THE DAILY CLIPS

November 28, 2011

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
Time

East Carolina University News Bureau
E-mail to durhamj@ecu.edu  Web site at http://www.news.ecu.edu
252-328-6481
False reports drain police
By Kathryn Kennedy
The Daily Reflector
Friday, November 25, 2011

On Aug. 11, East Carolina University Police Chief Scott Shelton stood before a handful of cameras and reporters to reveal the unexpected results of an extensive investigation.

ECU basketball player Courtney Melvin, 17, had lied nearly three weeks earlier when she told police she was sexually assaulted at 5:35 a.m. on her way to practice at Minges Coliseum, Shelton said. There had been no assault, he said. Instead, Melvin was charged for the fabrication.

The case illustrates a challenge faced by investigators in every alleged crime: how to tell truth from fiction.

False reports are not uncommon, according to representatives of Pitt County law enforcement agencies. Most don’t attract the public’s and media’s attention like Melvin’s allegations, but they can prove a drain on resources.

“The time that it takes that investigator to go run through and actually try to run down leads, collect evidence, have that evidence processed, those are man hours ... that could be put on cases that are really legitimate and need our attention,” Lt. Paula Dance, an investigator with the Pitt County Sheriff’s Office, said. “It distracts from cases they’re already working, but it has to be done.”
Investigators often root fabrications out early, before the press or public becomes aware a crime is alleged. Discovering a false report can be as simple as an account that proves inconsistent with witness testimony or video evidence.

“When pieces just don’t start fitting together, that’s when they start questioning,” Greenville Police Department spokesman Sgt. Carlton Williams said.

Dance recounted a false report filed Nov. 4 in which a man said he was robbed of $100 at an ATM in Greenville. Surveillance video shows no one else at the scene, she said, nor did the man ever withdraw money from his account.

The individual also stands accused of filing false reports in surrounding counties, Dance said.

What to do when the victim becomes a suspect is a whole other challenge.

“It’s really situational,” Shelton said. “Is this worthy of your time and effort, of the court’s time and effort?”

Shelton said he’s seen cases in which repeat filers of false reports were emotionally or psychologically troubled. It may be important to seek help for those individuals in lieu of judicial penalties.

“Most of the time ... they’ve admitted to telling us what they reported was wrong,” Shelton said.

But when violence is alleged, or the public is made to feel threatened, charges should be filed, he said. ECU is required by the Cleary Act to issue alerts to students when crimes are committed on campus.

“If we get too many people crying wolf,” Shelton said, “it becomes alarmist.”

Incidents involving insurance fraud because someone lied about a theft or property damage also rise to the level of pressing charges, he said.
False reports often arise when a different crime has been committed “to throw attention away from what’s really going on,” Dance said. She said someone might loan a friend a car that is then wrecked or driven while drunk. They then claim it’s been stolen, she said.

Sometimes it’s a cheating spouse covering his tracks, Williams said. Shelton has seen false reports filed after drug deals gone wrong.

Both Shelton and Williams said they ultimately rely on input from the Pitt County District Attorney’s office.

District Attorney Clark Everett would add occasions someone is falsely named as a suspect to the list of reasons to indict. And the charge depends on how the lie occurs.

When now-defendant Kevin Kleber, awaiting trial for murder, untruthfully told Greenville police an intruder shot and killed his father, he was charged with obstruction of justice. A false report is something that never happened. In Kleber’s case, a crime was committed, but he diverted the investigation.

Perjury is reserved for lies told under oath, Everett said.

His prosecutors, too, are careful in their charging. If someone is recanting a reported domestic assault, it still could be true, Everett said as an example. The victims don’t want to “continue the punishment,” he said.

The number of cases leading to charges for filing a false report are limited. The Greenville Police Department has arrested 11 people for filing false reports this year, after four arrests in 2010. The ECU Police Department only has prosecuted Melvin’s case this year and two cases in 2010. Data from the sheriff’s office was not available.

“It doesn’t happen much,” Everett said. “Proof is problematic. It’s a difficult case unless you have someone who says they just made it up.

“We probably should do more of them,” he said, “but it’s a matter of allocation of resources.”

The sheriff’s office agrees with taking a firmer stance against false reports.
“One of the reasons we call attention to it by making an arrest for filing a false report is to hopefully keep someone else from doing the same thing, to make them know there is some accountability,” Dance said.

Contact Kathryn Kennedy at kkennedy@reflector.com or 252-329-9566.
Campus security gets full attention

East Carolina University and law-enforcement officials are continuing to parse the response and aftermath of a campus lockdown that took place on Nov. 16 when a man, mistakenly believed to have been carrying a gun, was spotted near the ECU campus.

The incident evolved after the man’s large umbrella was misidentified as a rifle as he walked toward the university’s campus.

Local and state police responded to the report while university officials quickly enforced a campus-wide lockdown. During lockdowns, doors to university buildings are locked, police presence in the area is multiplied, traffic on and off campus is strictly controlled, and students and university employees are alerted to any possible dangers.

This particular situation began at 9:50 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 16, and lasted until 1 p.m. that same day, when officials finally terminated it.

Students, both on and off campus, were informed of the lockdown via the school’s emergency alert system and advised to remain off the streets and inside buildings and dorms.

Lockdowns are a fairly standard precaution taken in situations perceived as dangerous, particularly since school-based shooting have become more and more common.

The Virginia Tech 2007 shootings in which a student shot and killed 32 people and wounded 25 others compelled most universities to adopt official responses to emergency situations involving shooters. Lockdowns are designed to prevent a potential shooter from extending his or her reach and allow law enforcement to contain or eliminate the threat.

In this case, officials determined that there was no threat and allowed
students — and school business — to proceed as usual. There was a predictable spread of light-hearted pokes at the social-media-fed uproar over what turned out to be an umbrella.

But give ECU credit, even as we can now smile about the outcome. By adopting an emergency response policy, university officials, as well as area law enforcement, have demonstrated they clearly understand that risk can appear out of otherwise benign circumstances at any time.

While it’s not a pleasant fact of life, there are mean, destructive and, sometimes, mentally impaired individuals out there who want to harm innocent people.

Local families of students at East Carolina University certainly experienced a degree of alarm when they first heard of the lockdown, but knowing that the university takes student safety seriously is reassuring.

ECU’s chancellor and area police got it right: It really is better to be safe (and a little inconvenienced) rather than sorry.
ECU professor recognized for her efforts

“Work that gives youth opportunity is what fulfills me.”

Diane Rodriguez
associate professor of education at ECU

By Ashley Adams
The Daily Reflector
Friday, November 25, 2011

A local educator who works to give all students equal footing in the pursuit of education and their dreams recently was recognized for her efforts.

Diane Rodriguez, associate professor of education at East Carolina University, serves as a mentor and visionary for high school and college students with special needs, including culturally and linguistically diverse students.

Her dedication to children was recognized by the Hispanic broadcast company Univision Communications with the “Pride of Our Community” award, honoring her advocacy for educating minorities and populations with special needs toward a higher education.

Rodriguez has secured grants totaling more than $2.75 million and has written 50 published articles on educational methods for culturally and linguistically diverse students.

“Many of the high school students do not have hope or know how to apply to a university,” Rodriguez said. “To be the one to walk through the
admission doors with them is an amazing feeling. Work that gives youth opportunity is what fulfills me.”

Demonstrating bravery and enthusiasm for learning, Rodriguez left her friends and family at the age of 20 to move from Puerto Rico to New York City. On a full scholarship, she attended graduate school in the city, where she discovered her passion for education.

“Much of my inspiration comes from a special professor who was a mentor and a teacher to me while I was in grad school,” Rodriguez said. “She taught me about civic engagement, service learning, research, grants and pedagogical skills.”

Rodriguez said her teacher shaped her desire to affect the lives of her own students in the same way.

“She took me under her wing,” she said. “I did not know how much I meant to this woman until I read her published biography where she spoke about me. I couldn’t believe it.”

Before moving to Greenville in 2006, Rodriguez lived in Miami and taught at Barry University. Upon her arrival to North Carolina, she said she was delighted by the Southern hospitality and the beautiful campus facilities at ECU, but did not realize there was such a need for guidance in Latino youth. That need must be addressed in partnership with neighborhoods, Rodriguez said.

“There is a need to understand the biography of students and their background in order to make an impact,” she said. “I want to ensure that all communities, all children, regardless of background, disabilities or ethnicity, prosper from equitable treatment.”

Toward that goal, Rodriguez recently hosted a Latino Leaders forum with U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to address issues relevant to the Latino community in North Carolina. The meeting drew 48 of North and South Carolina’s most active community representatives to address their concerns about the effects of new labor laws on the Latino population.
Juvencio Peralta, president of the Association of Mexicans in North Carolina (AMEXCAN), was among those who attended the meeting and said he values Rodriguez’s contributions to students and community.

“She is a very down to earth lady who brings qualities and knowledge to higher education by informing students and parents on how to access and navigate the system,” Peralta said. “For being a Latino lady, she has overcome so many challenges and done so much, not just for the institution, but also for the community.”

Rodriguez also serves as the mentor and advisor for the Student Association of Spanish-Latino Affairs (SALSA) and Lambda Theta Alpha Latin sorority.

“I see Dr. Rodriguez as an inspirational woman, someone that I look up to,” said ECU junior transfer student Karen Castro, who is a member of both groups. “In the Latino community, it is rare to see a person with their PhD, it’s sad to say, but true. To see that Dr. Rodriguez has achieved that and uses her knowledge and resources to help us is amazing.”

Marilyn Sheerer, now provost and senior vice chancellor of academic affairs at ECU, hired Rodriguez when she was dean of the College of Education.

“Her positive energy and strong interest in Latino affairs make her a highly visible educator, and I love her laugh and sense of humor,” Sheerer said.

“She gives her students confidence and dreams.”

Rodriguez said she works to be sure students have options and access to area resources.

“Education is a bridge,” she said. “We need to ensure the growth of the Latino community is equally educated with full opportunities, while making the youth educated, active citizens.”

Contact Ashley Adams at aadams@reflector.com or 252-329-9579.
How to know whether it’s time to buy a home

Six considerations for those weighing whether to rent or buy

By Amy Hoak, MarketWatch

CHICAGO (MarketWatch) — As another year of the housing downturn ends, some are wondering if it finally is more advantageous to buy instead of rent, given discounted home prices and mortgage rates near historical lows.

The answer not only depends on where you live, but also your personal finances, the stability of your job and what you expect for home prices and rental rates in the years ahead.

Historically, renting has been the better choice, according to recent research. Renting was the better move about 75% of the time, according to “Lessons from over 30 years of buy versus rent decisions: Is the American Dream always wise?,” a paper scheduled for publication next year.

The catch: Renters need to invest all the money they saved.

“We find that if people don’t invest the money, actually about 90% of the time, you’re better off buying,” said Eli Beracha of East Carolina University, who co-authored the paper with Ken H. Johnson of Florida International University.

That’s because for many Americans, their home has become a sort of forced savings account, allowing them to build savings through home equity.

That said, the case for buying a home is getting more compelling for many, according to the report, especially as monthly mortgage payments become more competitive with rental payments.
Here are six considerations for those weighing a decision to buy or rent.

1. **Examine the housing market**

One metric that housing analysts will look at to gauge housing affordability is the price-to-rent ratio. To calculate the ratio, the purchase price of a house is divided by 12 times the monthly rent of a comparable home, said Stan Humphries, chief economist for real-estate website Zillow.com.

Hard-hit markets like Detroit and Las Vegas have low median price-to-rent ratios of 5.6 and 8.1, respectively, according to Zillow data. At the other end of the list, it’s still expensive to buy in New York and Honolulu, with ratios of 16.1 and 17.6, respectively.

“There is no rent ratio that is the magic number,” said Christina Aragon, Rent.com’s director of strategy and consumer insights. But in general, “the higher the ratio is above 20, the more you’d need to see a spike in housing values to justify the price that you’re paying today. If the ratio is below 15, it might make sense to consider buying rather than renting,” she adds.

2. **Consider additional costs**

Remember, if you choose to buy a home, your mortgage payment may be the biggest cost each month — but it’s not the only one.

There are insurance and taxes to pay, as well as regular maintenance costs, said Richard Green, director of the University of Southern California’s Lusk Center for Real Estate.

3. **Look into the future**

After taking stock of what the housing market is like today, you have to do some predicting about what the local economy, including the housing market, will look like in the future, Aragon said.

Are jobs coming into the area, or are they leaving town? Is there enough demand for housing that prices will rise over the time you will live there?

Right now, housing prices are still falling, and rental prices are rising in many parts of the country. Nationwide, home prices were down 4.4% in September, compared with September 2010, Humphries said. Prices may drop another 3% to 5% before bottoming, he adds.

But rent isn’t getting cheaper. By the end of the year, rents will have risen 4% to 5% in 2011, he adds.

4. **Look into your personal future, too**
Before buying, decide how long you plan to live in the home. If you plan to stay there for 10 years, a drop in value a year after you move in could be balanced out by many more years of price appreciation.

If you plan to live in the home less than five years, you may be better off signing a lease, Humphries said.

**5. Consider your personal finances**

Assess whether you have the down payment — and if that down payment would wipe out savings you might need for a rainy day, Aragon said. “Does having that burden of a mortgage mean you can’t do things that are important for your lifestyle like take a vacation or go out to dinner?,” she asked.

These days more than ever, potential homeowners need to consider the stability of their jobs before they take on a mortgage. Also being able to move when you have an opportunity to advance your career may be a compelling reason to rent.

**6. Think about opportunity costs**

Shelling out 20% for a down payment has its consequences. That money — as well as any money you save by renting instead of buying — could be diverted to another investment vehicle.

“The down payment that you’ve lost might have been in the bank earning interest or in a brokerage account,” said Johnson, who added that if you’re a great saver, you might be better off renting.
Letter: Police response at ECU appreciated
Thursday, November 24, 2011

Just a note to thank our law enforcement authorities for their quick and efficient actions in light of a possible catastrophic incident. Yes, in hindsight we know there was no gun, however, there was doubt at the moment and the authorities did the right thing.

There will be snide remarks, but please do not allow this false alarm to slow or deter your swift actions in the future. As a parent of two current ECU students, thank you for protecting my sons from harm. Great job!

JIM TAUNTON
Winterville
Nursing needs

Regarding UNC's need to raise money and reduce costs, I was shocked to read these words, referring to former system president C.D. Spangler: "Spangler called for the transfer of training programs for registered nurses to less costly community colleges."

UNC School of Nursing aims to turn out student nurses with college degrees. These nurses will become the leaders, the teachers and the administrators needed in the nursing field. ECU has a BSN program as well.

Our community colleges are serving a real need also by providing staff nurses. But ending the BSN program at UNC would be a step backward for quality nursing care at all levels.

Patsy McLamb
Goldsboro
George Carpenter, left, and Tyson Gale stop East Carolina wide receiver Justin Hardy during Marshall's 34-27 overtime victory Saturday at home.

**Pirates blow lead and bowl bid**

BY DOUG SMOCK - Correspondent

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. — The East Carolina Pirates' last-ditch effort to make their sixth bowl game in a row Saturday was as desperate as quarterback Dominique Davis scrambling 30 or more yards behind the line of scrimmage, as he did on fourth down in overtime.

When he finally threw the ball, Marshall's Darryl Roberts was there to catch it, ending the game and giving the Thundering Herd a dramatic 34-27 victory. The result, in front of a crowd of 22,456 at Joan C. Edwards Stadium, made Marshall (6-6, 5-3 Conference USA) bowl eligible, and sends the Pirates (5-7, 4-4) home for the season.

The final play was the Thundering Herd's third interception against Davis, who had provided the last brilliant moment in his East Carolina career late in regulation. Down 34-27, he drove the Pirates 82 yards in 15 plays, finishing with a 6-yard toss to Justin Jones - their third such connection.

Getting the ball first in overtime, Marshall scored on a Tron Martinez 1-yard run, coming after Rakeem Cato's 24-yard screen pass to Travon Van.
When the Pirates took over, Torrance Hunt gained 1 yard on first down, then was smothered for a 2-yard loss. Reese Wiggins dropped a third-down pass, setting up Davis' desperate fourth-down scramble.

Davis finished 32-of-48 for 285 yards and those three touchdowns to Jones. He was sharp early, leading the Pirates on drives of 77 and 32 yards to turn a 10-0 deficit into a 14-10 lead.

But he was picked off two other times, both by Rashad Jackson. The first came during the first half, as East Carolina was at midfield trying to build on a 17-10 lead; the second came with the Pirates at the Marshall 25 on the first drive of the second half.

The Pirates had a 20-17 advantage at the intermission, on two Davis-to-Jones touchdowns and Mike Barbour field goals of 57 and 58 yards. Those were the two longest in the 21-year history of Edwards Stadium, and the latter tied a school record.

With the score tied at 20, Barbour's attempt from only 52 yards clanked the crossbar. Then the Thundering Herd took a 27-20 lead on Van's 33-yard run with 4 minutes, 49 seconds left, with Davis answering with his final touchdown drive.

It was the Pirates' only second-half score.

"It's a tribute to them, to Doc (Holliday) and his staff," East Carolina coach Ruffin McNeill said of Marshall's coach. "But there were some opportunities we had, two that we left on the field, to be honest."

The Pirates allowed Rakeem Cato to throw for 341 yards on 23-of-29 passing, including two touchdowns to Aaron Dobson. The first was a 77-yard bomb on the first play from scrimmage, and the second was a 13-yard, play-of-the-year caliber catch in the corner of the end zone.

Derek Blacknall's coverage was excellent, but Dobson reached around Blacknall, stabbed the ball with one hand - backhanded, at that - and pinned it to his hip.

"I don't think I've seen, in 30 years of coaching, a catch like that," Holliday said.
HUNTINGTON, W.Va.

There is a reason they’re called growing pains and not growing pleasures.

The tears streaming down the face of East Carolina wide receiver Reese Wiggins and many of his teammates in the aftermath of ECU’s season-ending loss to Marshall on Saturday night were small parts of a long process that isn’t supposed to be easy and that elicits a gamut of emotions.

ECU’s 34-27 overtime loss to the Thundering Herd — which will force the Pirates to stay home during bowl season for the first time since 2005 — gave rise to disbelief and disappointment for the visiting team and its fans.

But in the extended wake of the loss and a season filled with more downs than ups, a respect for the process of progress often described by second-year head coach Ruffin McNeill is vital, especially given that this band of Pirates was largely inexperienced and injury prone, ultimately making them tragically mistake prone.

The pain and frustration of coming up short is usually one of the baby steps toward building a championship caliber team, or in this case rebuilding one. And despite the annual departure of the team’s elder players, the Pirates’ remaining roster oozes with talent, some of which didn’t emerge until late in the campaign.

Nonetheless, the end came a game too soon for 17 seniors trying to extend their careers for one more month and one more game, and simultaneously continue a five-year ECU bowl streak.

Leading the group were a pair of junior college transfers whose remarkable careers went by in a blink. Both etched their names into the ECU annals in numerous categories, however, and in half the time as most of their record-setting predecessors.
Quarterback Dominique Davis was the first face of the Pirates’ in the McNeill coaching era, and although his interception-littered senior season might stick in the minds of some, Davis’ true legacy is that of a record-breaking passer.

In addition to his list of single-season records set last year, Davis broke a more important one in his final game, passing David Garrard on the Pirates’ all-time touchdown pass list with 62. The Pirates have numbers to choose from when picking a replacement, but finding one that will put up Davis-like numbers will be tough to do.

Wide receiver Lance Lewis — ECU’s all-time leader in TD receptions — was forced to end his own decorated career out of uniform, stricken with multiple injuries late in the season and joining a massive group of ECU casualties throughout the campaign.

Another senior JUCO gem put his name on the ECU books on the final day of his career, but like so many of his teammates spent the minutes immediately after the game fretting over his perceived role in the Pirates’ loss, which earned them a 5-7 finish to the season.

Michael Barbour blasted a 57-yard field goal in the first half, setting a new record at Joan C. Edwards Stadium. Not long after that, the New Yorker who transferred from Maryland because he was bent on getting a chance to kick, tied a school record with a 58-yarder.

But by day’s end, he’d missed his shortest attempt of the game — from 52-yards — and that proved to be the last try of his college career.

With every end comes a beginning, however, and perhaps the overriding positive to this season is next season.

The rise of a young Pirate defense which banished memories of last year’s nightmarish results was instrumental in the success ECU had, even when the offense continually put it in dire straits with turnovers. Although it took a three-senior secondary to provide balance, the new defensive playmakers only begin with linebacker Jeremy Grove and safety Damon Magazu.
With the premature end to Lewis’ career and to starting running back Reggie Bullock’s season (thigh injury), new offensive stars like receivers Wiggins, Justin Hardy and Justin Jones and tailback Torrance Hunt began to shine.

The season ended in anguish for the Pirates, but even those who have taken off the shoulder pads for the last time can appreciate the amount of progress made by a team both in pain and under pressure in 2011, and the amount of promise that looms.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
E.B. Aycock’s Burt Jenkins named Middle School Teacher of the Year by NCAAH
Monday, November 28, 2011

Burt Jenkins, E.B. Aycock Middle School’s health and physical education teacher, has been selected as the Middle School Teacher of the Year by the North Carolina Association for the Advancement of Health Education (NCAAH).

The award is given out annually and is part of the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.

Jenkins has been working for Pitt County Schools for eight years. He was nominated by Michelle Wallen, an assistant professor in the Department of Health Education and Promotion at East Carolina University.

“First, I am grateful to have been nominated by Dr. Wallen,” Jenkins said.

“To be considered worthy of this award by an educator of her caliber is an honor in itself. To actually win is an extremely rewarding experience.”

Jenkins was honored at an awards luncheon during the N.C. Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention in Winston-Salem.

“I believe that knowledge and experience should be shared with other teachers, not just students,” Jenkins said. “Pitt County Schools and ECU afforded me the opportunity to share materials and techniques. Teachers and interns were then receptive to these ideas. This is the reason I am receiving this award.”
East Carolina University’s football squad plays a critical game on Saturday against Marshall University, with a win likely earning the Pirates a bowl invitation. At the same time, a process with far greater impact on the program, the school and the community is being played out far from the gridiron, without a rule book and in a way that tilts against the local team.

Conference realignment is a sensitive subject in these parts, on account of East Carolina’s difficulty in winning an invitation to a conference with an automatic qualifying bid to the lucrative and exclusionary Bowl Championship Series structure. While school officials hope that a two-conference merger would be a beneficial union for the Pirates, there is justified concern that East Carolina will ultimately be left at the altar.

On Monday, the Board of Trustees, Chancellor Steve Ballard and Athletic Director Terry Holland took time before the board’s discussion of tuition rates to discuss the shifting landscape of college athletics. The group expressed optimism at a proposed merger between the Pirates’ Conference USA and the Mountain West Conference, which would create an 18- to 22-team league for football.

Participation is such a massive conference could benefit the Pirates by reducing the travel costs for football, which are high due to away games as far west as El Paso, Texas. A league so large would be split into divisions that could see East Carolina play relatively close to home. That would be a financial relief for the school and a boon to the armada of Pirates fans who long to see the team on the road.

The major impediment to such a plan is a BCS system that limits automatic qualifying bids to the six “power conferences” and the University of Notre Dame. The system allows for schools from other conferences to earn bowl spots, but the barrier is set very high. Instead, the BCS has the effect of enriching member conferences and keeping outsiders comparatively impoverished as a result.
Even if the Pirates are fortunate to win an invitation to the Big East or another BCS conference, it should advocate that the automatic qualifying system expire in 2013 with the BCS contract. The financial bounty of Division 1 college football should be open and accessible to all. Banishing schools like East Carolina to the outside creates a wealth disparity that is unacceptable and long overdue for reform.
Many elementary and middle school teachers use children’s books as guides and assigned reading for their students, but one East Carolina University freshman Teaching Fellow arrived having written her own.

Kellah Jarvis, a 19-year-old from Knightdale and a new addition to the Pirate community this fall, became a published children’s book author in 2009, at only 16.

“Miss Kathy Sailon,” a book idea that Jarvis initially conceptualized in the second grade, slowly began coming to life during her free writing sessions throughout the years. Jarvis worked on other stories as well, but it was this story in particular that caught the eye of publishers in August 2009.

Jarvis, an aspiring middle education teacher with a concentration in language arts and mathematics, began writing as a young girl, honing her writing skills in writing workshops and in free writing sessions during her classes.

“My biggest inspirations for writing this book were school, my teachers and especially my mother,” Jarvis said.

Jarvis’s mother, Jaimi, a writer herself, used to sit with Jarvis and write with her. Upon noticing her daughter’s talent and ambition to write, Jarvis’ mother began researching publishing companies to see if one of them was willing to look at one of her daughter’s manuscripts.
After sending three unfinished manuscripts, Jarvis and her mother heard back from Tate Publishing, a family owned Christian-based publishing company in Oklahoma. In the spring of her freshman year of high school, Jarvis began the publishing process.

“Miss Kathy Sailon” is about an unruly kindergartener, who despite getting into her fair share of trouble, learns important life lessons along the way. Jarvis, a N.C. Teaching Fellow, did not pull from personal experience. “I like writing fiction and being able to use my imagination when I write. I wanted to write about someone completely different from me,” she said of the 140-page juvenile fiction book’s protagonist, Kathy.

After working with illustrators and attending book signings, Kellah can still say with conviction what the most rewarding part of the publishing process was for her.

“Holding the book and seeing the cover with my name on it was my favorite part of the whole process,” she said.

“Miss Kathy Sailon” is available on the Barnes & Noble website and is in stock at their Raleigh locations. The Tate Publishing web site also sells copies of the book.

Jarvis hopes to continue fostering her love of writing through teaching language arts and has even considered writing another book, she said.

The N.C. Teaching Fellows program is a competitive scholarship program for high school seniors studying to become teachers. Seventeen campuses statewide are supporters of this program. Qualified seniors have to undergo an extensive application process including two interviews. The average N.C. Teaching Fellow has an SAT score of over 1100, a high school GPA of a 4.0 or above and is in the top 10 percent of his or her graduating class.

**Grant to fund study of Lyme disease**

An ECU scientist is looking at ways to treat or prevent Lyme disease with funding from a federal grant.
Dr. Md Motaleb, an assistant professor of microbiology and immunology at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has received a five-year, $1.8 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to study the tick-borne disease.

Specifically, Motaleb is studying the bacteria Borrelia burgdorferi, the agent that causes Lyme disease, to determine exactly how the germ moves through tissue, reaches its destination and causes infection. Information about that process could help lead to measures to treat the infection or prevent the bacteria from ever reaching its destination in the first place, such as a vaccine, he said.

Lyme disease is spread by deer ticks and is the most common tick-borne disease in the Northern Hemisphere. The number of Lyme disease cases reported to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention increased 300 percent between 1997 and 2009, from 12,801 cases to 38,468 confirmed and probable cases.

Typical symptoms include flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, fatigue, myalgias and a characteristic skin rash called erythema migrans, according to the CDC. Most cases of Lyme disease can be treated successfully with a few weeks of antibiotics. If left untreated, infection can spread to joints, the heart and the nervous system causing Lyme arthritis and cardiac and neurological abnormalities. Although very rare, deaths have been attributed to Lyme disease.

The grant funds pay for salaries for laboratory personnel and reagents to perform the research. A part of this project will be performed at University of Toledo in Ohio.

Motaleb has published four scientific articles this year on Borrelia burgdorferi and has studied the bacteria for more than 10 years.

In addition to this grant, he is co-investigator on an NIH grant with a professor at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

“Encore! The Night of Rising Stars” on Dec. 3

The Friends of the School of Theatre and Dance will host “Encore! The Night of Rising Stars,” a scholarship fundraiser Saturday.
ECU faculty and students have prepared a variety show of Broadway tunes, children’s theatre, jazz, ballet and tap dance. Ticket purchases raise scholarship funds that will help many talented ECU students.

At 6:30 p.m., wine and heavy hors d’oeuvres will be served in the studio theatre and at 8 p.m., the performance will begin in McGinnis Theatre. Tickets are $35/person. Call 328-6829 or visit http://www.ecuarts.com

**Upcoming Event:**
**Friday:** The Preservation Hall Jazz Band, 8 p.m., Wright Auditorium, part of the S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series 50th anniversary series. Tickets are $30 for the public and $10 for students/youth. Call the ECU Central Ticket Office at 328-4788 or 800-ECU-ARTS.

*See www.ecu.edu/cs-ecu/calendar.cfm for times, places and more information on these events and other ECU upcoming activities.*
WINTERVILLE - Joanne Bartoe Lewis, 81, passed away Saturday, Nov. 19 after a long battle with cancer. The funeral service will be held at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Greenville on Monday, Nov. 28, 2011 at 6 p.m. The family will receive friends at a reception following the service.

Born Joanne Elizabeth on Nov. 4, 1930, to Willard F. and Edith Bartoe, she was a beautiful, smart and talented girl. She was valedictorian of both her high school and nursing school classes and later earned her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing.

Joanne met the love of her life, James Alden Lewis, when they were both in high school and they married in 1950. Together they raised three daughters while following James' career to many states across the nation. Joanne served in these communities as a dedicated nurse, Girl Scout leader and church choir member. In 1980, Joanne and James moved to Greenville where Joanne was called to be a nursing supervisor at Pitt County Memorial Hospital. She later taught at East Carolina University School of Nursing.

Joanne was a woman of great faith, a member of St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. At St. Timothy's Church she served on the Vestry, Choir, ECW, Bell Choir and Altar Guild. Joanne volunteered with Angel Tree Prison Ministries, as a tutor at Wahl Coates Elementary School, Literacy Volunteers of America and on the Sheppard Memorial Library Board of Trustees. She was a member of the Order of the Daughters of the King, Beta Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau, and the NC Nursing Association. Joanne was a loving daughter, sibling, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend. She was the glue that kept all our family in touch.

Joanne loved to read and to travel. Over the years she ventured all over the world appreciating the beauty and culture of many regions. Recently, she enjoyed trips with her siblings and daughters.

Joanne was predeceased by her husband James in 2007. She is survived by her daughters, Kathleen Yabsley of Santa Barbara, Calif., Nancy Leamy and Barbara Shreve, both of Greenville; siblings Phyllis
Speakman and husband, Daniel, of Fremont, N.H., Judith Kohler and husband, the Rev. Robert Kohler, of Nashville, Tenn. and John-David Bartoe and wife, Donna, of Houston, Texas. She is also survived by her grandchildren Joy Cullen and husband, John, James Leamy and wife, Nicole, Jessica Leamy and Michelle Shreve; and three great-grandchildren, all of Greenville.

Joanne was a gracious soul who touched so many lives and she will be greatly missed. We are grateful for her doctors, nurses and friends in her cancer support group who helped her in her fight for life. Job well done and we will not forget you. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to St. Timothy's Relay For Life, Sheppard Memorial Library or Pitt County Chapter of Autism Society of North Carolina.


Published in The Daily Reflector on November 27, 2011
Marcus Patterson and Rael Thigpen work on a child's bicycle Saturday morning for Recycle Bicycle Shop that recycles bikes to teach kids work skills. (Scott Davis/The Daily Reflector)

ReCycle readies teens for road ahead
“We wanted to give our young men, in particular, an opportunity to use their gifts and talents beyond what they’re doing in the classroom.”

James Haskins
bookkeeper Building Hope

By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, November 26, 2011

After school and on Saturdays, whenever he can spare the time, Ahmir Smith spends it on a bike.

But the 15-year-old is not a BMXer, and he’s not pedaling around the neighborhood goofing off. He’s working to set the wheels in motion for a successful career.

Ahmir is among a handful of teens employed by ReCycle, a bicycle repair shop operated by Building Hope Community Life Center. The shop, rolled out nearly two years ago, restores broken-down bikes and makes them ready for another rider. But in the process, ReCycle aims to reinvigorate teen boys and get them ready for the road ahead.

To borrow a phrase from cyclist Lance Armstrong, “it’s not about the bike.”

“We wanted to give our young men, in particular, an opportunity to use their gifts and talents beyond what they’re doing in the classroom,” said James
Haskins, a bookkeeper for Building Hope, a faith-based after-school and youth mentoring program that serves Pitt and Edgecombe counties. “We want to be able to help these young men to learn a trade, to learn a skill, to learn what business is all about.”

Weekday afternoons, when their homework is done, boys gear up for work in the back of Building Hope’s West Ninth Street location, where they patch tires, replace chains and grease gears. Saturday mornings, they staff the resale store, greeting customers between building bikes. They are paid minimum wage for their Saturday work. The hour a day they spend in the shop learning to do repairs is strictly volunteer.

Still, whenever ReCycle is open, teens race for the door. So coveted are jobs in the bike shop that boys from Building Hope’s after-school program wear dress shirts and ties to interview for them.

“Anybody that’s back there, they want to be there,” said Alvin Gardner, 26, who helps teach bike repair along with volunteer Randy Bolling. “They’ve got kids just grasping at this trying to get in there as soon as they can.”

Marcus Patterson, 18, began working with ReCycle three months ago, joining Smith, Rael Thigpen, 16, and Kevin Burton, 11, a volunteer. Now Patterson helps teach younger students at Building Hope how to make repairs.

“I already knew how to repair bikes,” he said. “It’s a place to grow up and mature.”

Gardner understands the feeling. He gravitated toward bike shops after leaving home at age 19. If he couldn’t get a shop owner to hire him, he’d simply hang around to see what he could learn.

When he moved to Greenville to pursue BMX, Gardner planned to do bike repairs on a bus, which also served as his home. But members of Greenville Christian Fellowship asked him if he would consider lending some of his tools and expertise to the program at Building Hope.

“I never had a father,” Gardner said. “I was raised without one. I know what it’s like trying to work your way up from nothing.”
ReCycle takes bikes that have been left behind, cast aside or unclaimed. Bikes that cannot be restored to working order are broken down and used for parts. True to its name, the shop makes an effort to reuse everything, from old inner tubes to greasy rags.

Already, the program’s efforts are gaining attention. East Carolina University has partnered with ReCycle to service bikes used for the Pirate BikeShare campus transportation program, and ReCycle conducts bike workshops on campus, providing brake adjustments and tire inspections.

Earlier this month, ReCycle was selected to compete for a Pepsi Refresh educational grant. The top 15 vote-getters in the online competition each will receive $10,000.

That would be a windfall for a shop that brings in $100-$150 on a typical Saturday. But ReCycle was not created to turn a profit. Troy Moore, who teaches middle school boys in Building Hope’s after-school program, said ReCycle sometimes donates bikes to children who need them.

Each of the teen employees gets a free bike, but there’s a catch.

“We actually want them to build their own bikes, something that they can be proud of,” said Moore, who helps manage ReCycle. “That they actually have something that they did on their own, you know, that makes a big difference in a kid’s life.”

Haskins hopes that, in time, the teens will be in charge of every aspect of the shop, from making repairs to making sales and keeping up with the inventory.

“It’s really all about getting them prepared for what’s down the road and helping them understand what it takes to be successful in the workplace,” Haskins said. “It’s about them becoming better men.”

To vote for ReCycle to receive a Pepsi Refresh grant, visit www.refresheverything.com/recyclebikeshop. Deadline is Wednesday. ReCycle, located at 309 W. Ninth St., is open from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays or by appointment. Bike donations are tax deductible. Call Building Hope at 757-1840.
Macon Crowder signs a letter of intent Nov. 9 to swim at East Carolina University. Crowder's sister, Rachel, seated, and his parents, Gary and Anna, are with him. AARON MOODY - amoody@newsobserver.com

Crowder signs Letter of Intent with ECU

By Teri Saylor

WENDELL Macon Crowder used to be a baseball player who enjoyed summer-league swimming. Today he is a full-time swimmer who still enjoys baseball, but now from the bleachers.

On Nov. 9, he sealed his swimming future by signing a national letter of intent to swim for the East Carolina University Pirates.

"Since I was 12, I wanted a swimming scholarship," he said. "My aunt went to ECU, and she's happy that I am going there. I'm happy, too."

Crowder, 17, started swimming in the summer leagues when he was a kid, and began swimming year-round to stay in shape for baseball. Eventually, swimming took over.

Today he swims for YMCA of the Triangle and East Wake High School.

"Even though YOTA offers bigger events, I wanted to swim for East Wake to contribute to my high school team," he said.

It is hard to participate on both teams, but he makes it work by training with his YOTA team and participating in swim meets with his Warriors teammates.

A sprinter who is training for longer-distance events, Crowder focuses his training on both endurance and speed.
"When I train for sprinting, I practice my breathing and turns," he said. "I focus on endurance and learning to go the distance for the longer events."

Les Turner, head swimming coach at East Wake High School, said Crowder is training for 500-meter racing.

Despite working hard to conquer distance, Crowder's favorite event is the 200 freestyle.

"It's a longer race, but I can still sprint," he said.

It's also a mental challenge.

"I like to always stay out in front," he said. "In shorter distances, if I get behind, it's a lot harder to catch up.

"In longer races, I have more time if I get behind."

Crowder's best finishes so far are 4:39.60 in the 500 freestyle and 1:42.20 in the 200.

"I love racing, competing and making friends, even on other teams," he said.

On the YOTA swim team website, head coach Chad Onken posted comments about Crowder and three teammates who have signed letters of intent to swim for college teams.

"These swimmers are wonderful examples of student athletes," he wrote. "They've performed well in the pool and in the classroom."

Crowder, who has a 3.75 GPA, credits swimming with giving him good time-management skills.

"I have to focus on both school and swimming, and I know I have to make good grades," he said.

Going to college is bittersweet for Crowder. On Nov. 9, he signed alongside his longtime friend Jonathan Waszak, who signed to play baseball for Western Carolina. They'll be going their separate ways after high school graduation.

"We've been friends since the sixth grade," Crowder said. "It meant a lot for us to sign together."

Crowder plans to major in exercise physiology at ECU, and he has goals for the Pirates when he joins the team.

"I want our team to place in our conference and make it to the NCAA playoffs," he said.

But he's taking things one step at a time and tries to follow the advice he offers others: "Keep working at it. Hard work really does pay off in the end," he said.

Crowder would know. It is paying off for him.
A bad direction

So we won't call the decision by N.C. State University trustees to impose a 29 percent (over five years) tuition increase on in-state students a case of follow-the-leader. But indeed, trustees did as their counterparts in Chapel Hill did recently. The Board of Governors that rules the University of North Carolina system approved UNC-CH's unfortunate decision and doubtless will do the same for N.C. State.

At NCSU, each student would pay about $1,500 more in annual tuition five years from now. The additional money will go toward hiring more tenure-track faculty. Officials note that the growth in numbers of such faculty has been far behind the percentages of growth in undergraduate and graduate enrollment. Chancellor Randy Woodson wants to reduce class sizes, he says.

It's a good idea, but the university should first have looked at cutting, substantially, administrative positions, which seem to have exploded at universities all over the country during the last 20 years or so.

NCSU may not have experienced the magnitude of such growth at other schools, but there might be positions to cut, or better, administrators to move back into the classroom. C.D. Spangler Jr., a former UNC system president who served 11 years and has spent a lifetime running a large family business and foundation, said in a recent appearance in Chapel Hill that universities should look first toward cutting expenses, and should not raise tuition.

To do so, Spangler warned, would hurt the middle-class students and their families and might dissuade some from attending a school. Those in that group typically aren't eligible for the type of financial aid available to the poorest students, for example, but the strain on finances may be considerable.

So it's too bad that neither NCSU nor UNC-Chapel Hill apparently looked very hard at losing a few assistant vice thises and associate vice thats. Instead, the students get hit, again.
Trial starts today for second suspect in Eve Carson killing

BY ANNE BLYTHE - ablythe@newsobserver.com

HILLSBOROUGH More than 3-1/2 years have passed since police found the body of Eve Carson, a UNC-Chapel Hill student leader, about a mile from campus.

Today, the younger of the two men accused of shooting her to death goes on trial in Orange County Superior Court.

Laurence Alvin Lovette, now 21, was 17 when police arrested him in March 2008 and accused him of kidnapping, robbing and murdering Carson.

She was the UNC-Chapel Hill student body president, a college senior whose good grades, benevolence and charisma won her high marks inside and outside the classroom.

Lovette, a Durham resident barely old enough to be tried in the adult courts, was familiar to law enforcement officers. His co-defendant, DeMario Atwater, a Durham man serving a life sentence in federal prison for his role in the Carson killing, also had been in and out of legal trouble.

Their cases exposed pervasive problems in the state's probation system. Each was supposed to be seeing a probation officer, but there had been scant oversight of them. Lovette also is charged with killing Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato, a case still open in Durham County Superior Court.

In Orange County, jury selection is to begin today with prosecutors and defense lawyers interviewing potential jurors individually. The process could take at least a week, lawyers and court officials predict.
The evidentiary part of the trial, where attorneys argue what should be admitted as evidence in the case, could take several more weeks.

Lovette, if convicted, faces a possible sentence of life in prison. His youth at the time of the crime makes him ineligible for the death penalty.

It is unclear whether prosecutors will call Atwater, who, according to the federal prison locator site, is serving time in the Victorville Federal Correction Complex in Adelanto, Calif.

During Atwater's sentencing hearing in May 2010, District Attorney Jim Woodall revealed some details that are likely to be part of his prosecution of Lovette, who pleaded not guilty to the accusations several weeks ago.

Shanita Love, a Durham woman who was Atwater's girlfriend at the time, was an instrumental source to law enforcement early in the investigation.

In the immediate aftermath of Carson's killing on March 5, 2008, police kept many details to themselves. They did not reveal the kinds of guns used. They said little about the ATM withdrawals from Carson's accounts on the last day of her life.

But Atwater told his girlfriend a vivid account, and she shared that with investigators.

Carson, whose body was found at the intersection of Hillcrest Circle and Hillcrest Drive shortly before sunrise, was working on a paper in the wee hours when she encountered her killers.

It is not clear to investigators whether Carson was inside the home on Friendly Lane that she shared with several other students or just outside. Atwater told his girlfriend, according to prosecutors, that he and his co-defendant walked through the unlocked door of what they thought was a sorority house and found her working on her computer.

Prosecutors contend Atwater and his co-defendant kidnapped Carson and forced her into her Toyota Highlander. In the sentencing hearing in May 2010, Woodall revealed Lovette's DNA had been found in the Highlander.

They drove through Orange and Durham counties and forced Carson to withdraw $1,400 from automated teller machines before they shot her numerous times with a .25-caliber handgun and the sawed-off shotgun, investigators say.

Prosecutors contend that medical examiner reports show Carson was shot five times, the first four shots from a small caliber handgun.
In the May 2010 hearing, Woodall said: "The medical examiner believed she would have survived for some time after the first four shots, and she would have been able to talk." Though Lovette's plans for defense have not been revealed, that comment could play a role.

The fifth shot, from a sawed-off shotgun, was immediately fatal, Woodall said in May 2010, and Atwater told his girlfriend Carson was still alive after the first four shots. Atwater also told his girlfriend he fired the shotgun, the district attorney added.

As part of Atwater's plea agreement, overseen by Judge Allen Baddour, the state agreed not to seek the death penalty for the crimes.

Earlier in 2010, Atwater struck a similar plea arrangement with federal prosecutors, who accused him of federal carjacking, kidnapping and weapons charges related to the crime - accusations that also carried a possible death sentence.

Carson's family, critics of the death penalty, supported the plea arrangements in federal and state court. Their daughter also opposed capital punishment.

Blythe: 919-836-4948
For some college students, a Thanksgiving away from home

By Jenna Johnson

Sharina Taveras Lopez spent last Thanksgiving in Boston, preparing recipes from the Dominican Republic and dancing for hours.

This year was different: The Rhode Island native ate turkey and stuffing at an English professor’s northern Maryland home.

“It was going to be really complicated for me to get home, so I decided to stay here,” said Lopez, an 18-year-old freshman at McDaniel College in Westminster. “My mother keeps asking me, ‘Are you okay? Are you comfortable?’ ”

Lisa Breslin, her hostess, made sure she was. “When you walk into our home,” she told Lopez, “assume that it’s your home, too.”

Breslin had invited her entire freshman seminar to Thanksgiving dinner. On Thursday, she sat down with her husband, their two college-age daughters, an admissions staffer, Lopez and three other students.

College campuses turned into ghost towns this week as students traveled home for home-cooked meals, free laundry service and visits with high
school friends. Some students stayed behind: Home was too far, the trip was too expensive or they wanted to put in hours of work or study.

There are also record numbers of international students at many schools, and they often seek to immerse themselves in a tradition that celebrates America’s earliest immigrants.

These students are sometimes rescued from the lonely dorms by friends, roommates, distant relatives or co-workers. Some professors and researchers have made it a tradition to surround their dinner tables with an assortment of students. And as the numbers of students remaining behind has grown, some colleges have organized on-campus feasts.

Georgetown University’s international office hosted a traditional dinner Thursday evening. The University of Virginia paired foreign students with local families willing to add places to their tables.

George Washington University President Steven Knapp and his wife invited students to their Foggy Bottom home. And at Catholic University, the chaplain organized a free luncheon for more than 40 undergraduate and graduate students and their families.

The Rev. Jude DeAngelo began with a blessing that recognized “all the nations represented” at the white-linen-covered tables. In addition to students from California, Utah, Chicago and Boston, diners were from Iran, China, Russia, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and France.

A group of freshmen from the West Coast decided to stay on campus together, creating a kind of second family for the holidays. On Wednesday night, they cooked stir-fry in a community kitchen, and their Friday night plans included cheesy chicken and rice.

“We’re all freshmen, so we have bound together,” said Matthew Yost, 18, a musical composition major from Salt Lake City. He started stockpiling food in his dorm refrigerator last week.

On Thursday, however, they were happy to let professional chefs prepare them turkey, ham, stuffing, macaroni and cheese, yams, mashed potatoes and fresh fruit. Faculty members donated pumpkin, apple and pecan pies. And no one had to swipe their meal card.

“It’s delicious,” declared Yost, halfway through a loaded plate.

The luncheon marked Qifeng Yu’s first Thanksgiving meal. Yu, a civil engineering graduate student from China, was excited to try the American dishes. He planned to have them again Thursday night at a professor’s home.
“Everyone is so nice,” said Yu, 27.

As the students finished their desserts, DeAngelo asked for a show of hands to see how many people wanted to take home leftovers. Nearly every hand went into the air, prompting laughter when DeAngelo told a priest his hand had to stay down. DeAngelo stacked containers next to the buffet and urged students to take pies with them; the dining halls will not reopen for days.

“It’s a little hard being away from home,” said Nicole Foronda, 31, a history graduate student from California who usually spends Thanksgiving baking pies with her sister. “But there’s a great community here.”

Post photographer Linda Davidson contributed to this report.