THE DAILY CLIPS

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College fair has answers for students
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, October 28, 2010

High school students with questions about college can get some answers today. The Pitt County College Fair will be held at the Greenville Convention Center with morning and evening offerings.

More than 50 schools will be represented — public and private universities and community colleges — from North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia.

The morning session from 9 to noon will be open to upperclassmen from the six Pitt County public high schools. The evening session from 6:30 to 8 is open to the public including parents and younger students. A financial aid workshop will be given at 7 by the College Foundation of North Carolina.

“This college fair will provide information to students about the application process, school size, programs, scholarships, majors and educational opportunities to see which schools would be a good fit,” said Chris Murphy, assistant director of admissions at East Carolina University. “The financial aid workshop is usually a big draw for parents,” he said.

Murphy is also a member of the Carolina Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (CACRAO), which plans college fairs in every county in North and South Carolina.

Junior and senior students who signed up will be transported by bus between the fair and their schools on a rotating schedule, according to Travis Lewis, assistant superintendent for student services for Pitt County Schools. The college fair is counted as a school activity and not an absence.

“We're excited because this year is the first year that juniors will attend along with the seniors,” Lewis said. “The counselors and administrators agreed that this would help the juniors as well.”

The college fair will help students see how many options are out there, according to Lewis.

“We're lucky here in North Carolina to have so many great schools,” he said. “We'll have lots of good information for them.” Students will have approximately 20-30 minutes to visit the booths or tables for the schools, which is an appropriate amount of time, according to Lewis. Past fairs showed
that allowing much longer than 20 minutes usually results in more socializing than more table visiting, he said.

“It's run really smoothly the past few years,” Lewis said.

The college fair has been going on for several years, but this is the fourth year where students have had their own time as part of the school day, according to Murphy. Lewis encouraged underclassmen and parents to attend the evening session as the information would benefit them as well.

Schools include UNC Wilmington, UNC Greensboro, East Carolina University, North Carolina State University, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina Central University, Barton College, Peace College, Meredith College and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Kids create books about their lives
By Josh Humphries
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, October 28, 2010

About 25 Pitt County fourth-graders learned about self reflection and autobiographies Wednesday at an educational event at the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center.

Alice Arnold, an East Carolina University art professor, and her elementary education students from her methods class led a group of students in an exercise on writing about identity.

The students, from various Pitt County schools, are part of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers After School program, a grant program from the U.S. Department of Education.

Arnold read “My Name is Gabito,” a children's book about the life of author Gabriel Garcia Marquez, best-known for novels “One Hundred Years of Solitude” and “Love in the Time of Cholera.”

Then Arnold and her students helped the children make books about their lives using markers and designs the students glued to the books for illustration.

“Some will be more into the drawing part, and some will be more into the writing, and that is fine,” Arnold said. “It is a learning event that makes learning fun.”

Arnold brings ECU students to the center three times every semester to lead learning events. She said the events always incorporate art and literature.
For Lashonda Turner and Tyswaya White, it was all about fun. Tyswaya, a student at Wahl-Coates Elementary School, stayed busy gluing designs and writing out her personal story.

“It's fun because you get to decorate stuff,” she said.

Lashonda, a student at South Greenville Elementary School, said she was having fun writing about her 20-year-old sister, Latisha.

“It's fun,” she said. “It's fun to write your own story.”
Macy speaks to sports club
By Addison Harvey
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, October 28, 2010

East Carolina women's basketball coach Heather Macy entertained members of the Greater Greenville Sports Club Wednesday afternoon. Macy, the sixth speaker to talk to the club, spoke about the upcoming season and her coaching career.

The coach, in her first year with the Pirates, has spent time as the head coach at Pfeiffer and Francis Marion and has accumulated an impressive 115-39 career record. The Hamptonville native started her speech with a quote that summed up her new team.

“Something old, something new, something purple, something true,” Macy said.

She described her coaching staff as experienced, a term that fits the Pirate roster as well as 11 players from last year's 23-11 team are back for the 2010-11 campaign. Joining Macy on the ECU coaching staff are Fred Applin, Ann Hancock, and former Farmville Central High School head coach Shay Hayes.

“We have a bunch of winners on our coaching staff,” Macy said. “We are a diverse group, but the one thing we have in common is we are all competitors.” Though the Pirates had success last year, Macy said she will bring a new up-tempo style of offense and defense to East Carolina. She raved about the depth of her team, which welcomes back all five starters from last season.

“Our style of play is completely different,” Macy said. “I want them to play like their hair is on fire. The amount of work and time it takes to learn this style takes a lot of commitment.”

Macy has made changes to her offense at her stops at Pfeiffer and Francis Marion, where she won two consecutive Peach Belt regular season championships. Macy refers to her offense as “the Interstate Offense” and said she will rotate and substitute players while trying to get up and down the court quickly.
The new Pirate coach has made many stops in her coaching career and said there is nowhere else that supports a university like Greenville.

She said a recruit from Ohio told her that the fans at East Carolina football games were more passionate about their team than the fans of her home state Ohio State Buckeyes. Macy also said she recently received a huge box in the mail and wondered what it could be. When she opened the box, a purple pumpkin was inside.

Macy's response?
“Only in Greenville.”
As an educator I greatly appreciate the continuous work of N.C. Rep. Marian McLawhorn in supporting education in Pitt County. Her support for the Pitt County Schools, East Carolina University, Pitt Community College and the educators at these institutions has been ongoing during her tenure in office.

I have worked with teachers and school systems throughout the state and I have found that the Pitt County school system does an excellent job educating our youth and preparing them for work or higher education.

The ECU College of Education is ensuring that new teachers are properly equipped with the teaching skills to be successful in preparing children for the 21st century. And Pitt Community College is offering students opportunities in developing the skills to be successful in the workforce.

All of these successes are related to Rep. McLawhorn's tireless dedication to our community.

WILLIAM MORGAN
Winterville
ECU play heads for Turnage

Alice Blackwell (left), administrative assistant at the Turnage Theater in Washington, helps Katherine Buchholz, box-office manager, decorate the lobby Wednesday morning in preparation for “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow.” (WDN Photo/Jonathan Clayborne)

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By JONATHAN CLAYBORNE
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Staff Writer

The headless horseman will ride again this weekend at the Turnage Theater in Washington.

East Carolina University’s Storybook Theatre will present “The Legend of Sleep Hollow” at 2 p.m. Saturday at the theater.

Tickets cost $12 each for adults and $5 each for children.
For more information, call the Turnage at 252-975-1711 or visit its website, www.turnagetheater.com.

The play will be followed by a drama workshop and photo opportunities with the actors in the lobby.

The 16-member cast is drawn entirely from ECU’s School of Theatre and Dance, said Patch Clark, the director and an associate professor in the theater department.

The choreography was crafted by local dance instructor Janet Cox, and the stage movement was developed by Jill Matarelli Carlson, according to Clark.

“It does have movement in it, it has dancing in it and it has music in it,” Clark said, “but also the story rendition based on the original story, ‘The Legend of Sleep Hollow,’ by Washington Irving.”

Saturday’s performance will be preceded by two shows Friday — one at 10 a.m. for public-school children and one at 7 p.m. for the public in ECU’s Wright Auditorium, Clark related.

“It’s exciting and it’s not scary, but it has mystery in it, and excitement,” she said of the play.

There also will be humor and chances for audience participation, Clark pointed out.

“And it will be very festive and upbeat, very suitable for children,” she said.

The Storybook players have formatted the production to be appropriate for small children, agreed Katherine Buchholz, box-office manager at the Turnage.

“It’ll be exciting and suspenseful, but not likely to scare them unduly,” Buchholz said.

The Turnage has five youth-centered shows planned for its 2010-2011 season, said Scotty Henley, executive director of the Turnage Theaters Foundation.

“I hope the little kids come out in their costumes and that they stick around for the workshop after the show,” Henley said of Saturday’s event.

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Contaminated Water At Cherry Point
By Katie Jeffries / WCTI12.com

Water woes for one military base in the East. Contaminated water was discovered late last week after reports of discolored water at a building in Cherry Point. NewsChannel 12 learned of the water problem after an employee at Cherry Point contacted us.

Now the base is confirming the water in the Fleet Readiness Center East was contaminated with ethylene glycol. It is a chemical so common, you probably have it in your garage, more commonly known as antifreeze.

Cherry Point officials say they became aware of the water problem when they received reports of discolored water in the Fleet Readiness Center East building last Thursday.

"The employees were told to quit using the water, quit drinking the water and we've moved forward with correcting the problem," says Maj. Will Klumpp the Director of Public Affairs for Cherry Point.

Major Klumpp says an environmental team flushed the entire water system in that building and on Friday the water was deemed safe.

To get an expert's opinion on ethylene glycol, we spoke to Ed Crotts who teaches Environmental Health Sciences at ECU.

"It can be toxic in as little as an ounce and typically three ounces can be fatal to a human," says Crotts.

But once the chemical hits a water system, it disperses. So it is not so heavily concentrated. He says getting it on your skin from washing your hands could cause skin irritation. But it is most harmful if ingested, like drinking from a water fountain.
Cherry Point says 150 employees work in that area and so far none have reported any sickness.

That doesn't surprise Crotts.
"How much water would you drink at work, probably a little out of the water fountain and you don't bathe at work," says Crotts.

But he says long-term exposure could lead to breathing and stomach problems.
Cherry Point officials say they are still investigating how long the ethylene glycol has been in the water system.
"Until the investigation is complete, there will be limited use of that facilities water," tells Maj. Klumpp

Cherry Point says no other buildings on, or around, the base were impacted by the contaminated water.
Duke students share their grief

DURHAM In life, Drew Everson was often the intersection at which people of dissimilar backgrounds and interests would collide.

Turns out, he's that in death as well.

Friends said Everson, a 21-year-old Duke senior who died Sunday after an accidental fall, had an uncanny knack for connecting people he knew through his many involvements, including a campus comedy troupe, the debate team and his fraternity, Pi Kappa Phi.

That was evident in the more than 1,000 friends and family members who gathered in Duke Chapel on Wednesday to remember Everson. Many were students who met Everson through one Duke activity or another, while others traveled to pay respects - such as the high school friends who came by bus from Greenville, S.C.

Matt Byrne, one of several Duke students who spoke at the service, looked out at the mass of mourners and noted that Everson was once again bringing people together.

"You continue to be you," he said, speaking directly to his fallen friend. Everson's death has prompted a visceral grieving process on the Duke campus, where he's remembered as a deep thinker who loved to debate and a loyal friend with an endearing personality.

"Everyone wanted to be his friend," the Rev. Samuel Wells, dean of Duke Chapel, said in his sermon. "Because everyone hoped his life force was infectious."

The details of Everson's death are still not all publicly known. He was found Friday morning at the base of a stairwell behind an East Campus dining facility, and he died Sunday. Duke police are still investigating.
Meanwhile, Everson's many friends and admirers are trying to get their heads around his death.

Duke President Richard Brodhead's first meeting with Everson came at a mixer for freshmen several years ago. Everson was the extrovert, the one with a little more self-confidence, a little more pizazz to his personality.

"I, too, knew him," Brodhead said, speaking after several of Everson's friends. "Because is there anyone at Duke who didn't know him?"

Wednesday's memorial had some light moments and plenty of wrenching ones, as friend after friend tried to explain Everson's interpersonal magic. They spoke of his many loves - Duke basketball, deep debate and a good Scotch whisky.

They told of his dedication and loyalty to his friends.

"Drew was the person to call about absolutely anything," said Lauren Haigler, a friend Everson comforted as she struggled with her parents' divorce. "He was the perfect friend."

For the most part, attendees Wednesday seemed to hold it together.

**Until the end.**

That's when Edie Wellman, another Duke student, closed the memorial with a poignant solo. Saluting her friend by wearing a Led Zeppelin T-shirt and strumming a guitar, Wellman sang the Green Day song "The Time of Your Life," and it wasn't easy.

Her lilting voice trembled as she worked through the song. Stanza after stanza, she inhaled deeply and forged on, her grief on display.

Across the chapel, people inhaled with her. She barely croaked out the last lines:
"It's something unpredictable, but in the end it's right. I hope you have the time of your life."

With that, she leaned into the microphone, and whispered: "I love you, Drew."

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As College Fees Climb, Aid Does Too

By TAMAR LEWIN

As their state financing dwindled, four-year public universities increased their published tuition and fees almost 8 percent this year, to an average of $7,605, according to the College Board’s annual reports. When room and board are included, the average in-state student at a public university now pays $16,140 a year.

At private nonprofit colleges and universities, tuition rose 4.5 percent to an average of $27,293, or $36,993 with room and board.

The good news in the 2010 “Trends in College Pricing” and “Trends in Student Aid” reports is that fast-rising tuition costs have been accompanied by a huge increase in financial aid, which helped keep down the actual amount students and families pay.

“In 2009-2010, students got $28 billion in Pell grants, and that’s $10 billion more than the year before,” said Sandy Baum, the economist who is the lead author of the reports. “When you look at how much students are actually paying, on average, it is lower, after adjusting for inflation, than five years earlier.”

In the last five years, the report said, average published tuition and fees increased by about 24 percent at public four-year colleges and universities, 17 percent at private nonprofit four-year institutions, and 11 percent at public two-year colleges — but in each sector, the net inflation-adjusted price, taking into account both grants and federal tax benefits, decreased over the period.

Almost everybody has been helped by the federal government’s increased spending on education, Ms. Baum said, either through Pell grants, which
provide an average of $3,600 for low-income students, or through tax credits, which go further up the income scale.

The increase in federal support this year was so large that unlike former years, government grants surpassed institutional grants.

“I think that’s an aberration,” Ms. Baum said. “Pell grants are unlikely to grow so rapidly in the coming years, and institutional grants are likely to grow, so I think the ratio will flip back.”

This year, the report found, full-time students receive an average of about $6,100 in grant aid and federal tax benefits at public four-year institutions, $16,000 at private nonprofit institutions, and $3,400 at public two-year colleges.

“The College Board figures are depressing and utterly predictable,” said Terry Hartle, senior vice president of the American Council on Education. “When states cut funding for higher education, tuitions go up to make up for the difference. The good new is that Pell grants will cushion the increases for low-income students, but if you’re not eligible for financial aid, it’s a problem, since very few families are seeing their income go up 8 percent this year.”

Despite the weak economy, and the number of families having trouble paying tuition, the nation’s public universities continue to award most of their institutional aid without regard to financial need. Over all, the report found, 42 percent of the public institutions’ aid is awarded on the basis of need.

That is up from 28 percent the previous year, Ms. Baum said, for reasons that are unclear.

“It might be that they said, look at all these kids who need money, we should be giving more to them,” she said. “Or it might be that because of the recession so many more people have financial need that more of them happen to be getting institutional aid.”

Out-of-state students at public universities this year are paying an average of $19,595 in tuition, with total charges of $28,130, according to the report.
At public community colleges, published tuition and fees rose 6 percent, to an average of $2,713.

And at for-profit institutions, the report found, tuition and fees rose 5.1 percent, to an average of $13,935.

Over the last decade, published tuition and fees at public four-year colleges and universities increased each year at an average of 5.6 percent beyond the rate of inflation.

“‘We have to figure out how to educate students in a more cost-efficient way,’” Ms. Baum said. “‘We haven’t yet figured out how to use technology to make it cheaper. But we will.’”
The Obama administration plans to announce Thursday new regulations for colleges that participate in federal student aid programs, an initiative that aims to reshape how admissions recruiters are paid, how course credits are defined and how career training programs are launched.

Summaries of the 13 regulations, under development for more than a year, were circulated Wednesday among lawmakers. The rules will take effect in July and amount to a significant expansion of federal oversight of higher education.

A much-debated 14th proposal would force for-profit colleges and others that offer non-degree vocational programs to meet new standards related to student debt to qualify for federal aid. Known as the "gainful employment" proposal, it is still pending and expected to be resolved by early next year. For-profit colleges are lobbying heavily against the proposal.

The new package of rules "will help ensure that students are getting from schools what they pay for: solid preparation for a good job," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement. Education officials say rules are needed because the government provides tens of billions of dollars each year in grants and loans to college students.

Among the key provisions:
• Elimination of exceptions to a ban on incentive compensation for admissions recruiters based solely on their success in securing student enrollment. Obama officials said those exceptions, which date to the George W. Bush administration, had encouraged aggressive or misleading recruiting practices.

• A requirement for for-profit schools, and others that offer non-degree programs, to notify the government when they intend to launch a career-training program. In some cases, the government might ask schools to
formally apply for approval of the programs. Obama officials said the provision would help them prevent abuses that might arise with the forthcoming "gainful employment" rule.

- A federal definition of a "credit hour" as a course unit that signifies one hour of class time and two hours of homework per week. The regulation gives schools leeway, officials said, to establish equivalent measurements and clarifies that the definition is not intended for academic purposes but only for verifying eligibility for financial aid.

Harris N. Miller, president of the Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities, a group that represents the for-profit sector, said the provision on career-training programs appeared to respond to industry concerns. An earlier version, he said, had signaled a tougher federal stance on program approval. "It sounds like they're moving toward a more pragmatic approach," Miller said.

But Miller said the sector still has concerns about the incentive compensation rule, which he said "is going to create a lot of uncertainty and potential litigation."

(The Washington Post Co. operates for-profit colleges through its Kaplan subsidiary and owns more than 8 percent of stock in Corinthian Colleges Inc., based in Santa Ana., Calif.)

The credit-hour issue drew concerns from the American Council on Education, which represents college and university presidents.

"It sounds like they are going ahead with their plan to federalize the definition of a credit hour," said Terry W. Hartle, a senior vice president of the council, although he cautioned that he had not yet read the fine print. "I don't think any industry is improved by increasing federal control over it."

Sen. Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), chairman of the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, praised the provision to strengthen the limits on incentive compensation. He called the rules "an important first step toward protecting the billions of taxpayer dollars invested in for-profit colleges."
Rep. John Kline (Minn.), the top Republican on the House Education and Labor Committee, voiced concerns about increased federal scrutiny of new vocational programs. He said that he wanted to ensure that regulations would not be "inhibiting to schools that want to be nimble and provide the kind of education and training we need."
Students Feel Peer Pressure to Donate

By STEPHANIE STROM
Nonprofits have long used the honor roll, a list of benefactors prominently displayed, to inspire others to make gifts.

In the last school year, seniors at Dartmouth College and Cornell University turned that tactic on its head, creating a sort of dishonor roll of peers who failed to donate to the class gift.

At Dartmouth, the lone student in the graduating class who held out, Laura A. DeLorenzo, was excoriated in the student newspaper and on The Little Green Blog, a student Web site, which also ran her picture.

Raising the stakes for the student fund-raisers was the potential of $100,000 more that the Class of 1960 had promised if every senior participated. In a statement on the blog, Ms. DeLorenzo said she resented the pressure that gift apparently had created.

“My decision not to donate to Dartmouth reflects my personal conclusion that the negative aspects of Dartmouth outweigh the positive, and nothing more,” Ms. DeLorenzo wrote. “Where other people choose to donate their money is their decision and I fully respect their right to make it.” She could not be reached for comment.

Carolyn A. Pelzel, senior vice president for advancement at Dartmouth, said the university trained student volunteers who managed the fund-raising effort, adding that the publication of Ms. DeLorenzo’s name was “highly inappropriate.”

At Cornell, pressure to contribute to the senior gift was applied through the sorority system, according to The Chronicle of Higher Education, which reported on the issue in its latest edition.
Erica Weitzner, a Cornell graduate who is now in medical school, said she received two or three phone calls and a few e-mails from sorority sisters saying they knew she had not donated. “I understand the theory behind the Cornell campaign is they want their seniors to donate, but pushing this hard makes it seem like it’s no longer really a donation but more like part of tuition,” she said.

Robert F. Sharpe Jr., a fund-raising consultant who happens to be an alumnus of the Cornell Law School, said he was uncomfortable with the tactic. Publishing a list of donors serves the same purpose — “people will know who didn’t give because their name isn’t on the list,” he said, adding: “I have always said that when asking becomes demanding, then giving can approach taking.”