THE DAILY CLIPS

November 26, 2007

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
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Reaching for Hope

The Daily Reflector

More than 240 guests attended the recent 2007 Reach for Hope Gala sponsored by Cancer Services at Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center.

Under the direction of event chairwomen Karen Tanenberg and Sarah Davenport, the event raised more than $78,000.

Worthington Farms decorated Rock Springs ballroom with autumn colors and floral arrangements. Honored donors were Bailey's Fine Jewelry, Belcher Land Company, Citigroup and Grady White Boats.

Drs. Jon Moran and Greg Murphy were honored as 2007 Reach for Hope Providers of Hope Recipients.

Some guests in attendance included Mr. and Mrs. Dave McRae; Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Barnhill; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Seigler; Mr. and Mrs. Cassius Williams; Dr. Barbara Lazio and Matt Scher; Drs. William McConnell and Mary-Raab McConnell; Dr. and Mrs. Jon Moran; Drs. Karen Shaw and Stefan Marcuard; and Dr. and Mrs. Adam Asch.
Study puts programs in Top 10

Company ranks faculty of ECU doctoral programs as two of the best in the nation.

The Daily Reflector

Two of East Carolina University's doctoral programs have earned top-10 rankings in a new national study of faculty scholarly productivity.

The 2007 Index, produced by Academic Analytics, compiles overall institutional rankings for faculty productivity for 375 universities that offer doctoral degrees. ECU's Kinesiology, Exercise Science and Rehabilitation program, also referred to as bioenergetics, housed in the Department of Exercise Science in the College of Health and Human Performance, ranked fourth in the nation. ECU's Communication Sciences and Disorders program, housed in the College of Allied Health Sciences, ranked ninth. Academic Analytics is a for-profit company partly owned by the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

"I am delighted that our faculty members have received this national recognition," Chancellor Steve Ballard said. "It is another indicator of the quality of our research strength as well as our commitment to making a difference in people's lives."

Laupus Library hosts pair of exhibits

Laupus Library is hosting two exhibits featuring black academic surgeons and eastern North Carolina physicians.

"Opening Doors: Contemporary African American Academic Surgeons" celebrates the contributions of black academic surgeons to medicine and medical education.

The exhibit was developed and produced by the National Library of Medicine and the Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History and Culture. The exhibit will be on display until Jan. 26. An expanded version will return in 2009. For more information, visit www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/afram-surgeons.

As a companion to "Opening Doors," a second exhibit, "Pioneering African-American Physicians in Eastern North Carolina," will be on display through February.

The addition of this collection to Joyner Library provides our users with another invaluable resource that will help enhance their education and the quality of their research," said Jan Lewis, Joyner Library Associate Director.


Alumnus honored for military duty

An alumnus of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences was recognized last week for congressional, legislative and military duties.

Capt. David M. Fitzgerald Jr., retired U.S. Navy, was one of eight people who received the 2007 Congressional Veteran Commendation from U.S. Rep. Eric Cantor during a Nov. 20 ceremony in Richmond, Va.

A native of Norfolk, Va., Fitzgerald received a bachelor's degree in psychology from ECU in 1966 and entered the Navy in 1967. He later joined the U.S. Naval Reserves.

For four years he worked with the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services in Washington and later operated his own consulting company.

He served during Operation Desert Storm in the early 1990s.
Karen Baldwin

Dr. Karen Baldwin, 64, died at her home Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007.

A memorial service in the Quaker tradition, which will provide opportunity for remembering and celebrating Karen’s life, will be held Saturday, Dec. 1, from 2-4 p.m. in the Great Rooms of Mendenhall Student Center at East Carolina University.

The daughter of James Marshall Baldwin and Lois Solley Baldwin, Karen grew up in suburban Philadelphia. She was a member of the Providence Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends in Media, Pa. She graduated from Darby High School in Darby, Pa., and from Guilford College in Greensboro, N.C. She received an M.A. degree in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania in 1968 and a Ph.D. degree in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania in 1975. From 1968-69, she studied in Denmark on a Marshall Fellowship. She was a faculty member at Wayne State University and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst before joining the English Department at East Carolina University, where she served as professor of folklore for the last 30 years.

In addition to her inspiring work as a teacher, Karen presented and published in her field both nationally and internationally, was editor of the North Carolina Folklore Journal, Director of the North Carolina Studies Program, and Director of the ECU Folklore Archive. To acknowledge Karen’s development of the archive, the archive has been renamed “The Karen Baldwin North Carolina Folklore Archive.” Karen had a wide range of interests and accomplishments, both as an educator and within her community. She was passionate about preserving our cultural and natural world and was well known for her love of nature, desire for social justice, and deep caring for her students and friends.

Karen is survived by her husband, Ernest Marshall, her sister Tracy Baldwin, her brother David Baldwin, her son James Marshall, daughter Stephanie, and four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, you may send donations to the North Carolina Nature Conservancy, One University Place, Suite 290, 4705 University Drive, Durham, NC 27707, or The Friends of the East Carolina University Folklife Archive, Department of English, 2201 Bate Building, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC 27858. Please write checks to East Carolina University, c/o Friends of the ECU Folklife Archive.
Poole receives College of Nursing's 2007 Distinguished Alumni Award

Diane Poole, executive vice president of Pitt County Memorial Hospital, has received the 2007 East Carolina University College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award.

The award is designed to recognize an ECU alumnus who has made exemplary contributions to the nursing profession. Poole was honored on Oct. 26 during the university's Homecoming weekend.

"Diane has honored the College of Nursing through her many accomplishments. Now, we return that honor by naming her the 2007 College of Nursing Distinguished Alumni," Dr. Sylvia Brown, acting dean of the College of Nursing, said.

Poole, a Kinston native, received her diploma in nursing from Lenoir Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Kinston in 1971. She received her bachelor's of science degree in nursing in 1981 and master's of science degree in nursing in 1988 from ECU. She began her nursing career at North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill and worked at Lenoir Memorial Hospital before joining PCMH in 1982.

Poole has held many leadership positions at PCMH in nursing administration, community services, planning and special projects. She also has served in leadership positions with University Health Systems of Eastern Carolina, the parent company of PCMH.

Poole is a certified health executive with the American College of Healthcare Executives. She is past chairwoman of the Lenoir County Board of Health, past president of District 32, North Carolina Nurses Association, and served on the North Carolina Institute of Medicine's Task Force on the North Carolina Nursing Workforce. She recently was named to the Rowland-Hite Board.

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ECU donates tickets to fill seats

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University athletics officials don’t welcome empty seats at home football games. But for some local nonprofit agencies, the promise of a small holiday crowd at Saturday’s home football game versus Tulane was an opportunity.

ECU donated 539 tickets to 20 groups for the game, which ended in a 35-12 Pirate victory.

The university reserves tickets for games likely to draw fewer fans and donates them to worthy groups, said Scott Wetherbee, assistant athletics director. ECU has given away close to 800 tickets this season, he said.

“I think it’s a win-win for ECU and for these organizations to be able to have that opportunity,” Wetherbee said.

More than 200 of tickets to the Tulane game went to Dixon Social Interactive Services, a Greenville company that works with the mentally ill. For children battling attention deficit, oppositional hostility and detachment disorders, a trip to Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium was a rare chance, said James Bowens, the firm’s public relations manager.

Dixon’s staff includes a number of former ECU football players, Bowens said. They and the Pirates on the field are good role models for children, he added.

“If you give kids hope and show them that there are ways to get out of your situation and do better things, that gives them the opportunity to succeed,” he said.

Jimmy Ryals can be contacted at jryals@coxnc.com and 339-9568.
ECU officials mulling new health care rule

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

A proposed policy change at East Carolina University would close a campus health insurance gap but widen the hole in student wallets.

Administrators are considering a hard-waiver rule, which would require all uninsured students to buy policies through the university.

Between 10 percent and 40 percent of full-time students — most of them from low-income families — may have to buy policies starting in fall 2006, a student health official said.

The policy would cost $700 per year.

Voluntary, campus-based health insurance has become prohibitively expensive in recent years, said Student Health Service Director Jolene Jernigan. Adopting a hard-waiver policy would make health insurance more affordable by spreading the cost among a larger group of students, she said.

"It's not really forcing insurance on students," she said. "It's allowing students of need a reasonable, low-cost way of having insurance."

During the 2001-2002 and 2003-04 school years, insuring ECU students was a losing proposition for insurers, according to data from the Student Health Service. In 2003-04, the university's provider paid 60 percent more in claims than it collected in premiums.

Part of the problem is that students who have to buy insurance through ECU often need more medical care than their peers, Jernigan said. In 2003-2004, 19 students accounted for more than $435,000 in

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claims, more than 90 percent of the claims filed.

"Each year, we would go out for bid, and it got so, not just us, but other schools were having trouble getting insurance companies to bid on a voluntary plan," Jernigan said.

Even the lowest bids brought higher premiums to campus. This academic year, a year-round policy cost a full-time student $1,125, compared to $729 in 2002. Enrollment has dipped from more than 612 students in 2002 to about 400 this year.

The mandatory policy would cover treatments student health doesn't offer.

They include emergency care, surgery and specialized care, Jernigan said. The hard-waiver insurance offers other benefits, she said.

- Since it would be required, students could use financial aid to pay for coverage, something they can't do for voluntary insurance. That's part of the reason most of a proposed tuition increase will go to financial aid, ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard said.
- The policy would cover students during the summer and for three months after graduation.
- It would pay for treatment of athletic injuries, up to $3,000.
- For foreign students, the policy would pay for emergency trips home.
- It would cover annual pap smears for women.

ECU joins 80 other campuses around the country in adopting or considering hard-waiver policies. They include 14 other University of North Carolina System schools. The UNC General Administration has called on UNC schools to control student health-insurance costs.

For all the plusses they see in the hard-waiver rule, ECU administrators find it troubling. Ballard called it "one of the hardest decisions" his leadership team has faced.

Students will likely resist being forced to buy health insurance, Jernigan said. She has struggled to offer a response to them.

"It's a very complex situation," she said. "We obviously don't have the answer, but we would like to equalize the playing field for all."

A pair of campus groups will weigh in on the policy this week. It's on the agenda for a Student Congress meeting Monday night at Mendenhall Student Center.

During a committee meeting Thursday, the ECU Board of Trustees will discuss it. The board does not have to approve the hard-waiver policy.

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Board to vote on $38 tuition, fee hike

By Jimmy Ryals
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University students will likely face the smallest tuition and fee increases in years next fall.

Mandatory tuition and fees would rise $38 for fall 2008 under a proposal the ECU Board of Trustees will consider next week. Proceeds from the 1-percent hike would fund faculty salary increases, student financial aid and expansion in student services.

If approved by the trustees and the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, the hike would bring full-time, in-state, undergraduate tuition and fees to $4,887 per year.

The "very small increase" falls well below a 6.5-percent cap set by the University of North Carolina General Ad-

ministration, East Carolina University Chancellor Steve Ballard said. It sends "a strong message from East Carolina that we're doing all we can to keep the total cost to the students down as much as we can."

A committee including students and administrators devised the $38 increase. Tuition itself would rise $14, with the proceeds funding financial aid — $196,000 — and faculty salary increases — $78,000.

The rest of the hike, $24, would come from mandatory student fees. Approved by the Student Government Association, that increase would fund salary for a paralegal in Student Legal Services, state-mandated raises for Campus Recreation and Wellness student employees and repairs to computer equipment.

The student athletics fee would go up $70 under the plan, a figure that would be offset by the elimination of $70 payments each student makes to retire debt on upgrades at Minges Coliseum. Proceeds from the athletics-fee increase would help pay for new facilities in non-revenue sports.

Officials are aggressively pursuing new revenue sources to fund expenses covered by past tuition increases, Ballard

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said. Next spring, the university will launch a nine-figure capital campaign to support future construction projects.

"We think it will be the biggest and most successful capital campaign in our history," Ballard said.

Administrators also are working to increase the grant funding ECU nets for research, he added.

Ballard said he is "very supportive" of another statewide bond program to fund higher education. In 2000, North Carolina voters approved a $3.1-billion bond for construction on college campuses.

TUITION HIKES

East Carolina University tuition and fee increases since 2002:

- 2002-03: $2,386
- 2003-04: $3,131
- 2004-05: $3,454
- 2005-06: $3,627
- 2006-07: $4,484
- 2007-08: $4,849
- 2008-09: $4,887*

Source: East Carolina University
Three family members receive cochlear implants during 2007

By Jimmy Rylas
The Daily Reflector

WINTERVILLE — For years, Johnny Weathington's family dinners have straddled two worlds.

In one, Weathington and his hearing-impaired relatives communicate in sign language or nearly yell at each other, unaware of how loud their voices are. In the other, conversation occurs at a normal decibel level, but confusion tends to reign, Weathington and his family said.

Weathington, longtime owner of El Toro Men's Styling Shoppe, rides the fault line between the two worlds, deciphering signs for the speakers and speech for the signers.

Thanks to a local doctor and professors at East Carolina University, today is the first Thanksgiving where Weathington, his sister, Kate Weathington Kennedy, and daughter, Stephanie Weathington Bess, will hear more than a small fraction of the sound around them. All three have had an electronic hearing device implanted in their heads.

What will Thanksgiving be like, now that sound has come to the Weathington family?

"It will be quieter," said Bess, 30, a claims representative with the Social Security Administration. "There will be more verbal communication, less signing and pounding on the table trying to get someone's attention."

"It will be quieter. There will be more verbal communication, less signing and pounding on the table trying to get someone's attention."

Stephanie Weathington Bess

During the last nine months, Bess, Weathington and Kennedy have gotten cochlear implants. The procedure essentially bypasses the ears by delivering sound waves directly to brain, said Dr. Paul Brechtelsbauer, who operated on the family. A sound processor, secured to the outside of the head by magnets, relays sound waves to the implant, which sits under the skin opposite the processor. The implant converts the sound into an electrical impulse, which travels along tiny wires to the auditory nerve and then to the brain.

"When you are deaf, it's much like a part of your brain is dead," said Brechtelsbauer, medical director of the Cochlear Implant Program of Eastern Carolina and a physician at Eastern Carolina Ear, Nose and Throat. "So, the cochlear implant allows us to wake up that part of the brain again and let it talk to the rest of the brain."

About 23,000 U.S. citizens have cochlear implants, according to the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders. In recent years, the surgery has become an option for more people, Brechtelsbauer said. Previously, it was accessible only to those with profound hearing loss, the most severe designation.

The surgery's growing popularity perpetuates itself, Brechtelsbauer said. As more people have it, they become vocal advocates for the procedure.

Brechtelsbauer said he typically performs 12 surgeries annually but has done 20 this year.

Bess and Kennedy described the re-

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birth of their brains’ hearing sections.

“When they activated (the implant), you could just feel those nerves in your brain being stimulated,” Bess said. “I kind of explain it like a tidal wave. You just feel this wave going over your brain, just all areas.”

“It feels like something crawling” across the brain, said Kennedy, a Pitt County Department of Social Services employee.

Hearing problems run in the Weathington family. Weathington’s father was born deaf, and his mother lost her hearing as a child. Raised in a virtually speechless household, Weathington and Kennedy wore hearing aids from childhood until earlier this year. Doctors don’t know what caused the family’s hearing loss, but researchers at the University of Michigan have shown interest in doing some genetic studies, said Diane Weathington, Johnny’s wife.

Though they share that family history, Johnny Weathington, Kennedy and Bess took different routes to their implants.

Bess was the first to undergo the surgery. All five of the Weathingtons’ children have hearing problems, although Bess is the only one who actually lost her hearing.

Through college, she wore small hearing aids that fit into her ear canal. After graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she noticed a sharp decline in her hearing. Shortly, she had to switch to a more powerful — and bulkier — aid that wrapped around her ear.

Her hearing continued to falter, particularly in her left ear. Bess became, essentially, right-eared.

A little more than a year ago, during a vacation on Ocracoke Island, Bess fell ill with “a horrible fever, like I was burning up,” she said. The fever passed after a few days, and Bess’ hearing in her left ear went with it. The diagnosis was sudden hearing loss. A round of steroid therapy had no effect.

Bess’ audiologist referred her to Brechtlebauer, who recommended a cochlear implant. Optimistic about the surgery’s prospects and comfortable with Brechtlebauer, she had the surgery on Feb. 14. After six silent weeks — the surgery eliminates the tiny bit of hearing ability patients still have — Brechtlebauer activated her implant.

“I’m about eight to nine months into it, but it’s just been amazing,” Bess said. “I’ve just been happy with every single moment of it. There’s been no turning back.”

Implantation followed lifetimes of diminishing hearing for Weathington and Kennedy. An unsuccessful surgery 15 years ago to fix holes in her ear drum sped her hearing loss. Decades of lip-reading made it hard to know just how little they were hearing, both said. They knew what they were supposed to hear when people spoke, and their brains adjusted accordingly.

Once Bess had cochlear implant surgery, her father and aunt reconsidered their own futures. Each had resisted getting the surgery for years. Kennedy feared complications like infection or facial paralysis. Weathington doubted the implant would work. Bess’ success convinced them. Weathington had surgery in late June, Kennedy in October.

“I give her the credit for leading me on to it,” Weathington said of his daughter.

The surgery alone doesn’t cause the hearing turnarounds. Weathington and Bess have had regular “mapping” and speech therapy sessions with faculty members in the ECU communication sciences and disorders department. At the mapping sessions, therapists fine-tune the implants to introduce new sounds, Bess said. Kennedy had her first mapping session Tuesday.

The implants are extremely adaptable, Brechtlebauer said. Models installed now “will be capable of using the programs we dream up for probably at least the next several years,” he said.

There’s also been plenty of homework, including flash cards and phonics. Weathington has begun reading books while simultaneously listening to audio versions of them. Since getting the implant, he’s learned to say words he thought he knew: “taco” and Fidel Castro’s first name.

Full auditory functioning has introduced some new pleasures. Weathington spent 25 minutes on the phone last week with his son in Chapel Hill and missed only one word. The pleasant sound of running water has given Bess new interest in washing dishes, something her husband Todd welcomes.

DIANE WEATHINGTON talks about her experiences with her family and their cochlear implants and how they have changed and enhanced their lives together.

There’ve been some unpleasant new sensations, too, such as the popping of bubble wrap and the popcorn chewing patrons behind at a movie theater, Weathington said.

There’s been one drawback for Raeford Kennedy, Kate’s husband.

“I’ve been married to her for 44 years, and she has never heard me snore,” he said. “They put that unit on her last Monday. She woke me up and told me to quit snoring, the first night they put the unit on.”

It’s a new world for the Weathington family, one they’re grateful to join.

“We have a lot to be thankful for because God gave them back something that they lost a long time ago,” Weathington’s wife, Diane, said. “And he gave it back better than it ever was before.”

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Beam them down

One wonders what color the sky is in the world of Dick Baddour, athletic director at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Certainly it is not of this world. For Baddour — who apparently pretty much runs his own show without interference from those who are alleged to be his bosses — certainly has made an other-worldly move in giving his football coach, Butch Davis, a contract extension and a $291,000 annual raise. That raise alone, by the way, is more than double the salary of a full professor.

The hike will bring the coach’s compensation, including a shoe deal and bonus potentials, to over $2 million annually. That’s still a little less than men’s basketball coach Roy Williams.

Athletics officials and those boosters who seem to define the school by its football and basketball prowess long ago ceased to care about how outsized coaches’ salaries are compared to those of professors — or even to chancellors and university presidents. (Davis and Williams earn more in one year than the once-in-a-lifetime reward for winners of the Nobel Prize.)

They seem oblivious as well even to thinking about whether it is a healthy thing for a public university with a stellar academic reputation to send a maddening message about its priorities, one that seems to set the athletics program apart from all else. That message, by the way, is the same whether the money to fund athletics comes from the taxpayer or from private donations.

The boosters and Baddour — and UNC-CH certainly isn’t alone in losing its way with its surrender to the siren song of “big-time” sports — look only at the “market” and say: Davis is a hot item, others may try to hire him, etc. (There have been rumors that the football factory at the University of Arkansas is flirting with Davis, which he denies.) We have to grant this whopping raise, the story goes, or we may lose our coach.

The argument reflects an attitude that sees a coach moving on to greener pastures as a catastrophic event. It’s not. (Although for Davis to depart after only one year would be a colossal insult.) It also reflects a conclusion that college sports and professional sports are equivalent when it comes to competing for talent. They’re not.

Where is Chancellor James Moeser in all this? Sadly, under his tenure, the athletics program has grown more burly and independent. For that matter, UNC system President Erskine Bowles ought to be sounding some alarms here.

The university’s quest for top 10 status on the football field — it’s long been there in basketball — now apparently has taken it to other galaxies. Back here on Earth, it’s pretty disturbing.
Orange County

Free HIV tests available at UNC

Chapel Hill — Free, confidential HIV tests will be given Thursday in the UNC-Chapel Hill Student Union and the Student Recreation Center.

The testing event is offered in conjunction with a weeklong commemoration of World AIDS Day events occurring on campus.

Students, employees and community members can drop by the third floor of the Student Union or the first floor of the Student Recreation Center between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to receive a free OraQuick HIV test. The test does not involve needles or blood, and participants will receive the results the same day, along with a free counseling session that will inform them of ways to prevent the spread of HIV.

Last year, testing events at UNC gave more than 600 people their HIV status. Organizers hope to see more testers this year, because the rate of HIV among college students is growing, according to a report in Clinical Science.

The OraQuick tests are recommended for people who are worried about contracting HIV from an incident over three months ago.
UNC agrees to sweeten Davis' contract

Coach gets longer deal, sizable raise

BY ROBIE PICKERAL
STAFF WRITER

Some football coaches get fired after losing seasons.
Wednesday, UNC's Butch Davis got a one-year contract extension — and a $291,000 raise.

In his first season, Davis' team is 3-8 heading into its final game Saturday against Duke. But his deal came amid a climate of rumor — many thought that the University of Arkansas wanted his services — and during escalating economic warfare in athletics. Salaries at top college football and basketball programs have spiked in recent years.

UNC athletic director Dick Baddour said Davis has buoyed the program despite his losing record, citing five sellouts, strong recruiting and on-the-field improvements.

"We're excited about what he's done, what he's doing for the future of Carolina football, and we want to ensure that stability," Baddour said. He said rewards such as Wednesday's likely won't be an annual occurrence, "but we've seen enough to know that we wanted to make a strong statement to him, and from him to us, that this is where he needs to be."

Davis had been making an average of $1.86 million a year. Once UNC's board of trustees approves the new deal next week, the first-year coach will be under contract through 2014 and will take home

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Butch Davis was happy after his Tar Heels beat Miami in October, one of the team's three wins this season.

AP FILE PHOTO BY GERRY BROOME
an average of more than $2 million a year, a figure that includes endorsement payments from the Nike shoe company and bonuses.

Baddour, who approached Davis about the extension this month, said Davis would still make less than UNC’s Hall of Fame basketball coach Roy Williams, who gets an average of about $2.1 million from the school, not including his separate Nike deal, the terms of which are not public.

Davis’ raise will be a combination of base salary and supplemental salary, Baddour said, meaning some money will come from the athletics department and some will come from the Educational Foundation, the department’s fundraising arm.

A decade ago, Baddour was hammered by some UNC fans who thought he wasn’t aggressive enough in keeping former coach Mack Brown, who left for the University of Texas after the 1997 season. UNC was a top-10 program at the time but has had only three winning seasons since.

The athletics department, because of the firing of former football coach John Bunting and hiring of Davis last year, posted a deficit for the first time in eight years.

Roger Perry, a member of UNC’s board of trustees, said Davis has the program headed in the right way.

“It’s very obvious, despite the record, that the program has advanced by leaps and bounds in one year,” Perry said. “We have a much brighter future than we did a year ago. Don’t judge everything by wins and losses. We have to look at the direction.”

Perry said the board was not motivated by rumors that Arkansas, Davis’ alma mater, was trying to lure the coach from Chapel Hill.

Davis said Wednesday that no program, including the Razorbacks, had contacted him about coaching elsewhere.

Reaction among faculty to his extension was mixed.

“What this surely reflects is the reality that people, in spite of multiple losses this year, think that Butch Davis is doing a good job of encouraging a team academically and athletically,” said Joe Templeton, a chemist who is Faculty Council chairman.

“I wish that staff and faculty were paid more. I think, in the realm of athletics, that revenue streams are distinct and different.”

Sue Estroff, a former chairwoman of the council and professor of social medicine, called the extension and raise “ludicrous.”

“I understand why they’re doing this; they made a commitment to football, but I think we ought to quit doing football altogether,” she said. “We’re no good at it.”

Davis, asked to explain why he should be rewarded despite a sub-.500 season, said the program should be measured by more than wins and losses.

When he was an assistant coach with the 1989 Dallas Cowboys team that only won one game, “very few people looked at that 1-15 team and realized they were looking at the infancy steps of a team and a program that was on the threshold of winning three Super Bowls,” he said.

And when his Miami Hurricanes posted a losing record in 1997, he said, “a lot of people probably didn’t realize that in a matter of just three years, the program would compete for three consecutive national championships.”

“If you take one slice of one season, and you don’t step back and look at the big picture, you get maybe a totally different perspective.”

Davis said UNC can eventually be a consistent top-10 contender, and the extension should put to rest questions of where he will coach in the future: “I’m just very appreciative of the opportunity to continue to build this football program and be here for a long time.”

Staff writers Luciana Chavez, Anne Blythe, A.J. Carr and Jaymes Powell Jr. contributed to this report.
Stem cell advance just ‘a first step’

Medical benefits years away at best

Supply meets demand

This week’s advance has apparently solved a supply problem for studying embryonic stem cells. These cells are valued for their ability to morph into any of the body’s cell types. Scientists have long searched for a way to produce embryonic cells that carry the genes of a particular person. Such cells could be used for at least three purposes. The most highly publicized is to create transplant tissue for treating disease. In the shorter term, they could be used to create “diseases in a dish,” colonies of cells bearing illness-promoting genes that could reveal the vulnerable roots of medical conditions. And finally, scientists could use such cells for rapidly screening potential medicines.

New York — For all the excitement, big questions remain about how to turn this week’s stem-cell breakthrough into new treatments for the sick. And it’s not clear when they’ll be answered.

Scientists have to learn more about the new kind of cell the landmark research produced.

They have to find a different way to make it, to avoid a risk of cancer. And even after that, there are plenty of steps needed to harness this laboratory advance for therapy.

So if you ask when doctors and patients will see new treatments, scientists can only hedge.

“I just can’t tell you dates,” says James Thomson of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, one of the scientists in the United States and Japan who announced the breakthrough Tuesday.

“The short answer is, It’s still going to be years,” Dr. John Gearhart, a stem-cell expert at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine who was familiar with the work, said Wednesday.

Such a delay isn’t unusual. It can often take a long time for medical payoffs to flow from basic scientific findings. For example, the inspiration for a group of cystic fibrosis drugs now being tested in people or animals goes back 18 years to a genetic discovery. And more generally, gene therapy — the notion of fixing or replacing defective genes — has been studied in people for more than 15 years without much success.

Federal money for research into the new kind of cell won’t be a problem, said Story Landis, head of the National Institutes of Health’s Stem Cell Task Force. The task force is about to invite scientists to apply for grants for such work, she said.

Until this week’s announcement, scientists who wanted to make such cells locked to an expensive, cumbersome cloning process that destroyed embryos, making it an ethical lightning rod. And it hadn’t yet worked with human embryos.

The new technique is simpler. It makes human skin cells behave like embryonic stem cells without using embryos at all.

End of problem? Not unless these altered skin cells can truly replace embryonic cells, and that’s not clear yet, a prominent

The News & Observer
Thursday, November 22, 2007

Not so fast

Paul Berg, a Stanford University Nobel laureate who helped establish federal guidelines for human research on genetically manipulated cells, said the celebration over this week’s announcement is premature.

“I’m amazed at the ethics,” saying the problem of needing embryos has been solved, Berg said. “We’re not in the clear — this is a first step.”

So what are the next steps? The first basic question to solve is how similar induced pluripotent stem cells are in behavior and potential to the embryonic cells that scientists have studied for nearly a decade.

“My guess is that we’ll find that there are significant differences,” said Dr. Robert Lanza of Advanced Cell Technology, which has been trying to produce stem cells from cloned human embryos. “I’d be surprised if these cells can do all the same tricks as well as stem cells derived from embryos.”

Another big question is how to make iPS cells in a different way. The breakthrough technique treats skin cells by using viruses to carry in a quartet of genes. Those viruses disrupt the DNA of the skin cells. When that happens, there’s a risk of cancer.

The cancer problem should be solved within a year or so, said Doug Melton, co-director of the Harvard Stem Cell Institute.

Even with the cancer problem solved for transplant uses, there’s another big hurdle:

The whole idea of using embryonic stem cells or iPS cells for treating people with conditions such as diabetes and Parkinson’s disease via transplants is itself far from proven. Scientists will need to learn how to turn iPS cells into the right kind of tissue, and how to use that tissue in a way that will treat a person’s disease.

Such studies, in the lab, animals and people, will take years.

As far as that obstacle goes, Thomson said, the breakthrough announced this week changes nothing.

“We have a lot of work to do.”
Some food for thought: what football teams eat

BY ROBBIE PICKERAL
STAFF WRITER

Pete Dougherty has spent the past three days cooking 10 turkeys, 70 pounds of potatoes (Idaho and sweet) and four gallons of gravy. But he's still fairly certain of one thing: "I probably won't have any leftovers."

As executive chef of the Durham Hilton near Duke University, he is responsible for feeding more than 130 people affiliated with the Blue Devils football team for Thanksgiving this afternoon — including roughly seven dozen large, hungry players.

"They can eat a lot of drumsticks," said Dougherty.

And the Blue Devils aren't the only ones.

With Duke, North Carolina and N.C. State all playing football games this weekend, the teams have scheduled holiday feasts that include vats of mac and cheese, copious amounts of dressing and massive casseroles. Players also have been allotted time to spend the holidays with their families, if they choose.

The Blue Devils' meal is scheduled for 12:30 this afternoon at the Hilton. The Tar Heels will dine at the Kenan Football Center at 7 tonight and enjoy a meal catered by UNC Food Services that includes pork tenderloin and turnip greens. The Wolfpack planned to feed about 200 people at about 6:15 p.m. Wednesday at Vaughn Towers at Carter-Finley Stadium.

Their menu was to include classic cranberry sauce, corn muffins and glazed baby carrots. That, plus defensive tackle DeMario Pressley's favorite.

"I'm a ham man," the 6-foot-3, 295-pounder said. "I like honey-glazed ham."

So much, he said, that he could eat the whole thing — if he weren't saving room for dessert.

"Pumpkin pie is my favorite pie," he said. "I can eat a whole pie."

Which is why State planned to have 18 of them — and six cakes — on hand.

"It is definitely different than cooking for normalized people," said Dougherty, who has been preparing Thanksgiving meals for local teams for more than a decade.

"It's pretty crazy when you put it down on paper — they're definitely growing boys."
Turkey day TV

J.P. Giglio's picks, rated from one turkey leg (poor) to five (must-watch).

12:30 p.m., NFL, Green Bay at Detroit, WRAZ, WFXI

The Almighty has ordained Detroit's Jon Kitna, His quarterback, at least according to Kitna. Green Bay's Brett Favre is America's quarterback. Does it get any bigger than God vs. America?

2:30 p.m., College hoops, N.C. State vs. Rider, ESPN2

Only after the departure of Engin Atsur—who is from Istanbul, Turkey—does State get a national showcase on Thanksgiving. The Pack misses Atsur.

4 p.m., NFL, N.Y. Jets at Dallas, WRAL, WNCT

Is anyone having a better season than Dallas quarterback Tony Romo? Carrie Underwood and Sophia Bush? Oh yeah, and on the field, the 27 TDs and 9-1 record aren't bad either.

8 p.m., NFL, Indianapolis at Atlanta, NFL Network

Will the NFL-owned NFL Network even mention that a certain QB will spend the holidays in jail? The Colts are biding their time until the Patriots rematch.

8 p.m., College football, USC at Ariz. State, ESPN

A first for ASU coach Dennis Erickson. The NCAA is more interested in the cleanliness of his opponent's program than his own. Don't worry, Pete Carroll, you'll be back in the NFL soon.

Midnight, College hoops, San Diego vs. USC, ESPN2

Some Mayo for your late-night turkey sandwich. Trojans freshman O.J. Mayo, the latest hoops prodigy and another person not long for the USC campus.

DUKE MENU

Creole roasted turkey
Honey baked ham
Roasted vidalia gravy (4 gallons)
Whole cranberry relish
(20 lbs. cranberries)
Sweet potato casserole
(30 lbs. sweet potatoes)
Roasted garlic mashed potato
(40 lbs. Idaho potatoes)
Grandma's cornbread stuffing
(25 lbs. cornbread)
Green bean casserole
(30 lbs. green beans)
Macaroni and cheese (20 lbs. pasta,
10 lbs. cheese, 1 gallon cream)
Braised leeks and pancetta
(20 pounds leeks, 10 lbs. pancetta)
Butternut squash with bourbon molasses (25 lbs. butternut squash; 1 fifth of Bourbon, 1 gallon molasses)
Garden salad (20 lbs. salad mix)
Pumpkin, pecan and apple pies

UNC MENU

Turkey
Ham
Pork tenderloin (48 lbs.)
Turnip greens (two bushels)
Green beans (48 lbs.)
Macaroni and cheese
(10 lbs. pasta, 10 lbs. cheese)
Candied yams (40 lbs.)
Corn (40 lbs.)
Rolls (300)
Sweet potato, apple and pumpkin pies

N.C. STATE MENU

Herb roasted turkey
Down home dressing (19 lbs.)
Carved black oak ham
Green bean and mushroom medley
(48 lbs.)
Old south sweet potato casserole
(93 lbs.)
Cheesy broccoli casserole (70 lbs.)
Honey glazed baby carrots (50 lbs.)
Classic cranberry sauce (12 lbs.)
Southern potato salad (60 lbs.)
Waldorf salad (60 lbs.)
Corn muffins (400)
Pumpkin and old fashioned pecan pies
Triple layer carrot cake

MORE ONLINE


Go to share.triangle.com to post your Thanksgiving photos and share all the things you are thankful for.
DURHAM COUNTY

Times columnist to speak at Duke

DURHAM — New York Times columnist Paul Krugman will discuss the links between political partisanship and economic inequality Tuesday at Duke University.

The talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy's Fleishman Commons. The event is free and open to the public, and a book-signing will begin at 7 p.m.

In his new book, "Conscience of a Liberal," Krugman combines social and political analysis with historical commentary to look at connections between political ideologies and economic trends. He maintains that New Deal policies created postwar prosperity and that the time is ripe for a return to liberalism.

A New York Times op-ed columnist since 1999, Krugman is a professor of economics and international affairs at Princeton University and the London School of Economics. He is the author of more than 20 books, including the best-seller "The Great Unraveling."

Krugman taught at Yale, MIT, University of California-Berkeley, the London School of Economics and Stanford University before joining the Princeton faculty in 2000.