THE DAILY CLIPS

December 13, 2010

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ECU frat helps injured football player

By Jennifer Swartz

The Daily Reflector

Saturday, December 11, 2010

Hundreds of people were expected Friday night at an East Carolina University fraternity fundraiser in downtown Greenville benefiting a Rocky Mount high school student paralyzed during a football game in October.

Colt Brake, a Rocky Mount Academy junior, suffered a severe spinal injury on Oct. 8 while making a block during the first quarter of a game against Arendell Parrott Academy. He played fullback and defensive end.

On Friday, members of the Delta Alpha chapter of the Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity at ECU gathered at Sup Dogs at 213 E. Fifth St. The group planned to donate money it raised to a fund set up for the injured youth.

Members of the family were unable to attend. Attempts to contact the family before the event were unsuccessful. Colt is expected home on Dec. 22 in time for Christmas. He is set to return for more treatment in Atlanta after the holidays.

Profits from ticket sales for a drawing to give away a Benelli Super Nova shotgun also will be donated to the family. The fraternity expected to raise between $1,000 and $1,500.

Raising money to help the family was an easy decision, fraternity members said.

“Colt's brother is one of my best friends,” fraternity President Daniel Howell said. “A couple of us knew the Brake family from Wilson.
“As soon as we said something about it they were all for it,” he said.

“I thought it was awesome,” said member Bennett Moore of Wilson, who said he knows several members of the Brake family.

“That's devastating to a kid who's 16,” he said. “Hopefully he'll make a full recovery.”

Fraternity alum Scott Shook, a 1993 ECU graduate, came out to encourage the younger members to give to someone in need.

“What they're doing is stepping up and helping someone else,” he said. “That speaks a lot to the character of the fraternity that's involved.”

Contact Jennifer Swartz at jswartz@reflector.com or (252) 329-9565.
D. Landon Allen speaks at the inaugural Michael F. Bassman Honors Thesis Award ceremony Tuesday. Allen, an MBA student at ECU, was recognized for his winning thesis.

**Honors student, EC Scholar gets award**
ECU News Services
Sunday, December 12, 2010
ECU NOTES

An honors student and EC Scholar earned the first Michael F. Bassman Honors Thesis Award, presented during a ceremony Tuesday at J.Y. Joyner Library at East Carolina University.

D. Landon Allen, who is pursuing a master of business administration degree at ECU, plans to enter the Brody School of Medicine in fall 2011.

His winning thesis project, “A Literature and Experiment Based Evaluation of Synthesis Techniques for Prothymosin-a Derived Peptides,” was completed under the direction of Dr. Colin Burns in the Department of Chemistry.

Allen graduated summa cum laude with university Honors in May. He completed dual degrees in biology and chemistry with a minor in business administration and a certificate in Hispanic studies.

As an undergraduate, Allen won multiple awards: the Elite Pirate Leadership Award, the Keith D Holmes Scholastic Chemistry Achievement Award, the Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Academic Award, and several ECU Research and Creative Achievement Week awards.
Established this year, the Michael F. Bassman Honors Thesis Award recognizes excellence in research and writing by students in East Carolina University's Honors College.

The $500 award is sponsored by the Joyner Library and honors Bassman, associate professor of foreign languages and literatures and former associate vice chancellor of the honors program and its first distinguished honors professor.

**Students honored for quick response**

Andrew Langlois and David Mwangi may not feel like heroes, but their quick response was crucial in saving the life of faculty member Lee Toderick, who went into cardiac arrest on the campus of East Carolina University in mid-September.

The two students were recognized for their quick response during the ECU Creed Week event on Nov. 18 at Mendenhall Student Center. The program recognized ECU students, faculty and staff members exemplifying high standards of professional and personal conduct.

At the end of the ECU Creed event, Glen Gilbert, dean of the College of Health and Human Performance, presented Langlois and Mwangi a plaque in recognition of their life-saving actions. Both are students in programs in that college.

“We are extremely proud of Andrew and David for applying their training with such courage,” Gilbert said. “The quick thinking and selfless response of these students is truly a heroic act.”

On Sept. 14, Langlois and Mwangi were sitting outside near Mendenhall Student Center. They saw Toderick, who had been sitting near them, collapse and fall, and they responded immediately.

“After I saw him fall, I immediately dropped my stuff and knelt beside him,” Langlois said. “It was very obvious he was not conscious. I put him in the recovery position to see if he had just passed out. After a few seconds, I noticed his face was very blue and he was not breathing.”

The students performed CPR for five to seven minutes before Toderick regained his breath. Once Emergency Medical Services arrived, Toderick had a pulse and did not need the automatic external defibrillator. He was later determined to have had a massive heart attack.

Lt. Jason Sugg of the ECU Police Department responded to the scene and praised the students' actions.

“In my opinion, if the patient had collapsed elsewhere, perhaps where there were untrained people, he would be dead today,” he said. “Mr. Mwangi and Mr. Langlois saved that man's life.”
Langlois is a health fitness specialist major and will serve as president of the Department of Exercise and Sport Science majors club in the spring. He is the son of Carol and Harold Mizelle of Elizabeth City.

A native of Kenya, Mwangi is a health education and promotion major and plans to pursue a master's degree in public health after graduation next summer. Toderick, who teaches in the College of Technology and Computer Science, attended the event.

“These students and their parents should be commended for their strong moral character and compassion toward another human being,” he said. “They clearly demonstrated the East Carolina University motto, servire, to serve.”

Cancer drug enters clinical trials
A potential treatment for many ovarian, breast, cervical and other cancers has entered clinical testing.

The treatment, a collaboration between ImmunoGen and Sanofi-aventis, uses an antibody created by Dr. Anne Kellogg, an associate professor of pathology and laboratory medicine at the Brody School of Medicine.

The antibody seeks out and attaches to cancer cells and serves as a delivery vehicle for ImmunoGen's Targeted Antibody Payload technology to attack the cancer cells with a potent cell-killing agent. Once inside, the cell-killing agent activates and kills the tumor cell as it divides. The technology allows the use of precise amounts of powerful cancer-killing drugs while minimizing side effects.

Kellogg is happy the drug has made it this far and is cautiously optimistic. “You always hope some of the work you do in your research lab will have some positive benefit for people,” Kellogg said. “There's still a lot of years in terms of testing in patients.”

Upcoming Event:
Friday: Commencement begins at 10 a.m. in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum. Brig. Gen. James R. Gorham, the first black general in the North Carolina National Guard, will deliver the commencement address. For information on individual department recognition ceremonies: visit http://www.ecu.edu/commencement.
Letter: ECU's rye grass costly' less 'green'
Monday, December 13, 2010

It's one thing to want to save the state money, and a completely different thing to be able to facilitate it. ECU, unlike its counterparts, could save millions of dollars over a five-year period. And where, you ask? By simply quitting the archaic practice of planting rye grass. It would reduce mowing the property by 40 percent. Less mowing also translates into their equipment lasting 40 percent longer.

The rye is a tall growing grass requiring more than normal mowing. Shorter growing grass like centipede requires a quarter less mowing to start with. The rye effectively kills out the good perennial grasses. Ever notice how horrible the place looks in June when the annual rye dies? Their seed, fertilizer and labor bill is astronomical, and in no way contributes to the quality of ECU's degree.

So in this case less green really is “going green” and would save North Carolina taxpayers a lot of green.

VAN BROWN
I'm back. That is, I'm reclaiming a piece of my past career as a public relations professional by writing about my self-appointed role as ambassador for East Carolina University, our city and the region we serve.

For those who don't know me, I am married to ECU Chancellor Steve Ballard.

I am a believer in communications, and I am buoyed by the memory of one my first public presentations, more than six years ago, to the Golden Circle K Kiwanis Club. It was titled “The Real Ballards,” and it was a light-hearted account of how we got to Greenville. I received a standing ovation, which was a demonstration of politeness that I greatly appreciated.

I intend to share stories about the students, programs and events at ECU and, more broadly, about my experiences with the many wonderful people involved in public service in our community.

For example, Steve and I recently returned from a personal trip to New York, where we saw two Broadway performances lighted by ECU alum Howell Binkley, a Tony Award-winning lighting designer. The first, “Million Dollar Quartet,” is the story of the spontaneous occasion on Dec. 4, 1956, when Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Elvis Presley and Carl Perkins were together jamming at Sun Record Studios in Memphis, Tenn. Although, Jerry Lee's character stole the show, who knew (not me) that Perkins wrote and sang “Blue Suede Shoes” before Elvis débuted the famous song on “The Ed Sullivan Show.”
The opening of “Vince Lombardi” at the Circle in the Square theater was fantastic, too. While a highlight for my husband was spending time with “real” Green Bay Packers defensive linebacker Dave Robinson, coached by Lombardi, getting to meet Howell Binkley’s 10th-grade teacher, Ms. Downing of Winston-Salem, who never misses an opening, was a special treat for both of us.

Another example is my desire to share the pleasurable tradition during the holidays of working with students in our highly respected visual arts program to design our holiday greeting card. I will save space this time by recommending you read the rest of that story online at http://www.ecu.edu/cs-admin/mktg/holiday_card_2010.cfm

I am pleased to be part of the ECU presence in The Daily Reflector, along with “ECU Notes.” Although I will not write every week, my columns will be an indication of what is on my mind when I wake up (or, at my age, when I can't sleep), my other commitments, and the desire to share treasured bits sometimes not included but frequently the real fun stuff.

I embrace my ECU connection, which invites public curiosity as well as the expectation of a public role.

ECU is everyone's university, and everyone benefits from those personal, feel-good, insights that fuel our pride in our university and our communities. Thanks for your attention. I'll be back again soon.
Teresa Campbell, Pitt County ABC Board administrator, presents a $30,000 check to Virginia Hardy, vice provost for student affairs at East Carolina University. The funds will pay the full costs associated with the College ALC program from 2008-10.

The Pitt County ABC Board is celebrating 75 years of control, education and service to the community.

Since its first sale on July 27, 1935, the Pitt County ABC Board has made numerous contributions to the community. The ABC Board generates revenue through the sale of alcohol.

The collected revenues are dispersed first to pay the Pitt County ABC Board operating expenses. After money is provided to law enforcement and alcohol education and rehabilitation, the remaining profit is distributed to the county's general fund.

The board also maintains a $2,500 reserve to be used at its discretion for additional education and rehabilitation programs. For the past two years, the board has used this reserve plus additional funds to help fund the College ALC program at East Carolina University.

Earlier this month, Teresa Campbell from the ABC Board presented ECU a $30,000 check to pay for the full costs associated with the College ALC program from 2008-10. “We hope this investment will impact and help educate students about the misperceptions pertaining to alcohol consumption as well as encourage students to make healthy choices,” Campbell said.

The program is ECU’s way of providing a proactive approach to educating its freshmen about the risk that alcohol can pose to them legally, physically and academically. Robert
Morphet, who facilitates the program, said nearly all of the 4,000-plus freshmen at ECU each of the past three years have completed the online alcohol education program.

ECU Vice Provost Virginia Hardy said the College ALC Program focuses on social norms, attitudes, public perceptions as well as positive and negative expectancies associated with alcohol consumption.

“As Student Affairs Educators, we know our students learn life lessons during their college experience and the College ALC program is a very successful way to educate them to make the right decisions,” Hardy said. “Eighty-three percent said they thought more about ways to avoid alcohol related problems and an even higher percentage said they would intervene with a friend who was getting in trouble with alcohol.”

The ABC Board also has given $8.9 million in quarterly distributions to the Pitt County general fund in the past 10 years. In addition to the quarterly distributions, the Pitt County Board of Commissioners has received approximately $2.7 million in local board and bottle tax.
Dec. 13 – Brody School of Medicine
Monday, December 13, 2010
WORKWEEK

Dr. Brock Niceler, a sports medicine specialist, has joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Niceler joined the sports medicine division of the Department of Family Medicine as a clinical assistant professor. He comes to ECU from the University of Utah, where he recently completed a fellowship in sports medicine.

Niceler has a medical degree from Marshall University School of Medicine in West Virginia and completed residency training in family medicine at Utah. He is board-certified in family medicine and sports medicine.

Niceler's clinical emphasis is in the area of musculoskeletal medicine, and he is trained in advanced injection techniques including fluoroscopic and ultrasound injections for diagnosis and pain relief. His clinical and research interests include adolescent sports medicine, weight loss and exercise-induced asthma. Niceler sees patients at the Firetower Medical Office at 1204 E. Fire Tower Road. Call 744-1122 for appointments.

Dr. Gentiana Bakaj and Dr. Nathan Holladay, both general medicine physicians, have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group medical practice, ECU Physicians.

Bakaj joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor. She has a bachelor's degree in mathematics from the Science University of Tirana in Albania and a medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada. She completed residency training in internal medicine at ECU and Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

Bakaj is board-certified in internal medicine. Her clinical interest is gastroenterology.

Holladay joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor. He has a bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Brigham Young University in Utah and medical and doctoral degrees from the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas. He completed residency training in internal medicine at ECU and PCMH.

Holladay is board-certified in internal medicine. His clinical interests are clinical statistics and evidence-based medicine, and his research interests are materials to reduce device-related infection and clots. Holladay see patients at Moye Medical Center at 521 Moye Blvd. Call 744-3229 for appointments.
Ricky Ray Stancil

Mr. Ricky Ray Stancil, 54, died Saturday, Dec. 11, 2010, at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

A memorial service will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. in the Winterville Baptist Church, officiated by the Rev. Grant Carter. The family will receive friends one hour prior to the service in the Memorial Room at Winterville Baptist Church.

Mr. Stancil, a native of Pitt County, was a member of Winterville Baptist Church. He worked at East Carolina University as an electrician and was later self-employed as the owner of Life Cycles. Recently, he worked at D.H. Conley High School as a parking attendant.

Mr. Stancil loved motorcycles and boats. He was a loving husband, son and father who will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Stancil was preceded in death by his grandparents, Herman and Pearlie Wiggins, and Earl and Marie Stancil.

He is survived by his wife, Janet Crockett Stancil; daughter, Dawn Marie Stancil; and son, David Lee Stancil, both of Johnston County; parents, Johnnie R. and Nora Wiggins Stancil of Greenville; stepchildren, Catherine Respess Peterson and Thomas Brindle Respess, both of Winterville; and several aunts and uncles.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Local Mission Fund, c/o Winterville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 1669, Winterville, NC 28590.

Campuses build impressive, comfortable houses for brass

The UNC system is spending $146,000 in private money on the Franklin Street home where new system President Tom Ross and his family will live.

BY ERIC FERRERI - Staff Writer

Among the many resources at Tom Ross' disposal when he becomes the UNC system president next month is the very house where he'll lay his head at night.

Far from just a private home, the house the university system provides its president is a showcase - a place where Ross might meet university officials, schmooze with legislators and pick the brains of students.

But it must be presentable, which is why the UNC system is making $146,000 in improvements before Ross and his wife, Susan, move in.

"We want to start out on the right foot - with a porch that doesn't collapse when you walk on it," said Hannah Gage, chairwoman of the UNC system's Board of Governors, which hired Ross to replace retiring President Erskine Bowles.

This sort of fix-up work is not unusual for university campuses or systems preparing for a change in leadership. And it's more important than ever as universities increasingly use their leaders' homes to aid in fundraising - a vital source of revenue.

UNC-Chapel Hill spent more than $900,000 two years ago to update the home Chancellor Holden Thorp and his family now live in. And N.C. State University is
building a $3 million chancellor's residence on Lake Raleigh designed largely for cocktail parties and other events for as many as 200 guests.

"It's part of the job," said James Woodward, the former longtime UNC-Charlotte chancellor who more recently served as NCSU's interim chancellor. "If you don't like it, you shouldn't be a chancellor or president."

Under Ross, the UNC president's house along Franklin Street in Chapel Hill likely will have more of a family feel to it than it has for the five years Bowles has presided over the state's public universities. Bowles treated the home largely as an extended-stay hotel, commuting home to Charlotte on weekends to be with his wife and family.

The Rosses are expected to live in Chapel Hill full time. Ross starts work Jan. 1.

'A line to tread'
Though the stately 103-year-old home hasn't fallen entirely into disrepair, it needs significant improvements. The renovations, paid for with private money, include the replacement of rotted boards and woodwork on the home's large, wraparound porch, the addition of a porch railing, and some painting outside. Inside, the 4,800-square-foot Southern Colonial-style home is getting new paint and wallpaper, an upgraded smoke alarm system, new carpeting in some places, some reupholstered furniture, and repairs to cracked walls and ceilings.

That house isn't generally used for fundraising, which is largely the job of individual campuses. But it is used for entertaining and meetings with students, trustees, key lawmakers and others.

When Molly Broad was UNC's president from 1997 to 2006, she also opened it to community groups such as the local historical society.

"This house has a deep history connected with it," said Broad, now president of the American Council on Education in Washington. "There is a sense on the part of the people of North Carolina, appropriately, that they own that home."

Though universities routinely pay for these homes with private money, elaborate renovations sometimes can create a public furor.

At Vanderbilt University, then-President Gordon Gee raised eyebrows in 2006 with a reported $6 million renovation to the home he and his wife lived in. And at the University of Tennessee, President John Shumaker resigned in 2003 after just one year in office following public scrutiny of a nearly $500,000 home renovation that included a $97,000 walk-in closet, according to the Chronicle of Higher Education.

"There's a line to tread," Broad said. "These are really assets of the state, and it's on loan to you."
The right fit
Irma McClaurin, the new president of Shaw University in Raleigh, is looking for a home now - a task complicated by her desire to balance personal preferences with university needs.

Shaw hasn't maintained a president's residence since its last one, Meserve Hall, burned to the ground in the 1970s. Instead, it offers a housing allowance, putting the onus now on McClaurin to find a good fit.

While an associate vice president at the University of Minnesota, she lived in a 1,500-square-foot downtown condominium that suited her just fine. Now she needs something larger that she can decorate to reflect the institution she leads.

"It's more than just my personal space," she said. "It's really more what I want to convey about the institution."

Like the UNC president's home, the UNC-CH chancellor's residence just down the road has some years on it. Called Quail Hill, the 1960s-era home needed to meet a series of code requirements and a great deal of retrofitting two years ago to accommodate Thorp's two children. The home became the chancellor's official residence in 1995, but neither prior resident had children living there. With Thorp's two kids needing bedrooms, the university added a dormer on the home's second floor.

The house also received a new heating and cooling system and more than $300,000 in kitchen upgrades. The renovation bills were paid from the university's unrestricted endowment funds.

It's a busy home. In 2010, it has hosted at least 40 events ranging from small dinners to large receptions for everyone from prospective donors to alumni, trustees, student leaders and other campus visitors, a university spokesman said.

A busy schedule
The new chancellor's residence at NCSU probably will have an even busier social calendar when it opens next fall.

The $3 million, 8,500-square-foot facility on Centennial Campus is expected to host two or three events each week. That, coupled with the need to plan for all sorts of families who might live there in the future, made for a tricky design, said Kevin MacNaughton, NCSU's associate vice chancellor for facilities. One particularly tough challenge: a heating system flexible enough to warm the party areas adequately during large parties while running efficiently when the home is largely empty.

The home will have four bedrooms, each with a bathroom, along with several half-bathrooms and a washroom and shower for workers catering events. It will accommodate 60 cars, with additional parking at the adjacent alumni center.
Perhaps most importantly, it will give off a welcoming, feel-good vibe to visitors, Woodward said.

"It's friend-making as well as fundraising," Woodward said. "It's presenting the right atmosphere, that we are a warm and humane institution, and not arrogant. It's an extraordinary resource for a university."

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Duke's virtual reality chamber help with teaching, research

Duke University Photography
Jessica Riley, a former student, worked on a DiVE project in which she gave people the sensation of falling.

BY WHITNEY L.J. HOWELL - Correspondent

DURHAM—At first, the walls of the six-sided room are covered with a dull plaid test pattern.

But press a button, and a giant 3-D brain suddenly appears in mid-air. Click a few more keys, and an entire city stretches ahead - just like in a "Star Trek" holodeck.

The room is a sci-fi fantasy for real. It's the Duke immersive Visual Environment, a six-sided structure that, when sealed, becomes a seamless virtual reality atmosphere built to enhance teaching, research and design planning.

Housed at the Pratt School of Engineering, DiVE is the only room of its kind on the East Coast. Only three other American universities - the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Iowa - have six-sided rooms. Several other research groups have three-sided or four-sided chambers.

"There are many activities that should be done in immersive environments," said Rachael Brady, director of DiVE and Duke's visualization technology group. "The technology helps people visualize and better understand theirdata."
For example, a Duke medical student studying to be an orthopedic surgeon has used a virtual driving simulator in DiVE to determine how soon people with bone fractures can safely return to driving.

Biomedical engineering researchers interested in improving cardiac care plan to build giant simulated hearts that they can "crawl" inside.

And the immersive technology is popular with local agencies, businesses and hospitals in the planning and design stages of projects.

Representatives with Triangle Transit, which is planning a three-county light rail project in Wake, Durham and Orange counties, have visited DiVE recently to determine whether the technology could assist with future projects.

Juanita Shearer-Swink, Triangle Transit's project manager, said seeing designs in a full-scale space will be more beneficial than looking at them on a computer monitor.

"With DiVE, we will be able to better understand new spaces and learn more about the impact of our designs," she said. "Not only will we be more cost-effective, but we'll also be able to use the technology to change environments, test designs in unforeseen conditions, and make changes to projects before we do anything in the real world."

**How the chamber works**
The chamber is 10 feet on each side. Each wall, including the floor and ceiling, functions as a large computer screen. Six computers control full-color projectors - one per wall - and a seventh is the master computer.

To use DiVE at its full capacity, users wear stereoscopic glasses made with liquid crystals that provide depth perception.

Unlike 3-D glasses with red and blue lenses, the stereoscopic lenses are colorless, so the wearer can see all colors. The crystals also rotate, making the lenses alternate between transparency and opaqueness. That allows the eyes to fuse the 3-D imaging correctly, eliminating the blurry "ghosting" effect when video images double on the screen, Brady said.

Armed with a wand that tracks their movements and helps them navigate the virtual landscapes, users can be immersed in a believable visual fiction.

"Being inside the cube provides a large field of view," Brady said. "This is one of the best ways to interact with computer representations of data."

**Why DiVE in?**
The University of Illinois-Chicago (UIC) first unveiled the technology behind DiVE in 1991. Since then, the capabilities and features of immersion technology have expanded,
said Andy Johnson, a computer science researcher and member of the Electronic Visualization Laboratory at UIC.

"There have been various changes in technology, and even 20 years later, people are still profoundly affected by what they see when they first walk into the cube," he said. "It's a space where people can explore and move around things naturally. It doesn't feel like a computer."

Immersive virtual reality has its drawbacks, Johnson said, such as a price tag between $1 million and $4 million and varying degrees of screen resolution. In fact, DiVE's resolution - 1.1 million pixels per screen - is considered low for this type of technology, Brady said. The University of Iowa's six-sided chamber has the highest resolution in the country with 16.7 million pixels per wall.

However, immersive environments let users examine information in a tangible way from multiple points of view. For example, General Motors has used the technology since the early 1990s to make design changes on full-size car models before building prototypes, Johnson said.

**Brains, spiders and snakes**

At Duke, Brady said, the DiVE is helping anatomy students learn complex body systems. A large 3-D brain floats in the middle of the cube, and students walk around it, observing how all its parts fit together. The program can spotlight singular parts to test a student's knowledge of the brain's structure.

Unlike a plastic brain model, the program can dissect the brain's lobes, allowing students to see inside different sections.

Other experiments in the cube can have clinical applications.

A Duke psychologist interested in how people respond to frightening situations uses the cube to test whether patients with phobias react similarly in all environments.

Using DiVE, the researcher introduces spiders and snakes in three different immersive environments - a dining room, a forest and a backyard. According to Brady, the experiments have revealed how people associate fear with memories of locations and have proven immersive environments can be therapeutic tools in cognitive research.

"Although they know the spider or snake isn't real," Brady said, "the images are so accurate that many of them will back away quickly or even stomp their feet to get away."

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Paschal feels right at home at ECU
Former Williamston star is happy to be with the Pirates
By EDWIN MODLIN II, Staff Writer

GREENVILLE — One local player from the east chose East Carolina University as her place to play basketball as she pursues an education.

At only 18 years of age, and just a freshman in college, former local basketball star Katie Paschal is already a basketball great.

Upon graduating Williamston High School last year, Paschal was one of the top five high school basketball players in North Carolina, and was ranked the 42nd best women’s basketball guard in the country by All-Star Girls Report and 78th by ESPN.com, Paschal passed up scholarships to play basketball at Wake Forest, Mississippi, Memphis and Princeton to play for East Carolina University.

Paschal committed to ECU in her junior year while at Williamston. The school has since merged with Jamesville High School to become Riverside High School, home of the Knights.

“I always knew I was going to come here (ECU) because it’s where I really wanted to go,” Paschal said. “It’s a really good school and it’s close to my parent’s house. I really liked the former coach here (Sharon Baldwin-Tenner) and I knew Coach (Heather) Macy from before she came here. Everything just seemed right about coming to ECU, so I just went ahead and committed my junior year.”

Paschal added that she knew Macy from when she went to a few basketball camps and is comfortable with her and trusts her leadership as a coach.

“Plus,” she said, “(Conference USA) is a good conference.”

“The pace of the game (in college) is faster (than high school) and the offense is obviously more intense,” Paschal said. “Preparing for the other teams, the scout teams while at practice when we travel and go up a day before is really different, but I’m getting used to it.”

Paschal said she enjoys staying in the hotels with her teammates the night before a game, but says, with a laugh, that she is not too fond of the mandatory study hall that all student-athletes are required to attend every day.
As far as taking direction and going under the wings of the senior leadership at ECU, Paschal is adapting well.

“It’s actually great, because I’ve watched them for the past four years, when I was in high school,” Paschal said. “And it’s just an honor to be playing with them.”

When Paschal was a sophomore at Williamston High School she averaged 25 points per game, as well as five assists and four steals. The Tigers finished an amazing 27 – 1 record that year. Her senior year, Paschal had another great season and averaged 34 points per game.

According to East Carolina University, Paschal finished her high school basketball career at Williamston ranked second in North Carolina high school history with 3,160 points.

Although, Paschal says, her major is undecided right now, she knows she will enjoy her college experience as an ECU Pirate student-athlete, where student comes first.

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UNCC OKs fall tuition, fee hike
Facing cuts in state funding, school backs 5.78% increase for in-state students in 2011

By David Perlmutt
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Posted: Monday, Dec. 13, 2010

Enrolling at UNC Charlotte is likely to get more expensive after university trustees approved a tuition and fee increase for the next academic year, which trustees said would offset expected state cuts that could reach $20 million.

The trustees unanimously approved recommendations Friday for a $198-per-year tuition increase for in-state students and $916 for out-of-state undergraduates. The board also approved a $98 annual fee increase for all students.

The hike still needs approval by the UNC Board of Governors and state legislators. If OK'd, it would put tuition and fees for N.C. residents at $5,414 annually, up from $5,118 now - a 5.78 percent increase. Out-of-state students would pay $17,179, up from $16,165 - a 6.27 percent increase.

UNCC's proposal falls under the maximum 6.5 percent annual increase allowed by the UNC system. Last month, N.C. State's trustees approved a 6.2 percent increase in tuition and fees starting in the fall; UNC Chapel Hill approved the maximum 6.5 percent increase. Like UNCC, both schools need approval of the UNC board and legislators.

The increases would come on top of tuition hikes for undergraduate and graduate students imposed for the current school year.

The state budget cuts - which likely will be felt at all of the UNC system's campuses - are being imposed on UNCC students at a time when the university continues to steadily grow in students. It is expected to be the system's largest campus by 2020, with a student population of 35,000.

UNCC Chancellor Phil Dubois said that nearly $1.5 million of the revenue from the increase would be dedicated to additional student financial aid. The remaining $4.5 million will be used to help offset state budget cuts.

"Without an increase in tuition, the students' educational experience suffers too much," Dubois said.