THE DAILY CLIPS

October 26, 2009

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

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The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
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East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481 FAX: 252-328-6300
Monday, October 26, 2009

East Carolina University last week named three of 10 sites where learning centers will be established by the dental school to provide access to care in underserved rural areas of eastern North Carolina.

For Pitt County, that welcome news is illustrative of the university’s growing mission to provide local solutions to regional problems. For all of North Carolina, the ECU dental school’s emergence shows that the state is committed to expanding health services to its citizens, even in the midst of an economic recession.

Residents of Elizabeth City, Ahoskie and Sylva are celebrating the news that they will host community service learning centers for the dental school. The school is scheduled to open in 2011 with its first 50 students. Fourth-year students will spend a year working at one of the community centers with a team of faculty and dental hygienists.

According Dr. James Hupp, dean of the dental school, the community service center model will be a first in dental education.

"From this moment on we are departing from the traditional path of dental education," Hupp said.

That departure can even be traced to 2002, when ECU began exploring the possibility of building a dental school in Greenville. In the same way that an underserved population led to the Brody School of Medicine, the dental school effort was prompted by a growing shortage of dentists.

The state remains below the national average in the number of dentists per 10,000 residents. By 2007, North Carolina had seen another 0.7 percent decline in the number of dentists per 10,000 residents. More that half the state's counties have three or fewer dentists per 10,000 residents, and four counties have no practicing dental professionals at all.

To address the problem, lawmakers approved the ECU dental school in partnership with an expanded dental school at UNC-Chapel Hill. Although budget constraints earlier this year shrunk ECU's request for the dental school's planning phase from $8 million to $3 million, school officials said the amount is enough to keep the school on schedule.

Last week’s announcement bears out that prediction and further solidifies ECU’s reputation as a dynamic and positive force for improving the lives of the residents whose tax dollars support its noble mission.

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ECU gets nearly $4 million in funding

By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, October 24, 2009

The University of North Carolina system has been awarded $135 million for various research projects across its 16 campuses with funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

East Carolina University has received nearly $4 million to fund a variety of programs from health care research to teacher instruction in the College of Education.

“All universities are welcoming this,” said Deirdre Mageean, vice chancellor for research and graduate studies at ECU. “This is a real opportunity for universities to get extra funding, and it will stimulate jobs and products.”

The UNC system has applied for more than $1 billion in grants associated with the stimulus.

UNC-Chapel Hill leads the state in funding approvals at $79 million. N.C. State has been awarded $23 million for various projects.

Mageean said UNC-Chapel Hill’s capacity for research has allowed it to get more funding than the other universities. The funds must be spent within two years and several government agencies are awarding funds for grants that were previously approved but lacked federal funding. With the stimulus funds, agencies are catching up, she said.

In general, funding is being approved for ongoing research rather than requests to begin new projects.

The majority of the grants have come from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, but other government agencies like the Department of Education and the Department of Defense also are funding university research proposals.

Because agencies have more funds readily available than usual, they are funding requests that they do not usually fund like bricks-and-mortar projects, Mageean said.

ECU attempted to get a grant of $10 million to finish the fourth floor of the East Carolina Heart Institute but the request was denied. A pending grant from the National Science Foundation would allow the university to finish the third and fifth floors of the science and technology building on campus.

Grant proposals are being submitted and approved weekly, so ECU officials are optimistic about funding for other projects.

Contact Josh Humphries at jhumphries@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9565.

Funding awarded

The UNC system has submitted $1.2 billion in proposals for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. About $135 million has been awarded across the 16 campuses. The figures below are in millions of dollars.

Proposals Awards

UNC Chapel Hill $615 $79
N.C. State $243 $23
UNC Wilmington $27 $17
UNC Charlotte $91 $6
East Carolina $78 $3.8

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Three family doctors join Brody School of Medicine

Dr. Qing Cao, Dr. Justin Edwards and Dr. Robert Ziegelmann have joined the Department of Family Medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group practice, ECU Physicians.

Cao joined the department’s geriatrics division as a clinical assistant professor. She is a graduate of Hubei Medical University in China and trained at Hubei Renmin Hospital there.

Cao completed a residency in family medicine and a fellowship in geriatrics at the Brody School of Medicine. She is board-certified in family medicine. Her clinical and research interests include palliative care, osteoporosis, diabetes, incontinence and falls prevention. She sees patients at the ECU geriatric clinic.

Edwards, a native of Goldsboro, joined the department as a clinical assistant professor. He has bachelor’s and medical degrees from ECU and also completed internship and residency training at ECU and Pitt County Memorial Hospital. Edwards is board-certified in family medicine.

Edwards’ interests are adolescent medicine, maternity care and teaching. He sees patients at the ECU Family Medicine Center.

Ziegelmann joined the department as a clinical assistant professor. He is returning to Greenville after working in an outpatient group practice in Grand Rapids, Mich. He has bachelor’s and medical degrees from the University of Michigan and completed residency training in family medicine at ECU and PCMH. Ziegelmann is board-certified in family medicine. His interests include preventive medicine, male health and minor office surgeries. He sees patients at ECU’s Firetower Medical Office.
Beau’s Buddies gather to fight cancer

By Michael Abramowitz  
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Hundreds of Greenville residents who share a common bond joined together at the Hilton Greenville on Sunday night to celebrate the second Beau’s Buddies Cancer Fund dinner and auction.

The event included a social and dinner, followed with entertainment by rising country singing star Heidi Newfield.

Considered the highlight of the evening was the live auction of gifts, jewelry, trips and specialty services donated by local contributors and sponsoring corporations.

The proceeds, along with donations raised throughout the year, will be used to provide a wide range of services and support for families who face the challenges of cancer and to advance cancer research in eastern North Carolina medical centers, board members said.

So far this year, Beau’s Buddies’ contributions have been used to purchase gas cards and Wal-Mart cards for adult and pediatric cancer patients with a financial need; three chemotherapy chairs and a set of special scales for East Carolina University’s Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center; DVD players and video discs for PCMH Children’s Hospital patients; a golf cart for the ECU Oncology clinic to transport kids who are unable to walk due to chemotherapy treatments; donations to the Children’s Miracle Network; and many other individual patient needs and care items, according to board member.

The organization draws its inspiration from the personal experiences of its members, all of whom have been touched either directly or indirectly, through a loved one or family member, by cancer, Dr. John Gibbs, a founding member of the board of directors, said.

Gibbs just completed a second battle with a rare form of cancer, mediastinal stage-II liposarcoma, after being originally diagnosed in 2006.

During his many hospitalizations and treatments, Gibbs personally learned the anguish that cancer patients and their families feel.

“I treated thousands of patients before, but now, when I look at the disease process after being a patient myself, I see that there is a medical aspect of treatment and a psychological and emotional aspect to treatment,” Gibbs said, pointing to his heart. “I’ve started to learn that the heart is as important as the medicine, particularly with a disease like cancer.”

Gibbs related his own desire to give up after contracting the disease twice.

“In many ways, a patient’s outlook affects his or her outcome, from direct results of treatments to whether they even want to continue with it,” he said.

When the members of Beau’s Buddies show that they care about the patient’s comfort, surroundings and families, with their services, resources and time, it can have a big effect, Gibbs said.

“I spent 50 days in the hospital over the last two years, with four surgeries, 31 radiation treatments and 11 rounds of chemotherapy,” Gibbs said. “I know for a fact that if a patient’s surroundings appear bleak, his future can seem bleak as well.”
Ben Parrott, a pharmaceutical sales representative and friend of Gibbs, also is a founding board member. He said the original idea was simply to host a small golf tournament.

Several people they spoke with suggested they expand the idea to include a dinner and auction. That idea grew further when they met Parham and Jennifer Stanley, Beau's parents.

Although Beau eventually lost his battle with cancer, the Stanleys stuck with the idea and with Parrott, Gibbs and others' help, the idea continued to grow, Parrott said.

"It's grown so much, with so many volunteers, a Web site, and more donations than we imagined, all of which we keep in eastern North Carolina," Parrott said. "The charitable heart of Greenville and its people has just been unbelievable."

Bryan Cooper, Gibbs' friend and the physician who diagnosed his cancer, recognized that this part of the state needed to begin to improve its cancer research and treatment capabilities to reach the same level that the East Carolina Heart Institute has delivered to Greenville, he said.

"We need a pediatric bone marrow unit, a dedicated children's hospital cancer center, and other additions to our services," Cooper said.

The physician said that despite the year's economic recession and its impact on this area, he feels very positive about the continued growth of Beau's Buddies' fundraising efforts.

"The support of the people who live here is incredible. We have a dedicated group and we expect to continue growing," Cooper said.

Board members Blair and John VanCoutren said they were in awe of the people of Greenville for the support they've shown for Beau's Buddies during the economic downturn.

"It shows that everyone here still knows what's important," Blair VanCoutren said. "With the drive and energy that these people have, there's no telling what we will accomplish for many years to come."

Contact Michael Abramowitz at mabramowitz@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9571.

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Two ECU students receive David Hardee scholarships

ECU News Services

Saturday, October 24, 2009

East Carolina University students Ajiana Music and Emily Sinning were presented David W. Hardee Scholarships by the Mental Health Association of Pitt County. Dr. Susan McCammon and Cassandra Campbell, co-chairwomen of the scholarship committee, presented the $500 awards at a Sept. 30 luncheon for the recipients. McCammon is an ECU professor of psychology, and Campbell is director of social work for Pitt County Schools.

"It is with pleasure that the Mental Health Association of Pitt County can help two bright and highly capable students continue their studies toward becoming mental health professionals in their respective fields," McCammon said.

Music, a native of Bosnia who moved to Robersonville with her family when she was 14, is a doctoral student in the pediatric health psychology program. She holds a master's degree in psychology and has participated in numerous internships including the Brody Pediatric Outpatient Clinic, the Traumatic Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Injury Units at PCMH, and Greene County, Pitt County and Edgecombe county schools.

Sinning is a master's degree student in the School of Social Work. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, magna cum laude, in 2007. She has served as a Volunteer Crisis Counselor at REAL Crisis Center, is president of the ECU Graduate Association of Social Workers, spent a year in community development in New Zealand and was inducted in the National Scholars Honor Society in the spring of 2008.

The scholarship fund was established in 1963 in memory of David W. Hardee, a Pitt County native who was a tireless advocate for people experiencing mental illnesses and the first North Carolinian to serve on the board of directors of the National Association for Mental Health (now Mental Health America).
Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series presents Steinem on Nov. 7

ECU News Services

Saturday, October 24, 2009

Gloria Steinem, who for many is the face of the American feminism movement, will speak at East Carolina University in early November on her work for women's rights for more than three decades.

Steinem's lecture, "Reflections on Feminism: A Voyage of Discovery with Gloria Steinem," will be at 7 p.m. on Nov. 6 in Wright Auditorium and is the premier lecture of the Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

"Steinem's work for gender equality has significantly shaped the world in which we live," said Alan White, dean of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, which sponsors the lecture series. "Her passion for positive social change has also led her on a most meaningful personal voyage of discovery about which we are very excited to learn."

Steinem emerged as an important intellectual force and a prominent leader of the feminist movement in 1963 with an investigative report on how the women of Playboy were treated. Her report was made into the 1985 movie, "A Bunny's Tale."

Steinem co-founded New York magazine in the 1960s and later was founding editor and publisher of Ms. magazine.

In the 1970s, she became a leading figure of second-wave feminism in the women's rights movement. In 1971, along with other feminist leaders including Betty Friedan and U.S. Reps. Shirley Chisholm and Bella Abzug, Steinem founded the National Women's Political Caucus, a nonpartisan organization devoted to advancing women's causes.

Her influential ideas and writings have appeared in magazines and newspapers in the United States and abroad, and she is the author of gender boundary-breaking books such as "Moving Beyond Words: Age, Rage, Sex, Power, Money, Muscles, Revolution from Within" and "Outrageous Acts and Everyday Rebellion."

Steinem is a frequent guest commentator on radio and television, and she has been the subject of Lifetime and ABC biographical television documentaries. In 1993, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

"To have Gloria Steinem on campus affirms ECU's commitment to issues of equality and service," Cheryl Dudask-Wiggs, director of Harriot College's Women's Studies Program, said. "She has spent her life challenging all of us to make a difference, to be vehicles for social change; and her appearance here will spark a renewed discussion of feminism's role in that ongoing change."

Steinem's lecture is co-sponsored by the Women's Studies Program, the Department of English, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center, the ECU Chapter of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, the Student Advisory Board, the College of Education and the Harriot College Center for the Liberal Arts.

Complimentary tickets are available to ECU students, faculty and staff. Tickets for the general public are $10.

Tickets are available through the ECU Central Ticket Office by calling 328-4788, (800) ECU-ARTS or (voice/TTY) 328-4736. For more information, visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.

ECU sleep center
receives accreditation

The Sleep Disorders and Research Center of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University recently received program accreditation from the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

To receive a five-year accreditation, a sleep center must meet or exceed all standards for professional health care as designated by the AASM. The accreditation process involves detailed inspection of a center's facility and staff, including an evaluation of testing procedures, patient contacts and physician training. Additionally, the facility's goals must be clearly stated and include plans for positively affecting the quality of medical care in the community it serves.

Dr. Sunil Sharma, a pulmonary and critical care medicine specialist at ECU, directs the center inside Moye Medical Center at 521 Moye Blvd.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday and Friday: Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival performances will be held at 7 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. Friday in the A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Program includes Dmitri Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 1 in C Major, Op. 49, Maurice Ravel's String Quartet in F Major and Franz Schubert's String Quartet in D Minor, D. 810 “Death and the Maiden.” Ticketed event. Call: 328-4788.

Tuesday: “Sir Walter Raleigh: Renaissance Man” will be presented by Dr. Elliot Engel, 7 p.m., at Joyner Library. Free for Friends of Joyner members and $10 for others. Call 328-2711.

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

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Media taken to court

By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, October 25, 2009

Most media days for college athletic teams consist of a bunch of reporters gathering for a meal at a university and asking players and coaches questions either before or after everybody eats.

Saturday was not a typical media day at East Carolina.

Local sportswriters and radio and television personalities went through a mini-practice under the direction of ECU men's basketball coach Mack McCarthy and his staff to get a taste — albeit a brief one — of what the Pirates endure on a day-to-day basis.

Judging by the sweat dripping off their brows, noses and chins not long after the clinic got under way, the media types were probably surprised by just how tough the workouts can be.

"I've seen the thing that (ECU) football does with women, which is such a success," McCarthy said, referring to Pirate football coach Skip Holtz's ladies clinic. "Copying that was a consideration. We talked about maybe doing a clinic for donors, whether it be Mack's Mates or the Pirate Club or whatever.

"Then one day I was with (ECU Media Relations men's basketball contact) Jody (Jones) and we kicked around ideas and we said, 'Why don't we do this?'""

The media participants went through a stretching routine led by trainer Nathan Clark, then ran some full-court passing drills. That was enough to leave most huffing and puffing, but there was plenty more to come.

With ECU's players watching, and often laughing, on the sidelines, media members proceeded to do lane shifts, agility exercises during which the player’s feet are in constant motion as they shuffle to each corner of the lane, touch the floor, and return to the center with assistant coach Michael Perry conducting the action.

Next was the three-man weave layup drill, which assistant John Moseley oversaw. After finishing that exercise with varying success, assistant Larry Eppler had the participants take part in hawk shooting. Two sets of players lined up at each elbow of the lane and put up short jumpers, counting out their made shots and running to grab their own rebounds.

Once the print, radio and TV crew got to 20, McCarthy brought the session to an end before inviting the media representatives back to ECU's locker room for a question and answer session to discuss the Pirates' plan of attack and some Xs and Os.

"We did it on short notice," McCarthy said, "but I was tickled with the turnout and I think everybody that came had a good time."

While McCarthy declined to comment on the skill level, or lack thereof, displayed during the media clinic, East Carolina junior center Chad Wynn gave a very clear assessment of what he saw.

"Horrible," Wynn said. "Worse than bad."

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9591.

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David Moore of the N.C. Maritime Museum, in white cap, shows off an anchor from the shipwreck thought to be Blackbeard’s flagship, the Queen Anne’s Revenge, at the museum in Beaufort. The anchor then went to East Carolina University’s West Research Campus in Greenville. Divers pulled the 4.5-foot, 160-pound grapnel from the ocean Wednesday near Beaufort. It originally had four prongs but now has just one-and-a-half.
School's top pay outpaces growth

In June 2006, the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics' Board of Trustees approved $31,150 in raises for Chancellor Gerald Boarman for the upcoming fiscal year. The pay increases pushed Boarman's annual salary at the elite high school to $230,050 -- better than chancellors at six state universities in North Carolina.

Brock Winslow, a graduate of the school and former aide to Gov. Jim Hunt, was then the board's chairman. The next February, Boarman asked him to be the interim vice chancellor for institutional advancement, a job he won outright four months later. He is now making $105,000 annually.

Winslow said he had no idea that he would move to a six-figure school job when he helped increase Boarman's pay by 16 percent. But the boost in fortunes to both men fits a pattern of inside moves that has troubled critics and raised questions about the school's management costs.

In five years, the school's administrative costs grew nearly $1.1 million, or 46 percent, records show. That's faster than the 36 percent overall growth in the school's budget, and slightly more than the growth in academic costs during that time.

The school has added 70 students during that period, and 24 teachers. But it has added only two administrators. Much of the increased administrative expense is in pay raises.


A review of salaries shows that most administrators did not receive pay raises from 2002 through 2004, but many have received hefty pay increases since. Boarman's chief of staff, Mike Reidy, now makes $128,353, a 25 percent increase since 2004, while security director Harry Tucker's pay rose 37 percent from $57,000 to more than $78,000.

Those increases are greater than the 14 percent growth in the consumer price index over that period.

Critics say the growth in administrative costs is out of proportion for a school that enrolls roughly 670 students annually. They also say much of the money has been spent on an inner circle of administrators Boarman has hired in his nine years who are more interested in protecting his reputation than improving the school.

"What he's done to the school is criminal in my mind," said Carol O'Dell, a former faculty council chairwoman. Her teaching contract at the school was not renewed in 2005. She thinks she was let go because she regularly challenged Boarman.

O'Dell complained in writing to UNC administrators earlier this year about the administrative moves and costs.
Boarman and other school officials and faculty dismiss O'Dell as a malcontent with an ax to grind. But other former faculty, who say they left the school because they were troubled by Boarman's administrative moves, say O'Dell is raising valid issues.

"Eventually, I think [Boarman] formed an administration that was unified in carrying out his sense of the mission for the school -- or his construction of the academic mission of the school -- of which many of the faculty did not agree," said Lisa Nanney, a humanities instructor who left three years ago.

Among the disagreements: the move to a trimester calendar that offered students a wider variety of courses but, as many faculty contended, less instruction time on core requirements.

Boarman and his supporters say the criticisms are unfounded. He and they say he has hired quality people who have made the school better.

"Every one of those people not only have the qualifications, but they are far superior" to the job requirements, Boarman said.

A quarter of the school's 22 administrators have long-standing connections to Boarman or other school officials. Reidy and Tucker, for example, are among three administrators Boarman hired from the Eleanor Roosevelt High School in Maryland, where Boarman was a highly acclaimed principal. His communications director, Lauren Everhart, is a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt.

The school's legal counsel, Natasha Nazareth-Phelps, is the daughter-in-law of the science and math school's former distance learning director. Its internal auditor, Katie Collini, is the daughter of the school's counseling dean, Gail Hudson.

In some cases, it's not just who was hired that has riled critics. It's how.

In 2003, Boarman created the school's first deputy executive administrator position, and hired Reidy, by eliminating a position formerly held by the school's legal counsel. (At the time, the counsel also split duties as personnel manager.) Four years later, he reinstated the legal counsel position. Nazareth-Phelps, a former special needs coordinator at the school, makes more than $90,000 annually in the job.

Boarman hired Darlene Haught to run the school's distance learning program despite a lack of experience in the field. She is a former business teacher and media technology coordinator from Eleanor Roosevelt. She has since become a recognized expert.

Winslow said he was concerned about a possible conflict in his own shift from the Board of Trustees to the science and math school's administration. He sent a letter to the State Ethics Commission for its advice, but did not receive a reply.

'Faith ... was crushed'

Boarman and his staff also said the rise in administrative costs is not out of line. Overall, administrative costs accounted for 16.5 percent of the total budget in the 2003 academic year; last year they accounted for 17.7 percent.

One way the school, which is free to students, has added revenues is by increasing enrollment. The UNC system provides money to schools at roughly $27,000 per student.
Last year, Patrick Bohan of Asheville was one of those students. He was assigned to a windowless room, narrower than a prison cell. Since Bohan was among the last admitted, he had no choice but to take it or leave, a school administrator told him and his parents. They returned home to Asheville that day, demoralized.

"When you send your kid away to a boarding school, you are turning over a lot of the parenting responsibilities to the adults in charge," said his mother, Judith Bohan. "And our faith in their decision-making was crushed."

Bohan was one of three students that fall put in rooms the state fire marshal later said were little more than janitor's closets -- and violated habitable space regulations.

Boarman said placing students into the tiny, windowless rooms was not a money grab. The rooms kept him from having to turn away more students. Most, he said, did not complain. He closed the rooms after the fire marshal's report.

This year, the school, like nearly all of state government, is taking a budget hit. The school could see as much as a $2million cut from last year's $19.5million budget.

UNC system President Erskine Bowles and Shirley Frye, the chairwoman of the school's Board of Trustees, have read O'Dell's complaint, but they did not find many of the issues raised to be troubling. Both give Boarman good marks.

They say he has hired highly competent people, and that the school has improved under his administration.

"I am very, very pleased with the progress we are making," Frye said.

Bowles said he views Boarman's tenure as more a case of seeing the cup as "half full" rather than "half empty." He said the student-to-faculty ratio has decreased, while the number of prestigious UNC-Chapel Hill Morehead-Cain scholars has risen.

School records show a mixed bag during Boarman's nine years at the helm. Mean and median SAT scores dipped below 1300 in 2002 before climbing back to the mid-1300s. The number and percentage of national merit semifinalists has declined, but the number of students with high scores in advanced placement tests has increased.

A more troubling number to Bowles is the drop in African-American students. The school routinely enrolled 50 or more black students before Boarman arrived. During his tenure, the school has averaged 33 black students, even as the total enrollment has grown by 110 students. Boarman said that the downward trend began before he took the job and is a national problem not just confined to the science and math school.

Bowles said he did not support the big pay increases Boarman received over fiscal 2006-2007, just before the school came under UNC control. The raises came under a multiyear contract that tied Boarman's salary to that of chancellors and other senior academic officers in the UNC system's smaller universities.

School officials noted that Boarman could have received an additional $11,000 raise under those terms
during that fiscal year, but he declined it.

Bowles added that it is unlikely Boarman's pay will be increased in the near future. But Bowles said the administrative salaries are not out of line with the smallest UNC school, Elizabeth City State University.

O'Dell, the former faculty council chairwoman, said ECSU isn't a valid comparison. ECSU has more than 3,100 students, making it roughly five times the size of the science and math school.

News researchers DavidRaynor, LamaraWilliams andBrookeCain contributed tothisreport.

dkane@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4861
Easley pal faces board's questions

McQueen Campbell acknowledged earlier this year that he piloted former Gov. Mike Easley as a candidate, at times for free. But he would say little more about that.

Campbell also wouldn't provide evidence of why he received payments in 2005 from Easley's campaign account -- checks worth more than $11,000 that were cut to a Campbell-owned company well after Easley's re-election campaign. The listed purpose: travel.

And Campbell refused to reveal anything about his one-on-one talks with the governor.

"They were private conversations," Campbell said in a March interview.

But they could go public this week. Campbell is one of about 30 people issued a subpoena to appear at a state elections board hearing that opens Monday in downtown Raleigh. Campbell and his lawyer declined to comment, but the board has the authority to seek his testimony under oath as part of the inquiry.

Easley, a Democrat who left office in January, also will be called to speak publicly on concerns that have clouded his record as governor. Easley has previously denied any wrongdoing and said an elections board hearing was unnecessary.

Easley could decline to answer board members' questions. But the former prosecutor, attorney general and two-term governor would have to cite his constitutional right not to incriminate himself.

State elections chairman Larry Leake indicated that's not likely, saying he fully expects to hear from Easley during the hearing.

Other possible witnesses include a range of top-level Easley and state party donors, as well as staffers who were close to Easley while he was in office.

People who follow state government and politics are anticipating major drama as the inner workings of a high-level campaign come under formal scrutiny.

TV stations are planning to carry the proceedings live and The News & Observer will be streaming the hearing on the Internet. Elections officials are moving from their regular offices to the Clarion Hotel's ballroom to accommodate crowds.

"This is a spectacle to which all of North Carolina politics will be glued," said Gary Pearce, a longtime Democratic consultant. "We've never had a governor put in the dock and questioned like this."

At its core, the hearing will be focused on some typical campaign and election concerns: Did Easley and the party follow campaign finance laws on such things as contribution limits? Did they follow disclosure requirements? Did they adhere to the state's ban on corporate contributions?
Of all the witnesses, Campbell is one who would know plenty about the campaign and could shed new light on matters surrounding Easley, depending on how broad questioning by board members gets.

Campbell was one of the few people, beyond top Easley staff members, who enjoyed close access to Easley over a number of years, especially during campaign seasons.

And Campbell has said he did all he could for the governor, from flying him around to printing invitations for his fundraisers.

Records show Campbell made some donations to the state party that documents indicate were really for Easley travel, a possible violation of election rules. And Easley's campaign cut a $4,777 check to a Campbell aviation company in February 2005 as well as a $6,300 check in August that year.

Both checks were listed publicly by the Easley campaign as being for travel, but they were written long after campaign season was over and at a time Easley was using state-owned planes to get places.

Asked to provide invoices for those payments, Campbell has refused.

A man of many hats

Campbell's family, prominent and politically connected, has raised thousands for Easley's runs for office over the years, mostly from their base in Bladen County, about 80 miles south of Raleigh.

Campbell's father, Mac, was on the state Board of Transportation. His brother, Brian, has served on the state Aeronautics Council. Both were appointed by Easley.

McQueen Campbell is one of four brothers, and the only one who isn't involved daily in the family's bulk-oil distribution business. His mother is the mayor of his hometown, Elizabethtown.

Campbell forged a different path than his siblings, forming a series of companies and enterprises, from pig farming, furniture making and timber clearing to running an oil change and state inspection station and a real estate brokerage.

Court files and state regulatory filings show a number of legal disputes along the way, including two major spills that sent hog waste flowing into a creek from his hog operation in 1999 during the administration of former Gov. Jim Hunt, a Democrat. But no action was brought then because "the enforcement packages were lost," according to a memo at the state Division of Water Quality written as part of reviewing another violation two years later.

Campbell is an avid pilot who has also bought and sold dozens of planes and helicopters. It's not uncommon for him to fly off to some spot Down East for an evening, flight records show.

Layers of links

Campbell, 38, is entangled with Easley in several situations that have led state and federal authorities to swarm around the former governor. Some of those may not come up in detail this week if they don't relate to campaign finance law.

One of them involves N.C. State University, where Easley appointed Campbell as a trustee in 2001 at
age 30 and again in 2005.

A 1993 graduate of NCSU, Campbell is said to have been the youngest trustee in school history. "I certainly appreciate him having the confidence in me," Campbell said last year, "understanding whatever I do, because I'm the youngest, I may be a little more criticized."

According to records, Easley turned to Campbell to help create a job for his wife, Mary Easley, a lawyer, at the school in 2005. Records show that Campbell responded by peppering Chancellor James Oblinger and others with calls and e-mails and stayed in frequent touch with Gov. Easley. Mary Easley was fired this year amid uproar about disclosures of the hiring and her $170,000 salary. Campbell resigned his post as board chairman after acknowledging he was involved in the hiring.

Campbell claimed to have won permits at that time from Easley's administration for a land development in Carteret County more quickly than others could have, saying he had political contacts and knew whom to call. Easley bought a lot in the development, called Cannonsgate; Campbell was Easley's agent in the deal and documents have since shown the governor accepted a $137,470 discount at the closing. The developer and financial backer of the development also have been subpoenaed.

In another case, the Easley administration helped Campbell. Top officials at the Division of Motor Vehicles waived enforcement actions brought by DMV officers that would have shut down a Campbell-owned state inspection station. Dismissals were sudden and without explanation.

Asked how he got that done, Campbell wouldn't say much at all, other than he called anyone and everyone he knew.

'Aggressive' approach

Campbell typically speaks in a soft, measured voice, even when he led N.C. State trustee meetings. But it hides an ultra-intense focus that has made him a financial success. Disclosure forms list him as an owner, director or managing member of 15 companies. He owns property across the state, including a West Raleigh townhome off Wade Avenue valued at $303,000.

His father is a past president of NCSU's athletic booster group, the Wolfpack Club, but the son has always expressed much greater interest in a different type of sport: politics.

Easley issued a public statement when he first appointed Campbell as a trustee at NCSU in 2001. The governor said Campbell has an "aggressive personality."

Steve Tatum, who was once in business with Campbell, said that is the only way to describe him.

"He's very smart, and once he gets his mind set on something he's going to do or get to, he doesn't let it go," Tatum said. "He's very business minded and he's very aggressive in that."

That persistence showed up in a land deal a few years ago Down East that led to sharp words about a well-known figure at N.C. State -- booster Steve Stroud, the man whose name is on the road that winds between the football stadium and basketball arena.

Stroud, a veteran Raleigh real estate broker, also was the person who had helped give Campbell his start in the land brokerage business, bringing him on at his firm in the spring of 2004.
But by the spring of 2006, after Campbell formed his own company, they represented competing buyers who wanted to purchase waterfront land for development. The seller was a land company represented by a New Bern accountant.

Court records show that it soon was clear that Stroud's buyer, developer Mark Saunders of Brunswick County, was going to win with an offer of nearly $60 million.

Campbell and his buyer, Cannonsgate developer Gary Allen of Charlotte, had offered less at one point. But they had included a sweetener: They were offering money, a job and a share of future lot sales directly to the accountant in trying to land the deal. It amounted to a possible $12 million for him, records show. In court filings, Campbell said the offers were made after the accountant, Dennis Ball, sought those things, an allegation Ball denied.

State real estate commission investigators recently have been asking questions about what happened then.

When Campbell and Allen eventually lost the deal, they helped spur a lawsuit. In an affidavit, Campbell alleged that amid wheeling and dealing at the ACC basketball tournament and other flurries of contacts, Stroud must have offered the accountant more "under the table" money than Campbell and Allen did to win the deal, something Stroud denies.

Stroud said he didn't want to comment on Campbell's approach, saying only that Campbell is from a good family that has done a lot of positive things.

Ball, in an interview, said "I rue the day I met McQueen." At the time, Ball responded in an affidavit that the offer of millions to get him to choose Campbell and Allen reflected the "outrageous aggressiveness and persistence of some of the real estate people prospecting for the land."

This week, more North Carolinians are expected to be introduced to Campbell, in the hearing room and on television. Until then, Campbell and his lawyer were not giving any clues about whether the public will see the brash real estate broker or the friend of a governor who doesn't say much.

acurliss@newsobserver.com or 919-829-4840
October 25, 2009

Prosecutors Turn Tables on Student Journalists

By MONICA DAVEY

EVANSTON, Ill. — For more than a decade, classes of students at Northwestern University's journalism school have been scrutinizing the work of prosecutors and the police. The investigations into old crimes, as part of the Medill Innocence Project, have helped lead to the release of 11 inmates, the project's director says, and an Illinois governor once cited those wrongful convictions as he announced he was commuting the sentences of everyone on death row.

But as the Medill Innocence Project is raising concerns about another case, that of a man convicted in a murder 31 years ago, a hearing has been scheduled next month in Cook County Circuit Court on an unusual request: Local prosecutors have subpoenaed the grades, grading criteria, class syllabus, expense reports and e-mail messages of the journalism students themselves.

The prosecutors, it seems, wish to scrutinize the methods of the students this time. The university is fighting the subpoenas.

Lawyers in the Cook County state's attorney's office say that in their quest for justice in the old case, they need every pertinent piece of information about the students' three-year investigation into Anthony McKinney, who was convicted of fatally shooting a security guard in 1978. Mr. McKinney’s conviction is being reviewed by a judge.

Among the issues the prosecutors need to understand better, a spokeswoman said, is whether students believed they would receive better grades if witnesses they interviewed provided evidence to exonerate Mr. McKinney.

Northwestern University and David Protess, the professor who leads the students and directs the Medill Innocence Project, say the demands are ridiculously overreaching, irrelevant to Mr. McKinney’s case, in violation of the state’s protections for journalists and a breach of federal privacy statutes — not to mention insulting.

John Lavine, the dean of the Medill School of Journalism, said the suggestion that students might have thought their grades were linked to what witnesses said was “astonishing.” He said he believed that federal law barred him from providing the students grades, but that he had no intention of doing so in any case..

A spokeswoman for Anita Alvarez, the Cook County state’s attorney, who was elected last fall, said the prosecutors were simply trying to get to the bottom of the McKinney case.

“At the end of the day, all we’re seeking is the same thing these students are: justice and truth,” said Sally Daly, the spokeswoman. She said the prosecutors wished to see all statements the students received from
witnesses, whether they supported or contradicted the notion of Mr. McKinney's innocence.

"We're not trying to delve into areas of privacy or grades," Ms. Daly said. "Our position is that they've engaged in an investigative process, and without any hostility, we're seeking to get all of the information they've developed, just as detectives and investigators turn over."

If the courts find that Mr. Protes and the journalism school must turn over the student information, they risk being held in contempt if they refuse, said Dick O'Brien, a lawyer who is representing Northwestern.

But if the school gives in to such a demand, say advocates of the Medill Innocence Project and more than 50 similar projects (most involving law schools and legal clinics), the stakes could be still higher, discouraging students from taking part or forcing groups to devote time and money to legal assistance.

"Every time the government starts attacking the messenger as opposed to the message, it can have a chilling effect," said Barry C. Scheck, a pioneer of the Innocence Project in New York, who said he had never seen a similar demand from prosecutors.

In October 2003, Mr. Protes's investigative journalism classes began looking at the case after Mr. McKinney's brother, Michael, brought it to the attention of the Medill Innocence Project — one of more 15,000 cases the project has been asked to consider investigating over the years.

Mr. Protes, who has been on the faculty at Northwestern since 1981 and began leading his investigative reporting students on such cases in 1991, created the Medill project in 1999, the same year he and his students drew national attention for helping to exonerate and free Anthony Porter, an inmate who had come within two days of execution.

The McKinney case took three years and nine teams of student reporters, all of whom have since graduated from Northwestern. In the end, the teams concluded that Mr. McKinney had been wrongly convicted of killing Donald Lundahl, a security guard, with a shotgun one evening in September 1978 in Harvey, a southern suburb of Chicago.

The students said they had found, among other things, that two eyewitnesses had recanted their testimony against Mr. McKinney and could not have seen him commit the killing because they were watching a boxing championship (Leon Spinks vs. Muhammad Ali). The students collected an affidavit from a gang member who, they say, confirmed Mr. McKinney's alibi that he was running away from gang members when the shooting took place.

The students have also suggested alternative suspects in the case and offered witnesses who said they had heard the others admit their involvement.

In 2006, the students took their findings to the Center for Wrongful Convictions at Northwestern's law school, and by late last year, the claims were being considered by a Cook County Circuit Court judge and were described in an article in The Chicago Sun-Times and on the Medill Innocence Project Web site.

The students provided their videotaped interviews of critical witnesses and affidavits to the prosecutors, but in June the prosecutors subpoenaed far more — the students' investigative memorandums, e-mail messages, notes from multiple interviews with witnesses and class grades.
In their quest, prosecutors have raised a central question about the role of the students — suggesting that they should be viewed as an “investigative agency,” not journalists, whose unpublished materials could, under certain circumstances, be protected under a state statute.

“The school believes it should be exempt from the scrutiny of this honorable court and the justice system, yet it should be deemed a purveyor of its inadequacies to the public,” a legal brief from prosecutors said.

Professional journalism groups have said the students are clearly journalists, and offered support for their wish not to reveal their notes. Beth Konrad, president of the Chicago Headline Club, said the club was seeking a discussion with Ms. Alvarez, the state’s attorney.

“We want to know, what was the decision to overreach on this?” Ms. Konrad said.

Donald M. Craven, the interim executive director of the Illinois Press Association, questioned the prosecutors’ motives. “Taken to its logical conclusion, what they’re trying to do is dismantle the project,” Mr. Craven said.

Mr. Protess said his students most assuredly functioned as journalists and, as such, did not wish to become “an arm of the government” by providing their notes and private exchanges.

“It would destroy our autonomy,” he said. “We function with journalism standards and practices to guide our work.”

The notion that students would have been rewarded with better grades for witnesses who confirmed the thesis that Mr. McKinney was innocent is simply false, he said.

“My students are told to uncover the truth, wherever that leads them,” he said. In the last four years, he said, students had twice concluded that the convicts whose cases they were studying were indeed guilty.

Sarah Forte, one of the students who investigated Mr. McKinney’s case and who graduated in 2006, said she was frustrated that prosecutors were making the requests, even as Mr. McKinney, 49, remained in a prison in downstate Dixon.

“Why are they focusing on these unrelated things?” asked Ms. Forte, a defense investigator at the Southern Center for Human Rights who said she went to Northwestern partly to get involved in Mr. Protess’s project. “I cannot even imagine what they think they are going to find.”