Nancy Ballard, wife of Chancellor Steve Ballard, studies an entry in the third annual Graduate Student Art and Design Exhibition on Tuesday. She served as this year’s exhibition juror. The artwork will be on display in the second floor gallery of Joyner Library through Dec. 18th. Student pieces include ceramics, illustrations, metals, paintings, photography, sculpture and textiles.

Army ROTC to hold Annual Patriot Run
ECU News Services
Sunday, October 24, 2010

The East Carolina University's Army ROTC “Pirate Battalion” will hold its third annual Patriot Run on Nov. 20, benefiting Fort Bragg's Survivor Outreach Services for the first time.

North Carolina-based restaurant chain Golden Corral has signed on as the run's title sponsor, Lt. Col. Eric Buller of ECU Army ROTC said.

The Patriot Run will begin at the Brook Valley Country Club clubhouse at 8:30 a.m. Walk-up registration will be at the clubhouse as well. The 5-mile race course winds through the Brook Valley neighborhood. A 1-mile fun run for kids also is planned.

In addition to adding a title sponsor the Patriot Run has changed its beneficiary from program supporting wounded warriors to Fort Bragg's Survivor Outreach Services. During the past two Patriot Run events, more than $10,000 has been raised for the Fort Bragg Wounded Warrior Battalion.

Fort Bragg's Survivor Outreach Services (SOS) advocates on behalf of the spouses and children of service members killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan and provides resources including support groups, newsletter, information briefs and social events.

“We made the decision to change the recipient of our fundraising for two reasons,” Buller said. “It was previously a wounded warrior run, and there are several fundraising groups
for wounded warriors. And last year we had several spouses and children of soldiers come to the run. Many of them ran in honor of or in memory of soldiers.”

He said as ECU Army ROTC staff members talked with the family members, they learned more about how important Fort Bragg's Survivor Outreach Services program is to that community.

“After talking to these family members, we were inspired,” Buller said. “The Survivor Outreach Services does a lot to help these families. So we decided to change our race's beneficiary over to the organization that supports them directly.”

All funds raised at Patriot Run will go to the SOS.

“We're hoping to reach 300 runners this year,” Buller said. “We had 230 last year, and that was an increase from 100 runners at the first race.”

Registration fees are $15 for students (a donation from ECU's Student Government Association helps make up the difference), $20 for advanced registration, and $25 on race day. T-shirts will be available for the first 300 registrants.

Participants also can make a donation to run in honor of someone, and that soldier's name will be posted on the Patriot Run's website.

Sponsors for the Patriot Run include Brook Valley Country Club, Grady White Boats, Physicians East, VFW Post 7032, Rob's Hydraulics, Columbo Kitchen Attorneys and Trade Wilco. The Patriot Run plans to have a booth with information on the SOS at the Nov. 6 football game against Navy, which has been designated as Military Appreciation Day.

For additional Information on sponsorship opportunities or to register for the race, visit www.patriotrun.com.

Upcoming Events:

Monday: Lily Tomlin, 7 p.m., Wright Auditorium. Award-winning actress and comedienne will perform as part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series. Ticketed event. Call 1-800-ECU-ARTS for information.


See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.
A winning season for the East Carolina University football program brings excitement and an economic boost to Pitt County.

The Pirates are well on the way to a winning season and wins over Tulsa and rival N.C. State are bringing people into Greenville by the droves for home games, local officials said.

Homecoming weekend brought an estimated $3.3 million into Pitt County as thousands of fans trekked into town for the game, said Debbie Vargas, of the Greenville Convention and Visitors Bureau.

“Traffic is heavier and hotel occupancy is up,” Vargas said. “We are seeing more two-night stays in hotels. Typically, when people are happier, they are more likely to go out and do things that stimulate the local economy.”

Vargas said each win brings more excitement and more money into Pitt County as the season continues.

Events surrounding games like Freeboot Friday in downtown Greenville also see a boost when the team is doing well.

Vargas said the first two Freeboot Friday events this year have had record attendance of about 4,000. The previous record was about 3,200, she said.

The addition of 7,000 seats to the stadium also has helped, she said. Home games have been at or near capacity so far, so the extra seats are selling.

A good season brings an obvious boost for local businesses, said Scott Senatore, of the Greenville-Pitt Chamber of Commerce.

“East Carolina football, when there is success, is great for the business community,” he said. “It gives the businesses something to look forward to, something to plan for and something to take advantage of.”
Senatore said a winning season can serve the county in invaluable and immeasurable ways as Greenville gets national exposure for big wins.

“It creates a tremendous amount of exposure for Greenville nationally,” Senatore said. “It is almost invaluable. I can't think of many other ways that we can create that positive exposure.”

It also creates a great exposure for the university, ECU spokesman John Durham said. “Athletics is always the front porch of the university and a winning season makes that an attractive front porch,” Durham said. “It increases the sense of drama and passion surrounding football.”

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Tragic bond ties Marshall to ECU

By Ronnie Woodward
The Daily Reflector
Monday, October 25, 2010

Marshall will take the field against East Carolina at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium today, nearly 40 years after a tragedy that has forever linked the two schools.

On Nov. 14, 1970, East Carolina used a late field goal to defeat the Thundering Herd 17-14 at Ficklen. As the team made the return trip to Huntington, W.Va., its plane crashed in bad weather, killing all 75 aboard, including team supporters and members of the press.

The Daily Reflector recently spoke to three people who were at the game and shared their memories of that fateful day — then ECU head coach Mike McGee, former ECU player Harold Robinson, who was injured but was on the sidelines, and then Reflector sports editor Woody Peele.

Here's the story of that day in their words:

Peele
“As far as the game was concerned, it was just a typical college football game. It was a really good game. It went back and forth, and East Carolina kicked a late field goal to win. Leaving the stadium, the (Marshall) bus passed by my wife and I, and she mentioned that the players looked like they had all just lost their best friends because they were down in the dumps. It was a tough game and a tough loss.”

Robinson
“They had a defensive back, and we jawed (at each other) all day. He intercepted a pass near the sideline and looked at me and said, ‘That one was for you.' I don't remember his name or his number, but I'll never forget his face. I'll always remember that for as long as I live.”

After the game, the men went about their usual postgame routines. Not long after, word of the crash began to spread.

Peele
“I went back to the office and started putting together the paper. The phone rang, and it was a radio station in the Huntington, W.Va., area and they asked me if the Marshall plane had left yet. I said that I'm sure it had because it had been about three hours since the game ended. That's when he told me that there had been a crash around the Marshall airport, and they thought it was the Marshall plane. I called the Kinston airport, and the guy that answered told me that they should have been arriving (in Huntington) about an hour ago. I called (the Huntington radio station) back, and they told me that they had confirmed it was the Marshall plane that crashed and everybody on it was killed.

“At that point, it threw me into the situation of having to get the paper together and then write a news story about the crash. I also had to get stuff out to The Associated Press, and I really didn't have time to think about what happened or what was going on because I had deadlines to meet. To a certain extent, it hadn't sunk in because everything was happening so fast, and I didn't have time for it to sink in. My initial reaction was to do my job. I had to get the news out, and I didn't have time to think about the consequences of what was going on.”

McGee
“I was at dinner with 10 or 15 people after the game, and my sports information director (John Montague) called me and told me there had been a crash, and the information seemed sketchy. I wanted to get information from The Associated Press or one of the wire services, so I jumped in the car and ran down to The Daily Reflector's office to read the reports. The thing I remember is when it was obvious there were no survivors. That's when I realized the enormity of the tragedy.

“About that time, I got a call from the (Greenville) Holiday Inn staff saying there were some (Marshall) parents who were staying the night and going to drive back the next day. I went with my team physician to the hotel. I introduced myself to some of the parents, and they were in a state of shock, as were we. I sat with the families and told them that we would keep them up to date with any information that we get.

“By then, we had assembled our coaching staff, and I told them that I wanted to get the team together for those who wanted to join in prayer.”

Robinson
“That was the (second) game we'd won (that season), and we were so happy, so we did what most college kids would do and we went downtown that night. We were at The Elbow Room having a great time and around 11 p.m., we saw on the television screen
that the Marshall plane had crashed. We didn't leave immediately because we didn't believe it, but when it came on the second time, everybody just left. We went to the dorm, and we knew Coach McGee would be there. I remember he was wearing a navy blue suit and wingtips, and he had a Bible in his hand. We were all sitting around on the floor, and he said, ‘Gentlemen, tonight part of your breed has perished.' Then he said we were going to leave the dorm, walk down to Wright Auditorium and have a memorial service for the Marshall team.”

The effects still linger today.

Peele
“I think it affected the players and the coaches more than it did the average citizen in Greenville. But I've always had a soft spot for Marshall ever since then. I think that weekend is something that you never forget, and it marks you for the rest of your life. I know I will never forget it because that night was just a horror story.”

Robinson

“I don't even know who we played that next week or if we won. I don't remember the practices or anything. The only thing that all of us could remember is that Saturday night after the Marshall game. You just couldn't get it out of your mind. That day is a day I will never forget.”

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1970 game recalled today

The emotional investment in certain football games can be so profound that entire seasons seem to ride on a single play.

Marshall and ECU, which meet in a somber anniversary game today at Greenville, are examples of what can happen after such games.

The Pirates, in Ruffin McNeill's first season as head coach, are 3-0 in Conference USA and 4-2 overall, including a desperation last-play touchdown pass for a 51-49 win over visiting Tulsa in the opening game.

The Herd, in John "Doc" Holliday's first season, is 0-2 in the league and 1-5 overall, largely as the result of a West Virginia touchdown with 12 seconds left in regulation of the season's second game.

The Mountaineers, ranked 23rd at the time, were down by 15 points in the fourth quarter but rallied to force overtime and finally won, 24-21.

Holliday, a former West Virginia linebacker and among the first staff hires made by Chuck Amato at N.C. State in 2000, was crushed. So were his players and a stadium full of Marshall fans in Huntington.

It was the 10th meeting between the two West Virginia schools, and Marshall was winless.

"It's unacceptable. ... We've got to come back and find a way to win," Holliday told reporters after the game.

But so far, the Herd has not been able to come back, and another loss today probably would doom Holliday to a losing record in his first season.

At the opposite extreme, ECU has used the fuel from the Tulsa game to exceed all expectations for McNeill's first season.
To some extent, all ECU-Marshall games commemorate the tragic air crash that will forever rate among history's worst sports disasters.

The game today is more so, however.

It was 40 seasons ago - the night of Nov. 14, 1970 - that the Marshall team plane crashed on approach near Huntington. All 75 aboard the chartered flight died.

Following the Pirates' 17-14 win in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium (then Ficklen), the Marshall team traveled by bus to Kinston, where the plane departed.

The 2006 movie "We Are Marshall" with actor Matthew McConaughey in the role of coach Jack Lengyel details the program's recovery that eventually led to NCAA I-AA national championships in 1992 and 1996.

That '92 title team was coached by former N.C. State quarterback Jim Donnan.

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The ECU College of Business has again earned top marks, ranking among the best U.S. business schools for the fourth year in a row, according to The Princeton Review.


The College of Business is described 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.

The Princeton Review compiled the information based on school-reported data and its surveys of 19,000 students attending the 300 business schools. The ranking lists and other data are available at www.PrincetonReview.com.

There are about 2,500 business schools in the United States.
Joyce Irene Middleton, associate professor of English at East Carolina University, has been invited by the Toni Morrison Society to write a scholarly essay for a festschrift in celebration of Morrison's 80th birthday.

A festschrift is a book of original contributions, compiled to honor a respected academic teacher and writer during his or her lifetime. Morrison, a Nobel laureate and Pulitzer Prize-winning author, will be honored at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., in February, when she will be presented with the festschrift. In the letter inviting Middleton to participate, Middleton is referred to as “respected Morrison scholar” and was asked to submit an essay about Morrison's contributions to creative writing or influence on literary criticism.

Middleton has published numerous essays and given many presentations at conferences on the topic of Morrison's writing, including works related to oral memory and literacy in Morrison's “Song of Solomon” and her cinematic, written expression in “Beloved.” Middleton also wrote the inaugural essay for the Toni Morrison Society's newsletter “Notes and Queries.” Middleton's essay, “Imagining Paradise,” focused on feminine expression, biblical literacy and feminine subtext in Morrison's seventh novel “Paradise.”

Middleton writes about significant links between Morrison's work, images and the cinematic interests of global filmmaking, including Morrison's re-writing of Aesop's fables as children's books. She is working on a book about film as a rhetorical text and a

In addition, Middleton serves as the director of the Ethnic Studies Program in the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences at ECU.

The program launched the campus Ethnic Studies Film Series this spring, which includes films that focus on language diversity.
A panel discussion, Contemporary Issues in Healing: Spirituality & Medicine, will be held 4-5:30 p.m. Thursday in the Evelyn Fike Laupus Exhibit Gallery on the fourth floor of East Carolina University's Laupus Library.

The program is being held in conjunction with the traveling exhibition of “Everyday Miracles: Medical Imagery in Ex-Votos,” devotional paintings centered on illness, healing and faith, on display in the gallery through Nov. 6.

Panelists from ECU will include Jelena Bogdanovic of the School of Art and Design, M. Saeed Dar and Gregory L. Hassler of the Brody School of Medicine, Hector Garza of the School of Theater and Dance, and Derek F. Mahar of the Religious Studies Program.

The poster exhibit of the ex-votos provides illustrations of how healing and faith have played a role in the lives of the faithful, and how prayer has been used to invoke the aid of saints as a means to heal the sick and end one's suffering.

Laupus Library is the first in North Carolina to host the exhibit, developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine. For more information, call 744-2219 or go to www.ecu.edu/laupuslibrary/events/everydaymiracles.cfm.
The North Carolina East District of Optimist International has elected Lou Anna Hardee as governor for 2010-11. Hardee was installed at the recent annual convention held in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and takes office this month.

The N.C. East District has 1,355 members in 34 clubs from Chapel Hill to the coast and the Virginia to South Carolina borders. An active member and committee chairwoman of the Optimist Club of Greenville, Hardee is former president, committee chair, and member of the Board of Directors of the Greenville Club. In 2008, she was named “Optimist of the Year.”

Prior to her election, she served as lieutenant governor of Zone Three, which has clubs in Greenville, Washington, Goldsboro, Morehead City and Cape Carteret.

Hardee, who has worked at East Carolina University since 1968, is an administrative staff member in the dean's office at the College of Education. She is married to Curtis L. Hardee and resides in Greenville. They have two sons and six grandchildren.

Optimist Clubs are dedicated to “Bringing Out the Best in Kids” and conduct positive service projects in communities aimed at providing a helping hand to youth to help empower young people to be the best that they can be.
You can’t live in the past but you can’t ever leave it completely behind either. That’s a good thing for the East Carolina football team, which turned back a few pages of its recent history to produce Saturday’s win over Marshall.

The Pirates veterans proved in their 37-10 shelling of the Thundering Herd that the lessons learned in their previous football lives haven’t left them entirely.

In fact, the players who carried out a typically rugged Conference USA East win might have been the teachers on Saturday, helping their pass-minded coaches to remember a three-peat in C-USA won’t come without a few grind-it-out divisional games.

Behind the fierce running power of Jonathan Williams and the battering blocks of fellow running back Giavanni Ruffin, the Pirates overcame a somewhat lackluster passing effort by pounding the football in a steady manner befitting some of the power teams of the Pirates’ recent past.

Despite the instant success for ECU’s new coaching staff, which includes an offensive coordinator with an insatiable appetite for non-stop pass plays, the cast of characters on the field succeeded on Saturday in taking down a monster it has helped to create the last few years.

The new Pirates are like a C-USA West Division team stuck on the wrong half of the league, but behind the 111-yard onslaught of Williams, ECU chiseled away at Marshall with an attack that produced nearly 200 yards on the ground.

It’s pretty hard to quietly manufacture 455 yards of offense the way the Pirates did against the Herd, but ECU did so without any major fireworks.

Williams’ 29-yard touchdown in the third quarter — which put the Pirates in the lead to stay — was the longest play from scrimmage of the game. Next in line behind that was
ECU quarterback Dominique Davis’ 26-yard sprint to the end zone early in the third quarter to extend the Pirate lead.
Fittingly, the Pirates will carry their unblemished 4-0 C-USA record to Florida to square off with a team that even better epitomizes winning in the East Division way in UCF. But it’s ECU’s title to defend.

In each of the last two seasons, the perfectly-willing-to-punt Pirates won games that often featured entire halves spent leveraging for field position. ECU’s two C-USA titles were both major defensive statements against high-flying pass teams from the West Division, teams much like the Pirates are now.

But ECU might hold the trump card for the third season in a row because of its reinvention. Saturday’s trench-style victory proved the Pirates are not a one-dimensional experiment in offensive production, but they might still be the league’s best team thanks to a proven chameleon ability to adapt to the prevailing conditions and overcome them.

The ECU future still holds C-USA regular season tilts against the Knights, UAB and West Division front-runner and big passer SMU. If the future holds anything beyond that for ECU, the Pirates might have to take at least one or two more trips down memory lane to get there.

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Judge candidate has deep local ties
By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector
Sunday, October 24, 2010

One of 13 candidates in a special election for a Court of Appeals seat has deep ties to the Greenville community.

Anne Middleton, an appellate attorney with the state Attorney General's office, is the daughter of the late Nancy Jenkins, Greenville's longtime mayor, the late David Middleton and the step-daughter of the late Leo Jenkins, a former East Carolina University chancellor.

She is competing in a special election to fill the appellate court seat left vacant when the U.S. Senate in August confirmed Judge James A. Wynn Jr. to the U.S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Middleton, 50, said she had thought about running for the appellate court but never pursued it because she felt uncomfortable running against a sitting judge. Wynn's departure presented a rare opportunity to seek an open seat.

“I'm the only candidate out of 13 who regularly practices before the Court of Appeals and who will, no matter what, will be in the Court of Appeals after November,” Middleton said.

Growing up in Greenville, Middleton said her mother encouraged her to be an involved citizen.

Middleton ran track, was a flute player in the band and student government president while attending J.H. Rose High School.

“It was an (ideal) experience, but I wasn't a cheerleader,” Middleton said.

“My mother kind of discouraged the cheerleading. She really wanted me to run for student body president. She thought that was what I should do; student governmental type things, community involvement, anything with decision-making was something my mother always encouraged.”

When Middleton graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill she moved to New York City, first to work as a paralegal then as a writer for the New York Times Magazine Group.

Middleton said she was contemplating law school, a career choice her mother encouraged.

“She always felt strongly that certain professions were noble professions,” Middleton said. Teaching was one such profession and so was the law.
Middleton was accepted to law school but life took a vicious turn. She was sexually assaulted and beaten by two strangers when she was 26 years old. The men were arrested.

One pleaded guilty and the other was found guilty by a jury. Middleton put her plans for law school on hold as she recovered from the attack. She volunteered at rape crisis centers. She spoke about her experiences, even appearing on “The Geraldo Rivera Show.” And there was the trial.

“I ended up going through the court system as a victim, as a prosecuting witness,” she said. “I saw a system that was very, very demanding on the victim. It also was very demanding on the defendant. It's demanding on everybody, but it's a beautiful system that we have.

“That really clarified for me that it was something I wanted to be a part of, that I felt I could make a contribution to make it as good as it could be,” she said. Middleton said she knows her background, along with her current position, might raise questions about her ability to fairly review cases involving convicted sex offenders. Middleton said she will be impartial.

“I feel very strongly that whatever your perspective is you can't let it color your decision,” she said.

Middleton returned to North Carolina and attended Wake Forest University School of Law. She graduated in 1995 and then joined the Pitt County District Attorney's Office. Two years later she joined the Attorney General's Office, first working in the revenue section and then moving to the appellate division where she works today as lead attorney for cases involving crimes against children and adult sexual offenses.

Middleton said while the assault shaped her, it doesn't define who she is and she won't let it define her decisions as a judge.

“I am the best qualified candidate because I have handled all these cases before the Court of Appeals,” she said. “I do provide this perspective because right now there is only one judge out of the 15 that has a prosecutorial or victim-oriented background,” she said. The other appellate court judges previously worked as defense attorneys or in civil law.

The state appellate court handles about 2,000 cases a year, reviewing decisions from both criminal and civil courts, district or superior. The only two issues that don't appear before the appellate court are death penalty and redistricting appeals. They go directly to the state Supreme Court.

“I love (appellate) work because it is very intellectually engaging,” Middleton said.

“I would enjoy being a judge because I would find it stimulating to learn about and make decisions about other areas of law I am not doing right now,” she said. “It's pretty daunting but every judge comes from different disciplines and different areas of the law.”
The appellate court is the error-correcting court, Middleton said. It never holds a trial, never hears from witnesses, she said. It reviews the trial to see if legal mistakes were made, depriving someone of a fair trial. This leaves no room for judicial activism, making law through a court ruling, Middleton said.

“The Supreme Court has told the appellate court its role isn't to make law but to follow the law,” she said.

“Our function is to decide controversies in fairness to the parties based on the facts of the law and not any kind of political consideration,” she said.

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Pirates adjust to Lebo's schedule

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector
Monday, October 25, 2010

Getting up at 7 or 7:30 in the morning for an 8 a.m. class is tough enough for most college students. Imagine rising at 5 a.m. for grueling physical workouts that begin at 6:45 and last nearly three hours.

That's what the East Carolina men's basketball team has been doing at least twice a week since practice started Oct. 15. It's almost certainly the earliest wake-up calls this group of Pirates has had during its time in Greenville, but coach Jeff Lebo, in his first season at ECU, said his players haven't complained — at least not to his face — or been late.

“We like to practice at different times to see how they respond to different things,” Lebo said after a recent practice. “It breaks up their day and gives them something different each day.

“We haven't had one late yet, knock on wood. ... The guys have responded pretty well to those (early sessions). I think as a player they don't particularly like it when it's time to get up, but they do like it when they get it finished.”

Junior Darrius Morrow, one of five players back this season who started at least 26 games in 2009-10, said he likes knocking practices out early.
The 6-foot-9 forward from Atlanta is also hoping that the hunger he and his teammates are showing in the preseason translates to victories once regular-season play begins Nov. 15.

“Everybody's been getting here about an hour early, like 5:45, take the floor about 6:05, 6:10,” said Morrow, who averaged 12.6 points and a team-high 6.5 rebounds per game last season. “Not one player complains about it. Everybody has the same goal. We just all want to be winners.”

Summer freeze?

Like most coaches across the country, Lebo did not like the news earlier this week concerning the possible rules changes regarding summer recruiting.
An ESPN.com report revealed last week that the Conference Commissioners Association has recommended the elimination of recruiting in the month of July. Summer recruiting is crucial for coaches, who visit camps, clinics and AAU tournaments during a pair of 10-day stretches in July.
The National Association of Basketball Coaches is adamantly opposed to the proposal, which would go into effect in 2012 if the NCAA Division I Board of Directors approves it.

“I'm really not for the elimination of July (recruiting),” Lebo said. “The way it's set up right now, I think it's vital for coaches to be able to get out in July and see kids. It's just so hard, for a head coach at least, to get out as much during the season.

“The other thing is, from a cost standpoint, it is much cheaper for us to go to Orlando (Fla.) in July and I can see 200 kids versus during the academic season, I may go to see one kid at a school who may not even work out.”

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Dr. Nathan Richards, associate professor at East Carolina University's Maritime Studies, is an expert in shipwrecks. He lectured Sunday afternoon at the Oriental History Museum's fifth anniversary observance at the Oriental Theater.

ORIENTAL — A man who knows shipwrecks along the North Carolina coast showed slides and video of the Steamer Oriental, at rest near Pea Island on the Outer Banks, telling and showing the audience that the Oriental’s boiler protrudes from the Atlantic.

Dr. Nathan Richards, an associate professor at East Carolina University, mentors students who are studying maritime archaeology. He took a group of students near Pea Island to study the Oriental, which is about 300 yards offshore and 30 feet below.

Richards said the students took underwater camera and video equipment to capture the hull, stern, and other parts of the steamer which was 218 feet long, 34 feet wide, 21 feet deep and weighing 1,202 tons.

Also known as the Boiler Wreck, she ran aground May 16, 1862. A storm blew the Oriental into sandbars, a common fate of ships wrecking along the Outer Banks.
The ship was on the way to Port Royal, S.C., carrying 30,000 letters, and on the way to care for recently freed slaves.

The ship’s passengers and crew survived.

Richards said the Oriental is an excellent ship for his students to study. While it was made of cast-iron, it does not rust as quickly as newer model steel vessels. He said that eventually the remains of the ship would rust away.

The ECU field school is the second-oldest in the nation, offering students a better learning experience. Shipwrecks along the Outer Banks were part of a summer project.

“The field school offers practical experience, education, and research,” Richards said.

Richards said the education for the students is expensive.

While his lecture included several other shipwrecks, the Oriental gave the community its name.

According to information at Oriental’s History Museum, the town of Smith’s Creek in Pamlico County was named for the Oriental in 1896, after Rebecca Midyette saw the ship’s name board in Dare County.

To know more about the museum contact museum@dockline.net.

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Letter: Rezoning bad for public health

Monday, October 25, 2010

A while back, I attended a City Council public hearing regarding a revision of the Greenville Horizons Planning document to pave the way for land currently zoned as “residential/mixed-use” to be rezoned into “commercial use.” Several residents were in opposition to rezoning as it will likely draw unsightly commercial interests (e.g., fast food), increase traffic, make biking and walking more dangerous and make it more difficult to access a new park.

I am opposed to the revision to allow rezoning. But first, some background information: Obesity is an underlying cause of heart disease, stroke and diabetes. Eastern North Carolina counties have the highest levels of obesity, heart disease and diabetes, which translate to lower quality of life, higher health care costs and economic losses as companies often look at area-level obesity rates before selecting new locations.

As an advocate for public health, four reasons I am opposed to the proposed revision are: (1) urban sprawl is linked to obesity; (2) proximity to fast food restaurants is linked to obesity; (3) Greenville is currently very sprawling; and (4) Greenville already has enough fast food restaurants.

As an ECU faculty member, two additional reasons I am opposed to the revision to allow rezoning are: (1) My students are typically health conscious and enjoy outdoor activities. It upsets me to think the rezoning would make it more dangerous for students to get out and be active. (2) I would like for more of these students to stay in Greenville upon graduation. Less traffic, better parks and pedestrian-friendly infrastructure will encourage students to stay in Greenville after graduation.

For these reasons and more, I urge City Council members toward deliberative democracy and smart growth, ultimately to decrease obesity, heart disease and diabetes, and to increase quality of life.

STEPHANIE JILCOTT
Simpson resident Juvencio Peralta has been selected to receive a state award for his work in human rights. Peralta will be awarded the 2010 International Human Rights Award from the Human Rights Coalition of North Carolina.

The award will be presented at a dinner at the N.C. State University Club on Dec. 9. “I was very surprised when I got the phone call,” Peralta said. “I'm grateful that the coalition is recognizing the work of those fighting for human rights.”

Peralta was nominated by a colleague at East Carolina University. Peralta, who has been advocating for human rights for more than 20 years, is the founder and president of the Association of Mexicans of North Carolina and has advised Mexican President Vicente Fox on education and health issues.

He has worked with other nations including El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to improve the quality of life for their citizens at home and in the United States, and helping to organize the annual Mexican and Latin American Leadership Summit in North Carolina, which focuses on the problems and challenges of Latin American immigrants. One of his goals is to get the U.S. government to sign a human rights resolution from the United Nations.

“I'm so grateful the coalition is putting attention on the human rights of immigrants,” Peralta said. “Violations happen every day, not just in immigrant communities. We need to talk about it more.”

Peralta was born in Veracruz, Mexico, and came to the United States at the age of 16. For 20-plus years he has worked to protect and advance the rights of immigrants, especially those from Latin American countries.

He has been a board member and leader of many organizations concerned with immigrant issues, including: National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities (vice president), Eastern North Carolina Latino Coalition Inc. (founder and president), Student Action with Farmworkers SAF (board member), and Southerners for Economic Justice (board member).
Volunteers work to clean up area
By Michael Abramowitz
The Daily Reflector
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Some vacant lots in west Greenville got a face-lift Saturday from volunteers who participated in the first Community Day project, sponsored by the Greenville Community Appearance Commission.

The volunteers met at the Greenville Police Department's Fifth Street substation, then teams were sent out to three locations in the neighborhood to clean out trash from the lots and replace it with plants and flowers. It was an opportunity to refresh the appearance of the neighborhood and make it unattractive for criminal elements, commission chairwoman Dana Coles said.

“It's an exciting program,” Coles said. “By filling in these lots with beautiful flowers and plants, we help make the community more attractive and make the residents feel more comfortable and secure about their children's safety. We often get a kind of human traffic in some of these lots that is not a safe environment for people.”

Coles and Community Development director Cori Hines were trying to find a way for the commission to make a big difference in the city. Hines had conducted a study that showed the vacant lots were unsafe environments, so they decided on the project as a way to directly involve citizens in the positive development of their neighborhoods, Coles said.

Their first effort did not attract as many volunteers from within the neighborhood as Coles would have liked, but she hopes future projects will draw more.
“A project like this gives residents an opportunity to make a difference in their own neighborhood and have a sense of community ownership,” Coles said. “The city has the ability to help, but the actual residents are the ones who will make the difference.”

Squadron Commander Bradley Butts and Cadet Cliff Selman, of the East Carolina University Air Force ROTC program, did turn out to volunteer Saturday. Cadets are required to perform community service, and Selman found this opportunity at the city's website.

“I thought it would be great to help the west Greenville community add some color to its landscape. I like the idea of helping those who need it most,” Selman said.

Funding for the project came from a federal Housing and Urban Development (HUD) grant to the city, Hines said.

“It was originally slated for another nonprofit organization, but that organization was unable to fulfill its commitment, so it was reallocated to this project,” Hines said. Hines said the city is trying to get more residents directly involved in volunteer projects, but acknowledged it is sometimes challenging.

“We set the example and hope that people will see us and be encouraged to get involved in their own neighborhood,” Hines said. “It's certainly our goal to instill in people a pride in their own neighborhoods.”

Greenville police officers rolled up their sleeves to dig the soil and plant flowers along with other volunteers. The project offered a value for them as well, Lt. Richard Allsbrook said.

“What you're seeing here today from these volunteers is ownership of the city,” Allsbrook said. “We want to make sure the community becomes crime-free, and this creates an environment that is conducive for that. The spirit of community and people working together, as well as the conversion of the lot's appearance, serve as a deterrent to criminals. This lot is no longer the kind of place where criminals will feel comfortable gathering.”

Coles and the commission believe the makeover also can contribute to the neighborhood's economic viability by enhancing the attractiveness of its available real estate property, she said.

“When people look for property to purchase, they will see its real potential as a nice place to live or operate a business,” Coles said.

Additional support for the Community Day project was provided by Greenville's Recreation and Parks, Public Works and Community Development departments.

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9571.
Duke student dies after fall on campus

DURHAM A Duke University student has died after an accidental fall on Friday.

Duke officials confirmed that Drew Everson, a senior from Tampa, Fla., died Sunday following a fall behind the East Union Building on Friday morning. An investigation so far indicates that his injuries were the result of an accidental fall.

Officials said further details about the accident would not be made public until their investigation is complete.

Everson's family members, including his brother A.J., who graduated from Duke in 2009, were with him at Duke Hospital when he died.

"Drew leaves behind many, many friends throughout the Duke community," Larry Moneta, the university's vice president for student affairs, wrote in a message to students. "It saddens me greatly to share such tragic news, and I hope we can all comfort each other as needed."

A political science major, Everson spent the past summer in New York working as an intern with Goldman Sachs. He was recently weighing job offers to pursue after graduation this spring. He was a member of Pi Kappa Phi and the Duke Debate Team and served as a line monitor for the Duke men's basketball program.

The university is planning a memorial service in Duke Chapel at noon Wednesday, followed by a reception in the Scharf Commons area adjacent to Cameron Indoor Stadium.
GREENSBORO — Elon University’s board of trustees on Friday approved establishing a physician assistant program.

The vote came during a meeting at Elon University School of Law. The master’s level program will be Elon’s sixth graduate program. Elon could enroll its first class in fall 2012 or spring 2013.

Elon administrators will spend coming months obtaining startup funds for the program and determining whether it will be offered near campus or in downtown Greensboro, said Dan Anderson, Elon’s director of university relations.

Startup costs are estimated at about $2 million, Anderson said, but that does not include facility costs. The university is considering sites in downtown Greensboro near the law school, although Anderson could not provide specifics late Friday afternoon.

Elon leaders previously had discussed with Guilford County officials possibly using the former Guilford Center building at 232 N. Edgeworth St. Elon also is considering housing the program in the former Smithfield Foods building on Haggard Avenue in Elon, which the university has purchased. Anderson said the university is submitting proposals to area civic and charitable foundations to help with startup costs.

He said university officials will decide within the next few months where the program will be located.

Elon has studied establishing a physician assistant program for two years. A feasibility committee looked into the issue, and three university committees recommended approval of the program to President Leo Lambert.
Physician assistants practice medicine under the supervision of physicians. The U.S. Department of Labor predicts employment for physician assistants will increase by 39 percent through 2018.

“We learned there is a rapidly growing demand for physician assistants, who are playing a crucial role in our nation’s changing health care system,” Steven House, Elon’s provost and vice president for academic affairs, said in a news release. “As we face a chronic shortage of doctors, physician assistants are essential to maintaining quality health services.”

Elon students would do clinical studies at Alamance Regional Medical Center in Burlington and at Moses Cone Health System, according to the university.

Elon joins Wake Forest, Duke, East Carolina, Methodist and Wingate universities in offering a physician assistant program.

Campbell University plans to enroll students in its program in fall 2011, and High Point University is establishing one as part of a new school of health sciences.

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A women's team tip for male athletes

CHAPEL HILL As a male, former athlete, I have watched an explosion of misdeeds by some college male athletes with dismay. We know that the majority of male college athletes are good students, role models and law-abiding. Yet it is shocking to see high-profile college male athletes with dismissals from school or sports teams for substance abuse, cheating or assault and robbery, occurring across the country.

What is really shocking though, are disparities between male and female college athletes. If you Google the term "player dismissed from team," most hits are male college athletes violating laws, particularly in the more commercialized sports of college football and basketball. Witness some headlines this year:

"Georgia football player booted off team after arrest on charges of DUI alcohol..."

"Oregon State University lineman dismissed after police found him naked and intoxicated..."

"Kansas player dismissed after arrest for attempted aggravated robbery..."

"University of Tulsa player dismissed for assaulting ex-girlfriend ..."

"University of Texas player dismissed after felony charges of Aggravated Robbery ..."

"South Carolina baseball player arrested for drinking in public, disorderly conduct and resisting arrest..."

"University of North Dakota hockey player dismissed after getting arrested for DUI..."
The list goes on for pages. One thing missing, however, is a list of female college athletes resisting arrest, hitting their boyfriends, robbing others or getting arrested for substance abuse. While some female athletes get dismissed, it is relatively rare.

Google the term "female player dismissed from team" and you see college women as victims of assaults by male athletes. The search term "male athlete DUI" has seven times more hits than "female athlete DUI."

No matter the terminology, a large disparity exists between the number of male college athletes breaking laws and getting dismissed versus female college athletes.

As a physician, when I see disparities, the first thing I want to do is to try and understand why they exist and if such outcomes can be prevented. College athletes spend thousands of hours playing sports that most hope to continue in college. Dismissal from a team brings shame to the team, athlete, family and friends. Dismissed athletes usually lose scholarships, may drop out of school and have suspect long-term futures.

Colleges educate all athletes about penalties for violating team and college rules, and most receive periodic drug testing. It is clear that education alone is insufficient.

Some argue that male college athletes mirror problems seen with male professional athletes. While superficially appealing, this is not supported by facts. A recent article notes that the 85 college football and basketball players arrested in 2010 were double the number of arrests of NFL and NBA athletes. Seventy arrested players played college football alone, suggesting it is partly in the number of players playing college football compared to other college sports. This does not account for lower dismissal rates of male college athletes in sports like golf and tennis.

Another option is to try and learn from female college athletes what may insulate most from actions their male counterparts frequently display. Speaking recently with a female college basketball player, I asked why women on the team rarely seemed to get in trouble, while the men flirted with danger. She said that her coach would (figuratively) kill them if they
got in trouble, yet I know that the men's coach has no tolerance for rule-breaking.

Then she said, "Well, we are told that that we must have different expectations, that we must rise and fall as a team."

We can also learn from female college athletes' academic success. Studies show that female student athletes have the highest graduation rates in college, better than the general student or even the female student body. The lowest graduation rates occur for men playing football and basketball. Male college athletes in these sports often become removed from academic ideals. Female college athletes appear to have a peer culture that promotes academic orientation and achievement.

Male college athletes and their teams can emulate their female counterparts about a strong team culture that places good moral conduct at the center of the playing field. It is time that these same athletes and teams emulate female athletes' academic expectations and achievements.

When colleges adopt innovative programs that are supported by athletes, coaches and administrators, male college athletes will no longer be arrested or dismissed from their teams at alarming rates, and disparities may disappear.

*Adam O. Goldstein, M.D., is a professor at the UNC School of Medicine.*
For-Profit Colleges Oppose Tighter Regulation in U.S.

By REBECCA APPEL

Part of a government plan to more closely regulate the for-profit education sector in the United States has been delayed, after an outcry from school supporters.

The U.S. Department of Education announced on Sept. 24 that it would move forward with most of its tighter regulations on the for-profit education sector, which are designed to protect students from misleading recruitment practices and from running up huge debts, among other issues.

Those regulations will go into effect on July 1, 2011, as planned. But some others, referred collectively to as the “gainful employment” proposal, have generated criticism from students, administrators and other supporters of for-profit education, particularly a provision that links federal aid to for-profit colleges to the levels of student debt that are incurred, along with the rates of student loan repayment.

The Department of Education received about 90,000 comments critiquing the proposed regulations in the 90 days following their announcement. After this response, the department has agreed to meet with representatives of for-profit schools and education advocacy groups on Nov. 4 and 5 at department headquarters in Washington. The finalized gainful employment rules will now be published in early 2011.

According to the regulations that are going forward, the department will now require that all for-profit secondary institutions be clear with prospective students about their historic rates of graduation and job placement, and the department will consider likely levels of student debt and prospective income upon graduation.
Currently in contention, however, is the proposal that would require any new program seeking federal aid to show that its training prepares students for occupations actually demanded in the industry in question.

“These schools — and their investors — benefit from billions of dollars in taxpayers subsidies, and, in return, taxpayers have a right to know that all of these programs are providing solid preparation for a job,” the U.S. education secretary, Arne Duncan, said in a July 23 statement.

Manny Rivera, the spokesman for the Apollo Group, the largest provider, by enrollment, of adult-education in the United States, which runs the University of Phoenix, said in a statement Apollo’s concern was that the regulations being proposed “could constrain students’ ability to choose the school or program best suited to their needs.”

Nicole Beattie, a student at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, agreed, explaining in a letter to the department that federal loans were necessary for her to obtain a college degree. She wrote that she worried that such loans could disappear if her “choice of a major doesn’t fit the Department of Education’s notion” of a path of study that will lead to a job.

Duncan M. Anderson, president and chief executive of Education Affiliates, a Maryland-based for-profit education company, said in a letter, “Neither the department nor employers should be able to control the new programs that a school may offer.”

According to Mr. Anderson, this will “prejudge the efficacy of and market for a new program” and is “likely to hinder innovation and growth.”

Other department proposals respond to concerns that for-profit schools knowingly enroll students who are likely to drop out or fail, burdening them with huge loans. The department says these regulations will heighten its ability to penalize institutions that have significantly misrepresented their programs to prospective students.

They will also crack down on loopholes like the “safe harbor” provisions, which effectively allowed schools to bypass legislation forbidding recruiter compensation per student enrolled.
According to the department, these and other practices have resulted in the matriculation of under-prepared and misinformed students. The new rules are intended to hold the for-profit education sector “accountable to protect students and taxpayers from abuse” Mr. Duncan said.

The Apollo Group, for its part, says it has already announced plans to bring the company in line with these elements of the department’s proposal. Apollo now intends to offer all prospective students the opportunity to complete a free, three-week, university orientation program, a not-for-credit course that will allow them to “try out” college risk-free. Moreover, it will no longer pay recruiters based on how many students they enroll.

“Apollo Group supports the Department’s efforts to enhance accountability within higher education, and we strive to play a leadership role in implementing student protections and transparently reporting the outcomes and achievements of our students,” Mr. Rivera said

Nevertheless, the proposed changes have shaken up the for-profit sector. Apollo Group Inc. withdrew its forecast for fiscal-year 2011 on Oct. 13. Its shares subsequently declined by 23 percent, to $38. As of Oct.22, Apollo stock was trading at $36.27. The company is predicting a 40 percent drop in enrollment for next year and says that it may be forced to raise tuition.

Several other education stocks, including Education Management, DeVry, Corinthian Colleges, ITT Educational Services, Career Education and Strayer Education, also reported double-digit declines, on Oct. 14.

Meanwhile, the Florida attorney general announced this week that it will investigate Kaplan (the education division of The Washington Post Co.) and four other for-profit institutions — Education Management’s Argosy Education Group, Education Affiliates’ MedVance Institute, Apollo Group’s University of Phoenix and Corinthian Colleges’ Everest College — for potential misrepresentation of financial aid, recruitment and accreditation practices.

The attorney general’s office has not stated whether additional schools might be investigated. The decision was prompted by an August report issued by the U.S. Government Accountability Office, as well as public complaints.