THE DAILY CLIPS

September 30, 2011

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
College fair boasts 50 institutions
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Friday, September 30, 2011

A wide array of colleges and universities greeted high school students at the Pitt County College Fair on Thursday night.

Among the 50 institutions represented at the Greenville Convention Center were local institutions like East Carolina University and Pitt Community College, as well as small liberal arts schools like Davidson College and religious schools like Bennett College. Most of the University of North Carolina system schools were present, including Chapel Hill, State, Central and A&T.

The fair also included schools from South Carolina and Virginia.

“There are definitely a lot of schools to look at; I’m pretty open,” said J.H. Rose High School senior Alden Manning.

Hosted by the Carolinas Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers and the College Foundation of North Carolina, the fair offered financial and admissions advice to families as well as information about individual campuses. The evening session welcomed parents after students took school trips during the fair’s the morning session.
“I thought it was a very good experience,” said Lamonta Blount, a junior at South Central. “Kids can see colleges that they’ve never heard of. I think it’s a good idea.”

Last year was the first time the fair was opened to juniors as well as seniors.

“I got a lot of good information about nursing; that’s what I’m going to go into,” said D.H. Conley senior Jessica Carpenter. “I love UNC-Wilmington. They’re close to the beach and their nursing program is amazing.”

Carpenter also received information on UNC-Pembroke at the college fair.

“They’ve got a brand new nursing program this year,” she said.

Her mother Dee Carpenter also found the fair helpful.

“I was worrying about paying for it all but the lady from CFNC gave us a lot of great information,” Dee Carpenter said. “That’s a little more ease to my mind.”

Despite its prominence in the community, ECU representatives attend college fairs locally and elsewhere in and out of the state.

“A local event like this is an opportunity to share something people may not know about ECU,” said John Fletcher, associate provost for enrollment services. “They think they know all about ECU but we can tell them about new programs and help them better understand ECU as a university with comprehensive offerings.”

Harvard University even made an appearance, represented by volunteer alumnus Andrew Morehead, now a professor in the chemistry department of ECU.

While not in attendance last year, Harvard does participate in college fairs using volunteers as its alumni are available.

“Harvard is making a big effort to recruit in rural and economically disadvantaged areas,” Morehead said.
In the next academic year, students from families with incomes below $65,000 could be eligible to pay nothing for tuition at Harvard.

“I think students are surprised to hear how affordable it is,” Morehead said. “It’s part of a general effort to make an Ivy League education available to everyone.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Editorial: Affirmation that ACC ideal for ECU
Friday, September 30, 2011

The electricity is nearly palpable in Greenville this morning as East Carolina University prepares for Saturday’s football game against the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Few games energize Pirate fans more than those against in-state rivals UNC and N.C. State University, and atmosphere in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium will be frenzied when the teams take the field.

Compare the anticipation preceding this game to that one week ago and there can be no clearer evidence that East Carolina would relish the opportunity to join a conference that ties them to other North Carolina institutions. While membership in a stable Big East Conference would be exciting, weekends like this offer a powerful reminder that the Atlantic Coast Conference would be the ideal destination.

Some sports rivalries are born in an instant, birthed by a singular moment in which a ball bounces toward one direction rather than the other and ends with a memorable finish. Others escalate over time, a slow burn caused by the friction of proximity that keeps relations between a constant simmer and a full boil.

For East Carolina, the matchup with UNC is a lot of the second with a bit of the first. Being in the long shadow cast by Chapel Hill has put a chip squarely on ECU’s shoulder, and slights — like UNC’s opposition to the medical school’s founding — only add fuel to the fire. The Pirates play the Tar Heels like a team seeking revenge for a century of disrespect and
victories — like the unforgettable 34-31 win in 2007 — are sweeter because of it.

Sadly, opportunities to play the Heels are rare and relatively recent. This is only the 14th time the two have clashed on the gridiron though — unlike a certain team in Raleigh — UNC seems eager to continue the rivalry, with an announcement this week that the teams will play again in 2012 and 2013. That represents an exciting development for sports fans here and across North Carolina.

That is also why membership in the ACC would fulfill a dream for Pirate fans. Regular games against UNC, N.C. State, Wake and Duke would be tremendous fun for the state and would generate a financial windfall retained locally. That is in addition to the potential of academic partnerships with ACC members, which serves North Carolina’s future.

Big East membership remains a worthy target for East Carolina and should be vigorously pursued. But one cannot help but await Saturday’s game and wonder what could be.
The Town of Ayden will hold a “Pre-Tailgate Party” Saturday for the East Carolina University football game against University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The festivities begin at 11 a.m. and at 1:30 p.m. the ECU and UNC marching bands will perform. The Marching Pirates will perform first and do their Call to Port performance.

“We do school songs, musical cheers, selections from the half time show and, what I call, musical hi-jinks and hilarities,” said John Franklin, ECU Director of Athletic Bands. The Marching Tar Heels will follow with their performance of school songs and tunes they usually play in the stands.

The ECU and UNC marching bands performed at the Ayden Collard Festival in 2007. UNC Director of University Bands Jeff Fuchs says their performances in Ayden are special because they normally do not perform outside of UNC athletic functions.

“We had a great time at the Collard Festival,” Fuchs said.
“It’s a positive thing for the community and the people there took such good care of us.”

The bands also will perform together for the Call to Port performance at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium before the game.

“It will be a back-and-forth, battle-of-the-bands approach,” Franklin said.

The Pre-Tailgate Party will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and will include food, vendors, inflatables and live music by The Speculations, following the marching bands.

The event will be held in downtown Ayden on West Avenue between Third and First streets.

The bands will perform in the Town of Ayden parking lot on West Avenue.

Contact Lynsey Horn at lhorn@reflector.com or 252-329-9574.
ECU's #9, right, and #56, left, work to bring down UNC's #34 during the second half of a football game in Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill, NC, Saturday, Oct. 2, 2010.

ECU, UNC extend series
Friday, September 30, 2011

The East Carolina-North Carolina football rivalry will continue over the next two seasons after the two schools announced an agreement Thursday on a two-year home-and-home series.

As part of the new agreement, the Pirates will visit Kenan Stadium in Chapel Hill on Sept. 22, 2012, and the Tar Heels will come to Greenville’s Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium on Sept. 28, 2013.

The two teams will meet in Greenville on Saturday night at 8.

“It remains important for us to maintain ties to our regional rivals and continuing our football relationship with North Carolina certainly is in line with that,” East Carolina Director of Athletics Terry Holland said in a release. “The anticipation and excitement make this a tough ticket in both stadiums and creates interest throughout the region.”

Saturday’s contest will mark the third-straight year the two programs have met, but the first at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium since the Pirates’ 34-31 victory in 2007.
The Pirates and Tar Heels will continue a series that began in 1972 and currently spans 13 games.

“We look forward to facing ECU over the next two seasons,” UNC Director of Athletics Dick Baddour said. “For a number of reasons, this is a good game for the state of North Carolina and it’s an exciting game for fans of both institutions.”
— ECU Media Relations
Published: Thursday, September 29, 2011 at 10:33 p.m.

East Carolina practices how not to lose the ball

By Brian Mull
Brian.Mull@StarNewsOnline.com

There are two lasting images from North Carolina's 42-17 victory over East Carolina last season in Chapel Hill.

UNC defensive back Da'Norris Searcy intercepting a Dominique Davis pass and racing 46 yards down the sideline for a momentum-swinging touchdown that pulled the Tar Heels even 2 minutes before halftime.

And the manner in which the Tar Heels offensive line dominated an undersized ECU defensive line. Once its lead was secure in the second half, UNC pounded the ground for 222 yards, with a proficient keep-away attack that ate the clock and wore down the depleted Pirates.

Entering the teams' matchup Saturday night in Greenville, the Pirates have shown slight improvement defending the run. Yet, creating opportunities remains a challenge. Through three games, ECU has lost 13 turnovers, forced nine and ranks 110th in the nation in turnover margin.

After watching his Pirates tie a school record with seven turnovers in a sloppy 28-23 defeat of UAB last week, coach Ruffin McNeill made ball security a priority this week in practice.

"A few of the fumbles were due to technique," McNeill said during his weekly press conference. "We have to make sure we keep the ball high and tight. We worked on that (Sunday) night. Three of the fumbles occurred when we were fighting for extra yards, but you still have to tuck it away and keep it tight."

Davis has thrown an interception in six consecutive games, thrown five this season. That's not terrible considering he averages 45 attempts per game in the Pirates' air-raid offense. Still, twice against the Blazers he forced passes into tight coverage, mistakes ECU can't afford from the senior.

"One of the interceptions was a tipped ball," McNeill said. "The UAB guy was in the right place at the right time and was the only one there. The other two were tough throws by Dominique Davis. He realizes that. That part we have to correct, and we will."
Plugging holes against the run was an obvious concern for ECU after last season. Strength coach Jeff Connors returned to the program in January – after 10 years at North Carolina – and the Pirates switched to a 3-4 alignment.

That combination of strength and strategy was supposed to solidify the defense. And it has, somewhat.

ECU has allowed opponents 192.7 yards rushing per game. Not great, but 38 yards less than its average last season and promising since the Pirates have already faced two top 15 opponents and one of the best running backs in the nation, South Carolina's Marcus Lattimore.

McNeill expects a physical game. He told a Raleigh radio station earlier this week that "you better bring your big-boy pads and grown-folks helmet," when facing the Tar Heels.

The Tar Heels are averaging 166 yards rushing with 10 touchdowns. Expect them to keep running until the Pirates stop them. Giovani Bernard has 402 yards rushing. He and short-yardage touchdown specialist Ryan Houston will try and expose an ECU defense that's allowed opponents to convert 47 percent of third-down opportunities.

Brian Mull: 343-2034
On Twitter: @BGMull
Playwrights Edna Ferber and George Kaufman held great disdain for all things Hollywood, which they expressed in their comedy “Stage Door.”

East Carolina University’s School of Theatre and Dance presents the funny yet bittersweet play with performances in McGinnis Theatre at 8 p.m. today-Tuesday except Sunday when the show is at 2 p.m.

ECU professional acting and musical theater student Andrew Britt, 22, is the production’s assistant director.

“I’ve always been interested in directing, even though my degree is in performance,” he said. “This is the first time I’ve assisted at the ECU main stage.”

But this is not his first time directing. He and “Stage Door” director Robert Caprio have worked together on “Play It Again, Sam” and “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee.”

“He asks for my opinion. He’s been really great in giving me good experience,” Britt said. “You get lucky when you get a director that really appreciates that you’re there.”
After graduation in December, Britt will be the assistant director of “The Lost Colony,” the longest-running symphonic outdoor drama about the first settlers of the Roanoke Island who mysteriously vanished.

“Next year is our 75th anniversary,” Britt said. “In January, we’ll be casting the new show and doing a little college tour.”

He’ll also serve as the assistant director for “Henry VIII” at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

Britt said that the large cast of 31 characters in “Stage Door” wasn’t a determining factor in having an assistant director.

The 1936 play’s main character is Terry, an idealistic, headstrong, and sharp-tongued girl from Indiana. She is determined to succeed where her mother had failed, giving up her own stage career for that of wife and mother.

Terry becomes involved with two men. One is a left-wing playwright who leaves Broadway for Hollywood; the other is a Hollywood film producer who is returning to Broadway.

Along the way we meet a huge cast of similarly aspiring actresses, ingénues and fading divas. One of Terry’s fellow aspirants gives up in despair, one gets married and one goes into movie acting. Terry sticks to her guns.

In 1932 and 1927 Kaufman won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama with “Of Thee I Sing” and “You Can’t Take It With You.” Ferber was both a novelist and playwright, her work often featuring strong female protagonists and well-crafted scenes. Musicals adapted from her novels include “Show Boat” in 1927, “Saratoga” in 1959 and “Giant” in 2009. In addition to “Stage Door,” she and Kaufman also co-wrote “The Royal Family” and “Dinner at Eight.”

Contact Kelley Kirk at kkirk@reflector.com or 329-9596.
Sup Dogs owner remembered
By K.j. Williams
The Daily Reflector
Friday, September 30, 2011

As friends and employees of a downtown restaurant owner mourned his death Thursday, fire and police investigators were working to determine what caused the house fire that also claimed the man’s two dogs.

Derek Oliverio, 27, of 209-B Wyndham Circle, owner of Sup Dogs restaurant, died as a result of the early morning fire at the duplex where he lived off Brownlea Drive near the Cypress Glen retirement community.

No one else was in the house, Greenville Police Department Lt. Kenneth Laws said. Ashley Poe, who lives in the duplex next door, said both of Oliverio’s dogs died in the blaze with him.

Firefighters were called to the scene between 2 and 3 a.m. when a third-party caller reported visible smoke, Capt. Ted Sauls said Thursday afternoon at a news conference.

“There are no obvious signs of foul play,” he said. “The investigation from our end is continuing as a death investigation resulting from a structure fire.”
Sauls said police would be looking at the incident “with a fine-tooth comb” since there was a fatality.

He said he expected to be able to release more information next week after Greenville Fire-Rescue completes its investigation.

Sauls could not say if there was a smoke detector in the duplex or if the fire happened too fast for Oliverio’s dogs to alert him.

“The damage was internal and pretty much contained to that one unit,” he said, adding that smoke damage was extensive.

Sauls said he didn’t know if Oliverio was found dead at the scene. He was transported to Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

The residence is located on the right side of the brown-colored duplex. The other side was not damaged, and the woman who lives there was unharmed.

About 12:30 p.m. Thursday, a woman who identified herself as Oliverio’s girlfriend of three years walked to the yellow caution tape bounding the duplex and talked to a fire investigator.

She declined to speak to a reporter. She soon was joined by nine friends, who hugged her and gathered across the street.

Several of the friends declined to comment as well.

At the closed Sup Dogs, grief-stricken employees of the hot dog, hamburger and beer spot clustered on the outside deck, hugging each other.

Edwin Godley, a cook, declined to be interviewed. “They’re kind of in shock right now. There will be a time and a place for it. It’s just right now is probably not the best time,” he said. “Everyone is just going through a lot.”

Sup Dogs opened in the summer of 2008 at the corner of Fifth and Reade streets beside The Stop Shop convenience store.

Oliverio made extensive renovations to the business and its large deck overlooking Reade Street near the ECU campus.
The business is popular with East Carolina University students and has hosted a number of fundraisers and community events.

Poe, a graduate student at East Carolina University, has been a neighbor of Oliverio’s for several years.

“He was such an all-around good guy,” she said. “He always had a smile on his face. He always brought joy to the people he was around and he always brightened up a room.”

Poe brought a bouquet of yellow blooms and set them on the edge of the duplex property line. She also brought flowers to Sup Dogs.

“I just wanted people to know that he was a true, honest person who cared about his friends, his family and his business and his two dogs. And he will be greatly missed,” she said.

Alan Jordan, another neighbor, said he woke up to see smoke and firefighters at work. “He was a nice guy, always polite to people,” Jordan said.

Poe said Oliverio was a self-made businessman who started Sup Dogs on his own and worked hard to make it a success. “That was something that he really cherished.”

He made friends easily, was devoted to his girlfriend, enjoyed taking trips and having fun, she said.

Outside Sup Dogs, Godley, the cook, hugged a friend and gave these words of advice: “Honor his life. Don’t think about his death.”

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
University of North Carolina Wilmington professor Brian Davis teaches a calculus-based physics class at Deloach Hall on the campus of UNCW on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2011. Photo by Matt Born

**UNCW faculty members worry about move to join 2 departments**

By Jason Gonzales  
Jason.Gonzales@StarNewsOnline.com

Brian Davis has spent almost 30 years of his career as a professor in the Department of Physics and Physical Oceanography at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.  

So it comes as no surprise when he says he feels slighted by university officials' decision to prepare faculty for a merger that would pair his department with the Department of Geography and Geology for an $80,000 savings.  
"It doesn't make sense merging the departments," he said Wednesday. "I have invested most of my life in this department, and they want to dissolve it because of a minor savings in cash."

UNCW plans to join the two departments at the first of the year as a cost-saving effort, said David Cordle, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.
But talks of the merger have brought up concerns among faculty members about how the two departments are to function together while continuing to attract students and grants.

"It has the potential to decrease our visibility and affect student recruitment," Lynn Leonard, the geology and geography department chair, said.

But she said she understands the tough budget times haven't made it easy for the administration.

In July, the UNC system Board of Governors cut UNCW's budget by 15.8 percent, or $16.6 million, bringing the school's budget allocation down to $89 million. The cut was part of a $414 million cut across the state system by the N.C. General Assembly. Most schools' budgets were cut about 16 percent.

Officials said it would be hard not to keep the smaller budget from impacting the classroom.

"We have tried to not cut instruction, and looked at ways to reduce administration instead," Cordle said.

That's what the merger is designed to do, he said.

Bringing the two departments together will cut a department chair and a secretary, for an $80,000 savings. It will also merge the 28 faculty members from both departments and would serve about 130 students, Cordle said.

Both departments are already housed under the same roof at DeLoach Hall.

He said the university feels the merger is a change in structure, not in the programs.

"It will still have the same faculty with the same classes, but with that said we do recognize it makes things more complicated," he said.

Reduced visibility is one of the largest concerns, said Russell Herman, chair of the physics and physical oceanography department. It makes it hard for the programs to brand themselves because a merger like the one proposed has never been done before.

The name of the new department has not been chosen yet.

"We are trying to figure out what this is going to look like," he said. "Their discipline is much different than ours."

Some professors are also worried about attracting grants and students.
"We need to visible when we are awarded grants for research," physics professor Liping Gan said. "Taking away our department name doesn't help."

And trying to make sure students receive the best deal in the merger makes it hard when trying to pair two complex departments, geography and geology professor Doug Gamble said.

"We are trying to find common ground, and there might be a negative impact on students and our offerings," he said.

Because of that, both departments have offered up alternatives to Cordle.

"It seems none of those have gained traction," Gamble said.

But Leonard said she continues to hope the plan will change.

"We are beginning to plan for it, but we are all hoping it won't happen," she said.

Jason Gonzales: (910) 343-2075
On Twitter: @StarNews_Jason
UNC responds to housekeepers
BY LANA DOUGLAS - ldouglas@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL A report outlining how UNC-Chapel Hill can improve staff relations and housekeepers' work environment is a "wake-up call," UNC-CH officials said Thursday.

About 500 housekeepers, students and community supporters signed a petition requesting that Tonya Sell, assistant director of housekeeping, be moved out of that department, according to George James, a housekeeper and a leader in the UE 150 union. Sell was accused in the petition of verbally abusing employees, showing favoritism and creating a repressive work environment.

"We need to start over fresh with no animosity," James said. "We are not trying to get folks dismissed, we simply want to heal the department."

That petition and a list of grievances were sent to Chancellor Holden Thorp, who hired Washington-based PRM Consulting Group in March to investigate the grievances. PRM interviewed more than 400 employees, and the results were presented to UNC-CH housekeepers Thursday.

A third see problems

"Survey results and comments indicate a large number of employees felt management did not promote a workplace free of discrimination, harassment and intimidation," the report stated.
The report shows that about 32.7 percent of employees thought housekeeping management did not promote an environment that treated employees with dignity and respect. Also, 34.6 percent thought that management had failed to promote an environment that was free from harassment, discrimination or intimidation.

On some issues, "there's at least a third of our housekeeping (staff) that feel disengaged and feel that things are not going the way they should in an employment circumstance," said Brenda Malone, vice chancellor for human resources, "so for us it's a wake-up call."

PMR presented more than 45 recommendations for UNC-CH to address the employees' issues.

According to a memo from Thorp released Thursday, UNC-CH will make some changes based on PRM's findings. They include:

Establishing an advisory committee composed of a diverse group of housekeeping employees.

Revising work assignment practices to ensure fairness of permanent work assignments.

Conducting follow-up investigations into any activity that potentially constitutes unlawful harassment or discrimination.

Allowing employees to provide feedback for supervisors and management.

Douglas: 919-932-2008
UNC researcher wins national award

From staff reports

CHAPEL HILL A UNC-Chapel Hill researcher has won the highest honor given by the U.S. government to science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their research careers.

Thomas L. Kash, an assistant professor in the department of pharmacology and the UNC Bowles Center for Alcohol Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Medicine, will receive the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers.

The award recognizes the promise Kash has demonstrated as a scientist and his research program on the effects of alcohol on neural circuits in the brain. The research is supported by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

The winners, who will be presented with their awards by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony in October, receive research grants of up to five years to further studies that support critical government missions.

This year, the president named 94 researchers as recipients of the award, including Michael Escuti of N.C. State University, whose award was previously announced.