Dacia Gutridge, 9, writes down she liked most about the celebration of the National Day on Writing under the cupola at East Carolina University on Thursday. The Tar River Writing Project at East Carolina University hosted the event in which approximately 200 Pitt County Schools students participated in writing exercises on the campus of ECU. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

200 attend first ECU writing day
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Friday, October 21, 2011

For students, writing often means homework, due dates and tests. But for the 200 Pitt County students who attended Writing Day at East Carolina University on Thursday, writing became a world of freedom and expression.

“It’s going great; the kids seem really excited,” Will Banks, English professor and university writing program director, said. “Sometimes in school, writing is just one thing, but we’re showing them all the different kinds of writing.”

Students rotated through various activities like writing sessions, story sharing, panels with ECU faculty authors and a graffiti wall displaying writing as visual art. A gallery at Joyner Library showcased writing from ECU students past and present.

“I think it’s really fun. My favorite part was the graffiti wall,” W.H. Robinson Elementary fourth-grader Evan Harris said.

“I like writing. It gives you an exercise in how you think about things,” classmate Andrew Shepard said.
Coinciding with the National Day on Writing, Thursday’s event was hosted by the ECU Tar River Writing Project, which brings university and public school English teachers together to bridge the gap between high school and college writing curriculum. This is the group’s first observance of the National Day on Writing, something they hope will become an annual tradition.

“The message is to encourage kids to think about how writing is all around them in everything they do,” Banks said. “Not every child is going to college, but everyone needs to know how to communicate.”

Many schools, due to budget and testing, have reduced or abandoned creative writing, journalism and yearbook.

“Things that make writing fun are missing,” Banks said.

Fourth-grader Edrea Mills was excited to have written two pages on whatever she wanted.

“At school you usually have to write what the teacher tells you,” she said.

“I think it’s cool they have a holiday for writing,” said fourth-grader Emily Simoneaux, who likes to write stories and poems.

“I’d like to do more free writing,” she said.

Established in 2009 by the National Council of Teachers of English, the National Day on Writing celebrates composition in all forms — from stories, poems and letters to text messages, videos and audio recordings — and demonstrates how writing is a vital part of everyday life.

“The kids are definitely engaged. It’s given them more confidence that they can write about anything,” W.H. Robinson fourth-grade teacher Jennifer Andrews said.

Andrews’ class does research writing and weekly letters home to parents about what they’ve learned, but Thursday’s event “helped them see that writing is not just what you do in class. It brings what you learn in class out to the real world.”

Contact Jackie Drake at jdrake@reflector.com or 252-329-9567.
Two comments from a sworn deposition of a UNC-Chapel Hill official appear to show efforts by UNC to keep information from becoming public.

Amy Herman, UNC's associate athletic director for compliance, said in a Sept. 8 deposition she has been advised to avoid creating documents and that UNC officials have outside legal counsel handling documents regarding the school's football program on a secure NCAA website. Having lawyers who aren't UNC employees work with those documents could prevent public scrutiny of them.

Herman was deposed in a lawsuit in which a media coalition led by The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer is attempting to obtain documents relating to the NCAA's investigation of UNC's football program. Media coalition lawyer Amanda Martin aimed to learn what kind of documents existed for the media to examine under the North Carolina Public Records Act.

"Have you ever been advised to avoid creating documents?" Martin asked Herman, according to a transcript of the deposition released this week.

"Yes," Herman replied.

Her lawyers stopped the conversation when Herman was asked whether she had ever been advised by anyone other than legal counsel to avoid creating documents. After a discussion off the record, Herman's lawyers objected and instructed her not to answer that question.

"It is not unlawful to not create a public document," said Melissa Trippe of the North Carolina Department of Justice. "I mean, some would even say that that's actually good advice, to not create public documents. There's no requirement that public documents be created if you could pick up a phone and talk to somebody."

The conversation on that topic ended after that.

In a statement released Thursday, UNC Chancellor Holden Thorp said that from the beginning, the NCAA has made it abundantly clear that maintaining the confidentiality of its joint investigation with UNC was crucial.
"So I can understand exercising caution in what you put in a document," Thorp said. "But from a practical standpoint, that hasn't prevented the public from knowing the facts and the results of the NCAA investigation. We've released thousands of pages of documents, including the Notice of Allegations and our response."

In June, the NCAA charged UNC with nine alleged major violations involving cases of academic misconduct and improper benefits received by Tar Heel football players. University officials are scheduled to appear in front of the NCAA's Committee on Infractions on Oct. 28 in Indianapolis.

UNC School of Government Associate Dean Frayda S. Bluestein, whose areas of expertise include local government and public records, said she doesn't know whether it's common for public officials to be counseled to avoid creating documents.

Bluestein said that it is important for public officials to understand, for instance, that something discussed in an email becomes a public document, whereas a phone conversation does not.

"I think there's an important aspect of training people about what's public and what's not," Bluestein said.

Paul Parsons, dean and professor at the Elon University School of Communications, said he doesn't see any legal problems with Herman being advised not to create documents.

Parsons serves as a board member of the Coalition for Open Government, along with editors from The News & Observer and The Charlotte Observer.

"I'm not surprised it's a matter of practice," Parsons said. "It's a matter of practice I think is not in the best interests of open government."

Executives at media organizations were frustrated enough with their inability to obtain documents from UNC that they sued the university. In a May court order, Wake County Superior Court Judge Howard Manning Jr. granted the media the right to review parking tickets of football players and the complete phone records of coach Butch Davis, former associate head coach John Blake and athletic director Dick Baddour.

UNC had fought the release of those records, arguing that they were protected under federal student privacy laws. Manning disagreed but agreed with UNC that a third item in the lawsuit - the names, employment dates and salaries of athletic tutors - was protected and should remain private.
A fourth part of the lawsuit, in which the media sought the release of documents related to the investigation, has yet to be decided and led to the deposition of Herman. Her admission that she had been instructed not to create documents wasn't the only part of the deposition that could indicate an effort to escape public attention.

The NCAA has set up a secure website to house documents pertaining to the case. In the case of another NCAA investigation at Florida State, the media won the right to review documents stored at a similar secure website.

But UNC appears to have a way to prevent that from happening in this case.

Staff writer Anne Blythe and news researcher Teresa Leonard contributed to this report.

Tysiac: 919-829-8942
ECU dance students open SRAPAS show
By Kelley Kirk
The Daily Reflector
Friday, October 21, 2011

The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series continues with its one-night performances at 8 p.m. Tuesday with David Dorfman Dance.

But unlike other shows, East Carolina University students will take the stage first.

Twelve ECU dance majors will open the performance with an original work by Dorfman titled “A Funky Little Prelude.”

Two dancers from David Dorfman Dance came to ECU to hold an hourlong audition several weeks ago.

“By the end of the hour or so they had selected 12 dancers,” said Michael Crane. Crane is the Interim Associate Dean of Research, Marketing and Outreach at the College of Fine Arts and Communication.

The 12 dancers are mostly freshmen and sophomores.

“What a neat opportunity for them to have this chance,” Crane said.
After the audition, the ECU students spent the weekend learning “A Funky Little Prelude.”

“They basically lived and breathed this dance,” Crane said.

Teal Darkenwald, assistant professor in the School of Theatre and Dance, coached the group Wednesday night.


“Prophets of Funk” is the company’s newest project and mixes theater and dance in full-bodied, emotional and exuberant movement. The piece premiered in September 2010 at Vanderbilt University.

David Dorfman Dance was founded in 1985 and has performed throughout North and South America, Great Britian and Europe. Recently the company traveled to St. Petersburg and Kranoyarsk in Russia and Bytom and Cracow in Poland.

If you Go!
- **What:** David Dorfman Dance “Prophets of Funk”
- **When:** 8 p.m. Tuesday
- **Where:** Wright Auditorium
- **Cost:** $10-$30
- **Call:** 328-4788
- **Online:** www.ecuart.com
Smile and say “Stinky cheese!”

Letting the audience take pictures with the cast after a show is a tradition with East Carolina University’s Storybook Theatre. Kids who come up on stage in Wright Auditorium after tonight’s performance will have a chance to pose with a host of characters, from Cinderella and her stepsisters to Foxy Loxy, the Little Red Hen and Rumplestiltskin. All are part of “The Stinky Cheese Man: The Musical.”

The play, an adaptation of the best-selling children’s book, “Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales,” is the opening performance of ECU’s Family Fare series. The series, which is designed to introduce children to the theater, includes four performances:

- **“Stinky Cheese Man: The Musical,”** 7 p.m. today. In this whirlwind collection of wacky and whimsical wisecrackers, an array of the usual fairy tale suspects pal up to produce preposterous vignettes like “Cinderumplestiltskin or the Girl Who Really Blew It,” “The Other Frog Prince,” “The Really Ugly Duckling” and the malodorous “Stinky Cheese Man.” Kent Stephens’ adaptation and Gary Rue’s music remain true to the hit book by Jon Scieszka that received a Caldecott Honor. The production is designed to be appropriate for all ages. Audience members are invited to come dressed as their favorite fairy tale characters.

- **“Locomotion,”** 7 p.m. Jan. 13. Lonnie Collins Motion has so much energy that his nickname, “Locomotion,” is perfect. He’s seen a lot of sadness in his young life. But when he discovers a passion for writing poetry, Lonnie finally finds a way to express his feelings about his family, the fire that took his parents away, his little sister and his world. Award-winning novelist Jacqueline Woodson has turned her Coretta Scott King Honor Book into an inspiring play. The production, from Kennedy Center Theatre for Young Audiences on Tour, is designed to
show that something as simple as writing a poem can start a journey of growing up. It is recommended for ages 8 and older.

- **“ArcAttack,”** 7 p.m. March 9. Featured in 2010 on “America’s Got Talent,” ArcAttack is a theatrical show, a concert and a science fair on steroids. The crew of ArcAttack use their high tech wizardry to generate a truly “electrifying” performance. Two custom-engineered hand-built Tesla Coils throw out electrical arcs up to 12 feet long, each one acting as an instrument with a sound reminiscent of the early days of the synthesizer. A robotic drum set accompanies the spectacle, its high power LEDs flash bright colors with the stroke of each mechanically actuated stick, while ArcAttack’s six members churn out rhythmic instrumental melodies. Live instruments meet drum loops and samples to produce rock, electronica and indie with a splash of punk and a dash of metal served with a side of pop. During the show, the MC engages both the crowd and the Tesla Coils by walking through 500,000-volt sparks wearing a chain mail Faraday suit. This high power performance is suitable for all ages.

- **“The Secret Garden,”** 7 p.m. March 30. The performance tells the story of Mary Lennox, an orphan who struggles to restore harmony into the life of her afflicted cousin Colin. Based on Frances Hodgson Burnett’s classic book, the play won a distinguished play award from the American Alliance for Theatre and Education. It is designed for audiences ages 6 and older.

All performances are in Wright Auditorium. Advance tickets are $9 for adults and $6 for children and youth. All tickets at the door are $9. Season tickets are available for $30 for adults and $20 for students. Family passes, which include four tickets to each show, are $96. Call 328-4788 or visit www.ecu.edu/familyfare.

*ECU’s Storybook Theatre will present “Stinky Cheese Man: The Musical” at 2 p.m. Saturday at Turnage Theater, 150 W. Main St., Washington, N.C. Tickets are $12 for adults and $5 for children ages 12 and younger. Call 975-1711 or visit turnagetheater.com.*
RALEIGH B. Jayant Baliga's most important invention - a kind of switch for efficiently controlling the flow of electrical power - is obscure but nearly everywhere, and without it life would be really, really different.

The device, called an insulated gate bipolar transistor, can now be found in seemingly everything that uses or creates electricity, including household appliances, computers, cars, industrial and medical equipment, windmills and solar panels. It's particularly important in the construction of hybrid and electric vehicles, and is even used in the new compact fluorescent light bulbs and Boeing 787 Dreamliner.

It reduces energy use, and by some estimates has helped save trillions of dollars in electricity and kept vast amounts of climate-changing carbon out of the atmosphere.

President Barack Obama will recognize Baliga's achievements today in a ceremony at the White House when he presents the long-time N.C. State University professor with the nation's highest honor for technological advancements, the National Medal of Technology and Innovation. The
medal has been called America's Nobel Prize for innovation, and past winners include Apple Computer founders Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak and Microsoft founder Bill Gates.

It's no stretch that Baliga's name (pronounced Bal-IG'-uh) is joining theirs, said Tom Jahns, a professor in the electrical and computer engineering department at the University of Wisconsin who worked with Baliga at General Electric, where Baliga invented the IGBT.

"There are already huge amounts of energy savings because of this," Jahns said. "And if you imagine a world, as I do, with more and more hybrid and electric vehicles and ... alternative energy sources, the impact will become even greater."

An electrical background

Baliga, who holds more than 120 patents and has written 16 books and more than 500 scholarly articles, was born in Madras, India. Even as a child, he was steeped in electrical engineering because his father was one of India's pioneers in the field and played a key role in starting that nation's television and radio industries.

Baliga came to the United States for his graduate studies, and earned his master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering in the early 1970s from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. He wrote his thesis on a process that's now widely used in the production of light emitting diodes and lasers.

He then took at job with General Electric's Research Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y., where he worked for about 15 years, and in the late 1970s conceived the IGBT. He was not only smart enough to come up with the idea, but had the force of will required to champion it against skeptics who didn't think it would work, and lead a team that turned the invention into a practical device, Jahns said.

"He's a relatively mild-mannered man, not the kind to jump up and down and shout from the rooftops, but he's also self-confident and committed," Jahns said. "Despite the skepticism that reigned around him, he maintained a steady course, and just had the strength of will to move forward until the problems were solved."

Baliga came to NCSU in 1988 and is the founding director of the university's Power Semiconductor Research Center. Among other things, he is part of the NCSU team that's working with four other universities on a federally funded project to help develop a national "smart" power grid that
can better handle alternative energy sources and electric vehicles, and use sophisticated equipment to predict energy needs and deliver power more efficiently.

He is working on a new type of IGBT that would be particularly useful for that grid.

Baliga has remained a prolific inventor, earning about 50 of his patents at NCSU, and started four spinoff companies in the Triangle to pursue commercial applications. One has more than 40 employees. All were snapped up by a large company in 2009 that he's not allowed to identify under terms of the deal.

**Previous awards**

Baliga has won a long list of awards, including the UNC system's O. Max Gardner Award for the faculty member who has made the "greatest contribution to the welfare of the human race," and was named one of the Eight Heroes of the Semiconductor Revolution by Scientific American Magazine. The national medal, though, is especially thrilling, he said, and particularly exciting because the president will present it.

Despite wide use of the IGBT, Baliga isn't getting rich from it: GE owns the rights. He's not bitter, though, and said GE treated him extremely well, giving him a year off to pursue whatever he wished.

"Oh, let's not go there," he joked when asked about royalties. "Really though, I tell people I have to take satisfaction with the benefits for society that have come from it. Money is great, but if you have an amount that's sufficient, it's not the most important thing."

Price: 919-829-4526
N.C. State rally backs GLBT Center

BY THOMAS GOLDSMITH - tgoldsmith@newsobserver.com

RALEIGH Singing songs and carrying signs, hundreds of students gathered Thursday at the N.C. State University Brickyard to protest the recent vandalism of the campus office devoted to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered affairs.

The event came three days after a vandal or vandals spray-painted threats on the door and glass-encased billboard of the university's GLBT Center.

Purple paint was used to scrawl "Fags Burn" and "DIE" on the billboard just outside of the center offices at Harrelson Hall, a classroom and office complex that also is temporarily housing the offices of the Student Government Association. The messages were removed by Tuesday afternoon.

"That was one incident that has occurred that in no way affects the Wolfpack unity," said Harrison Do, 22, a senior from Raleigh.
Thursday's Ally Rally was the latest in a minimovement concerning gay issues on the Raleigh campus.

On Wednesday, the student government passed a resolution opposing a proposed amendment to the state Constitution that would ban same-sex marriage. The resolution passed two days after the vandalism, but it had been introduced in September.

Previously, the student government supported the message of acceptance by passing out T-shirts that read "I (heart) Diversity."

"All the events we have had in the last two weeks state to the community that we welcome everyone," said Do, a member of the Student Senate.

At Thursday's event, staff from the campus Department of Social Work and others set up a tent in the sunny courtyard to collect handwritten notes and other demonstrations of support for the GLBT community.

Sophomores Alex Anastasi and Alzebeth Roman, both 19, made specific plans to attend to show their disgust at the defacing of the organization's office.

"No one I know would tolerate this," said Anastasi, of Huntersville.

"There are a few that are filled with hate."

Jamarian Harris, office manager at the Department of Social Work, said the effort was past half-way to gathering 1,000 signatures in protest of the vandalism. From the highest officials on down, NCSU has presented a united front on the issue, Harris said.

"This is a united message that the university does not stand for hate," Harris said as she collected handwritten notes from students.

A brisk wind came up as officials of the center and NCSU Provost Warwick Arden addressed the crowd.

"The act that occurred on Monday night does not define us as an institution," Arden said to cheers from the crowd.

"What defines us as an institution is what you see around us now."

Do said he and NCSU colleagues are working to get other state-supported campuses to send messages to the General Assembly opposing the same-sex amendment.

"We are definitely trying to coordinate this throughout the state," Do said.

Goldsmith: 919-829-8929
The GLBT Center

The GLBT Center is a campus support and advocacy organization that tries to create a safe and inclusive campus life for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender students. The center is part of the campus Office for Institutional Equity and Diversity.

The center opened in spring 2008. A 2004 campus survey indicated 3.15 percent of the undergraduate students identified themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual, with 0.6 percent transgender.

Among graduate students, the numbers were slightly higher: 4.29 percent identified as gay, lesbian or bisexual, with 0.31 percent as transgender.
It's a modern version of the quest for "gold, God and glory" that drove explorers overseas in centuries past. For the last decade, American college presidents have been obsessed with expanding abroad - looking to tap new markets, spread the gospel of American higher education and leave a glamorous global legacy.

But like most empire-builders, they've found the reality on the ground more challenging than expected.

High-profile and expensive failures of Middle East branch campuses run by Michigan State and George Mason were a wake-up call. Suffolk University recently closed a campus in Senegal after concluding it would be cheaper just to bring the students to Boston. The University of Connecticut dropped plans for a campus in Dubai amid criticism of the United Arab Emirates' policies toward Israel. Plans for a University of Montana campus in China never panned out, and Singapore's government shut down a Johns Hopkins University biomedical research center.

Even elite schools still pushing forward, like Duke, Yale and New York University, have faced resistance from faculty concerned about finances, quality and whether host countries like China, Singapore and the UAE will uphold academic freedom.

The result: a new era of caution, particularly toward a model that once looked like the wave of the future. Some experts say branch campuses - where a U.S. university "plants a flag," operates its own campus and awards degrees in its own name - are falling from favor.

Instead, schools like UCLA and the Universities of Michigan and North Carolina have opted for more of a soft-power approach - a range of partnerships often starting on the departmental or school level where the home university is less invested but also offering an easier exit strategy if things go south.

In short, befitting the financially turbulent times, more akin to renting than owning.

"The gold rush mentality of the 2000s is over," said Jason Lane, a professor and co-director of the cross-border education research team at the State
University of New York-Albany. His data show 60 U.S. institutions with 83 overseas campuses in 39 countries. But the number of new international branch campuses peaked at 11 in 2008 - just before the financial crisis - and only four have opened since.

"We saw a leap-before-you-look mentality. Folks wanted to be first to enter the market," Lane said. Now, "there's a lot more caution from institutions about whether or not this is a worthwhile endeavor, and thinking about where they should go."

What isn't over is a commitment to internationalize, even at cash-strapped public universities. College presidents still punctuate their sentences with the word "global." An international presence is considered both noble public service and a valuable resource to students and researchers back home.

But beyond that, motivations vary. Some schools got into the overseas game for much the same reason a business would - hoping the huge global demand for higher education and the prestige of American universities will translate into new tuition revenue.

"What we do know is there is demand for Western education," said Ben Wildavsky, a senior scholar at the Kauffman Foundation. "It's really become the gold standard."

More prestigious universities were initially more reluctant to risk their reputations. But they were bombarded with proposals and eventually found some too good to resist.

When first approached by investors from the United Arab Emirates, NYU President John Sexton asked for a $50 million "earnest money" donation, just to show they were serious. They were, and wrote him a check. Now the government is covering all of NYU's costs there, including substantial student financial aid and airfare to fly in hundreds of student finalists for a candidates weekend.

What varies is the approach. One model is to operate a kind of branch of the home university itself (sometimes with local partners) and award degrees featuring at least some version of name of the home university. Advantages include control over finances and facilities. It's also a signal of ambition - that a school aims to play in a global league of super-universities whose reach isn't limited to a single campus or even continent.

Perhaps the most prominent example is Education City in Doha, Qatar, the now decade-old community of six U.S. branch campuses - Cornell Medical School, Texas A&M engineering, Northwestern journalism, and others. The
project has been by most accounts a modest success, though enrollments in most programs still top out in the low hundreds.

But when George Mason closed a Middle East campus 2009 and Michigan State in 2010, due partly to lack of demand, many U.S. universities got cold feet. Administrators realized they may have misjudged the market. It's true foreign students have proved they want to attend universities in the United States, and may even pay U.S.-sized tuition. But it doesn't necessarily follow they'll pay that much to attend branch campuses elsewhere.

"Many (branch campuses) are under-enrolled," said Phillip Altbach, a leading scholar of international higher education at Boston College. "If they're not under-enrolled, they may be enrolled by people who will not fit the standards at the home campus. That happens quite a lot. Are you going to damage your brand name?"

During the 1980s, 30 U.S. branch campuses opened in Japan. Only two remain. The countries that U.S. universities are now pushing into are even more complex, with challenges ranging from currency fluctuations to protecting the rights of gay students.

Another obstacle is persuading home-campus faculty to move overseas to teach (though NYU, which has offered bonuses of up to 75 percent, says it's had no trouble).

Universities can hire locals to teach, said Mark Tessler, vice provost for international affairs at the University of Michigan, which has widespread global partnerships but has avoided branches. "But if we're not really delivering the instruction, it's not really a Michigan education," he said.

Faculty have also objected to the partnerships between U.S. universities and authoritarian governments that branch campuses entail. They argue it's morally preferable to work across a lower level, directly with academics and universities. NYU Professor Andrew Ross says the university has failed to speak out against human rights abuses by its government partners in Abu Dhabi. Carnegie-Mellon's recently announced Rwanda campus will be paid for by the Rwandan government, whose human rights record has been attacked, and the African Development Bank.

That may be one reason "branch campus" has become something of a dirty word. Vanderbilt, facing some student criticism over negotiations to build an education school in Abu Dhabi, emphatically avoids using the term for the proposed arrangement. Carnegie-Mellon University does the same for its
Rwanda campus, even though it will be run by CMU and award CMU degrees.

Carnegie-Mellon says accreditation issues require it to call the arrangement an "additional campus," not a branch. Engineering dean Pradeep Khosla says he is comfortable with the Rwandan government's record and the partnership, and that such criticism misses the greater good.

"If there's one thing that part of the world needs right now, it is access to high-quality education," he said.

It's too early to say whether one model will win out. And in fact, the experiments don't fit neatly into categories.

Still, the divergent approaches are apparent in three pairs of elite, competitive and neighboring institutions.

No university has been more ambitious than NYU, which has already opened essentially a large outpost of itself in Abu Dhabi and plans something similar in China. (NYU also rejects the term "branch campus." It favors "portal campuses" of a globally networked university). The early results are impressive: In the second class of its new World Honors College, median SAT math and reading scores were 1,460 out of 1,600. Nearly 6,000 students applied for admission to just 195 slots. About 20 percent of students come from the United States.

But Columbia University, just over 100 blocks north, has gone a different route: opening essentially regional embassies in France, Jordan, India and China. The facilities coordinate activities there but aren't true branch campuses offering Columbia degrees.

Something similar has played out in Chicago, with Northwestern University opening a campus in Qatar and the University of Chicago generally favoring the "embassy" model.

In North Carolina, Duke University, which already has numerous global partnerships including a medical school in Singapore, will be flying its flag along with a local university over a new campus in Kunshan, China, scheduled for a delayed opening in 2013. The university says it will be a separate entity called Duke Kunshan University, though some faculty feel it raises many of the same issues as a branch campus. The nearby University of North Carolina, meanwhile, has purposefully steered clear of anything like a branch campus.
Duke's plans haven't gone as smoothly as hoped. Planning documents show the estimate for Duke's share of the initial costs has increased from $11 million to $37 million by 2016. (Duke's administration says only about one-quarter of that will be "new" expenses, factoring in ways the new campus will save money Duke currently has to spend in China on things like facility rentals).

Such amounts may be small change for elite universities, but "their brand, their reputation is hugely important to them," said Wildavsky. "A high-profile failure in a foreign country could be very damaging."

At Duke, the concern was, will the expansion compromise Duke's name? When the first proposal for a degree program emerged, faculty at Duke's Fuqua School of Business raised so many concerns that curriculum planners went back to the drawing boards. Administrators recently brought in three high-profile China experts, including former Harvard dean William Kirby, which appears to have assuaged some but not all worries.

"People just need to go in with their eyes wide open in terms of how hard this is," said Fuqua professor John Payne. "It's going to take more time and more resources than we probably initially expected to do it right."

Michael Schoenfeld, Duke's vice president for public affairs, says Duke's strategy is to partner with a Chinese city and university to create something none could create alone. Having a physical presence will help Duke capitalize on teaching and research opportunities that will emerge over the long run and "that you can't get through a rental facility or a hotel room."

"We're finding every day faculty and students and others who are coming up with interesting ideas and want to be a part of the enterprise," he said. "We never expected nor would we want it to be fully baked the day it starts."

Ron Strauss, UNC's executive associate provost and chief international officer, calls Duke "our good friend," the schools' epic basketball rivalry notwithstanding. But Duke's struggles to bring faculty on board validated his skepticism about establishing some version of the home school overseas. UNC, which has extensive partnerships in places like Ecuador and Malawi, considered a branch in the Middle East but rejected the idea.

"It was almost impossible to take the qualities we admire in Chapel Hill and our university and take them off the shelf and move them to the Persian Gulf and expect that they are going to be of the same character and value as they are in North Carolina," he said.
Branch campuses, he added, haven't proved they can endure, and can foment distrust about motives.

"To be blunt, Ivy League universities or private institutions that are building campuses abroad are not being charitable institutions," he said. "They are building branch campuses with the expectations that they will generate revenue and reputation."

Then he dropped what is a very bad word indeed among international educators, saying he's learned the need for "caution about replicating colonial structures in how we build universities."

Duke's Schoenfeld said the university isn't in this to make money. "This is an investment in the long-term future of the educational enterprise," he said.

Justin Pope covers higher education for The Associated Press. You can reach him at twitter.com/jnn-pope97
October 20, 2011

Privacy and Press Freedom Collide in University Case

By TAMAR LEWIN

It was bad enough for the University of Illinois when The Chicago Tribune’s 2009 series “Clout Goes to College” exposed the existence of a “clout list” that over five years gave hundreds of well-connected students an edge in admissions, and led to the resignations of the university president, the chancellor of the flagship Urbana-Champaign campus and most of the trustees.

But two years later, the university is still mired in litigation before the federal appeals court in Chicago, fighting the release of more documents the newspaper has asked for, including the names and addresses of the parents on the clout list. The university has turned over about 5,200 pages of documents to the newspaper. But in a separate state court proceeding, The Tribune is seeking the grade point averages and ACT scores of the students accepted from the clout list.

Those requests set off a shootout between the state’s freedom of information law and the federal privacy law for educational records.

The university, backed by the big guns of academia, argues that the federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or Ferpa, forbids disclosure of such information — and threatens the loss of federal financing if it hands over private records. Personal information about students is precisely what the federal privacy act was designed to protect, it said, raising the specter of a world in which students might be shamed by the public release of their academic credentials.

“If you give me the parents’ name and address, and identify the student’s sponsor, I can identify the student,” said Sam Skinner, a lawyer for the university. “Basically, what this comes down to is whether a student’s name, or sources that would reveal his name, are protected by Ferpa, and we believe Congress meant to protect students’ personalized information.”

Mr. Skinner said the university’s position is that anything anyone sends in about any applicant is a student record protected by the law.

But The Tribune, backed by media groups including The New York Times, argues that the documents are not education records under the federal law,
but rather records of questionable conduct, so the public’s right to know should prevail.

“When Governor Blagojevich calls the chancellor and says, ‘Admit this favored person,’ that’s not an admission record kept in someone’s file,” said James Klenk, a lawyer for The Tribune. “That’s something that should be disclosed to the public. We’re investigating public officials in their decision making. Some people were admitted not on their merits, while other people, on the merits, didn’t get those spots, and that’s wrong.”

A friend-of-the-court brief for the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press and the Student Press Law Center, joined by leading media organizations including The New York Times, said that all too often, the privacy act was abused.

“This case presents the increasingly familiar tale of a public university that, embarrassed by its own wrongdoing, cries ‘student privacy’ in an attempt to frustrate public disclosure of information reflecting unflatteringly on the conduct of the university’s administrators,” the brief said.

That same argument, it said, has been used before: by administrators at Florida State University seeking to conceal correspondence with the N.C.A.A. about preferential academic assistance for athletes; officials at Laramie County Community College in Wyoming trying to conceal a report about the college president’s behavior on an overseas trip; and those at the University of North Carolina trying to conceal records regarding an athlete parking ticket scandal.

Parents and university officials who used the clout list to bypass the merit-based application process, the brief said, “cannot now claim any reasonable right to privacy to cover their actions, as it is far outweighed by the newsworthiness of the scandal and the right of the public to hold accountable those responsible for perpetrating a fraud.”

Judge Joan B. Gottschall of Federal District Court, who heard The Tribune’s motion for a summary judgment in March, sided with the newspaper. She ruled that although Ferpa does provide penalties for releasing protected student information, it does not actually prohibit such releases because universities could choose to release the information and face the possible loss of federal money — hundreds of millions of dollars, in the case of the University of Illinois. That suggestion galvanized academia.

“The decision that came out of the district court has made institutions nervous, because the decision essentially put to the university the Hobson’s
Choice of declining or returning federal money, or violating a court order telling it to comply with the freedom of information law,” said Ada Meloy, general counsel of the American Council on Education, one of the groups that signed on to a friend-of-the-court brief backing the university. The Justice Department also filed a brief in support of the university.

But the threat of losing federal financing is an empty one in this case. At the oral argument before a three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, the judges referred to a letter from the Department of Education saying it had no plans to ask the university to forfeit its federal financing.

At oral arguments last month, the panel seemed inclined to accept the argument that there was a strong public interest in the records being sought. “They want to know, who are these families, what are their connections?” Judge Richard A. Posner said. “That’s legitimate, that’s important.”

But the judges sounded skeptical that they should be the ones deciding the case, given that the open-records law being invoked was an Illinois statute. “I don’t understand what this case is doing in federal court,” said Judge Frank H. Easterbrook, who asked for supplemental briefs on the jurisdiction question.

But one way or another — in one court or another — the question will have to be resolved.

“This is an honest disagreement between The Tribune and the university about what’s protected,” Mr. Skinner said.
How U-Va. newspaper editors who alleged plagiarism wound up in the hot seat, too

By Daniel de Vise

When editors of the Cavalier Daily discovered evidence of rampant plagiarism by a staff writer at the University of Virginia’s 121-year-old student newspaper last month, they dutifully reported it to their readers and removed the offending articles from the paper’s Web site.

They also contacted the university’s Honor Committee, made up of fellow students who enforce a tradition of academic integrity that is older, even, than the newspaper. At a campus as earnest as U-Va., it seemed the right thing to do.

But the editors soon found that they and the alleged plagiarist were pinned beneath the same wheels of justice.

Late Tuesday night, the month-long saga ended. The University Judiciary Committee — another student panel — cleared Jason Ally, editor in chief of the Cavalier Daily, of violating the university’s Standards of Conduct by publishing the Sept. 12 editorial that announced the journalistic sins.

Ally’s odyssey illustrates what can happen when the overheated rhetoric of student government yields real-life consequences. Self-governance is a cardinal rule for the students of U-Va., an institution founded by Thomas Jefferson and infused with his distinctive vision of democracy.

Both the university’s Honor Committee and Judiciary Committee wield adult-size powers. At various times in recent weeks, Ally, four other Cavalier Daily editors and the alleged plagiarist all faced potential expulsion. The student accused of plagiarism has not been identified by the paper or the Honor Committee.

“I would like to think that the students of the University of Virginia are capable of governing themselves,” said Ally, a 21-year-old senior from Burke. “But the way this one situation played out does leave me puzzled.”

A copy editor at the Cavalier Daily discovered the alleged plagiarism in early September while fact-checking an article not yet published. The fact-checker searched for a passage on Google, and among the results was an
article from a professional media outlet that included an identical passage. That triggered a broader review of the author’s work.

“It turned out that pretty much every single piece had been plagiarized,” said Andrew Seidman, a 21-year-old senior from Arlington County who is managing editor of the Cavalier Daily.

Passages had been copied verbatim from the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times and Wikipedia, among other sources, without attribution, the review found. The Cavalier Daily reported its findings in an article titled “Taking action” and credited to the publication’s five-person managing board.

Commercial newspapers are expected to identify plagiarists and even preserve their published articles, allowing the public to judge the situation. The Cavalier Daily editors chose to conceal both the author and his work. The reason: They had reported him to the Honor Committee, a panel that goes to great lengths to protect the identities of alleged offenders. “We took every possible step to conceal the identity of the author,” Ally said.

The Honor Committee did not agree. A few days after the Cavalier Daily published its findings, the student chairman of the Honor Committee filed charges against all five members of the newspaper’s managing board with the Judiciary Committee.

The Honor Committee is a group of 27 students that enforces the university’s honor system, one of the strictest in academia. The panel tries students who are accused of lying, cheating or stealing, provided the alleged incidents are of sufficient gravity to “erode the community of trust.” There is but one penalty: expulsion.

The Judiciary Committee is a separate group of 23 students charged with upholding the university’s Standards of Conduct, a specific list of transgressions that range from blocking traffic to physical assault.

Ann Marie McKenzie, who chairs the Honor Committee, said she thought that the editors violated confidentiality rules when they wrote that they had “reported the incidents to the Honor Committee.” In essence, the students were accused of violating the sanctity of a confidential proceeding merely by acknowledging its existence.

McKenzie, a 22-year-old senior from Centreville, declined to comment on the case.
McKenzie eventually dropped the charges against all of the editors except Ally.

The prosecution of Ally brought howls of protest from faculty members and former Cavalier Daily staffers. First Amendment activists condemned it as overzealous enforcement of federal privacy rules, a common criticism of universities.

The Honor Committee’s rules are rooted in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, a 1974 federal law that limits the release of student records. But that law doesn’t apply to the Cavalier Daily or to any other student newspaper, said Adam Goldstein, an attorney advocate at the Student Press Law Center, a nonprofit organization in Arlington.

Furthermore, the constitution of the U-Va. Judiciary Committee states that the group has no jurisdiction over student journalism. That, in the end, was what the committee decided.

“What fundamentally happened here was that the student editor got called before a judiciary committee for exercising his First Amendment rights,” Goldstein said. “It’s fine to give students governance, but they need to keep them within the limits of the Constitution.”

The adults who run the university “did not take sides or issue an opinion” in the case, said spokeswoman Carol Wood. “But we watched closely as the students worked through their differences,” she said. “Many of us believe that this has been a great example of our students exercising their student self-governance and leadership muscles in the best of ways.”

Ally, after more than a month caught up in the university’s judicial system, said that the Cavalier Daily’s editors will work to “further clarify” the student newspaper’s independence from those proceedings.

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