THE DAILY CLIPS

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Fraternity's public service worthy of praise

Tuesday, November 17, 2009

I caught some young men doing something good the morning of Nov. 7.

ECU college students were picking up trash on East Fourth Street. When I stopped to thank them, I learned that they were brothers of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, a relatively new chapter of a social fraternity at ECU.

Chapter president Ahmet Aksoy and David Wagner, their philanthropy committee chairman, told me that they perform this community service every month.

In contrast to the behavior we so often associate with undergraduate social fraternities, it is a welcome surprise to learn that community service is part of this fraternity's mission and tradition. It is a great way to develop brotherhood, citizenship and leadership skills.

The Tar River University Neighborhood Association says thank you very much. We welcome responsible students as neighbors.

Your chapter seems to be off to a great start. We also congratulate the Sig Phi Epsilon fraternity on their new annex. It markedly improves the appearance of Fifth and Summit streets.

The activities and actions of Sig Ep members can have a positive influence on their part of the neighborhood, too. Best wishes.

CHRIS MANSFIELD

president, TRUNA

Greenville_SPGb

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Colleges hire, with caution

The Triangle's public universities continued to hire faculty members this year even as cuts to swelling administrative ranks put many employees out of work.

The faculty hiring is the result of a strategic move by UNC system leaders to shave costs almost exclusively from the administrative side of the ledger and protect academics.

At UNC-Chapel Hill, where 300 jobs were eliminated and about 100 workers were laid off, 228 new faculty members joined the teaching ranks this fall.

That's down about 20 percent from an average hiring year, a function of the budget constraints still facing academic departments, said Bruce Carney, the university's interim provost. Still, departments with money to spend were able to choose from pretty large talent pools, Carney said.

"Everybody else is facing the same kinds of problems, so a number of jobs out there evaporated," he said. "The talent was pretty good. It's definitely a buyer's market, if you have money."

Not only do universities have their pick of candidates, they generally don't have to pay quite as much as they would in boom times, Carney added.

At N.C. State, where 205 staff positions were eliminated this year and nearly 50 people lost jobs, 38 new, full-time faculty members were hired.

N.C. Central University hired 12 faculty members this year; all filling jobs vacated by professors who left NCCU for other jobs or retired.

Across the public university system, 900 administrative positions were eliminated and about 600 workers lost jobs.

Though universities are hiring faculty, the economy did make the process messy.

In the annual scrum to secure faculty posts with law schools, aspiring professor Joseph Blocher snared back-to-back September interviews with Duke and UNC-CH.

Good thing. Though Blocher's interviews came as the nation's economy teetered, he got job offers from both law schools.

Looking back now, he knows his fate may have been different had his interviews been even a month or two later. By late fall, universities were canceling interviews and, in some rare cases, rescinding job offers.

"It was a nasty scene," said Blocher, a Durham native and Yale law school graduate now in his first year as an assistant professor at Duke's law school. "The biggest problem for candidates was uncertainty. Nobody knew where the bottom was."
At Duke, where employees have been offered retirement incentives as part of a move to cut $125 million from the annual operating budget, 275 new faculty members began work this fall. Some began a year or two ago, before the economy soured. Others are scientists who fund much of their own salaries and laboratory expenses through federal grants. And some, like Blocher at Duke's law school, are junior faculty who generally have lower salaries.

Though Duke is still actively hiring faculty, it isn't conducting as many searches as usual, said Michael Schoenfeld, a university spokesman.

Though universities have plenty of natural turnover, vacancies are fewer now. Some older faculty are putting off retirement until their financial portfolios bounce back, and others are reluctant to take new jobs elsewhere, Schoenfeld said.

"There have been fewer departures than in the past," he said. "People may have an opportunity to move and think: 'But can I sell my house?'"

Bruce Maggs spent a year commuting between Durham and Pittsburgh before deciding to give up his faculty appointment at Carnegie Mellon University and take a job with Duke's computer science department. A tenured professor, Maggs, who declined to disclose his salary, likely didn't come cheap. His new co-workers made that clear when he arrived in Durham.

"Up and down the line, people told me it was a big sacrifice to bring in a full professor right now," said Maggs, 46, whose grandfather was a Duke law professor and whose father is still on the University of Illinois law faculty.

"That didn't make me feel bad, though. It made me feel good that they were making that commitment to me."

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UNC's Bowles: "Be a better salesman"

Submitted by eternel on 11/15/2009 - 05:40
Tags: Campus Notes | Centennial Campus | Erskine Bowles | N.C. A & T | N.C. State | ncseu | UNC | UNC Greensboro | University of North Carolina

Erskine Bowles will tell you: He's no marketing genius.

But in his role as the president of the UNC system, he is a pitchman of sorts. He has a product and he has to sell it – to taxpayers, to legislators, to students and their parents.

And now, he wants to raise his game.

In remarks Friday during a meeting of the UNC system's Board of Governors, Bowles spoke of recent meetings with legislators. He said those lawmakers were surprised, and pleasantly so, to hear about the long list of projects and goals Bowles and his staff have put together for the current year.

So Bowles now wants to tell the university's success stories more often.

To that end, Bowles now plans on monthly progress reports on big university initiatives to be distributed to lawmakers. He wants to demonstrate that projects funded by taxpayers are underway and doing what they're supposed to be doing.

"I haven't done as good a job as I should do to get the positive messages out," he said. "We have a job to protect the reputation of this critically important jewel. I've got to do a better job of that. I think we all do."

Each month during board meetings, Bowles runs down a list of accomplishments and notable achievements by UNC system campuses, faculty, staff and students.

A few from the last month:

- North Carolina A & T and UNC Greensboro broke ground on a new, joint nanoscience and nanotechnology school that will emphasize research and commercialization of products generated there.

For Greensboro residents, this new project represents economic hope, Bowles said Friday. "They've lost textiles and apparel and furniture," he said. "This is a chance for new industry."

- The marching bands from N.C. Central University and Western Carolina were each selected for the Tournament of Roses, the big New Year's Day parade in Pasadena. Only 13 bands were selected.

- N.C. State celebrated the 25th anniversary of Centennial Campus, a public/private research venture that has served as a model for other similar ventures.

- A 2003 NCSU alum, Doc Hendley, has been recognized by CNN for a non-profit organization he set up that builds and sanitizes water wells in developing countries.

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Retired Col. Mike Whitehurst, left, was incorrectly identified in Sunday's paper. He is shown with retired Master Sgt. Carl Wilson. They placed a wreath in honor of fallen soldiers during Bethel's Veterans Day observance.

Friday's Go! story indicated that East Carolina University's performances of "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" will be held in Wright Auditorium. Performances will be held in McGinnis Theatre.

If you notice an error, give me a call at 329-9560 or send an e-mail to aclark@reflector.com. If I am not available, and you need to speak to someone right away, please call 329-9573.

Al Clark, executive editor
Pirates remain focused

The most dangerous aspect of East Carolina's aggressive nonconference football scheduling always has been the potential for a letdown.

Win or lose against the ACC, Big East and various other Bowl Championship Series insiders that usually dot the Pirates' early schedules, there's always the chance the players - and fans - either will be too up or too down to respond to a steady diet of Conference USA opponents.

"It's like trying to juggle hand grenades," former ECU coach Steve Logan once said.

Thus far, no one has dealt with that challenge better than Skip Holtz, whose team had lost games to the ACC and Big East before his coaching staff could so much as discuss a game plan against a conference foe.

"Staying focused is going to be a big key, probably our biggest key to the rest of the year," Holtz said after his team's 31-17 loss at North Carolina on Sept. 19.

With the offensive and defensive units seldom clicking at the same time, the juggling has been tricky for Holtz. But after coming up empty against Virginia Tech on Nov. 5 in another hunt for big game, the Pirates had their most impressive game when they needed it most - a 44-17 win at Tulsa on Sunday that sets the table for a chance to defend their league title.

At 5-1, the Pirates are atop the C-USA East and will win the division if they can sweep successive home games against surging Alabama-Birmingham on Saturday and longtime nemesis Southern Miss on Nov. 28.

ECU could win both, finish 8-4 overall and still have to travel for the second straight year for the Dec. 5 league title game, which could be the possible impact of a 28-21 loss at Southern Methodist on Oct. 10.

The divisional winner with the better league record gets to host the championship game. But in the event of a tie, the first tiebreaker is regular-season meetings.

The Mustangs, 1-11 overall and 0-8 in the conference last season, are the C-USA surprise of '09 at 5-1 in the West and 6-4 overall. Such has been the quick impact of June Jones' coaching on the program. SMU goes to Marshall this week, then hosts Tulane on Nov. 28 in its final regular-season game. If the Ponies win both, they host.

At 6-2, ECU won the East last season, traveled to Tulsa (7-1) for the title game, won 27-24 and represented the league in the Liberty Bowl - losing 25-19 to Kentucky of the SEC.

Several Pirates have talked about returning to Memphis since. Among the potential SEC opponents on Jan. 2 are Tennessee, Georgia, Ole Miss and South Carolina.

Given their ups and downs this season, there's no reason for the Pirates to get smug, but the
performances at Tulsa by quarterback Patrick Pinkney, running back Dominique Lindsay, receiver Darryl Freeney and the offensive line were timely and uplifting. Pinkney, a sixth-year senior, had not played up to expectations until erupting for 275 yards passing and two touchdown passes Sunday.

In a 16-3 loss to Virginia Tech 10 days earlier, the offense was stagnant.

The defense had problems at the start of the season, particularly against deep-passing attacks, but then jelled during the loss at SMU and has played effectively since.

It's possible that the deflating Thursday Night ESPN loss to the Hokies served to simplify things for ECU. With the last big names gone, the Pirates had nothing left to focus on except a conference race that sometimes gets more lip service than genuine attention.

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Stevens joins East Carolina baseball staff

Jeff Stevens has been named the volunteer baseball coach at East Carolina University, according to an announcement from head coach Billy Godwin on Monday.

Stevens spent part of the 2008 season as the bench coach for the Danville Braves, where he maintained opponent's scouting reports, assisted with instruction of the catchers and daily practice routines and coordinated team travel arrangements to and from the field.

"We are excited to have Jeff Stevens join our staff," Godwin said. "He understands my coaching philosophy after playing for me at Louisburg and brings a great deal of collegiate and professional experience to East Carolina."

Stephens spent four years in minor league baseball after signing a free agent contract with the Atlanta Braves in 2006. He played in 65 career games, batting .272 (47-for-173) with three home runs, 24 RBIs, 12 doubles and scored 21 runs.

Stevens played two seasons (2005-06) at the University of Pittsburgh under head coach Joe Jordano. He helped the Panthers make an appearance in the 2005 Big East Conference Championship Game after hitting six home runs, 31 RBIs and 11 doubles as a junior. Behind the dish, he threw out 45 percent of would-be base stealers and boasted a .979 fielding percentage. In a game against Villanova on Apr. 16, 2005, Stevens belted two home runs and drove in three runs in a 9-8 loss in 10 innings.

Stevens played one season at Louisburg College under Godwin's direction. He batted .270 with nine home runs and 36 RBI as a sophomore.

During his prep career at Dan River High School, Stevens led his team to the 2002 Regional Championship.

USM kickoff time moved

The kickoff time for East Carolina's Conference USA contest against Southern Miss, scheduled for November 28 at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, has been pushed back a half hour to 1:30 p.m. to accommodate a live CBS College Sports television broadcast.

The matchup with the Golden Eagles will mark the second time the Pirates have appeared on CBS College Sports this season, after having three games on the network a year ago.

The USM game will also serve as the final regular-season contest of 2009 for East Carolina.

Pirate golf signs two

East Carolina Women's golf coach Kevin Williams has announced that Andrea Estes and Fanny Wolte have each signed a national letter of intent to play golf for the Pirates during the 2010-11 season.

Estes, who attends Green Hope in Cary, was named the 2009 Tarheel Golf Foundation player of the year and finished tied for 21st at the 2009 4-A championships.

Wolte, who is from Graz, Austria, finished second at the 2009 International Austrian Ladies Amateur Championship and qualified for the 2007 and 2009 Ladies British Amateur Championships.

"We are very pleased with this recruiting class," Williams said. "We were able to sign two very athletic and academically successful student-athletes. We are very excited about the potential impact this class will have on our program."

— ECU Media Relations
NEWS

'Tailgate party' takes a twist

_ECU fans huddle around bonfire to view contest_

By GREG KATSKI
Community Editor
Published: Tuesday, November 17, 2009 2:22 AM EST

A crowd of about 130 ECU Pirates football fans braved breezy, chilly weather Sunday night to watch the East Carolina-Tulsa football game on a 20-foot-by-20-foot screen situated behind the former Maola plant on Water Street in Washington.

"We had a good crowd," said Jeff Hunnings, owner and manager of the Pirate's Grill and Pub, which provided amenities for the event.

He said the crowd would’ve been bigger had the "tailgate party," as the event was dubbed, been held on a Friday or Saturday night.

"If it was a Saturday night, we easily could have had 350 people," Hunnings said.

Donnie Cutler, who helped organize the event and provided the giant outdoor screen, said the turnout might have been closer to 1,000 fans on a Friday or Saturday night.

"But it went great considering it was a Sunday night," he said.

Many fans left the tailgate party at halftime of the game, which came around 10 p.m., citing having to get up and go to work Monday morning.

But a handful of dedicated Pirate fans stayed around until the end of the game near midnight.

Hunnings said he’s all for doing similar events in the future, if organizers can secure approval from the City of Washington.

"I would love to do it again," he said.

Hunnings said the Pirate’s Grill and Pub could help organize viewings for the Super Bowl, the Conference USA Championship game (if the ECU football team makes it to that game), whatever bowl game the Pirates may be invited to (the ECU team became bowl eligible with its 44-17 win over Tulsa), college basketball games and, perhaps, televised concerts.

"We’re glad to do it for people that might not have a chance to see (such events) otherwise," Hunnings said.

He invited area residents to give him suggestions on what events they would like to see on the big screen in the future.
Of course, Hunnings and Mac “Bear” Hodges, an ECU fan and one of the event’s organizers, said such events have to take place at night to be projected clearly on the outdoor screen.

“We can’t use the screen during the daytime,” Hunnings said.

In addition to the events that Hunnings touched on, Hodges said he has pitched the idea of showing Friday-night movies on the outdoor screen come springtime.

Cutler agreed that his screen could be used to air a lot more events once the weather warms up.

“With the warmer weather, we’ll get a lot more participation,” he said.

Musician Willis Gupton got a warm reception from the Pirate fans as he opened up the evening with a set of acoustic crowd-pleasers.

A Louisburg resident who often performs in Ocracoke, Gupton sang and strummed his guitar to some classic island tunes including Jimmy Buffett’s “Margaritaville,” giving it an ode-to-Ocracoke twist.

Hunnings said he’s in talks with Gupton about playing a regular Thursday night set at Pirate’s Grill and Pub. He is also considering having a weekly karaoke night.
The Fayetteville Observer
Published: 12:00 AM, Tue Nov 17, 2009

Cheaper Ed: Yes, there are ways to make college affordable.

Sometimes it seems the cost of education is rising as fast as the cost of medical treatment. And now that trend is colliding with the Great Recession. The result is devastating to students and their families.

As an Associated Press story pointed out Monday, as this state's unemployment rate nears 11 percent and families' college investments are tanking, tuition-aid requests have hit records, even as tuition and fees continue to rise. At East Carolina University, financial-aid needs for in-state undergrads grew from $98 million to $135 million in one year.

At the same time, revenue shortfalls have killed a program pushed by former Gov. Mike Easley, which would have allowed as many as 25,000 students to graduate from a state college debt-free. Legislators worry that student aid funding may soon begin running dry.

There is a clear need for more student-aid help on the state and federal levels. Lawmakers in the coming year will try to find a way to distribute more of it.

But that's not the only road to more affordable college education. Fayetteville native Holden Thorp, the chancellor of UNC-Chapel Hill, is working from the other end, trying to find ways of cutting operating costs. With the help of a consultant, he's finding a fertile field for reorganization.

Thorp, emulating what private industry has done for decades, hired a management consultant. Bain & Company went to Chapel Hill, analyzed the university's management organization and concluded it could save as much as $150 million a year by streamlining. Consultants found savings of up to $45 million a year just by consolidating procurement operations. They found another $19 million in centralized information technology and $12 million by paring down management (half of UNC's managers have three or fewer people reporting directly to them).

Cornell University and the University of California, Berkeley saw what Bain found in Chapel Hill and invited the consultants to their campuses. It's no secret that few universities use a sleek management model, no matter what they teach in their business schools. But we can't afford that willful disregard of lean management any longer. Lawmakers should see to it that every unit of the UNC System follows the Chapel Hill lead.

As the world of finance flattens and our global competition grows, we need a better-educated workforce and we won't get it if higher education becomes less affordable.
Students drink more and more often if living in coed dorms

By Greg Toppo, USA TODAY

In the past 30 years, coed college dormitories have gone from rare to routine, with nearly all students who live on campus now sharing housing with members of the opposite sex.

But a study out today suggests that the shift may have had unintended results.

It finds that students in coed dorms are far more likely than those in single-sex dorms to drink alcohol regularly—and nearly 2 1/2 times as likely to drink to excess on a weekly basis.

NOT JUST STUDENTS: Older people are binge drinking, too

More than 90% of college dorms today house both sexes, generally separated by floors or building wings, say the study's authors—yet very little research has accompanied the change.

The new findings, they say, suggest that colleges searching for ways to reduce binge drinking and other entrenched behaviors may consider whether the social pressures of coed housing are making matters worse.

The study, appearing today in the Journal of American College Health, surveyed 510 students living on five college campuses. Most—442, or 87%—lived in coed dorms.

These students were more likely to say they'd had a sexual partner in the past year and more likely to think it's all right "for two people to get together for sex and not necessarily expect anything further," the study says.

They were also more likely to say they drink alcohol at least weekly and far more likely to say they drink excessively on a regular basis—41.5% reported weekly binge drinking. Among students in single-sex housing, the figure was 17.6%.

The new numbers echo previous research, which has put the binge-drinking problem at about 40% of students nationwide. Since 1993, a longitudinal study by the Harvard School of Public Health has consistently found that about 44% of students at four-year colleges in the USA are binge drinkers.

But the new findings on housing and heavy drinking "really caught us off-guard," says study co-author Brian Willoughby, who says the coed dorm students' responses represent "a difference that I think needs to be looked at in greater depth."

Willoughby, who conducted the research while at the University of Minnesota-St. Paul, now teaches at Brigham Young University in Salt Lake City, as does co-author Jason Carroll.

Some experts aren't impressed by the findings, though.

"Given the choice, only certain types of students would consider living in a coed residence hall, and the fact that they might be more 'libertine' than other students is hardly surprising," says William DeJong, a professor at Boston University School of Public Health.

"The authors want to suggest that (living in a coed dorm) leads to high-risk behavior, but that conclusion goes beyond their data, which only shows a correlation with choice of residence hall."

"What we can say is that college administrators and parents might want to pay extra attention to students who choose this living option, because they are in fact at higher risk than others."

But Willoughby says his analysis controlled for "potential selection effects" and found that virtually none of the students chose to live in a single-sex dorm; colleges simply placed them there.

All other things being equal, he says, "there was still something unique about living in a coed dorm that was associated with risk-taking."

Find this article at:
November 16, 2009

China Is Sending More Students to U.S.

By TAMAR LEWIN

American universities are enrolling a new wave of Chinese undergraduates, according to the annual Open Doors report.

While India was, for the eighth consecutive year, the leading country of origin for international students — sending 103,260 students, a 9 percent increase over the previous year — China is rapidly catching up, sending 98,510 last year, a 21 percent increase.

“I think we’re going to be seeing 100,000 students from each for years to come, with an increasing share of them being undergraduates,” said Peggy Blumenthal, executive vice president of the Institute of International Education, which publishes the report with support from the State Department.

Over all, the number of international students at colleges and universities in the United States increased by 8 percent to an all-time high of 671,616 in the 2008-9 academic year — the largest percentage increase in more than 25 years, according to the report.

With the current recession, the influx of international students has been especially important to the American economy, according to Allan E. Goodman, president of the institute.

“International education is domestic economic development,” Mr. Goodman said. “International students shop at the local Wal-Mart, rent rooms and buy food. Foreign students bring $17.8 billion to this country. A lot of campuses this year are increasing their international recruitment, trying to keep their programs whole by recruiting international students to fill their spaces.”

The number of international students exceeded the past peak enrollment year, 2002-3, by 14.5 percent. In 2008-9, undergraduate enrollment rose 11 percent, compared with only a 2 percent increase in graduate enrollment.

In China, that shift has been quite sharp. Last year, China sent 26,275 undergraduates and 57,451 graduate students to the United States — compared with 8,034 undergraduates and 50,976 graduate students five years earlier.

Ms. Blumenthal said the growing share of undergraduates would change the face of the Chinese students’ presence in the United States.

“It used to be that they were all in the graduate science departments, but now, with the one-child policy, more and more Chinese parents are taking their considerable wealth and investing it in that one child getting an American college education,” she said. “There’s a book getting huge play in China right now explaining liberal arts education.”
The book, "A True Liberal Arts Education," by three Chinese undergraduates from Bowdoin College, Franklin & Marshall College and Bucknell University, describes the education available at small liberal arts colleges, and the concept of liberal arts, both relatively unknown in China.

Meanwhile, many large public universities are devoting new resources to building up their share of international undergraduates. The State University of New York, for example, recently made Mitch Leventhal the vice chancellor for global affairs. Mr. Leventhal, who at the University of Cincinnati helped build a network of ties abroad, expects to increase undergraduate recruiting, especially in India and China.

“There’s growing disposable income in China, and not enough good universities to meet the demand,” he said. “And in China, especially, studying in the United States is a great differentiator, because when students get home, they speak English.”

Although the report tracks only the 2008-9 numbers, a smaller survey by the institute last month found that over all, the increase in international students seems to be continuing, with China remaining strong. Of the institutions surveyed this fall, 60 percent reported an increase in Chinese students, and only 11 percent a decline. In contrast, the number of institutions reporting increases in their enrollment of Indian students equaled the number reporting declines.

The survey also found continuing growth this year in the number of students from the Middle East, and continuing declines in the numbers from Japan.
The Washington Post

In-state students' admission obstacle: their home address

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, November 14, 2009

Raechel Hanson toiled through high school to build an academic transcript strong enough for admission to the College of William and Mary, the storied "public Ivy" in Williamsburg. She maintained a 3.9 grade-point average, played flute in the band, presided over the Spanish club and amassed more than 100 hours of community service.

It wasn't enough. She wound up 20 miles away at a less-selective state school, Christopher Newport University.

This was a particularly tough year for Virginians seeking entry to William and Mary and several other prestigious public universities because of machinations in the admissions cycle that favored applicants from outside the state.

"I spent most of my life working toward getting in at William and Mary," said Hanson, 19, of Winchester. "I thought I was of the caliber of students who would get in."

Many of the nation's top public universities accepted nonresident students in greater numbers this year, hoping to increase -- or at least sustain -- a pool of incoming freshmen who pay two or three times the tuition charged to locals. At some schools, the push for nonresidents has made it harder for residents to get in.

Public universities with the cachet to attract out-of-state students have courted them for decades. But universities are looking harder at nonresident students and their tuition dollars during the recession as other revenue sources dwindle. State funding has eroded by 10 percent in Maryland and by 20 percent or more in Virginia since the start of the downturn, accelerating a long-term nationwide decline in government support for higher education. Out-of-state students generally pay the full cost of their education, effectively subsidizing their in-state classmates.

Schools need the money

Since pre-recession 2007, the share of nonresident students in the freshman class has grown considerably at several flagship universities: from 34 to 37 percent at William and Mary; from 19 to 25 percent at the University of Washington; from 43 to 49 percent at the University of Iowa; and from 35 to 44 percent at Penn State.

"It's a matter of fiscal realities," said Mark Emmert, president of the University of Washington. "Public universities survive on a combination of tuition revenue and state financial support. If one goes down, the other has to go up if you want to maintain your capacity."
A broader group of colleges, including the universities of Virginia and Maryland and flagship schools in Michigan, North Carolina and Minnesota, offered admission to more nonresident students this year than last year simply to shore up their numbers. The downturn made it harder for out-of-state students to pay the nonresident surcharge, so schools had to admit more nonresidents than they planned to enroll.

William and Mary accepted more non-Virginians than Virginians this spring for the first time in recent years. The college has become progressively more selective for state residents: A Virginia high school senior who applied to William and Mary four years ago had a 47 percent chance of getting in. This year's admit rate was 39 percent. For non-Virginians, in the same span, the admission rate has risen from 22 to 30 percent.

U-Va. accepted more out-of-state students this year than last year and slightly fewer Virginians. The admission rate for Virginians has fallen from 49 percent in 2005 to 45 percent this year. But school officials note that the admit rate has declined for nonresidents, too.

U-Md. accepted a larger number and share of nonresident applicants in 2009 than in any of the four previous years, hoping to preserve a roughly 2 to 1 ratio in the freshman class. Maryland has recruited heavily in other states and relies on nonresident dollars more than ever. In-state tuition has been frozen for four consecutive years, but out-of-state tuition continues to rise. Tuition and fees total $8,053 for residents, $23,990 for nonresidents.

Shift called temporary

Local university officials say any fluctuation in the admissions mix is purely temporary. A state cap forbids Virginia universities from raising their share of nonresident students above historic levels; at U-Va. and William and Mary, residents outnumber nonresidents roughly 2 to 1. Maryland caps nonresidents at 30 percent of the student population, a level approached only by U-Md.

"We certainly understand our role as a state institution," said Brian Whitson, spokesman for William and Mary.

Schools are pushing those limits, officials say, because they cannot afford to lose nonresident tuition dollars. At William and Mary, two-thirds of tuition revenue, $58 million, comes from nonresidents who pay $30,964 in tuition and fees, compared with $10,800 for residents.

The competition between in-state and out-of-state students has hardened into a political cause in some states as the growing applicant pool makes it tougher for everyone to get in. Parents wistfully recall an era when seemingly anyone with good grades and high SAT scores could gain entry to top state schools.

"It's just not good enough anymore to have really good grades, really good SATs, really good sports, really good kid," said Denise Miller. Her son Billy was rejected by U-Va. despite a transcript that included high grades, Advanced Placement credits, Chinese, diving and squash. He's at his second choice, Virginia Tech.

In Virginia's recent gubernatorial contest, both candidates proposed plans to make more room for Virginians in state schools. Gov.-elect Robert F. McDonnell (R) campaigned on a plan to reduce the share of out-of-state students not by limiting their numbers but by increasing overall seats in state universities by 119,000 over the next 15 years.

"They're literally kicking kids across the borders to other states," said state Del. Timothy D. Hugo
(R-Fairfax). He is the latest of several state lawmakers to push for tougher limits on out-of-state students.

Despite the political cost, several flagship universities are looking to attract more out-of-state students in coming years.

Robert Holub, chancellor of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has proposed raising enrollment from the current 20,000 to 22,500 over 10 years solely by adding nonresident students. University of Colorado President Bruce Benson wants to exclude international students from his state's cap on non-Coloradans. Emmert at the University of Washington and Chancellor Robert Birgeneau at the University of California at Berkeley both say financial pressures will probably compel them to admit more nonresidents in coming years.

College presidents say a growing nonresident population enriches a campus, bringing not just dollars but also cultural and geographical diversity, and tends to raise the academic caliber of the freshman class. This, in turn, elevates a school's stature and national rank.

"You're talking about having a more diverse campus, which is going to help the students who are here," Holub said, "and at the same time you are going to increase the revenues of the campus."

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Pittsburgh eyes students' wallets
By Martha T. Moore, USA TODAY

Pittsburgh wants to tax one of its most abundant resources: students. The city is home to seven colleges and universities, and though their real estate is tax-exempt, their tuition isn't, says Mayor Luke Ravenstahl, who plans to impose a 1% tax on tuition as part of his budget for 2010.

Nearly 100,000 students study in Pittsburgh, and "they're not paying a dime for any city services they might receive," Ravenstahl says. The 1% tax would range from $20 for students at Carlow College to $400 for students at the city's priciest university, Carnegie Mellon. It would generate $16.2 million next year, according to the proposed budget.

"He calls it a fair share tax. We call it an unfair tax," says Mary Hines, president of Carlow College and of the Pittsburgh Council on Higher Education. The group will challenge the tax in court as an end run around universities' tax-exempt status, Hines says.

If Pittsburgh succeeds in becoming the first city to tax its students, other cities will follow, says Terry Hartle of the American Council on Education, a lobbying group for universities. "It's a new and untapped potential source of revenue," he says.

Only 6% of Carlow students pay the full $20,000 tuition, Hines says, and they can't afford more costs. The tax also will make Pittsburgh less appealing to students, she says. "We want them to realize they are coming to an exciting city that will welcome them with open arms. This does not do that."

Pittsburgh faces a $15 million budget gap and a deadline from the state Legislature to rescue its pension fund.

Pittsburgh's tax-exempt institutions, like those in many college towns, have made donations in lieu of taxes: $14 million from 2004 to 2008. The non-profits' proposal to give an additional $5.6 million over three years is "not enough," Ravenstahl says.

The controversy in Pittsburgh is the latest in a long-running town-and-gown debate over whether tax-exempt institutions contribute enough to offset loss of real estate tax revenue:

- In April, Providence Mayor David Cicilline proposed a tax on students of $150 per semester at schools including Brown University and Providence College. The schools have made voluntary contributions to the city since 2003. The tax would require state legislative approval.

- In Boston, a task force started in January by Mayor Thomas Menino wants to standardize and increase payments from educational and medical non-profits. The city got $8.4 million from 13 colleges this year and $4.9 million from nine hospitals.

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