The commander of Pacific Air Forces, an ECU alumnus, will be the grand marshal and keynote speaker for Pitt County’s 2011 Veterans Day parade and ceremony.

Gen. Gary L. North, Class of ’76, also will speak at 3:30 p.m. Friday in Wright Auditorium as part of the College of Business Cunanan Leadership Speaker Series. The event is free and open to the public.

“It’s the first time we’ll have an active duty four-star general speaking at the ceremony,” said James Kladis, president Pitt County Veterans Council. “He could have gone anywhere but he is choosing Pitt County.”

The Veterans Day ceremony will begin at 11 a.m. and is being held on the Greenville Town Common. Along with North, the ceremony will feature a performance of the Air Force Presidential Silent Drill Team.

Prior to the ceremony the annual Veterans Day parade will begin at 9:30 a.m.
Kladis said this year’s parade will begin at First and Reade streets, travel down First, turn left on Greene Street where it will meet Reade Circle and loop around back to First Street.

Kladis said parking will be available along Evans Street, in public lots and the parking lots of the Pitt County Courthouse, county offices, and sheriff’s office.

“This is going to be the largest parade we’ve ever seen,” Kladis said. It will feature an amphibious assault vehicle, emergency services vehicles, veterans groups, youth organizations, several motorcycle clubs and other organizations.

North was a distinguished graduate of ECU’s ROTC program. He is a command pilot with more than 4,600 flying hours. He flew 83 combat missions in Operations Desert Storm, Southern Watch, Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Following the ceremony on the Town Common, North will be the guest of honor of the university’s Veterans Day celebrations which begin at 1:11 p.m. near the Rawl Building.

The Air Force Silent Drill Team will perform. The event then will move to the Freedom Wall and Memorial Walk, the site that honors the military service of ECU faculty, staff and students.

Retired Col. Joe Marm, a Goldsboro resident and Medal of Honor winner, will deliver a Veterans Day message.

Following Marm’s comments, the Victory Bell, brought to ECU in 1953 to honor WWII and Korean Conflict veterans, will be rung. There also will be a commemoration of 111 brick pavers along the walk.

Other Veterans Day events also are planned throughout the county on Friday.

Ayden
Bethel
2 p.m., Bethel Arboretum, beside the library. Keynote Speaker, retired U.S. Air Force Col. Mike Whitehurst. Sponsored by Hometown Bethel.

Winterville
2 p.m., corner of Railroad and Main streets in front of the police department. Sponsored by Winterville Ruritan Club.

For more information contact Tony Moore at 321-6700.

Pitt County Memorial Hospital
9 a.m., Interfaith Chapel.

A historical marker honoring military veterans from Pitt County and surrounding areas will be unveiled. The outdoor marker will be displayed at the main visitor entrance to the hospital.
UNC system to discuss tuition hikes

Leaders of public universities in North Carolina are beginning a months-long process Thursday to decide whether students will pay more tuition in the coming year.

The Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina system meets Thursday to begin discussions on possibly allowing exceptions to a 6.5 percent cap on annual tuition and fee increases, which was put in place several years ago.

"We need to be sure above all else that we have access and affordability, but we also have excellence," UNC System President Tom Ross said.

The leaders of some universities have indicated they might seek tuition hikes above the cap. Talk of tuition increases comes after the 17-campus system lost $414 million, or 15.6 percent, of its funding in the most recent state budget.

A special UNC-Chapel Hill task force is expected to vote sometime in November on a proposal to raise tuition and fees for in-state students by up to $2,800, which would be a 40 percent increase. The increase would likely be spread over a few years.

"You are hearing talk of going above the 6.5 percent, and I think that's probably going to be necessary," UNC-CH Chancellor Holden Thorpe said.

North Carolina State University officials are considering adding $330 to in-state undergraduate tuition – a 6.4 percent increase – but could go higher if given approval, officials said.

"If the state is not able to fund higher education the way they have in the past, we are going to look at the balance between state funding and student funding," NCSU Chancellor Randy Woodson said.

North Carolina Central University will likely issue its tuition proposal in December.
Appalachian State University student Atul Bhula said he's seeing more students quit school and go to work to save money to come back, because they can no longer get the financial aid they need.

"I'm afraid that if they do raise tuition by a certain amount, then we are going to see a lot more students dropping out," said Bhula, who is the student representative to the Board of Governors and president of the UNC Association of Student Governments.

The Board of Governors will not vote on any tuition proposals until after February. All tuition increases must be approved by trustees of the individual schools, the Board of Governors and state lawmakers before taking effect.

Reporter: Kevin Holmes
Photographer: Jamie Munden
Web Editor: Anne Johnson
ECU hoops: Forwards preview
By Tony Castleberry
The Daily Reflector
Thursday, November 10, 2011

This is the second installment of a two-part preview of the East Carolina men’s and women’s basketball teams. Today’s story focuses on the teams’ frontcourts.

Darrius Morrow knows what’s expected of him, and he doesn’t fear the weight of those expectations.

When Morrow, a 6-foot-8, 245-pound forward on the East Carolina men’s basketball team, emerged as arguably one of Conference USA’s best players during the second half of last season, he also placed a pretty big target on himself that ECU’s opponents will no doubt be aiming for all season.

While he will understandably be asked to lead the Pirates in his senior season, Morrow is confident in his abilities as well as those of his frontcourt mates.

“We’ve gotten so much better,” said Morrow, who averaged 13 points and a team-high 6.3 rebounds per game last season, highlighted by a season-ending six-game stretch in which he averaged 17.5 points and 10.3 rebounds per outing. “Darius Morales is just outstanding right now. He’s really
developed and I look forward to some big things (from him) this year. ... We’ve got Austin (Steed) and (freshman) Yasin (Kolo), two new guys, but Austin practiced with us half the year last year so he knows the offense and knows what to do most of the time.”

Morrow will need Morales, Steed, sophomore Robert Sampson and junior college transfer Maurice Kemp — all 6-8 — to play well so teams won’t have the opportunity to have a one-track mind when defending the Pirates. But much of what ECU will do on both ends of the floor will flow through Morrow, who was a preseason All-Conference USA second-team selection.

A commitment to getting in better shape, which resulted in Morrow losing about 30 pounds, helped lead to his stellar play the second half of last season and the Atlanta native’s continued dedication on and off the court has been a shining light for the rest of his teammates, according to ECU coach Jeff Lebo.

“Darrius is a proven guy,” said Lebo, whose team opens the season Friday at home against Milligan. “Darrius’ work habits, from where we are this year to where he was last year, it’s like night and day. ... And because we have some competition there, you have to bring it every day, or they’ll whip you.”

Steed will play his final collegiate season in an ECU uniform after transferring from Auburn. Sampson showed signs of his potential as a true freshman last season and Morales will try to put some offseason legal trouble behind him in his sophomore campaign. Kemp, like 6-6 teammate Erin Straughn, should see time at guard and forward while Kolo’s 6-10 frame is the tallest on the Pirates’ roster.

**Women**
To hear East Carolina women’s basketball coach Heather Macy tell it, her team will often be shorter than the opponents it faces this season, meaning focusing on the fundamentals of rebounding will be key.

“We need to do a really good job of boxing out and making sure we’re in good position,” said Macy, whose Pirates begin the season Friday at College of Charleston. “We have to be in the right position because we’re not going to be able to just jump over people and get rebounds.”
Chareya Smith, a 6-foot forward, returns for her senior season after averaging 8.6 points per game as a junior while Ariana Jackson (6-0) scored at an 8.4 ppg clip with a 4.7 rebounds per game mark last season as a sophomore.

Kristine Mial (5-9) averaged 21.8 ppg en route to earning junior college All-America honors at Frederick (Md.) Community College last season and Macy said she’ll be counted on to score for the Pirates as well.

“We’re going to be, I think, a very balanced scoring team,” Macy said, “but Kristine Mial is going to emerge as an offensive threat for us. ... She can score in so many different ways.”

Freshman Tatiana Chapple (6-0) has likely earned immediate playing time with her effort in practice and 6-1 transfer Britny Edwards played in 23 games last season for Virginia.

Contact Tony Castleberry at tcastleberry@reflector.com or 252-329-9591.
High school students can take free college courses

BY JANE STANCILL - jstancill@newsobserver.com

Students in North Carolina can get a jump on their future by enrolling in free community college courses while in high school, under a plan to be announced today by Gov. Bev Perdue.

The initiative, called Career & College Promise, consolidates some older programs and gives eligible students focused options for earning credits toward a college degree or a certificate for a technical job.

Perdue will travel across the state today to highlight the program, starting at Hillside High School in Durham then stopping at schools in Greensboro and Charlotte.

In an interview Wednesday, Perdue said the goal is to keep students on track with a plan for future success.

"As they graduate high school, they'll be more prepared for life after high school, whether it means college credit for some and job training for others," she said. "And for some, it would be actual certification so they can leave high school with a certificate or licensure that allows them to go immediately into the workforce."

The program starts in January. It is free to eligible students with a "B" average who show that they're ready for college work.
High school juniors and seniors can choose a technical career path or a college transfer path that would allow them to earn about a year and half worth of credit toward a degree. A third option is attending an early college high school, which blends high school and community college courses, allowing students to make a seamless transition to college.

North Carolina has been a national leader in establishing early college high schools. In 2010-11, nearly 12,000 students were enrolled in these innovative schools.

For years, the state also has allowed high school students to take free community college courses through such programs as Learn & Earn Online. More than 19,000 students participated in dual enrollment programs last year.

But too often, students chose courses without a clear path toward a degree. Sometimes, their credits would not transfer to a four-year university because they did not take the courses they needed.

Career & College Promise will offer an educational experience that is more meaningful, said Scott Ralls, president of North Carolina's community college system.

No 'bubblegum cards'

Depending on their ultimate career goals, students will have to take a set of courses for that particular pathway, Ralls said, rather than collecting course credits "like bubblegum cards."

"We think that's going to provide a more focused opportunity for students," he said. "It provides more structure."

Community colleges in the Triangle have seen significant crowding since the recession first hit, as students have returned to school to upgrade skills. Ralls said it's possible that high school students won't be able to get all of the courses they need. But at the same time, the new program should be more efficient overall.

"The place that we really can't afford to have inefficiency anymore is, for example, students taking credits that they don't need for their degree," Ralls said. "Too often, we've had that in the past."

Students who aren't interested in a four-year college experience can pursue technical training so they can graduate from high school ready for a job.

"It addresses some of the realities of the workforce in America," Perdue said. "For the middle skills worker, it's very apparent that we need students
who are more focused, who have deeper science and math and reading capacity. ... I think the career part is really, really important."

Bipartisan support

The program will allow Perdue to partially live up to her 2008 campaign promise for free community college. She said the bad economy had slowed down her progress on that goal.

The new program, she said, has bipartisan support. Sen. Jerry Tillman, an Archdale Republican who is co-chairman of the education committee in the legislature, said there is agreement on the approach.

The key will be executing the program well, with community colleges working closely with high schools and universities on the courses and credits. Success will hinge on making students aware of what's available, Tillman said.

"It should be a win, win," he said. "It should save some time and money for kids getting on the right track, graduating on time and getting out of college."

Perdue said others are watching North Carolina's experiment.

"We met (Tuesday) with some foundations and there is great national interest in what we're doing," she said. "This will become transformational for the entire country."

Stancill: 919-829-4559

**Career & College Promise**

**College transfers:** High school juniors or seniors can earn free credits toward a four-year degree. Those who finish a 44-hour credit program at the community colleges will be able to transfer all of their credits to a UNC campus or to 26 participating private colleges in North Carolina.

**Technical careers:** High school juniors or seniors can earn free course credits at a community college, leading to an entry-level job credential, certificate or diploma.

**Innovative high schools:** At a number of so called "early college high schools" around North Carolina, students can take a blend of high school and college courses in a single setting. Students can earn a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit in a period of four to five years. There is limited availability at these schools, which are generally targeted to students who may be the first in their family to go to college.
GREENVILLE An East Carolina University administrator says the student newspaper used poor taste when it published pictures of a streaker who ran onto the field during a football game.

John Sieglinger, 21, a Raleigh resident who does not attend East Carolina, ran onto the field Saturday at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium in the middle of a military appreciation ceremony. The East Carolinian ran three front-page photos and also posted them Tuesday on the newspaper's website.

The Daily Reflector of Greenville reported that Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Virginia Hardy said the school neither supports nor agrees with the decision to run the full-frontal photos of Sieglinger, who was apprehended during Saturday's football game between ECU and Southern Mississippi University.

Editor in Chief Caitlin Hale said in a statement that the photos were meant as an accurate account of Saturday's events.
Campbell University standoff ends safely

BY MICHAEL BIESECKER - Associated Press

BUIES CREEK A standoff at Campbell University ended peacefully Wednesday after a student who had slipped out of handcuffs and locked himself in his home surrendered to sheriff’s deputies following a three-hour lockdown of the campus.

Jared Dale Knight, a 24-year-old freshman and Air Force veteran, was being served with a warrant when he broke away from police and locked himself inside his room. As a precaution, the university canceled evening classes, and police told students and faculty to remain indoors while officers surrounded the building.

Knight was arrested Tuesday and charged with stealing an AR-15 carbine from a Fuquay-Varina gun store where he worked. Police in that town said that they were looking into a report that other guns had been stolen from the store but that the carbine had been recovered. Knight was released after posting $3,000 bail.

Assistant gun shop manager Steve Maley said Knight started working at the store in the summer as a part-timer. Knight was clean-cut and nice with customers, Maley said.

"He seemed knowledgeable about guns," Maley said.

Knight told his co-workers, some of whom were combat veterans, that he earned a Bronze Star, Maley said, but he was vague about the details, and the veterans questioned his story.

"Combat veterans never talk about what they did," Maley said.

Maley said Knight also said he was a forward observer for the Air Force but never said where.

Harnett County Sheriff Larry Rollins said Knight was apparently concerned about the effect his arrest would have on his family.

"I think he had a lot of concern about what some other people were thinking of him, his parents particularly," Rollins said after the standoff ended.

Knight was taken into custody in Harnett County and will face charges related to the standoff. A phone message left Wednesday evening at his father's home in Abilene, Texas, wasn't immediately returned.
Knight was living at the small, university-owned home on the edge of campus with two other students, according to Campbell spokesman Britt Davis. He said Knight had listed himself as an Air Force veteran on his application but didn't say where he had served. The university was trying to help Knight get veterans benefits, Davis said.

According to records from the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, Knight was given a bad-conduct discharge and a sentence of eight months' confinement by a military court at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas. He was convicted of keeping a laser range finder, two radios, an infrared camera and a pair of binoculars that he found in a metal trash container. The military property was worth about $10,600.
UNC-CH student sought in Apex robbery

BY THOMASI MCDONALD - tmcdonald@newsobserver.com

APEX–Police are looking for a UNC-Chapel Hill student who they think robbed a SunTrust bank Monday.

Police have issued a warrant for Gordon Miller Goodwin, 22, charging him with common law robbery.

Karen Moon, a UNC-CH campus spokeswoman, described Goodwin as a senior, full-time student majoring in peace, war and defense studies.

In 2008, Goodwin was charged with felony possession of drugs with intent to sell and deliver, and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia.

The disposition of those charges is not available in state records.

A member of Goodwin's family in Cary declined to comment Wednesday night about the bank robbery charges.

Apex police think Goodwin entered the SunTrust bank inside the Kroger at 940 U.S. 64 at 6:20 p.m. Monday and handed a bank employee a note demanding money.

Security cameras show the suspect was a white man with brown hair, who was wearing a navy sweatshirt, dark jeans and a gray ball cap with a white logo on the front.

Goodwin may be driving a black 2002 Chrysler Sebring with N.C. license plate AHN9349.

News researcher Peggy Neal contributed to this report.

McDonald: 919-829-4533
Penn State President Graham Spanier and head football coach Joe Paterno were fired by university trustees on Wednesday.

**Paterno, Spanier out at Penn State**

BY GENARO C. ARMAS - Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. Penn State trustees fired football coach Joe Paterno and university president Graham Spanier amid the growing furor over how the school handled sex abuse allegations against an assistant coach.

The massive shakeup Wednesday night came hours after Paterno announced that he planned to retire at the end of his 46th season.

But the outcry following the arrest of former assistant coach Jerry Sandusky on molestation charges proved too much for the board to ignore.

Speaking at his house to students, Paterno said, "Right now, I'm not the football coach, and that's something I have to get used to."

One key question has been why Paterno and other top school officials didn't go to police in 2002 after being told a graduate assistant saw Sandusky assaulting a boy in a school shower.

Paterno says he should have done more. Spanier has said he was not told the details of the attack.

Sandusky has denied the charges.
Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley will serve as interim coach while Rodney Erickson will serve as interim school president.

Earlier in the day, Paterno said in a statement he was "absolutely devastated" by the case, in which Sandusky, his onetime heir apparent, was charged with molesting eight boys in 15 years, with some of the alleged abuse taking place at the Penn State football complex.

"This is a tragedy," Paterno said. "It is one of the great sorrows of my life. With the benefit of hindsight, I wish I had done more."

John Surma, the vice chair of the board of trustees, said, "these decisions were made after careful deliberations and in the best interests of the university as a whole."

"The past several days have been absolutely terrible for the entire Penn State community. But the outrage that we feel is nothing compared to the physical and psychological suffering that allegedly took place," he added.

Sue Paterno opened the door of the Paterno home briefly when a reporter knocked, then closed it and turned off the light.

**Moral lapse**

The Education Department announced Wednesday that it is investigating whether Penn State failed to report incidents of sexual abuse on campus, as required by federal law.

Colleges and universities must report the number of crimes on campus and provide warnings in a timely manner if safety is threatened. Some of the abuse allegedly occurred in the university's football complex.

The 84-year-old Paterno has been engulfed by outrage that he did not take more action after a graduate assistant, Mike McQueary, came to him in 2002 and reported seeing Sandusky in the Penn State showers with a 10-year-old boy. Paterno notified the athletic director, Tim Curley, and a vice president, Gary Schultz.

Curley and Schultz have since been charged with failing to report the incident to the authorities. Paterno hasn't been accused of legal wrongdoing. But he has been assailed for what the state police commissioner called a lapse of "moral responsibility," in not doing more to stop Sandusky.

Paterno met with his coaching staff and players in the football building at Penn State for about 10-15 minutes Wednesday in what was described as a very emotional session. Standing at a podium, Paterno told them he was leaving at the end of the season and broke down in tears.
Players gave him a standing ovation when he walked out.

"In all the clips I've seen of him, I've never seen him break down and cry. And he was crying the whole time today," quarterback Paul Jones said. "He said it's the best decision."

Cornerback Stephon Morris said some players also were nearly in tears while Paterno spoke. The decision to fire the man affectionately known as "Joe Pa" brings to an end one of the most storied coaching careers, not just in college football but in all of sports. Paterno won 409 games, a record for major college football, and is in the middle of his 46th year as coach.

**Compromising values**

Sandusky, who retired from Penn State in June 1999, maintained his innocence through his lawyer.

Paterno has defended his decision to take the news to Curley and Schultz. Paterno said it was obvious that the graduate student, since identified as McQueary, was "distraught," but said he was not told about the "very specific actions" of the sexual assault in the grand jury report.

After Paterno reported the incident to Curley, Sandusky was told to stay away from the school. But critics say Paterno should have done more.

"When an institution discovers abuse of a kid, their first reaction was to protect the reputation of the institution and the perpetrator," said John Salveson, former president of the Pennsylvania chapter of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests.

Paterno's requirement that his players not just achieve success but adhere to a moral code that they win with honor transcended his sport. Duke basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski said in June for an ESPN special on Paterno: "Values are never compromised. That's the bottom line."
Penn State Students Clash With Police in Unrest After Announcement

By NATE SCHWEBER

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — After top Penn State officials announced that they had fired Joe Paterno on Wednesday night, thousands of students stormed the downtown area to display their anger and frustration, chanting the former coach’s name, tearing down light poles and overturning a television news van parked along College Avenue.

The demonstrators congregated outside Penn State’s administration building before stampeding into the tight grid of downtown streets. They turned their ire on a news van, a symbolic gesture that expressed a view held by many that the news media exaggerated Mr. Paterno’s role in the scandal surrounding accusations that a former assistant coach, Jerry Sandusky, sexually assaulted young boys.

“I think the point people are trying to make is the media is responsible for Joe Pa going down,” said a freshman, Mike Clark, 18, adding that he believed that Mr. Paterno had met his legal and moral responsibilities by telling university
authorities about an accusation that Mr. Sandusky assaulted a boy in a university shower in 2002.

Demonstrators tore down two lamp posts, one falling into a crowd. They also threw rocks and fireworks at the police, who responded with pepper spray. The crowd undulated like an accordion, with the students crowding the police and the officers pushing them back.

“We got rowdy, and we got maced,” Jeff Heim, 19, said rubbing his red, teary eyes. “But make no mistake, the board started this riot by firing our coach. They tarnished a legend.”

An orderly crowd first filled the lawn in front of Old Main when news of Mr. Paterno’s firing came via students’ cellphones. When the crowd took to the downtown streets, its anger and intensity swelled. Students shouted “We are Penn State.”

Some blew vuvuzelas, others air horns. One young man sounded reveille on a trumpet. Four girls in heels danced on the roof of a parked sport utility vehicle and dented it when they fell after a group of men shook the vehicle. A few, like Justin Muir, 20, a junior studying hotel and restaurant management, threw rolls of toilet paper into the trees.

“It’s not fair,” Mr. Muir said hurling a white ribbon. “The board is an embarrassment to our school and a disservice to the student population.”

Just before midnight the police lost control of the crowd. Chanting, “Tip the van,” they toppled the news vehicle and then brought down a nearby lamp post. When the police opened up with pepper spray, some in the crowd responded by hurling rocks, cans of soda and flares. They also tore down street signs, tipped over trash cans and newspaper vending boxes and shattered car windows.

Some students noted the irony that they had come out to oppose what they saw as a disgraceful end to Mr. Paterno’s distinguished career as a football coach, and then added to the ignobility of the episode by starting an unruly protest.

Greg Becker, 19, a freshman studying computer science, said he felt he had to vent his feelings anyway.

“This definitely looks bad for our school,” he said sprinting away from a cloud of pepper spray. “I’m sure Joe Pa wouldn’t want this, but this is just an uproar now, we’re finding a way to express our anger.”

As the crowd got more aggressive, so did police officers. Some protesters fought back. One man in gas mask rushed a half dozen police officers in protective gear, blasted one officer with pepper spray underneath his safety mask and then sprinted away. The officer lay on the ground, rubbing his eyes.
Paul Howard, 24, an aerospace engineering student, jeered the police. “Of course we’re going to riot,” he said. “What do they expect when they tell us at 10 o’clock that they fired our football coach?”

Other students expressed sadness instead of anger. Kathryn Simpson walked crying arm-in-arm with a friend. “I’m here because I just need to be with the rest of my school right now,” she said. “This is devastating for us.”

When the unrest began, a merchant, Douglas Albert, stood outside his downtown shop, Douglas Albert Gallery, to keep it safe. “I’ve been in State College for 42 years, and I’ve never seen anything like this. This is uncharted waters,” he said looking at the overturned news van, on which one young man was dancing.

Students pounded on the sides of upright news vans, and as officers herded them down the street they and shouted, “Flip it over!” Some took off their shirts and tied them around their mouths for protection from the fog of pepper spray that left countless students hacking. A few wore ski goggles. Many climbed on the tops of parked cars, denting and sinking the roofs, to get a better view of the spectacle.

The police finally dispersed the crowd by around 1:30 a.m. by marching, a dozen abreast, down College Avenue shouting and spraying any students that did not hustle away. Soon State Police cruisers could speed down the street toward the backhoe that was procured to flip the news van back upright.

Mixed in the crowd were a few dissenting opinions. Dan Smith, 21, a junior studying secondary education, said he thought the board was correct. “The hardest part, because he was a hero to me, is coming to grips with what he did, or actually what he didn’t do,” Mr. Smith said.

Like Mr. Smith, Kevin Goff, 19, a freshman studying film, did not protest Mr. Paterno’s firing. He came out just to see the show. “My friends were like, ‘I don’t want to get maced,’ ” he said. “I was like, ‘I don’t want to miss seeing this, so I guess that means I do kind of want to get maced.’ ”

Mark Viera contributed reporting.
Princeton Is Swamped in Early Applications

By JACQUES STEINBERG

Princeton, along with Harvard, canceled its early-admission program four years ago to delay the beginning of the annual frenzy of applicants hoping to secure a precious seat in the next freshman class. But when none of their main competitors followed suit, both institutions announced in February that they would once again offer applicants an opportunity to apply in November, two months before the regular deadline.

The response, at least at Princeton, was a flurry of early applicants. A spokesman said Tuesday night that 3,547 students had applied by last week’s deadline through the university’s “single-choice early-action” program. That figure is nearly triple the size of the entire freshman class.

A spokesman for Harvard, which also had an early November deadline for applicants, said its early-admission tally would not be available before next week. At many other institutions, the early-admission application deadline is not until Nov. 15.

But anecdotally among about 100 colleges and universities queried, it was clear that early applications to some highly selective colleges were up, despite the pinch that the economic downturn has placed on families’ college savings accounts. (Those who apply under early-decision programs commit in advance to enroll if accepted, and lose the ability to compare other colleges’ financial aid offers; early-action programs like Princeton’s are not binding on applicants.)

Duke, for example, said that 2,716 students had applied under its binding early-decision program, a 23 percent increase over last fall. Johns Hopkins said it had received 1,440 applications to its binding program, an increase of nearly 8 percent. And nearly 1,800 applied through Dartmouth’s early-decision program, a 2 percent increase.
GWU students can keep credits from untaught classes

By Jenna Johnson for Campus Overload column

George Washington University students who received “A” grades in two courses that were never taught will be refunded their money and allowed to keep their class credits, according to a university statement released Wednesday afternoon.

In October, the GWU School of Medicine and Health Sciences Office of the Provost received three letters from students who said they were enrolled in physician assistant classes in 2010 but never received instruction. The students still received “A” grades from Venetia Orcutt, department chair of the physician assistant program, according to the statement.

Orcutt had been assigned to teach a sequence of evidence-based medicine courses over three semesters in 2010 — one in-person class and two online ones. Each course was worth one credit. Orcutt taught the in-person course, but not the two online ones.

The associate professor “nevertheless awarded the grade of A to all the students who had been enrolled in the course,” said Dr. Jeffrey S. Akman, interim vice provost for health affairs and dean of the school, in a statement. “This situation is clearly unacceptable.”

Orcutt offered her resignation on Oct. 6, effective Oct. 31.

Orcutt has not responded to messages left at her home for comment.

The students will be allowed to keep the credit they received for those two classes, Akman said, because they had “met the learning objectives” through “other courses, clinical experience and educational activities embedded throughout the curriculum.” The students will receive a refund for the two courses, and can choose to take the online classes for free.

Akman said the university is now taking steps to ensure something like this doesn’t happen again. He appointed a review committee comprised of faculty members from outside the School of Medicine and Health Sciences to “thoroughly review all aspects of this unfortunate event.” The committee has been asked to make recommendations by the end of the year.