.

In addition, Dr. Oliver Smithies, the recipient of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, discussed his life and work in genetics.

The goal, said UNC Expo coordinator Sue Klapper, was to present science in ways that had broad

"We didn't just want to reach one age group. We wanted to reach everyone from children to adults and wanted to show that science is fun, interesting and not at all scary."
Liz Hoffman, a doctoral student at the UNC Gillings School of Public Health, echoed Klapper and specifically to get more children interested in science.

"This is a really cool way to talk with kids, share what I know, and teach them about science in an a question about quarks, the elementary and fundamental building blocks of matter.

Expo officials also used music to teach the audience. Baba Brinkman, a tree-planter turned hip-hc of Evolution."

While watching an interactive physics demonstration filled with spinning plates, juggling and falling environment was an important way to introduce science to her son, Jason, 3.

"He really enjoyed making a boat at one of the booths and putting pennies in it to learn about float thing he's learned today, it's a good thing to know."

Each of the nearly 50 exhibits provided the chance for people to experience and learn something

Children played surgeon, operating on sock monkeys.

Plant science was on display with Otis the owl from the Piedmont Wildlife Center and a 2-year-old Both had broken wings, demonstrating how scientists can rehabilitate injured animals.

The global biotechnology company Life Technologies Foundation created gene detectives by show recovered from cheetah droppings to identify individual cats.

Opening kids' eyes

Michael Richards said he brought his daughters, Mina, 4, and Mikayla, 9, to the Expo to show the

"It's good to be able to give my girls the chance to see and do things they've never had the chance towers from recycled items. "They went into a Chapel Hill ambulance, they saw the fire truck, and Protection Agency] tent."

Giving children the opportunity to see and touch new things, as well as learn how they work, will ir Van Vliet, as she helped her 3-year-old daughter Emmaline blow bubbles.

"I hope being here will reinforce [Emmaline's] interest in science," Van Vliet said. "I hope it helps h can explore and understand the world around her."
Cramming at college: Enrollment surges

Local public and private schools coping with record demand

By David Perimutt
dperimutt@charlotteobserver.com
Posted: Monday, Sep. 27, 2010

Katherine Apple works on a weld at CPCC’s Harper Campus in Charlotte. Basic welding classes have boomed 800 percent at CPCC since 2002. CPCC also has more students taking full degree course loads. JEFF SINER - jsiner@charlotteobserver.com

Buy Photo | Store
Freshman Anisa Ray chose UNCC over Johns Hopkins, Wake Forest and Davidson. "$45,000 to $50,000 was too much for undergraduate school," said Ray, who hopes to go to medical school. JOHN D. SIMMONS - jsimmons@charlotteobserver.com

Buy Photo | Store

Back in 1994, Phil Dubois, then UNC Charlotte's provost, met with then-Chancellor Jim Woodward to peer into the future and forecast the university's long-range enrollment.

At the time, UNCC was a commuter school of a little more than 15,500 students. Yet Woodward predicted that his school would ultimately climb past 25,000 students - in the way-distant future.

Dubois gave him a befuddled look and responded: "Jim, we're growing so slow, I don't think we'll ever get there."

Less than 20 years later, not only has Woodward's bold forecast come true - as UNCC's student body this year leaped past the 25,000 milestone - but enrollment at other Charlotte-region colleges and universities also are seeing significant surges.

The freshman classes at Queens University of Charlotte and Davidson College are the biggest ever. At Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, total enrollment has surged to records for two straight years, and Winthrop University in Rock Hill is poised to grow after completing construction projects.

And at Central Piedmont Community College, more students than ever are enrolling, even as Mecklenburg County and the state cut funding.

"We're really bursting at the seams and we have to get creative - like staggering classes - so students can get the classes they need," said CPCC spokeswoman Jessica Graham.

"We're an open-door institution, and we know that door is closing because we can't accommodate the demand."

Population boom

At some schools, growth was planned; at others it happened as the region's population boomed over the last 20 years.
With a struggling economy, and widespread layoffs, students are learning new skills and staying in school longer.

"That's a good thing," said Dubois, the current UNCC chancellor. "You always want students to finish their degrees. But it has forced us to restructure things."

For the past 14 years, UNCC has grown an average of 4 percent each year. It has added 4,262 students since Dubois took over five years ago, bringing its unofficial total to 25,064 this year.

Early on, Dubois appointed a task force to study how much UNCC would have to grow to keep up with the region's rising number of high school graduates. Its finding: to 35,000 by 2020, with 75 percent undergraduates and the rest graduate students.

To handle the growth, UNCC has been on a building frenzy, adding a new student union, classroom buildings and 700 new parking spaces, and it is close to opening a new 430-bed dormitory. Next year, it will break ground on another dorm with up to 450 beds.

Yet state budget cuts have strained faculty and classroom sizes - forcing administrators to close some classes as other classes to fill up quickly and beyond previous capacities.

In the process, UNCC has raised admission standards to control the growth and draw better students.

"We are seeing an enormous rise in applications, but by raising our standards, we naturally weed out students," Dubois said. "So 600 students that would have been competitive two years ago weren't competitive this year."

The university is also seeing more students with many choices - but who are forced financially to look for better deals. Freshman Anisa Ray of Winston-Salem got into Johns Hopkins, Wake Forest and Davidson but chose UNCC.

"My mother and I just decided that $45,000 to $50,000 a year was too much for undergraduate school," said Ray, who wants to go to medical school. "If I can come to a state school and pay far less and make the best of it, it's better than going to a private school and being in debt."

At CPCC the past three years, the head count has risen 10 percent (currently 20,000 students), and the number of students taking at least 16 hours of courses for two straight semesters has gone up 16 percent during that time.

"They're taking more (classes) while they're here," said CPCC's Graham. "That is creating bigger workloads on faculty and bigger classes."

Classes such as English, required for four-year degrees, has grown. The school's welding classes have grown from 21 offerings in 2004 to the current 38 this semester. One class, Basic Welding Processes, has grown 800 percent since 2002.

One welding student, Jeremy McKeithan of Mount Airy in Surry County, drives 215 miles, round trip, to get an associate's degree in welding.

McKeithan lost his job as a pipefitter a year ago and hopes the degree will lead to a better job.
"I have time to go to school," he said. "If I had to work 40 to 50 hours a week, school would be out of the question."

Private colleges surprised

Private schools Davidson and Queens made it a priority to increase enrollment, but even they were surprised by this year's numbers.

Davidson administrators had planned for 490 first-year students but didn't experience its normal "summer melt" of deposited applicants deciding to go elsewhere.

It enrolled 501 students, a record.

The college has experienced a spike since 2007, when it became the nation's first liberal-arts college to eliminate loans from financial aid packages. The school instead offers to fill demonstrated financial needs through grants and on-campus employment.

"That made it affordable for many students," said Chris Gruber, Davidson's vice president for admissions and financial aid. "Families are still putting a premium on this type of experience."

Some schools have admitted more students to help replenish endowment funds, which have lost money due to the lingering recession.

Davidson and Queens said their growth is a long-term strategy. Extra revenue from tuition is plowed into expanding curriculum and building facilities.

"Our plan is not a grow-forever path," said Brian Ralph, Queens' vice president for enrollment management. Queens, with about 1,300 traditional undergrads, wants a maximum of 2,000 undergrads by 2020.

"So we need to add faculty in key departments, add facilities and new academic majors," Ralph said.

"We're not bankrolling extra revenues, we're reinvesting it back into the university experience."

Subscribe to The Charlotte Observer.
The Washington Post

Colleges' newest dorm dwellers: professors

By Jenna Johnson
Washington Post Staff Writer
Monday, September 27, 2010; 2:52 AM

This spring, Jeffrey Sich told his friends in St. Louis that he was moving to the District for an associate professorship at George Washington University. Then the 55-year-old carefully explained where he would live: a sophomore dorm.

"It was met with shock: 'You are going to do what?"' Sich said. "But it's a great conversation starter. . . . And it's been done before - Rodney Dangerfield."

No, this is not the setup for a reality television show. And, yes, GWU officials are fully aware there's a middle-aged guy living on the first floor of Dakota Hall.

GWU is one of dozens of colleges across the country that place professors (and sometimes their families) in residence halls. It's a practice borrowed from the early days of academia that has grown in popularity in recent years, especially at large urban universities looking to create a more personal, small-campus feel.

In exchange for free rent, these professors agree to live among the masses, answer questions, attend floor meetings, endure odd noises at late hours and host small gatherings in their quarters, which typically are larger than the dorm rooms shared by students. Some students never stop by, and others form lifelong friendships with their older neighbors.

"It's very casual. There's no class attached to it. You solely talk about your interests," said Patrick Eronini, 19, a junior nursing major at Georgetown University, which has six faculty members and 28 Jesuit priests or chaplains living on campus. "At the very least, students are going for the free food."

As colleges construct dorms, many are adding a professor suite or two to the floor plans. Last year, Catholic University opened a hall that included an apartment large enough for two faculty members and their now 1-year-old daughter. Georgetown included faculty apartments in the last three residence halls built on campus.

This fall, GWU opened a hall that houses about 290 undergraduates, as well as professors Melissa Keeley and Christopher Klemek and their two young children - who have become celebrities on campus.

The family hopes its presence will help students in the mostly freshman dorm feel more at home. The couple are also excited to organize events, host dinners and share their research with students.

"Learning to write essays is one skill set. So is speaking in class. It's difficult to take your interests and your knowledge and use it in real-world settings," Klemek said. "We have the ability to mentor that . . . and give them an opportunity to rehearse that."

GWU started placing faculty members in dorms about 12 years ago to help bring an academic feel to the halls. This year, there are five professors in four dorms. At first the program was aimed at freshmen, but then administrators realized it was a better fit for sophomores.
"Our first-year students are transitioning on so many levels . . . they are far less apt to knock on a faculty member's door in the residence hall," said Rebecca A. Sawyer, senior assistant dean of students. "By sophomore year, they already understand that faculty relationship."

Sich, the professor who recently moved to GWU, decided to try the program for a few reasons: free rent while he tries to sell his condominium in Missouri, a six-minute walk to work and the chance to interact with students.

"It's total immersion" into campus culture, said Sich, whose research focuses on tropical and infectious diseases. "I figured nothing would do that quite like living with 200 sophomores."

Professors who live among students understand intimately how a campus operates and what students think, and they are forced to be culturally savvy, said Daniel Porterfield, a Georgetown English professor and vice president for strategic development who has lived in Copley Hall with his wife and three daughters for seven years.

"So much of what happens at Georgetown happens between 9 p.m. and 2 a.m.," he said. "Students are living on China time."

Each year, Porterfield and his wife, Karen Herrling, both Georgetown graduates, reassess whether they want to stay in the four-bedroom dorm apartment or return to their home in Arlington County, which they rent out.

They keep deciding to stay because their daughters - ages 7, 12 and 13 - seem to thrive in the collegiate atmosphere. They also love knowing all the members of the men's and women's basketball teams, he said.

Porterfield said he enjoys hosting classes in his apartment, introducing students to each other over dinner, watching groups of friends form and inviting young alumni back to visit. He does set boundaries, though, such as joining a gym off campus rather than working out with students.

"If there is a downside . . . it requires an adult to be very comfortable personally and to know that they're being observed a lot," he said. "They see me with my children. They see me carrying in the groceries. They see me and my wife walking on campus, holding hands."

GWU's new provost, Steven Lerman, previously worked at MIT, where he and his wife lived in a graduate student dorm for nine years. One Sunday a month, the couple cooked holiday-themed pancakes for the entire building (this would be pumpkin pancake season). And the first visitor to their new home on GWU’s Mount Vernon campus was a former MIT student-neighbor.

"We got to understand their lives in a way I never did in the classroom," Lerman said. "In American higher education, there ought to be more of this. It can only help the educational process."

© 2010 The Washington Post Company
Six degrees? A look at college life by the numbers

BY JANNA HERRON
The Associated Press

Dorms and campus quads filled up in recent weeks as students returned to school.

Newly-arriving freshmen realize that much of the college application process is about staying on top of the numbers — whether their SAT scores or the acceptance rate of that dream school. But that’s just the start. Then comes the tuition bill and paying off student loan debt.

So what’s the reality? Just how many students get into Harvard? And how much of a bargain is in-state tuition vs. attending a private liberal arts college?

The Associated Press breaks down these and other college statistics, by the numbers:

- 7 out of 100: Harvard College admitted 2,205 applicants, or 7 percent, of the 30,489 high school students who applied for the freshman class starting this fall.
- 35 hours: A third of college students worked full-time, 35 hours or more a week, in the 2007-08 school year while they attended classes at least on a part-time basis.
- 2 out of 5: Some 40 percent of college students lived at home last year to reduce education costs.
- 4 or more: Half of college students had at least this many credit cards with an average total balance of $3,173 in 2008.
- $11,528: The amount in-state students at public, four-year schools saved on tuition and housing last year. Their bill of $15,213 was surpassed by the $26,741 paid by out-of-state students.
- More than double: Privacy is pricey. Students at four-year private schools shelled out $35,636 last year for tuition and housing, more than double what in-state students at public schools paid.
- 50,000 plus: The five schools with the highest enrollment in 2007 were the for-profit University of Phoenix, online campus (224,880); Miami-Dade College (54,094); Ohio State University (52,568); University of Florida (51,725); and Arizona State University, Tempe campus (51,481).
- Younger than 7: 80 percent of parents started saving for college before their child turned 7 years old.

- 3.6 percent: Parents who sock away money for college save an average of $2,676 each year, or 3.6 percent of their annual income.
- $21,900: — Four-year college graduates earned nearly 40 percent more in 2008 than those with just a high school diploma ($55,700 vs. $33,800).
- 4 out of 5: Whether petroleum or chemical, engineering majors claimed 4 of the top 5 slots for top-earning bachelor’s degrees for the Class of 2010 — with computer science occupying the No. 3 spot.
- Top 4: The most popular majors in 2008 were business (335,000 students), social sciences and history (167,000 students), health sciences (111,000 students) and education (103,000 students).


STUDENTS AT four-year private schools shelled out $35,636 last year for tuition and housing, more than double what in-state students at public schools paid.
September 25, 2010

Seton Hall Student Is Fatally Shot at a Party

By AL BAKER and NATE SCHWEBER

A Seton Hall University honors student was fatally wounded and four other people, including two fellow students, were injured early Saturday when a gunman walked into a house party about a mile from the campus and opened fire, the authorities said.

The violence began around 12:20 a.m. on the first floor of 564 South Clinton Street, a two-story house in East Orange, N.J., where about 50 young people had gathered, said Sgt. Andrew M. Di Elmo, a spokesman for the East Orange Police Department.

When the gunfire ceased, three 19-year-old women, all Seton Hall students, had been hit. One of them, identified as Jessica A. Moore, a sophomore, was shot in the head and died Saturday afternoon, Sergeant Di Elmo said. One of the other women was hit in the arm and grazed in the face, and the third woman was struck in the foot, he said.

A fourth victim, a 25-year-old man who the police said attended the New Jersey Institute of Technology, was hit in the left thigh. In addition, a New York man, 20, was struck in the back, the police said. All of the victims were taken to University Hospital in Newark.

Sergeant Di Elmo said events earlier in the night might have prompted the assault. He said the gunman had tried to “crash the party” but was denied entry and “physically removed.”

The man returned a short time later. “He came in with a gun,” the sergeant said. “He made his way through and started opening fire.”

Sergeant Di Elmo said the gunman “fled on foot,” and by Saturday night, no one had been arrested.

Jessica Townsend, 19, who was at the party, said that Ms. Moore was her roommate and that she had died while trying to help another of the victims, who she said was named Nakeisha.

“Everyone was running out; everyone was watching out for themselves,” Ms. Townsend said. “She said, ‘I’m going to protect Nakeisha.’”
Ms. Townsend said she was one of the last to leave the room, and on her way out saw a woman lying facedown. Turning her over, she said, she was shocked to learn that it was Ms. Moore.

The university’s vice president of student affairs, Laura A. Wankel, said Ms. Moore was studying psychology and lived in a campus dormitory. Ms. Moore wrote in a blog post that she hoped to eventually work for the Department of Veterans Affairs “so I can talk to soldiers about war.”

A friend of Ms. Moore’s, Delores Sarfo-Darko, 19, said that Ms. Moore’s father was in the military and that she had family in Virginia and Tennessee. Ms. Sarfo-Darko said her friend had dreamed of being a singer.

A prayer service for Ms. Moore was held on the campus on Saturday, and the university made counselors available to students.

Some neighbors said the house where the shooting occurred was notorious for loud parties.

A neighbor, who would identify himself only by his first name, Kay, said he was sitting on his front stoop about a block away when the shots rang out.

“I heard two shots, then a pause, then four more shots,” he said. “Then I heard a bunch of people screaming.”

Sarah Wheaton contributed reporting.