THE DAILY CLIPS

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Kristin Voytek, Chemistry professor at ECU, gives a lesson on the heart during the STEM conference.
(Rhett Butler)

**Program encourages female scholars**

“It’s pretty inspiring to see what all we can do in the future.”

*Julia Bradley*
E.B. Aycock student

By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, October 15, 2011

Women remain under-represented in higher level math and science careers, but not for long, if local educators have anything to say about it.

Female leaders at East Carolina University teamed up with Pitt County Schools to showcase careers and role models in science, technology, engineering and math fields at the second annual girls STEM conference on Friday.

About 100 eighth-grade girls from all over the county attended the event held in ECU’s Science and Technology Building, representing all seven middle schools and six K-8 schools.

“I’m learning a lot,” Gabrielle Brooks of Bethel School said. “I’m more interested in this than I was before.”
After introductory speeches, the girls rotated through labs with different themes such as dropping and smashing cans in engineering labs and examining preserved organs in medicine labs.

“It’s pretty inspiring to see what all we can do in the future,” said E.B. Aycock student Julia Bradley, who said she liked the engineering activities.

Funded by a grant from the Mathematics Association of America, the day-long conference is the first of several upcoming events to facilitate girls’ interest in traditionally male-dominated fields.

“We wanted to encourage our regional female student population to consider math and science careers,” said Margaret Wirth, interim director for the STEM Center at ECU. “Our hope is when they enter ninth grade, they will take advanced math and science courses, and then consider those careers in college.”

Studies show that girls often are interested in math and science through sixth grade, but that interest plateaus by eighth, said Wirth.

“That’s why we chose middle school, to keep it going up,” she said.

The middle grades are when the math and science curriculum gets tough, according to the public schools’ district mathematics coordinator Connie Cheston, at a time when girls’ confidence is fragile. Girls generally mature faster than boys and are quicker to solidify their interests, often in other areas they see as more promising.

“We want them to be open to all the possibilities,” Cheston said. “We’ve got to motivate them and challenge them. We’ve got to do a better job of educating our students for the 21st century. So we’re excited about this.”

The majority of teachers are women but it’s not the same as seeing a female career scientist in action, Cheston added.

Despite the uneven gender distribution, “If you look at universities today, women outnumber men at all educational levels,” said Deirdre Mageean, vice chancellor for graduate and research studies. “The involvement of women in the sciences is nothing new.”
Mageean echoed the words of Chancellor Steve Ballard’s welcome to the girls: “Never let anyone tell you that you can’t do this.”
Editorial: Student debt crisis needs reform
Monday, October 17, 2011

The growing Occupy Wall Street movement that began last month in lower Manhattan may be ridiculed for lacking a clear, concise list of desired reforms, but it has shed light on the sizeable student loan debt that should be cause for alarm. Estimates suggest that Americans will owe $1 trillion for college education by year’s end, though a grim job market means that many recent graduates are facing the possibility of default in the coming months.

Some have proposed that forgiveness of the debt by the federal government would eliminate that tremendous burden and provide an immediate economic stimulus, but that view overlooks the root of the problem. The rising cost of college forces young adults to enter the workforce saddled with debt and it is there that any attempt at reform should be focused.

As one of 17 schools in the University of North Carolina system, East Carolina University provides its students a high quality academic experience at a relatively low price. Tuition for in-state students this year is $5,364 though it is $17,943 for those who come to East Carolina from elsewhere. Though the price fluctuates over the course of a four-year course of study — usually increasing, if history is any indication — then members of the class of 2016 will spend a minimum of between $21,456 and $71,772 to earn a degree here.
To see these young men and women entering the workforce with that burden is troublesome. It is of particular concern with the loss of more than 8 million jobs since the recession began in 2008, employment that has been frustratingly difficult to restore. That leaves millions of recent graduates facing payments they cannot afford and creates the possibility of widespread loan default. That would be an unwanted jolt to a fragile economy.

Universities are incubators of innovation and investment in them stimulates the economy directly and indirectly, as Greenville and Pitt County can attest. That makes deep cuts to the UNC system so unpalatable, because it forces schools to raise tuition and increasingly place the cost burden on the backs of students. The state Constitution sets forth North Carolina’s philosophy that education be as free from expense as possible and perpetual tuition hikes contradict that laudable principle.

By working to lower tuition and accepting that the burden for higher education be accepted by the population as a whole — since all benefit from the UNC system — the student debt crisis would be alleviated and the prospects for economic recovery improved.
Editorial: Decide intermodal center proposal

“Florida, by the way, passed laws back in the summer to randomly test welfare recipients and state employees.”

Sunday, October 16, 2011

The prospects of Greenville pursuing construction of an intermodal transportation center dimmed significantly on Monday when the City Council voted to explore new locations for the project. After nearly a decade of sluggish progress toward the realization of this idea, the city’s change of course casts considerable doubt on the likelihood of seeing it through.

There is a compelling argument to be made that a central site for public transportation could prove beneficial since it has fueled economic development in other similarly sized cities. However, if the council elects to proceed toward construction, it must do so at a quicker pace, getting all stakeholders securely on board and traveling from design to construction with greater urgency.

Eight years have passed since Greenville leaders first considered a proposal to build a transportation hub near the center of the city. Proponents believe that the center would help address concerns about regional mass transit options, providing a facility for passengers using the city’s GREAT buses, Trailways/Greyhound buses, taxi services, the Pitt County Area Transit system and East Carolina University buses. They also contend that the mixed-use facility would be an economic development instrument that inspires adjacent growth.

Progress since the proposal’s inception has been painfully slow as the city worked through various steps such as consulting stakeholders, designing the project’s scope and, in 2008, choosing a site in an area bordered by Cotanche, Evans, Eighth and Ninth streets. An original timeline had construction slated to begin in November, but the city has yet to begin land acquisition.

The length of the project allowed support to erode. Some stakeholders — officials with East Carolina and Uptown Greenville, among them — now object to the location, and City Council members Bryant Kittrell and Max
Joyner raised reasoned concerns when the council discussed the project in February. On Monday, momentum for the transportation center stalled when the council voted to explore alternate locations, setting the process back once again.

A key liability of Greenville’s government is its penchant for sluggishness. While it is vitally important to encourage citizen participation, to hear all sides and make informed, deliberate decisions, a growing city also needs decisive action when it commits to a project like this. Without it, the critical mass needed to turn dreams into reality fades and good ideas are abandoned.

Transportation studies indicate that the intermodal center could prove valuable to the city. If the council agrees, it should follow through on construction swiftly. If not, city officials should say so and be done with it.
ECU College of Business ranked among top U.S. business schools
Monday, October 17, 2011
WorkWeek

For the fifth straight year, the College of Business at East Carolina University has again earned top marks, ranking among the best business schools in the United States, according to The Princeton Review.


As part of its rating in the new guide, the College of Business is outlined in a two-page profile highlighting academics, career and placement, student life, and admissions information. The profile also touts the college’s solid preparation in teamwork, communication and interpersonal skills, quantitative skills, and computer skills.

Comments from business students applaud the college’s “strong and challenging faculty members,” as well as its “intimate feel” and “friendly atmosphere.” In describing the college’s distance education, students say that “very little of the East Carolina spirit is lost over the Internet.”

“The College of Business is proud once again to rank nationally as a top business school,” Stanley G. Eakins, interim dean of the College of Business, said in a news release. “We take pride in our quality, value, flexibility and focus on leadership, and we greatly value this distinction as one of the best institutions where students can earn a solid business education.”

The Princeton Review compiled the information based on its surveys of 19,000 students attending the 294 business schools in its book, as well as on school-reported data. The ranking lists and other data are available online at www.PrincetonReview.com.

The Princeton Review is an education services company based in Framingham, Mass., with editorial offices in New York City. It is known for
its test-prep courses, education programs, tutoring services, and more than 165 books published by Random House.

The Princeton Review is not affiliated with Princeton University and not a magazine.

ECU’s College of Business was founded in 1936 and has been continuously accredited by the AACSB since 1967. The college has more than 3,100 undergraduate students, 870 graduate students and 135 faculty members, as well as 30 degrees, majors and concentrations.
Helen M. Abbott

WINTERVILLE - Mrs. Helen Maready Abbott, 87, passed away Friday, Oct. 14, 2011. A graveside service will be conducted Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Winterville Cemetery.

Mrs. Abbott, a native of Duplin County, spent most of her life in the Winterville community. She taught nursing at East Carolina University, and was later employed as Director of Nursing and Director of Nursing Recruitment at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She was a member of Winterville Christian Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, R.M. "Gummie" Abbott. She is survived by her son, Robin Abbott and wife, Yvonne; daughter, Susanna Abbott, all of Winterville; grandchildren, Robert M. Abbott Jr. and wife, Amanda, Holly Cox and husband, Dan, Katie Abbott Daugherty and husband, Paul, and Richard Montgomery Harris; five great-grandchildren; sister, Sadie Oliver, of Pine Level; and a special niece, Cindy Mann.

The family will receive friends tonight from 6 to 8 at Winterville Christian Church.

Memorials may be made to Winterville Christian Church, 257 E. Cooper Street, Winterville, NC 28590.


Published in The Daily Reflector on October 15, 2011
ECU basketball players Kristine Mial, Whitny Edwards and Ja’Nesha Ebron, above, ready their kayaks during a river cleanup on Saturday morning.

Greenville saw a record turnout in volunteers for N.C. Big Sweep 2011 as they picked up an estimated ton of trash Saturday.

“We had between 185 and 200 volunteers today, which was the largest turnout we’ve ever had,” said Heather Jacobs-Deck, Pamlico-Tar Riverkeeper of the nonprofit Pamlico-Tar River Foundation in Washington, N.C.

“We had about 40 on the river, the rest were on the ground,” she said. About seven miles of the Tar River in Greenville were cleaned. Other areas spiffed up included downtown Greenville, the Town Common, areas of First and Fifth streets, and Greensprings Park on East Fifth Street.

“The downtown area and the Tar (River) certainly got a good facelift today,” Jacobs Deck said.
The event took place between 8 a.m. and noon with the help of a number of service clubs, including co-organizers, Pitt County Recycling and East Carolina University’s Adventure Club.

Volunteers in Washington, N.C., also participated, cleaning up areas like the Tar-Pamlico River area.

The Tar-Pamlico River is the fourth largest river system in North Carolina and home to greater than 400,000 citizens. The river is a haven for sport fishing and recreational boating. The health of the Tar-Pamlico River system is vital in maintaining North Carolina’s billion dollar fishing industry. Since 2006, PTRF has sponsored semi-annual cleanups netting more than 11 tons of trash.
East Carolina University senior Kimberly Chadwick followed a path from campus straight down Fifth Street toward the Tar River, where she guides kayak tours for teenagers through a community service program she created.

The journey began with a homework assignment in philosophy class. That assignment connected Chadwick with the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation, which led to a long-lasting volunteer relationship and finally, the chance to foster the Youth Kayaking Program.

The path that Chadwick followed was service-learning, a powerful educational opportunity offered outside the classroom at ECU.

ECU students are gaining knowledge through service-learning activities that apply classroom training to real-life settings in the community. The service-learning path often contains surprising twists and turns, leading to unforeseen benefits for the students and the community they serve.

“Service is a part of our identity and culture at East Carolina University,” said Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for Student Affairs.

Service-learning benefits the community, in keeping with the university’s mission of service and its motto, “Servire.” At the same time, Hardy said, the experience builds students’ leadership skills, which is a critical component of the university’s emerging role as the leadership university.
“Service-learning allows for the university to have an impact on the region and to strengthen communities. It encourages partnerships between communities and the university,” Hardy said. The experience provides a mutual benefit for all who participate, she said — the students, the community and ECU faculty and staff.

Jessica Gagne Cloutier, service-learning coordinator at ECU’s Volunteer and Service-Learning Center, said that ECU students logged more than 15,000 hours of service in the 2010-11 academic year, with more than 2,400 students reporting service hours.

Some of those hours were class requirements, Cloutier said. But completing the required hours does not guarantee a good grade. Faculty awards academic credit based on how well students master specific learning outcomes connected to the service-learning activity, she said.

In some courses, faculty members select community partners and assign tasks. In others, students select partners based on personal interest. The VSLC supports service-learning in the curriculum through established partnerships with more than 100 agencies, she said.

Cloutier said students quite often connect with service agencies and continue service “well beyond their original course requirement. … Students can also build valuable community networks, gain experience to grow their resume, explore professional environments and potential career paths, leverage their passion for good, and develop leadership skills and abilities,” Cloutier said.

Kimberly Chadwick experienced these benefits through her experience in service-learning. “My perspective and knowledge base has widened, making me more confident to face the world. Community service is a bridge to the bigger treasure — the community,” she said.

Chadwick’s assignment with the PTRF required her to complete a needs assessment and develop a project that addressed the needs discovered. She created a survey system and display to increase awareness about poor water quality and ways to protect the river. The class was philosophical and current issues in leisure, offered through the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies in the College of Health and Human Performance.
“My involvement with the Pamlico-Tar River Foundation was initiated by the class, but I continued the program because I felt passionate about it,” Chadwick said.

Then with the assistance of Kelly Jochim, the foundation’s development coordinator, Chadwick had a chance to foster a program that reflected her personal interests. She created the Youth Kayaking Program.

“I am a true advocate for youth wellness,” she said. “I feel that it is my mission to aid the next generation by teaching community awareness, teamwork, and leadership skills while promoting recreation to decrease obesity rates.”

She ran the first two-hour kayaking tour this summer with three staff members and four paddlers aged 12 to 14.

Before getting in their boats, participants from Ayden, Washington and Raleigh received a lesson in safety. Chadwick discussed navigation, proper paddling positions and specific stroke techniques to avoid shoulder injury.

“One of our goals is to get more children interested in playing and protecting the Tar River and its watershed,” Chadwick said.

Chadwick has volunteered since middle school. She has completed volunteer work with Pitt County Memorial Hospital, Million Meals, Give2tTheTroops, Relay for Life and the Marley Fund, which aims to decrease the spread of feline leukemia. For the RHA Howell Center, Chadwick created a sensory garden that allows medically fragile children and children with disabilities the opportunity to see, smell and touch the plants they grow.

“Volunteering has opened so many doors for me,” Chadwick said. “I have been exposed to many environments, learned numerous skills and acquired multiple resources.”

She was honored for her volunteer work this spring through the ECU Service in Excellence Award, in a rare double nomination from both the PTRF and the Howell Center. Chadwick is a parks and recreation major, with a second major in aquatics management. Originally from Chalfont, Penn., she has lived in Greenville for 10 years. She will graduate in May 2012.
Wells Fargo donates to education college

Wells Fargo recently donated $75,000 to the College of Education at ECU to support the Wells Fargo Partnership East program. The gift will support 47 students and provide five stipends of $750 based on a competitive application process.

Partnership East works with community colleges and public schools in eastern North Carolina with a focus on preparing well-trained professional teachers. The program has graduated 343 students, with 78 percent teaching in North Carolina.

Since 2002, Wells Fargo (formerly Wachovia Foundation) has given the College of Education $1,525,000 in support of the program.

For more information about the Wells Fargo Partnership East program, contact Laura Bilbro-Berry, assistant director of teacher education and lead coordinator for the Wells Fargo Partnership East program, at bilbroberryl@ecu.edu.

‘Silent Witness’ vigil set for Wednesday

A domestic violence awareness vigil entitled “Silent Witness” will be held at 6 p.m. Wednesday on the ECU mall, near the cupola.

ECU graduate Allen Thomas will speak. Thomas is youth counselor with the N.C. Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and president of Operation Freedom, a non-profit domestic violence awareness and prevention organization. Thomas grew up in an abusive household where his father eventually took his mother’s life.

The event is sponsored by the ECU Police Department and the Center for Family Violence Prevention. For additional information, contact Sgt. Carnevale at the ECU Police Department, (252) 328-5627.
Upcoming Events:
- Saturday: “Stinky Cheese Man: The Musical and Other Fair(ly) (Stoopid) Tales,” presented by the ECU Family Fare Series, 7 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Tickets are $9 for adults, $6 for students/youth. Call ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4788.
- Sunday: Pink Ribbon Race, registration begins at 12 p.m., Metrics, 1240 Sugg Parkway, Greenville. Benefits breast cancer services at the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center. Contact Taylor Bell, 744-3891 for more information.

See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.

National Day on Writing at ECU
The Tar River Writing Project at ECU will host a celebration of the National Day on Writing Thursday on campus and online.

The celebration will include:
- A gallery exhibit in Joyner Library showcasing past and present ECU student writing.
- Activities for writers of all ages at Joyner Library in 45-minute sessions. Writers will have the opportunity to participate in a writing marathon, speak to a panel of ECU students and published faculty member-authors about their writing, listen to ECU students and faculty read from their works, and write on a graffiti wall.
- Tar River Writing Project Virtual Gallery is hosted by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) within the National Gallery of Writing (http://www.galleryofwriting.org/).

Approximately 200 Pitt County Schools students from kindergarten through 12th are scheduled to participate in on campus events.

Writers who can’t make it to campus Oct. 20 can submit their writing to the Tar River Writing Project Virtual Gallery, according to gallery curators Christina Bethel and Matthew Herrmann, both ECU graduate students in the Department of English.
Writers — from students and educators to business owners and retirees — have submitted works to the National Gallery of Writing, an online gallery that showcases submissions from writers of all ages and talents. Submissions include kindergarten picture messages, YouTube videos, poems, emails, short stories and journal entries.

While original submissions of any length or form on any topic by local writers will be accepted, the ECU group is interested in submissions relating to Eastern North Carolina, campus organizers said.

Tips for writers, writing resources for educators and more information on the National Day on Writing and the National Gallery of Writing, an online gallery that showcases submissions from writers of all ages and talents, can be found on the NCTE website: http://www.ncte.org/dayonwriting.
MEMPHIS, Tenn.
For the first time in almost a year, East Carolina football players saw smiles when they looked into the locker room mirrors inside Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium on Saturday night.

Lots of credit is given to smiling by experts on human emotion and well-being, but some of those gurus of happiness would likely point out that as important as they are, smiles that are forced or faked carry much less value to their owners.

These smiles were authentic, and might have been about more than merely beating Memphis.

The Pirates came to town in desperate need of a win, and maybe a smile, against a Tigers team very much in the same position. In the first two quarters, ECU experienced much of the same torment that has characterized the season to this point, the things which had lassoed the team into its first 1-4 start since 2003.

But for the first time since a comeback win at UAB last Nov. 11, the Pirates turned halftime frowns upside-down. They made good on some mid-game adjustments, and unleashed an outpouring of emotions in an eventual 35-17 win.

ECU’s 1-4 start carried with it the most turnovers in the nation and the nation’s worst rush offense after five games, and there was plenty of looking in the mirror then, too.

Senior quarterback Dominique Davis, the team’s offensive centerpiece, became the face of the Pirates’ early-season misery, and admitted following Saturday night’s win over the Tigers that the team had likely been pressing too much to live up to last season’s hype.

After a 307-yard, four-touchdown game, Davis looked more like himself, as did the team around him. Davis utilized all of his main weapons in the pass
game, reserve running back Torrance Hunt came to the fore with a 98-yard game and the ECU defense overcame numerous injuries to limit the hosts to just 233 total yards and a single offensive touchdown late in the fourth quarter.

Though the Memphis win was a small building block in the Pirates’ grand scheme, it gave ECU a promising 2-1 record in Conference USA, which this weekend might have carried extra meaning.

The Big East Conference, which last week announced it would add as many as six new football teams to its league and to which ECU submitted a formal application in September, does not appear to have the Pirates in their plans. But with Big East blues came C-USA news.

The Mountain West and C-USA held a joint press conference last Friday to announce their intention to join forces in a league with 20 or more teams, a league that hopes to maintain its collective members and have an automatic qualifying bid in the Bowl Championship Series.

The Big East might never be a reality, but ECU — one of C-USA’s principal members — might still find BCS glory if it can do what it’s always done best, adapt to circumstance and overcome adversity.

The Pirates’ modern heyday has C-USA and divisional wins like Saturday’s at its heart. Most of the smiles in the last decade for ECU fans have been provided by teams that made winning league titles the cornerstone for better scheduling, recruiting and growth.

Beating a one-win Memphis team won’t count for much in the pages of ECU football lore, but a third C-USA crown in four years most certainly would. If the conference merger comes to fruition, ECU still stands a chance to enter it with a strut instead of a limp.

There might be no moral victories but there are morale victories, and Saturday’s was perhaps the biggest one of those in well over a year for East Carolina.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
There’s a new trend among college students called “stopping out.” Instead of taking on massive debt to pay for tuition, significant numbers of students are leaving school and taking multiple jobs instead, with the goal of saving enough money for another round of tuition.

Reading a news story about the hard time college students are having in these hard times, I was struck by the realization that I will not be able to hold my own college experience up as an example to which my children should aspire.

When my three daughters are finishing their degrees in the 2020s, they simply will not have had the options that I enjoyed way back during the roaring ’80s.

I do have one thing in common with today’s kids. After my first year of college, I stopped out and went to work, but it had more to do with good times than hard times.

I didn’t realize it, but times were really rosy during my first year of college. Reagan became president, gasoline was dirt-cheap and my father was paying my tuition and living expenses. Unhappy about having nothing to show for the checks he had written to the university, Dad encouraged me to stick with the program or find my own financing for any future coursework.

Four years later, I went back to college and began the long and difficult task of pulling up the dismal grade-point average I had earlier established. Financing the coursework myself was not nearly as difficult.

In addition to paying my own way at the university, I lived in an apartment and paid for my rent and living expenses. I did all of that without saving a dime toward college during my four-year stop-out.
Among college students working their way through college, I was luckier than most. I landed a job at a hospital stocking and delivering supplies for the medical staff.

I learned to identify all manner of health care products being used in that hospital. I also learned how to construct a perfectly balanced dart by stuffing a cotton-tipped applicator into an 18-gauge needle and fashioning a tail from Scotch tape.

When I left that job, I had two college degrees and the delicate skills necessary to nail an inflated rubber glove to a bulletin board from 20 feet.

I share that not to make the case for managed care — which did indeed eliminate jobs like the one I had — but simply to illustrate how much better things were when I was in college.

I did not major in economics, which is probably why I don’t understand how health care has become so much more expensive despite the belt tightening of the managed-care movement.

More importantly, I don’t understand how college tuition has become so expensive that kids today do not really have the option of working their way through.

Looking back, it’s clear to me that I squandered most of the money I earned during those four years that I stopped out of school. I should have been saving up for college — my children’s college.

Contact Mark Rutledge at mrutledge@reflector.com or 252-329-9575.
Oct. 17 — Brody School of Medicine adds two to staff
Monday, October 17, 2011
WorkWeek

Dr. Richard Garri and Dr. Jason Cillo, a pair of emergency medicine specialists, have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Garri joined the Department of Emergency Medicine as a clinical assistant professor. He has a medical degree from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in Bronx, N.Y., and completed residency training in emergency medicine at Bellevue Hospital Center/New York University Medical Center in New York City.

Cillo joined the department as a clinical assistant professor. He has a medical degree from the Medical College of Virginia and completed residency training in emergency medicine at the University of Pittsburgh.

Cillo and Garri are board-certified in emergency medicine. They each see patients in the emergency department at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.
Bubba Cunningham addresses the media as Chancellor Holden Thorp looks on at the Dean Smith Center in Chapel Hill on Friday, October 14, 2011.

UNC goes outside the 'family' for new AD

BY ROBBI PICKERAL - rpickeral@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL Under the shadow of an NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits and academic misconduct on the football team, the University of North Carolina has turned to an outsider to help calm its shaken athletic department while continuing to strive for on-the-field success.

Lawrence "Bubba" Cunningham, who was born in Michigan, raised in Florida and most recently has led Tulsa's 18-sport program, will become UNC's first athletic director without direct Tar Heel ties in 36 years. He vowed to continue to seek success in football.

"Through our conversations with the chancellor, we're all about excellence and we'll continue to find outstanding coaches who lead us to championships: BCS championships, national championships, ACC championships," Cunningham said, referring to an eventual replacement for the fired Butch Davis.
In searching for a successor for the retiring Dick Baddour, Chancellor Holden Thorp said after Friday's news conference that he wasn't set on an external candidate when the hiring process began seven weeks ago, but by choosing one, hoped that the athletics department will gain new perspective as it moves forward.

"He has been lots of different places, and he will bring ideas from his experiences at Notre Dame and his experiences at Ball State, his experiences at Tulsa," Thorp said. "I think that's also something that we need. When you hire an outsider at a great place, you're looking for somebody that will preserve what you have, but that will also bring some new ideas about how to change things."

The school has self-imposed two years of probation, vacated wins from the 2008 and 2009 football seasons and reduced scholarships by three in each of the next three seasons. But it still faces an October 28 meeting in Indianapolis with the NCAA's Committee on Infractions - which Cunningham does not plan to attend - that could eventually lead to further sanctions.

Fourteen football players missed at least one game and seven sat out the entire 2010 season in connection with the NCAA investigation into impermissible benefits given to players and into academic misconduct.

**UNC was on his radar**

Cunningham, one of three names forwarded to Thorp on Monday by a 13-member search committee, said UNC's troubles with the NCAA didn't impact his interest in the school. About 60 people applied for the job; 13 were interviewed.

"It's a blemish, but we will continue to work on the compliance area, ensure to the best of our ability that those things don't happen in the future," Cunningham said. "But it does happen occasionally. It's unfortunate when it does. It's kind of a part of life unfortunately. But you have to learn from those mistakes and make sure we don't make those going forward."

Cunningham has been Tulsa's athletics director since 2005 and previously served three years as athletics director at Ball State. He has overseen a $25.1 million renovation of Tulsa's football stadium and presided over a program with 34 Conference USA titles since he took over.

Before he was hired at Ball State, he spent 15 years in the athletic department at Notre Dame, his alma mater. He began as an intern and worked his way up to an associate athletic director position. But
Cunningham, 49, said Chapel Hill has been on his radar since he attended a professional development seminar, and met Baddour here, roughly 20 years ago.

"I just couldn't get Dickie to retire," he quipped, making Baddour, who was at the news conference and recommended him for the job, smile.

Once Baddour announced his intention in July to retire early amid the unfolding NCAA probe, search committee chair Lowry Caudill said the most important factors in UNC's next AD were understanding economics of running the program, knowing how to hire coaches, and having a knowledge of compliance.

"But we also looked at the fit," Caudill said. "And I've heard Dickie [Baddour] say this for years, and I agree completely: At Carolina, it's about the 'what,' but it's also about the 'how.' And the 'how' is so critical, and that's the fit. ... Bubba just had the fit."

**A communicator**

Cunningham described himself as open and involved. "I try to communicate well, I'm very informal. I try to be around a lot," he said.

Cunningham, who will begin his new job Nov. 14, will inherit a 28-sport department that is considered one of the flagship programs in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

The men's basketball team is a Final Four favorite. The football team, meanwhile stands at 5-1, although Cunningham's first major decision will be hiring a new football coach after the abrupt firing of Butch Davis in July.

He met interim football coach Everett Withers on Friday morning and said he'd be watching how the former defensive coordinator does while he finishes his duties at Tulsa.

"Obviously we need a fulltime coach at some point, Cunningham said.

"...So my charge in the next few months will be to analyze the program, make a decision on where we are and then what's the best for us going forward to meet all the dreams and ambition.

" In the meantime, our No. 1 priority is to ensure that any kind of coaching discussion is not a distraction, that the student-athlete experience for those 100 kids that are pouring it out there every weekend, that it's an outstanding experience."
Asked if Cunningham might make an immediate move, Thorp said they hadn't discussed it, but "I would be surprised if we indicated we were doing anything one way or another until after the Duke game [on Nov. 26]."

'A different perspective'

Later on Friday, Cunningham was introduced by Thorp to a roomful of professors at UNC's Faculty Council meeting. He gave brief remarks and spoke of his family's commitment to education.

"I think he made a good impression," said Joe Ferrell, professor of public law and government and secretary of the faculty.

Cunningham, a married father of four, will be paid a base salary of $525,000 per year, with a $40,000 expense allowance, through June 30, 2017. He will also earn bonuses if the football team is invited to a bowl game, the men's or women's basketball team is invited to the NCAA tournament, or the average Academic Progress Rate for all the University's varsity sports teams equals or exceeds 975.

And although he doesn't hail from the Tar Heel state, Cunningham is already trying to fit in. He didn't have to buy the light blue tie that he wore for his news conference; that was already in his closet. When his family arrived in town late Thursday night, they dined at Time-Out, a popular late-night eatery on Franklin Street.

"He'll bring a different perspective, because he does come from the outside," Caudill said. "That should be a plus. But that was not a requirement [of hiring him]. ... We've got some great successes here of people that have come in from the outside; I think we had a basketball coach in 1961 that wasn't from Carolina that did pretty well here. ... Once they get here, their blood becomes as light blue as the rest of us."

Staff writer Jane Stancill contributed
Pickeral: 919-829-8944

Lawrence Richard Cunningham


Family: Wife Tina, children Matthew, Sarah, John and Michael.

Background: Tulsa athletic director since November, 2005; Ball State athletic director 2002-'05; Notre Dame assistant AD '93-'01.

Alma mater: Notre Dame ('84), member of school golf team.
Facts

1. **Football coaching hire:** It’s possible interim head coach Everett Withers could win so many games that the decision becomes relatively simple. If not – or if Cunningham wants his own person – the decision will largely define the new AD’s career. Whether it’s Withers or someone else, Cunningham has to make 100 percent certain that the transgressions of the past few years aren’t repeated.

2. **Fence mending:** The pro and anti Butch Davis factions need to be united. But the academic scandal and player/agents dealings have damaged the school’s image in general and the football program specifically. The faculty hasn’t been overly critical, but there are probably some skeptics in the fold.

3. **Finances:** With a 28-sport operation, 850 athletes and an $11.6 annual sports scholarship bill, UNC is in the financial fast lane of college athletics. A recent proposal for a $90 annual increase in student athletic fees has been reduced to $45. If passed by a student government committee, the annual fee for students will be $319.50. But departing AD Dick Baddour thinks a major tuition hike is coming in 2012-13.

4. **Basketball balance:** For better or worse, football has hogged the headlines for more than a year, but basketball is still the undisputed king of UNC sports. Cunningham will need to develop and maintain a close friendship with Roy Williams to keep true harmony in the department.

5. **Realignment, expansion:** There’s no reason to assume the framework and foundation of college athletics will stabilize. Conference shuffling is likely to continue long into the future. The ACC isn’t immune to fragmentation. Cunningham, like all ADs, will have to be prepared to keep UNC in the best place possible.

– Caulton Tudor
What does a college education really cost?

BY CANDICE CHOI AND JUSTIN POPE - Associated Press

NEW YORK Students checking out colleges this fall shouldn't rule out any options based on price alone.

The tuition and fees that schools publish online are often far more than what families end up paying. The problem is that the true cost of attendance - after subtracting federal, state and school grants - isn't always clear until students receive their financial aid award letters.

But starting Oct. 29, colleges are required to provide "net price calculators" on their websites. Many already have them up and running. These will give families a better sense, early on, of what their actual costs would be for that particular year. This is expected to help students get more accurate assessments of the range of schools within their reach.

"The sticker price is what people look at, but it's not a good indicator of what your cost is going to be," says Laura Asher, president of the Institute for College Access & Success, which advocates for more affordable education. "Sometimes you'll end up with a better deal at a school that looks more expensive on the surface."
At private colleges, which tend to have bigger endowments from which they can provide aid, the average published cost for tuition and fees is $37,000. But that figure drops to $21,000 after factoring in grant aid, according to the College Board, which tracks trends in education pricing.

At public schools, the average published total for tuition and fees of $16,000 drops to $10,000 when factoring in grant aid.

But the net price calculators are far from perfect and aren't always as straightforward as one might expect. Complexity varies from school to school, but most should take 10 to 20 minutes.

Aid administrators predict the calculators will be very accurate for what they call "Ozzie and Harriet" families - with two parents and fairly straightforward finances. But most families aren't "Ozzie and Harriet," and the calculators won't capture all the nuances that can affect an aid package.

In particular, the varying ways colleges treat assets from divorced parents is a big factor that the calculators may not capture, as is merit aid. Some colleges will ask questions about grades and test-scores and include potential merit scholarship money when they give aid estimates. But calculators likely won't reflect the full range of more focused merit scholarships that might be available - say, if money is set aside for jugglers or violinists.

The College Board, which operates the SAT, has helped some 300 colleges set up their price calculators. Students who enter their data for one such college can then use the price calculators on any school using the College Board system without having to re-enter it.

Here are a few key points to note before you get started:

**What you'll need**

To start, it's important to understand exactly what "net price" entails.

This is defined as the total cost of attendance - including books, room and board - after the total estimated grant aid that a particular student would receive from the school, the state and the federal government.

But schools are given a lot of leeway in how they arrive at this figure, so the calculators can vary significantly in how much financial information they'll require.

The U.S. Department of Education provides a fairly simple template that asks just 10 questions. But schools can use their own or other outside calculators that require more detailed information.
The schools' use of the College Board calculators is much more involved. It takes students through a five-page survey that asks for information such as dividend income, contributions to retirement plans, home values and tax deductions.

"For better and worse, there's no limit to what schools can add," Asher says. But even with the more intricate calculators, families shouldn't have problems answering the questions as long as they have copies of their most recent tax forms. As involved as the process may sound, keep in mind that this is information that will be needed eventually anyway for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Also note that the calculators are designed to give estimates; they can't accurately predict costs to the dollar.

"These calculators are good for determining whether a school is inside or outside the ballpark, but not distinguishing between home plate and centerfield," says Mark Kantrowitz, publisher of Finaid .org , which tracks the financial aid industry.

It's also important to note that the aid a school provides in the first year isn't necessarily guaranteed in subsequent years, even if a student's financial situation doesn't change.

**Where to look**

If the net price calculator isn't immediately available on a school's homepage, look under the "Financial Aid" section, which is usually under an "Admissions." Note that the calculator also may be listed under a different name, such as "financial aid estimator." Remember that schools aren't required to post their calculators until later this month. If you don't see it right now, check back in a few weeks.

Once you've located the calculator and entered all your information, you also want to be sure that you're looking at the right figure.

Some schools may also provide a figure called "out-of-pocket cost" or "remaining cost." Don't be confused; this is the cost after the school factors in projected income from work and loans.

For example, a study by the Institute for College Access & Success last spring found that one school subtracted more than $33,000 in "loans or work study" to give students an "upfront cost" of zero. This gives "an illusion of affordability" and may lead students and families to think they'll have no out-of-pocket costs, the study noted.
These figures also may combine federal and private loans into one lump sum, even though their interest rates and terms can vary significantly.

Even if the calculator spits out a net price that's slightly out of your reach, don't be discouraged. The calculator might not have taken into account special circumstances, such as recent unemployment or academic achievements, that could qualify a student for more aid.

"If you see a number that's on the margin, call the financial aid office to continue the conversation," Asher says. "The purpose is to provide an estimate. It's personalized but not precise."
The NCAA plans to fight in court to prevent North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine Marshall from obtaining records related to the investigation of the University of North Carolina football program.

On Wednesday, the Secretary of State filed papers seeking an order from a Wake County Superior Court judge to compel the NCAA to turn over documents. In its own investigation, the Secretary of State is seeking transcripts of interviews, an unredacted version of the NCAA's Notice of Allegations, and other documents.

In court papers, the Secretary of State's office suggested that the NCAA advocated for states to pass the Uniform Athlete Agent Act to protect athletes but is ignoring the law's mandates.

In an email message, NCAA spokeswoman Stacey Osburn wrote that the NCAA is disappointed with the Secretary of State's action.

"This came as a surprise to us," Osburn wrote. "We were under the misimpression that we had a cooperative relationship with the office. To be
clear, the NCAA has no objection to assisting with the lawful prosecution of agents that run afoul of the UAAA. In fact, we have spent considerable time and energy to assist various state agencies, including the North Carolina Secretary of State, in such prosecutions."

Osburn also wrote that the Secretary of State is asserting powers beyond those granted by the courts and creating an unnecessary dispute between the courts of North Carolina and the courts of Indiana.

Earlier in the investigation, the Secretary of State's office did acquire documents in the case through a subpoena in the Indiana courts.

"We find it inappropriate and contrary to settled law that the Secretary of State would issue a subpoena without going through an entity of proper jurisdiction, in this case the Indiana Secretary of State," Osburn wrote. "We also find it odd, as it has followed this exact procedure in the past. We are not sure of the Secretary of State's motives or agenda, but we plan to fight this action aggressively in court."

The Secretary of State's court filing says the NCAA refused to comply with a subpoena from North Carolina. The filing says that the NCAA's counsel stated that even if served a subpoena from Indiana, the NCAA would assert confidentiality and redact information from the records.

A Nov. 28 court date has been set to hear arguments from both parties.

North Carolina's version of the Universal Athlete Agent Act is designed to protect student-athletes' eligibility. It requires agents to register with the Secretary of State's office and prohibits them from offering anything of value to student-athletes until their eligibility is exhausted.

The NCAA's Notice of Allegations delivered in June charged UNC with nine major violations and said Tar Heels football players received $27,097.38 in impermissible benefits, with much of it coming from individuals the NCAA considers to be agents.

Fourteen players missed at least one game in 2010, and seven missed the entire season as a result of the investigation. Former associate head coach John Blake, who resigned after the 2010 season opener, stands accused of trying to market players to the late agent Gary Wichard in the Notice of Allegations.

UNC has self-imposed penalties, including two years of probation, vacating wins from the 2008 and 2009 seasons and cutting scholarships by three in each of the next three seasons.
The Committee on Infractions will rule on whether UNC will get additional penalties after UNC officials argue their case on Oct. 28 in Indianapolis.

Items subpoenaed by the Secretary of State include interviews with coaches, players, former Nebraska assistant Marvin Sanders and Todd Stewart, a friend of former UNC player Marvin Austin. The subpoena also requests Blake's credit report.

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