THE DAILY CLIPS

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ECU, NCSU compete in blood drive

The rivalry between East Carolina University and N.C. State University extends beyond the football field. Each year that ECU plays State in football, the Student Pirate Club and the American Red Cross sponsor the ECU vs. NCSU Blood Battle where the two schools compete to collect to most pints of blood.

The ECU blood drive calls for all who bleed purple and gold. This year's ECU blood drive was held Wednesday at the Murphy Center. According to an unofficial count, about 230 pints were collected, which did not quite meet the goal of 330 pints but still has a good chance of beating State.

The last time ECU played State and held a Blood Battle blood drive was in 2008 when ECU collected 315 pints to beat State by 262 pints.

“You've got to think about students' classes and schedules. We're hoping to get busier as the day goes on,” said Pitt County Donor Recruitment Director Kasey Shue about the crowd when the drive first started. “This is a great sign,” she said looking at those coming to give.

Edgar Tinajero and Ahmed Qazi are freshmen who gave blood. “It's exciting to help someone,” Qazi said.

Other students are excited about ECU's donation and football abilities.

“We are definitely going to beat State at giving blood and at the football game,” said Laura Doran, a sophomore at ECU who attended the blood drive.

ECU employee Deidre Harris said she thinks the competition with State is “good for morale.”

Katie Iocona is a senior and a veteran donor in the Blood Battle. She also is confident in ECU's gridiron abilities.

“We're totally going to win. It's going to happen,” said Iocona of the game.

State will hold its blood drive Friday and Pirates will battle the Wolfpack on Saturday in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium.

For additional information about donating blood or donor eligibility, visit www.redcrossblood.org. Contact Lynsey Horn at Lhorn@reflector.com.
Minister, ECU alum speaks to students

A leader doesn't just watch things happen, the Rev. Ken Hammond told a group of about 300 students at East Carolina University on Wednesday evening. “A leader engages others to make things happen,” he said.

Hammond spoke at ECU's Hendrix Theater at the invitation of the ECU Office of Greek Life and East Carolina Greek Alumni Alliance.

Hammond is the pastor of Union Baptist Church in Durham. He received three degrees from ECU and served as the first black president of the Student Government Association. Hammond worked for 18 years at ECU as associate director of student activities before taking over Union Baptist in the early 1990s.

Hammond spoke to the audience, made up mostly of students involved with Greek organizations, about being a servant-leader. “With good leadership you can accomplish anything,” Hammond said. “While you may have tremendous leadership potential and ability, unless you are clear about the desire to serve that ability will be wasted.”

Hammond said the term “servant-leader” was coined by Robert K. Greenleaf, an AT&T executive, in the '70s. Greenleaf said traits like good listening skills, empathy, healing, awareness, persuasion and foresight are integral to being a good servant-leader.

Hammond told the students that his church, Union Baptist, went from 1,500 members with an average attendance of about 200 to 5,500 members with average attendance of 3,000 after he became pastor.

The church operates a school with a full staff of nationally board-certified teachers that is attended free of charge by students in some of Durham's poorest neighborhoods. “It was all possible as a result of being able to convey to a group of people to find out where the needs really are,” Hammond said. “I challenge you to constantly look for ways that you may be able to impact the lives of others.”

Hammond said realizing positive change is its own reward.

“Nothing can be more rewarding than to look back over something you have been involved in and realize that you have been able to make a difference,” Hammond said. Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
City Council to hear eco-tourism updates
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, October 14, 2010

Informational presentations and progress updates account for much of the new business on the Greenville City Council's agenda tonight.

Pat Long, director of the Center for Sustainable Tourism at East Carolina University, is scheduled to present information on eco- and nature-based tourism at the meeting that begins at 7 p.m. on the third floor of City Hall, 200 W. Fifth St.

Developing a strategy that will make Greenville a gateway for these industries between I-95 and the coast is one of the city council's goals this year.

Council members also will be updated on the status of a city Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan by the Greenville Urban Area Metropolitan Planning Organization and hired consultant Greenways Inc. An update on the effort extending Thomas Langston Road from Memorial Drive east to Evans Street will be provided at Councilman Max Joyner Jr.'s request.

An ordinance amendment extending the days a dining and entertainment establishment can offer amplified music after 11 p.m. is among the public hearings scheduled.

Phoenix Redevelopment has asked that permission be granted for Thursday night in addition to Friday and Saturday for the restaurant and nightclub hybrid designation. It would apply only to the downtown commercial district.

Property owner Don Edwards spoke to the matter before the Planning and Zoning Board last month, describing it as an effort to attract a Charleston, S.C., restaurant and bar to a vacant Evans Street space. The board recommended the change unanimously.

Other public hearings planned tonight:
An ordinance requested by Alicia Speight Hawk to amend the heavy commercial and general commercial zoning districts public street right-of-way building setback from not less than 50 feet to not less than 20 feet.

An ordinance annexing the Midgette Investments property involving 1.810 acres east of Allen Road and north of its intersection with Dickinson Avenue.

The second reading and final adoption of an ordinance granting a bus franchise to Christopher Rupp, doing business as The Buccaneer Transportation Service.
The second reading and final adoption of an ordinance granting a limousine franchise to Elliott Land, doing business as Signature Limousine & Transport Service Inc.

The second reading and final adoption of an ordinance granting a taxicab franchise to Melvin Lynn Elam, doing business as Red, White & Blue.

The second reading and final adoption of an ordinance granting a taxicab franchise to Martin Tanski, doing business as Peddlin' Pirates.

The city council will be asked to approve an agreement for ECU to lease the school building at the Lucille B. Gorham Intergenerational Center and to convey a city-owned home to Streets to Home — an organization providing temporary housing to victims of domestic violence with low- to moderate-income.

A contract with local firm Rivers and Associates for development of a master plan for Eastside Park off East 10th Street is before the city council, too.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or (252) 329-9566.
GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP) — An eastern North Carolina health care provider wants to combine the chance to bring attention to breast cancer with an opportunity to enjoy some sweet treats.

University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina is holding a Breast Cancer Pink Dessert Social at the Area Health Education Center in Greenville.

The featured speaker is Dr. John Inzerillo, author of "Passion Beyond Pain." He will talk about exploring techniques such as yoga and meditation to cope with a serious illness.

Spokeswoman Beth Anne Atkins says people attending will also get to indulge in desserts, all of which will be pink, the designated color for breast cancer awareness. Atkins says there will be pink mini cupcakes, a candy bar with pink desserts that attendees can take home and pink mousse shooters.
UNC cancer scientist appeals her demotion

CHAPEL HILL A prominent cancer researcher at UNC-Chapel Hill is fighting the demotion and pay cut she received after a computer server she oversees was hacked, exposing about 180,000 patient files.

Bonnie Yankaskas, who holds a doctorate in epidemiology, says she should not be responsible for a lapse by the school's information technology staff.

"I clearly have been scapegoated," she said. "I bear the responsibility for my group doing what's right. But do I bear the responsibility for this machine not being secure? How do you lay that on me?"

Yankaskas has appealed her demotion to UNC-CH's board of trustees. Her rank was reduced from full to associate professor and her pay cut from $178,000 to $93,000 - punishment for what university officials say was the scientist's failure to secure a server housing medical information including about 114,000 Social Security numbers.

UNC School of Medicine officials discovered in 2009 that the server had been infiltrated two years earlier. It held data for the Carolina Mammography Registry, a 15-year project that compiles and analyzes mammogram data in an effort to improve breast cancer screening.

Though the university doesn't believe any personal information was removed, it nonetheless notified all 180,000 women with data on the server and set up a call center to answer questions once word of the breach got out. Doing so cost roughly $250,000, officials say.

Yankaskas, the principal investigator on the federally funded project, said some medical school staffers knew as early as 2006 that her server could be compromised. But she insists she was never told.
Yankaskas has continued to receive National Institutes of Health funding even after the breach was detected. The data her registry collects feeds a larger, national effort whose collective findings help shape federal policy on breast cancer screenings.

"She's highly regarded by her colleagues," said Rachel Ballard-Barbash, associate director of the applied research program with the National Cancer Institute's division of cancer control and population sciences. "We've always found her to operate with the greatest integrity."

**Firing had been sought**

At first, university officials sought to fire Yankaskas. But on appeal, a faculty hearings committee determined that part of the basis for her dismissal - that she had improperly collected mammogram data from UNC Hospitals patients - wasn't valid.

The faculty committee also ruled that Yankaskas wasn't "recklessly ignorant of security concerns." In an eight-page report recommending that she be demoted but not fired, the committee suggested that Internet security is more complicated than Yankaskas understood at the time.

"She appears from the record simply not to have kept up with the dramatic rise in and change of computer security concerns over the fifteen-plus year course of the CMR project," Richard Whisnant, chairman of the faculty hearings committee, wrote.

UNC-CH Provost Bruce Carney agreed that Yankaskas shoulders some blame.

"She's not a security expert, but she should understand the importance of it and make sure it's being satisfied," Carney said.

**Participants surprised**

The registry collects and analyzes mammogram data submitted by dozens of radiology offices across North Carolina. It came as a surprise to many women who learned of their participation in the study only when the university notified them of the breach last year.
Federal regulators don't require patient consent for projects like the Carolina Mammography Registry because it is a population-based study dealing with hundreds of thousands of pieces of data.

When the breach was made public last year, the medical school received more than 1,600 calls from women fearful that their Social Security numbers and other personal information had been compromised. At least one clinic, Wake Radiology, pulled out of the study.

Now, the university is centralizing much of its IT security, a costly but necessary venture.

"The public's trust is easily lost and hard to win," Carney said. "That's why this is so serious an issue."

**Work 'needs to go on'**

The UNC project is one of five in the nation contributing mammography data to a national registry administered and funded by the National Cancer Institute.

UNC-CH thinks enough of Yankaskas' body of work with the registry to allow it to continue even as her punishment and future have been debated. "This is a very, very big study of considerable importance," Carney said. "It needs to go on."

Yankaskas said the project would be crippled if she were dismissed or agreed to a settlement the university has offered her - withdrawing her disciplinary action and reinstating her rank and full salary if she leaves by next June.

She's not interested.

"I have work to do," said Yankaskas, 65. "I'm not going away."

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**UNC bunk not at fault in woman's death, autopsy suggests**

CHAPEL HILL UNC-Chapel Hill still plans to buy bed rails for all 8,500 residence hall rooms even though a new autopsy report suggests a woman who died while visiting her daughter's dorm room did not fall from a bunk bed.

Donna Sykes, 49, of Spring Hope most likely tripped over her daughter's walker, fell backward and hit her head on a dresser, according to a recent report from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Sykes died from the head injury suffered Aug. 20 at Kenan Residence Hall, where she was visiting her daughter, Jesse, 19, who was starting her first year at UNC-CH after transferring from Nash Community College. Jesse Sykes has cerebral palsy, and her mother was helping her adjust to dorm life.

An earlier medical examiner's report says Sykes likely died from "blunt force injury of the head" due to a fall from a bunk bed. It does not say where the notion that she fell from a bunk bed originated.

Sykes' death led to calls on campus for bed rails, which were available to students but not required. The safety rails attach easily to the standard-issue dorm beds.

The university generally gets about 30 requests a year for bed rails and had about 100 of the rails available at the start of the fall semester. After Sykes' fall, the school borrowed 40 more from N.C. State and ordered an additional 1,000. So far, about 500 students have requested bed rails this year, said Rick Bradley, assistant director of housing at UNC-CH.

The university will likely go ahead with plans to purchase bed rails for all rooms at a cost of $250,000, he said.
He said officials are awaiting results of a survey sent to all dorm residents on bed rail use, but the university is likely to go ahead and buy the rails. "That is our plan at the moment, with safety as our primary goal," Bradley said.

So far, he said, about 1,700 surveys have been completed. Students have until the end of the week to complete the survey before an advisory committee reviews the results.

The more recent autopsy report helps clarify the details of Sykes' death. It states in part: "Further investigation reveals the likely scenario of [Sykes] attempting to enter or exit the bed, becomes entangled in the daughter's walker and falls backwards."

The report goes on to say Sykes' head appears to have struck a dresser about six feet from the base of the bed.

"This suggests," the report said, "that she probably didn't simply roll out of the bed, but fell."

Jesse Sykes did not have a roommate.

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O'Brien aware of rivalry

In the process of underscoring the importance of football to N.C. State and ECU fans, Wolfpack Tom O'Brien said this week he is looking forward to Saturday's trip to Greenville.

"It's a great place to play, and it's just always a great atmosphere there," O'Brien said.

He went on to say that NCSU and ECU are the two schools in the state that love football the most.

Such cordial talk is a big change from the days when coaches at State and UNC complained almost annually about the prospect of having to face the Pirates, and that was long before either of the ACC teams had to make the trip to Greenville.

Former ECU coach Pat Dye once fired back, saying he couldn't imagine why any rational coach would complain about getting a home game, a big audience, all sorts of in-state recruiting attention, the right to determine the officiating crew and never having to return the game.

"Hell, they ought to be tickled to death," Dye said.

Thanks to some political arm-twisting, the playing locales are more balanced these days. The game Saturday will be State's third trip to ECU since the end of the 1998 season. Next season, North Carolina goes back to Greenville for the third time since the end of 2002.

O'Brien likes the present rotation.

"You can only have so many rival games [each season]," he said. "I think we have it worked out in a way that works well for all three of us, where every year one of us [State or UNC] will play them there or at home."
O'Brien is 2-0 against the Pirates and 3-0 against UNC since leaving Boston College, and will enter this week's game as a 7-point favorite.

Those five wins are among the reasons why State fans stayed so firmly in O'Brien's corner even after his first three Wolfpack teams went 16-21 overall.

Much of that success is due to the fact that having spent many years as a Virginia assistant, O'Brien had first-hand knowledge of ECU's competitiveness.

A 61-10 Pirates win at Virginia in 1975 figured prominently in a Cavaliers coaching change from Sonny Randle to Dick Bestwick.

The final game for Chuck Amato at State was a 21-16 loss to the Pirates in Carter-Finley Stadium. A 23-6 loss to the Pirates in 1999 was the final game for Mike O'Cain at State.

"When I came here, I knew it was a huge game for East Carolina," O'Brien said. "I know the history of East Carolina and its neighboring schools."

Other than an isolated game against Wake Forest in 1963 (Pirates 20, Deacons 10), State was the first of the in-state teams to really give ECU a chance.

At the time, 1970, State needed the big gates to help pay off its investment in what was then just Carter Stadium.

It took almost no time at all for the series to evolve into an opening-night tradition that created an explosion of summer football interest and season-ticket sales.

Much has changed, but State-ECU is still an important game to build statewide interest in a sport that regularly trails basketball in fan interest.

Victories are cherished on both sides of the rivalry. O'Brien is smart to state the obvious, rather than complaining about having to play the game. "We put emphasis on it," he said. "It should be important."

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Dr. Alden Parsons, a thoracic surgeon, had just finished 15 years of medical training. But instead of entering the world of private practice, she went to work for the Rex Healthcare hospital system in February.

Dr. Alden Parsons, a thoracic surgeon, listens to Julia Neal's breathing at her office in Raleigh, N.C. After she completed her 15 years of medical training, Parsons decided to skip private practice and instead accepted a position at Rex Healthcare, a local hospital system.

While some of her medical school classmates continued their training or joined university faculties, the rest went to work for groups affiliated with hospitals.

"I don't know anyone who went out into their own practice," says Parsons, 38. "Trying to be a mother and a wife and a thoracic surgeon, I needed a job that would help me streamline things."

Last year, half of new doctors were hired by hospitals, according to the Medical Group Management Association, a professional organization for physician practices. According to a 2009 report by the American Medical Association, 1 in 6 doctors works for a hospital, and the number is quickly growing.

Several factors are driving the trend. For some doctors, the recession is making it more difficult to run a small business, with fewer patients coming in for care and others unable to pay their bills. And many physicians like Parsons, who are just starting out, don't want the long hours and administrative headaches that come with private practice.

**Draw Of Private Insurance**

For Rex Healthcare and many other hospitals, hiring doctors is crucial. Having more doctors in the fold guarantees a steady stream of patient referrals, and, hospital executives say, it bolsters care through better coordination of services. They also emphasize the impact of the new health overhaul law: It rewards creation of more efficient, integrated models of care.
Some experts worry, however, that hiring doctors and forming the "accountable care organizations" envisioned under the law could give hospitals much more negotiating clout with health insurers — and drive up insurance prices paid by employers and consumers.

Steve Burriss, senior vice president in charge of physician employment at Rex, part of the University of North Carolina's health care system, has hired about 30 physicians over the past few years and is in talks with another 55. He has to act quickly because Raleigh is a highly competitive market and each of the major systems — among them Duke Medicine, WakeMed Health & Hospitals and Novant Health — wants to grow and attract patients with private insurance, which typically pays more than the Medicare and Medicaid programs for the elderly, poor and disabled.

For a hospital, Burriss says, anything that disrupts the stream of patient referrals, including losing the loyalty of local physicians, "can have a really big impact on your ability to make money. Just a 3 percent change in any of that can really wipe out your whole bottom line."

Burriss estimates there are only about 67 doctor practices left in the Raleigh area that are not yet affiliated with a hospital. In the next five years, he says, the vast majority will be scooped up by local hospital systems. The doctors have some leverage: "If we don't accommodate the needs they have," he says, "they're going to look to someone else."

Dr. Michele Roberts Casey examines Janice Seitzinger at her office on the campus of WakeMed Health & Hospitals in Raleigh, N.C. Casey, a primary care physician, made the leap from private practice to hospital employment in April.

Dr. Michele Roberts Casey, a primary care physician, made the leap from private practice to WakeMed in April. The hospital system offered her a competitive salary, a bonus based on how many patients she saw, and a promise to handle all of the administrative services for the practice — billing, claims processing, help negotiating payments from insurers, retirement benefits and even a new electronic health records system.
"We spend so many hours doing administrative work in the [private practice] world. It's very frustrating," says Casey, 41. "We don't have that here. We can focus on patients. We can take good care of our patients, and they can remain our priority."

Joining WakeMed looked like a good deal to Casey. She and three colleagues had decided to leave the practice they were in and strike out on their own, but the reality of opening a new business changed their minds. "We were looking at property in the city and electronic health records systems, and it was a little bit overwhelming to look at the number of different things that you have to tackle to start a practice," she says. This isn't the first time hospitals have gone doctor shopping. In the 1990s, they went on a buying frenzy.

Dr. Bill Jessee, president and chief executive officer of the Medical Group Management Association, remembers the experiment as something of a disaster. Because hospitals often put the doctors on flat salaries without the financial incentive to see more patients, doctors "weren't working as hard as they were before their practice was acquired." In fact, Jessee adds, "the first thing a lot of physicians did is take a vacation."

Hospitals lost a lot of money and ended up divesting most of the practices. This time, hospitals are providing incentives like some of those Casey receives, such as bonuses based on how many patients they see.

Holding Out

Jenny Gold

Dr. Lisa Roberts stands in a meticulously decorated exam room at her private gynecology practice in Raleigh, N.C. She says she enjoys being a small-business owner "as much as I love going to the O.R. to o

But the local hospitals won't get all the doctors — certainly not Casey's sister, Dr. Lisa Roberts, 40, who owns a gynecology practice around the corner from WakeMed and prizes her independence. The office she opened about nine years ago in the middle of a strip mall is meticulously decorated with vases of dried flowers, curtained-off dressing areas and a beverage bar in the waiting room. Patients, Roberts says, should think "that they're in a spa rather than in a physician's office."
Designing and managing the practice takes a great deal of her time. But Roberts, a business major in college, says she enjoys being a small-business owner "as much as I love going to the O.R. to operate or just to see my patients for routine visits." Meanwhile, she's watching to see how her sister's hospital practice works out. Hospitals have indeed changed their approach since the doctor-buying days of the 1990s, she says, "but we haven't seen that they can run a successful practice yet. And I know I can run a practice."

**Little Difference For Patients**
Choosing between private practice and working at a hospital may be a weighty decision for doctors, but patients may not notice much of a difference.

Janice Seitzinger has been a loyal patient of Casey's for five years and stayed with her when she took a job at WakeMed. The office has changed, but not her care. "I mean, she's the same," Seitzinger says. And now there's the added convenience of having lab tests done in the office, rather than driving to another location. WakeMed hopes that sooner or later, patients will notice an improvement in their care. The hospital currently employs about 138 doctors and plans to hire another 60 over the next six months. In 2000, WakeMed employed just 47.

**Teaming Up**
Dr. Susan Weaver, who hired Casey and oversees all of the physician practices at WakeMed, says employing doctors is "about how you can really work together to elevate the quality of care while keeping costs down. Medicine's going to change, and we're going be prepared to change with it."

The idea is that by teaming up, doctors and hospitals can avoid repeat tests and offer the best possible care at the lowest price. It's a notion that has long been percolating in the health care field, but Weaver says the new health law is accelerating the process, in part by "making physicians nervous."
"They're sensing that change is necessary and they want and desire and need perhaps a partnership with a health system," Weaver says. "So our timetable to get there into an accountable care and truly clinically integrated system has sped up."

Sounding a cautionary note, Paul Ginsburg, president of the nonprofit Center for Studying Health System Change in Washington, D.C., says insurers and their customers can get stuck with higher prices for doctors' care. That's because hospitals that employ doctors generally have more negotiating clout with insurers than doctors working in private practice. The price difference can be so big, Ginsburg says, that hospitals can pay the doctors more and "still have something left over" for themselves.

But, Ginsburg says, if doctors and hospitals can work together to avoid repeat tests and unnecessary procedures, it could both improve the quality of care and even save money. And, he says, that will be a good thing for patients long term.
With the new school year underway, some college students are spending the year abroad. In addition to hitting the books and taking in the sights, they may also be drinking a lot more, a new study suggests.

University of Washington researchers surveyed 177 study abroad students about their drinking habits before they departed for their new host country, during their stay (an average three to five months), and on their return.

Overall, drinking more than doubled while abroad, but returned to pre-travel levels when the students returned. However, the heaviest drinkers drank more when they got back.

Where the students studied had an effect on how much they drank. Those who were in Europe or Australia and New Zealand drank the most, and those in Latin America drank significantly more when they returned compared with pre-trip levels.

Students under 21 drank less than their older peers before traveling, but once abroad they increased their drinking more--by about 170%. They also drank more when they returned compared with before their trip abroad, and those numbers had no association with turning 21. It should be noted that in some countries the legal drinking age is under 21. Those who intended to drink more while abroad fulfilled those goals.

The researchers mentioned that the study population may be more inclined to drink and want to drink more while abroad. The study also didn't get into details about specific drinking habits, such as risky or binge drinking. But the scientists also noted that there may be serious consequences of excessive drinking in a foreign country, such as supporting negative views of American students, mucking up travel plans and getting caught in a legal morass.

"The study abroad experience presents both unique opportunities and unique risks for students," said study co-author Mary Larimer, director of the Center for the Study of Health & Risk Behaviors, in a news release. "Working with these students pre-departure is a terrific opportunity to help reduce their risks for drinking consequences while abroad, and may also help prevent difficulties when they return home."

The study was published recently in the journal Psychology of Addictive Behaviors.

--Jeannine Stein / Los Angeles Times
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N.C.A.A. Is Investigating Baylor Men’s Program

By PETE THAMEL

LA PORTE, Ind. — Kevin Kunst, the athletic director at La Lumiere School, said on Wednesday that the N.C.A.A. is engaged in a wide investigation of the Baylor University’s men’s basketball program that includes its recruitment of Hanner Perea, a forward from Colombia who is widely considered one of the best 25 high school juniors in the country.

FoxSports.com first reported the investigation on Wednesday, causing a stir among administrators at La Lumiere, a private school best known as the alma mater of Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr.

The N.C.A.A. investigator Kristen Matha came here last month to question La Lumiere Coach Alan Huss. While Huss declined to reveal details of the conversation, Kunst said that the N.C.A.A. visit involved a larger investigation into Baylor.

“La Lumiere is not at question at all in any shape or form,” Kunst said. “This really has to do with what appears to be a significant, ongoing and much broader investigation of Baylor than this little thing. I think we’re the piece of a larger puzzle.”

The FoxSports.com article included a copy of a text message that was sent from the Baylor assistant Mark Morefield to Huss, saying that Baylor had the power to deport Perea if he did not go to Baylor.

“I guarantee you if he does [commit to another school] he will be in Colombia for the spring and summer and next year. Don’t forget it,” the text message said.
While Kunst would not say whether Baylor coaches were banned from his campus, he said that the message would have an impact on “how much we have interaction with Baylor.”

He added: “Is this what the world has come to? I understand college athletics is a serious business, and it’s a business that brings a lot of money to universities and that’s always going to bring out the darker sides of things. But this is a kid. He’s a kid, at the end of the day.”

Baylor Athletic Director Ian McCaw declined to comment by text message. Morefield and Baylor Coach Scott Drew did not return calls seeking comment.

Earlier this month, LaceDarius Dunn, a preseason all-American, was indefinitely suspended from the Baylor team after he was charged with felony assault of his girlfriend.

Drew has spoken with, but not retained, an El Paso-based lawyer, Jim Darnell, who recently represented the former U.S.C. coach Tim Floyd in the N.C.A.A.’s investigation into the Trojan basketball program.

“I don’t know that Coach Drew even needs a lawyer,” Darnell said. “He and I talked and visited about how these things work. I’ve been through this drill enough times to know how it works.”

Darnell added, “From what I understand, the focus would not be on Coach Drew.”

Matha, who is part of the N.C.A.A.’s Basketball Focus Group, spent a few hours last month with Huss.

“I can’t comment on anything,” Huss said, sitting on a bleacher in the school’s gym. “Literally, my job is on the line.”

In a telephone interview last week, however, Huss revealed the tenor of some of the N.C.A.A.’s questions.

“My impression of the N.C.A.A. is that they’re making a very concentrated effort to understand the system better and employ people who actually understand what’s going on,” Huss said.
“My impression is that they have a pretty good handle of what’s going on, and they’re trying to clean it up,” Huss said of N.C.A.A. investigations of men’s basketball programs.

He added, “I was amazed at how well they seem to have a grasp at what’s going on.”

Perea is a 6-foot-8, 210-pound forward known for his freakish athletic ability. He plays summer basketball for the Bloomington-based Indiana Elite program.

Although his college choices reportedly have been narrowed to Baylor and Indiana, Alabama, Missouri and Tennessee have also been mentioned.

Perea came to the United States through the A-Hope Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Bloomington, Ind., that has helped more than a dozen talented foreigners come to the United States and earn college scholarships. Kunst said that Perea is fine and in no danger of being sent overseas. (He would not allow Perea to comment.)

“I don’t think he was aware of it,” said Kunst, referring to the inquiry. “I think it was all above him.”

Administrators here are not concerned that the program is under N.C.A.A. scrutiny.

“We’ve obviously met and conferred and our understanding of the situation, as the best we understand it, is that this is really Baylor’s issue,” Kunst said.