THE DAILY CLIPS

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News, commentary, and opinion
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BY ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS
The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Chinese students are enrolling in U.S. universities in record numbers, encouraged by aggressive recruiting combined with China’s booming economy and growing middle class.

Their enrollment grew by 8 percent in the fall of 2006 and by 20 percent last year, according to Institute of International Education figures being released Monday.

Individual universities surveyed by The Associated Press also are reporting high growth this year.

Chinese enrollment increased 300 percent this year at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. George Fox University in Newberg, Ore., accepted 65 students from China, more than double its 2007 figure.

Purdue University in West Lafayette, Ind., already boasting a strong international student program, is enrolling 290 Chinese students, up from 127. The spike was more than 400 percent at Ohio State University, the nation’s largest campus, with 115 undergraduates from China compared with 20 last year.

Xiaoli Liu, an Ohio State freshman from Beijing, said Chinese universities offer solid academics but can’t compete with the overall experience of an American college, including more opportunities for out-of-class activities, an open learning environment and diversity.

“In China you can seldom find people from the U.S., but in the U.S. you find people from all over the world,” Xiaoli said.

The influx is part of a solid and welcomed rebound in the number of international students coming to the United States, with its giant pool of 4,000 colleges and universities.

Numbers of international students had dropped alarmingly due to competition from other countries and tighter visa procedures after the September 2001 terrorist attacks. But the

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**Studying abroad**

Chinese students enrolled in U.S. universities grew by 8 percent in the fall of 2006 and jumped by 20 percent last year.

**Top countries of origin of international students in the U.S., 2007-2008 (in thousands)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>123.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>81.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Korea</td>
<td>69.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>34.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>29.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>14.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Top foreign study destinations for U.S. students, 2006-2007**

- U. Kingdom: 32.7
- Italy: 27.8
- Spain: 24.0
- France: 17.2
- China: 11.1
- Australia: 10.7
- Mexico: 9.5

SOURCE: Institute of International Education

The latest IIE report finds 7 percent more students at U.S. universities than a year ago, at an all-time high of 624,000.

India again sent the most students, followed by China and South Korea. Enrollment from Saudi Arabia jumped 25 percent, putting the country back into the top 10 for the first time since 1982, thanks to a new Saudi government scholarship program.

A snapshot survey the Institute did of campuses this fall found that 55 percent reported increases in students from China, the most from any country.

International students and their families contribute more than $15 billion annually to the U.S. economy, according to a separate survey by NAFA, the Association of International Educators, also being released Monday. And they typically pay higher out-of-state tuition, so they’re an important revenue source for colleges at a time when the supply of college-age American students is beginning to crest.

Out-of-state students pay an average $515 more per credit hour at Michigan State University, where the number of new undergraduate Chinese students soared from 95 last year to 327 this year.
UNC system budget could raise tuition at all 16 universities

The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL — University of North Carolina officials have unanimously approved a $3 billion budget plan that seeks a $168 million spending increase.

WRAL-TV reports that the Board of Governors on Friday approved the plan that represents a 5.8 percent increase.

All but about $50 million would go toward salaries, financial aid and public safety at the system's 16 universities.

Chancellors at the system's campuses have cut current budgets by 4 percent.

The board decided not to raise tuition last year, but University of North Carolina President Erskine Bowles said he expects campuses will ask for an increase now.
Wounded Warrior 10K a success

East Carolina Road Racing and the ECU Army ROTC cadets would like to extend our appreciation to all who made our inaugural Wounded Warrior 10K successful. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Wounded Warriors at Fort Bragg.

This was the first single-loop 10K since 1983 in Greenville, and was only possible with the precision help of many Army cadets.

Thanks to the more than 50 Army cadets who set up the tents, worked the race course and finish line.

Thanks to the sponsors for donating to the Army Cadet Association, especially Walter Williams and Mike Colombo, who support so many of our local events.

Thanks to the runners, many of whom always support the home race.

Thanks to Dr. Bill Price and EMT assistant, who volunteered to ride their fully loaded BMW EMT motorcycles through the race, and ensure no problems.

Thanks to the residents of the Lynndale neighborhoods, who allow us to run several races a year past their homes and some of the best running roads in Pitt County.

Thanks to Ricky Baker and Greenville Public Works, who went out of their way to sweep the roads of pine needles a few days before, allowing runners their fastest and safest lines.

For 2009, ECRR will try to avoid scheduling races in Greenville the weekends of home football games. We will post a tentative date by the end of the year, which will be confirmed or changed once Conference USA has informed ECU of schedules in March.

Again, thanks to all who have helped add another new event to Greenville, Sportstown USA!

KIP SLOAN
East Carolina Road Racing
Kip.Sloan@ecrun.org
Greenville
ECU education major to intern at Ron Clark Academy

East Carolina University junior Carla K. Watson has been selected to participate in a new clinical experience program at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Ga.

She will spend the spring 2009 semester there.

Founded by ECU alumnus and award-winning teacher Ron Clark, the academy is a private, non-profit middle school that promotes innovation and inspires its students through energetic teaching balanced by a strict code of discipline. Each year, 3,000 educators from around the world visit the school to learn how to replicate its style, philosophy and success in their own classrooms.

As part of the award, Watson will receive a $2,500 stipend and will stay at nearby Oglethorpe University. In the fall, she will return to ECU to finish her degree.

Originally from Martin County, Watson graduated with honors from Jamesville High School in 2006, and is majoring in middle grades education with concentrations in mathematics education and social studies.

ECU Health Sciences students recognized

ECU’s College of Allied Health Sciences recognized 40 outstanding students during the university’s homecoming and allied health sciences’ 40th anniversary.

Departments chose students based on grade point average, service to the community and leadership abilities.

Local students selected are Kelly Grayburn and Jade Reynolds of Winterville, Sara Stanley of Greenville and Eric K. Mason of Washington, N.C.

Adapted Sports Day honors Paralympians, Wounded Warriors


“This is a celebration of our patriotism, the wounded warriors that have fought for our country and the variety of possibilities that are available through adapted sports for everyone to stay active regardless of obstacles that may be present,” said David Gaskins, associate director for programs at ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness.

Saturday’s event features keynote speaker Ed Salau of Winterville, an 11-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps who lost his leg in combat to a rocket-propelled grenade. His talk begins at 11:15 a.m. Paralympians Alexis Gillette and Heather Erickson will speak at 12:15 p.m. about competitive athletics and their recent experience at the 2008 Games in Beijing. Gillette, an ECU graduate, is a two-time medal recipient for track and field.

The event, which will be held at ECU’s Student Recreation Center, is open to individuals of all ages, with or without disabilities. Activities include wheelchair volleyball, slalom course, bowling and billiards, tai chi, hand cycling and more.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., and activities will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. A $5 fee includes parking and meals. For a full schedule, visit: http://www.ecu.edu/cs-studentlife/crw/integrated_sports/adapted_sports_day.cfm.

Tenth annual ECU Neuroscience Symposium is Nov. 25

Alzheimer’s disease will be the main topic of the 10th annual East Carolina University Neuroscience Symposium to be held Nov. 25 in Greenville.

The free day-long event will be held at the Edwin W. Monroe Eastern AHEC Conference Center at 2000 Venture Tower Drive. The first talk begins at 8:30 a.m.

Speakers will cover the latest information regarding molecular mechanisms promoting nerve growth and future directions for treatment of neurological diseases such as Alzheimer’s, schizophrenia, AIDS-related neurological disorders and substance abuse.

For information about the event or to register, e-mail neuroscience@ecu.edu or visit http://www.ecu.edu/neurochapter.

Religious scholar to deliver Voyages lecture

Marcus Borg, Hundere Distinguished Professor of Religion and Culture at Oregon State University, will deliver the Jarvis Lecture in the 2008-09 Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences’ Voyages of Discovery Lecture Series.

Borg will speak on “Christians in the Age of Empire” in the Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Known as one of the leading historical Jesus scholars of his generation, Borg is the author of 10 books, two of which have become best-sellers.

The Jarvis Lecture is sponsored by Jarvis Memori United Methodist Church at the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Religious Studies program.

Free tickets available ECU’s Central Ticket Office 328-4788. For information visit www.ecu.edu/voyages.
Amid crunch, college presidents get raises

JUSTIN POPE, The Associated Press

Comment on this story

At least one person on campus has done OK as the economy has decimated presidents’ salaries climbed 7.6 percent last year.

Fifteen presidents of public research universities took home at least $427,400 from eight in last year’s survey, and nearly one-third now earn more, according to the annual Chronicle of Higher Education survey out today.

The salary increases almost entirely reflect contracts signed before the economy sharply downward, and the boards that govern colleges argue that reining in pay is more critical during a crisis.

But the figures will likely attract criticism, because colleges and universities around the country are slashing budgets, with many laying off staff. And despite tuition hikes, public universities increased tuition 6.4 percent this fall, according to the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges.

"Apparently, belt-tightening is for families and students, not universities," said Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, who has been the sharpest critic in Congress of public and private college spending.

The median salary for public university presidents -- now $427,400 -- is $100,000 less than at private universities, where the median salary is $524,600.

But the gap is narrowing as public universities are increasingly willing to keep their leaders from being lured away.

WHAT THEY MAKE

The three highest-paid public university presidents in 2007-08, include deferred compensation and various perks.

Gordon Gee
Ohio State University
$1,346,225

Mark A. Emmert
University of Washington
Floyd Hall, a homeless veteran, has lived at the Urban Ministries Shelter in Durham for about two weeks. He has been job-hunting in a borrowed shirt and socks, with a jacket and tie from the shelter lending closet.

Staff Photos by Ted Richardson

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Homeless vets will have housing

24 units being built in Durham

MARTHA QUILLIN, Staff Writer

Comment on this story

DURHAM - An apartment complex expected to open next month will almost quadruple the number of beds for veterans at risk of homelessness in this city, and housing experts say it's not nearly enough.

The nonprofit Volunteers of America built the 24-unit Maple Court apartments in Durham because a disproportionate number of the Triangle's 500 or more homeless veterans live there. Bob Williamson, who runs the health care program for homeless vets at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Durham, said vets are drawn to the area because of the VA and other veterans services, and the hope of jobs.

For years, however, those who couldn't find -- or keep -- jobs have ended up sleeping in shelters, parks, abandoned buildings and under bridges.

The VA has long recognized homelessness as a problem among veterans; a third of homeless men are veterans.

In the Triangle, there is no emergency shelter dedicated to the needs of vets, who may have post-traumatic stress disorder or other issues that make shelter life particularly difficult.

Transitional housing
Though the VA doesn't fund emergency shelter for vets, it has had a program since the 1990s to help nonprofits build and run transitional housing for veterans. Intended to stop the cycle of homelessness, these can house veterans for up to two years while they are enrolled in recovery and job-training programs.

But progress is slow. Maple Court has been eight years in the making. Durham's TROSA, Triangle Residential Options for Substance Abusers, has 25 beds for homeless vets expected to come online in December. Another program has nine beds for homeless vets, including those who are HIV-positive.

Across the state, there are fewer than 300 beds in VA-supported housing for homeless vets.

"We need more," Williamson said. But in the meantime, "We want to show veterans they are not forgotten."

Floyd Hall was one of the first to apply for a spot in Maple Court. Hall, who served in the Army from 1976 to 1982, has been staying at the Urban Ministries Center emergency shelter in Durham for two weeks.

"This is not where I saw myself ending up," he said.

Hall, 49, says sleeping in a room with 70 or 80 other men is a severe test for him. Hall says his PTSD causes him to be extremely anxious in open spaces and among groups of more than three or four people.

"I want to be able to make my own way," he said. "I'm pretty sure there are some homeless people who want to be homeless, but I'm not one of them."

Hall lived on his own for years. Most recently, he had been in Kill Devil Hills, supported primarily by a monthly Social Security disability check and working part time when he was able. Then, in February, the checks stopped coming.

Hall is still trying to find out why -- he thinks he may have exceeded his income limit by as little as $100 for the year -- but while he tries to get that resolved, his Medicaid coverage ended with his disabled status. He lived on savings for as long as he could, but eventually could not pay his rent. He couldn't go to the doctor for his back and other health problems. And with his PTSD and other issues, he couldn't get, or keep, a full-time job.

**Surviving in Greenville**

He pulled out his camping gear, put the rest of his belongings in rented storage, and hitched rides to Greenville, a town he knew from having attended East Carolina University for a while. He found an unoccupied church where a side door stayed unlocked, and slept there sometimes. Finally, he called the VA and asked for help.

"They told me that to enter into their homeless program, I'd have to move to Durham and stay in the homeless shelter," he said.

Deborah Lee, the VA's regional homeless coordinator, said sometimes that's the best advice the agency can offer.

To qualify for a bed in supported transitional housing, a vet has to meet the federal definition of "homeless." One way is to be in a shelter.
Since he's been in Durham, Hall has signed up for the first PTSD counseling sessions he's ever had. His service in Central America left him with such a vivid recollection of the scent of death that he can't stand certain sweet smells. He's scoured the Internet looking for work he can do.

Wednesday, he went to a veterans job fair, wearing socks and a shirt borrowed from another shelter resident and a coat and tie from the shelter's clothing closet.

He's waiting to hear whether he'll be accepted into Maple Court. Workers are busy with finishing touches at the complex this week, such as installing a donated flag pole outside what will be a veterans services building. Rebecca Dixon, chaplain for Volunteers of America, said she hopes to get enough donations of new dishes and cookware to outfit each resident's kitchen.

The housing alone would be a great gift, Hall said.

"We as vets -- we protected while you slept," Hall said. "We deserve some compensation for that. We're not greedy. We just want a little help. I don't think we're asking for too much.

"By training alone, we're strong individuals. But there's a point you reach where hopelessness sets in. And to be honest, I'm pretty much there."

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Staff photographer Ted Richardson contributed to this story.

Related Content

• Photo gallery: Veteran copes with homelessness


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