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ECU library launches new digital collection

The Daily Reflector

Sunday, December 13, 2009

Newspapers are a rough draft of history and a new digital collection at East Carolina University’s J.Y. Joyner Library lets people see the images of that history.

“Seeds of Change: The Daily Reflector Image Collection” shows more than 25 years of life in eastern North Carolina as recorded by local news photographers. The collection can be accessed at www.digital.lib.ecu.edu/reflector/.

The collection contains more than 7,000 images digitized from the photographic negatives of The Daily Reflector, Greenville’s daily newspaper. The negatives were given in the late 1990s by D. Jordan Whichard III, who was the publisher at the time. The images in this exhibit are taken from the collection’s photograph negatives, which number approximately 85,000. The majority of the photographs date between 1949 and 1967, documenting sweeping changes across eastern North Carolina from advances in industry to upheavals in race relations and an increasing awareness of public health concerns.

“If you're from here, it's obviously going to be interesting,” said Dale Sauter, the library's manuscript curator and the project’s principal investigator. “Even if you are not (from the area), you'll see these changes as a microcosm of the changes that were taking place nationally.”

The collection's Web site contains supplemental resources to provide a better understanding of the images and the history behind them. Streaming video of an interview with The Daily Reflector’s former editor and photographer along with a full transcript provide an insider’s view of Greenville and The Daily Reflector.

An essay on the history of Pitt County and Greenville during this period, written by ECU history faculty member Christopher Oakley, puts the collection into historical context by examining the trends and historical events that impacted the region.

An illustrated timeline examines the national and international perspective, highlighting the events that shaped the era. Tools for browsing through the image collection by subject provide users an easy way to begin their exploration of the collection.

The exhibit also offers the public commenting capabilities. Although it was a last-minute addition, the comments have provided some of the most gratifying moments for Gretchen Gueguen, head of service for the library's Digital Collections.

“The comments the local community has added to the images are allowing us to capture a second text, an unofficial record,” she said. “We are happy we are preserving that because it might not have been collected at all.”

The library currently has 25 digital collections with nearly 11,000 images online. The Daily Reflector collection is the largest, with 70 percent of the images, Gueguen said.

Library staff plans to work with educators in the coming months to create a “teacher's guide” to help educators with tips, tricks and resources.

“The Daily Reflector Negative Collection is a rich resource for the study of local and regional history, and the images will be useful to scholars who are interested in socio-economic developments during the 1950s and 1960s,” said Maury York, assistant director for special collections at Joyner Library. “We are delighted to have a
role in making these important photographs readily available to users throughout the world."

The creation of "Seeds of Change: The Daily Reflector Image Collection" was partially supported with federal funds made possible through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, administered by the State Library of North Carolina, a division of the Department of Cultural Resources. This collection is the latest addition to the Joyner Library Digital Collections, an online resource for the library's rare and unique special collection materials. That collection can be accessed at www.digital.lib.ecu.edu.

Physical exhibit opens

To promote the launch of Seeds of Change: The Daily Reflector Image Collection, J.Y. Joyner Library will host a physical exhibit of the collection starting Friday.

Forty poster-size printouts reflecting the collection's eight themes will be on display with various newspaper artifacts. Three computers also will be available to allow patrons to access the Web site and view video interviews with an editor and photographer of The Daily Reflector.

The exhibit will be located on the library’s second floor and is open during library operating hours. The library will be closed Dec. 23-27 and Jan. 1 for holidays.

The exhibit ends Feb. 15.

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Rebel: ECU arts and literary magazine nationally recognized with multiple awards

By Kristin Day
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, December 13, 2009

A single small window in the corner of the Rebel office illuminates hanging certificates and plaques boasting national awards from the likes of the Associated Collegiate Press and Columbia Scholastic Press. Sketches for the magazine’s 52nd edition are tacked to the right wall as photos from this year’s Rebel Exhibition glow from a computer screen in a room barely large enough to comfortably fit four adults.

But in this small space, tucked into a corner of the Self Help Building on Evans Street, a staff of four student artists spends the year creating a nationally recognized publication as a gift to their university and their classmates.

Rebel Arts and Literary Magazine has come a long way since its inception in 1958.

"In the early years, it was a very thin, one- or two-color publication," said faculty adviser and graphic-design professor Craig Malmrose. "It looked like a comic book."

By the ’70s, it was a multicolor magazine and continued to gain strength in quality as an outlet for artists and writers at the university who were eager to share their work.

But, Malmrose said, it was weighed down by a hoard of grammatical errors and poor design. In 1993, he went to the Student Media Board and offered his help.

"I guess I sort of created the position out of thin air," Malmrose said.

For the last 16 years, Malmrose has led mostly graphic-design students to bring Rebel to a level of national recognition. They’ve received the Pacemaker Award from the Associated Collegiate Press (ACP), considered student journalism’s highest honor, nine times. They’ve also received the ACP’s Best of Show twice and the Gold Crown from the Columbia Scholastic Press — Rebel 51, under then-senior Chris Schwing received all three awards. Print Magazine, Communication Arts Magazine, How Magazine and the Type Directors Club have all recognized Rebel for excellence.

"I don’t know if there has been a single collegiate publication that has won as many top awards," Malmrose said.

"Even before I got here, I knew Rebel had a great reputation," said Paul Isom, Director of the ECU Office of Student Media. He saw his first Rebel in the late ’90s when he was working for the University of Alabama. He was instructing a session at a collegiate media convention when a Rebel editor wowed the room with the latest edition.

"It’s been amazingly, consistently good," Isom said.

And its content continues to progress. The last 10 volumes include a CD full of musical entries, and Malmrose said they’re working on adding dance and theater performances to future discs.

These ideas come during the many brainstorming sessions that begin each summer before the new editor’s senior year.

The first step is to call for entries, which they do through advertising with designed posters and other visual
draw-ins. Competing students submit a $3 entry fee along with their works in art, writing or music.

Art entries are decided first, just in time for the Rebel Exhibition held at the Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge in the fall. Once they have been juried, they are ready for documentation by photographer Henry Stindt. These images are later sent back to the Rebel editor and the editor's staff of three, who puts the entries onto the layout.

Around this time, all of the writing submissions have been received and are ready to be judged and edited.

"Each judge selects based on their own set of standards," said Lisa Beth Robinson, book arts instructor, who started copy editing for Rebel five years ago. "It changes widely from year to year, which I think makes the publication interesting."

Copy editing, however, can be the most time-consuming. Malmrose said he typically finds about 250 errors just in the first read-through.

"But I would never shy away from doing it because just being able to sleep at night is worth it," Malmrose said.

Robinson says the three to four copy editors also get insight into the latest recurring themes.

"Students really like to write about old, decrepit houses, ghosts and driving," she said with a laugh. "And their siblings. I think it's just the area. You drive around and that's what you see. And family's really important here."

After compiling the CD, sending everything off to the printer and entering Rebel into its own brand of contests, there's not much else to do but wait.

The first time Rebel won the Pacemaker Award, Malmrose said it came as a total surprise — the staff continues to find it shocking. But, Malmrose said, after that first award, they've striven to make it a trend. Thus far, the work of his students has paid off by bringing the university and graphic design students welcomed publicity.

"Greenville is a small college town and you don't think of the graphic-design students here," said Amber Josey, current editor for Rebel 52. "It's really great for them to be recognized in a huge way."

ECU students continue to be recognized through Rebel staffs' and advisers' innovative production ideas — like manually printing 2,200 covers on a 15th-century printing press for Volume 40 — and drastically changing the magazine's design each year using spiral binding or clear covers, cardboard casing or the bold biological theme throughout Rebel 50.

Rebel 51 was very clean and simple to draw more focus to the submitted artwork itself, Schwing said. This time around, Josey is shaking things up with a road-trip theme featuring detail-oriented collages. Her goal is for readers to find something new each time they open a Rebel 52.

"So it's based around a concept that is fun, and it's very exciting to work on," Josey said.

"There's a lot more of us in this book," added second-year staffer Courtney McAuley. "It's got a little more of the faces of those who designed it."

It's also a lot of hard work for a small group of students handling a full class schedule. But staff members look at it as a learning experience.

"It's fairly difficult, but the experience you get is worth it," Schwing said, recalling his time as editor.

"And you learn a lot of stuff you wouldn't normally learn in a classroom," McAuley added.

McAuley also said it pays off when they attend big collegiate media conventions and people are already familiar with their publication.

"It's rewarding for me to be a part of something that's so much bigger than it seems (when we're working)," McAuley said.

Now an ECU graduate and freelance graphic designer, Schwing appreciates all of the extra work hours he and his staff put in to make his own edition one of the most award-winning. "After being stressed about it so long and then sharing it with everyone ... it's been so rewarding and it's just a good feeling."

Contact Kristin Day at kday@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9579.
Al Clark: ECU music study brought more than just melodies to mind

Sunday, December 13, 2009

I wrote last June of my enrollment in a study on the effects of musical training on aging, and I can happily report that I have passed this part of the course and maybe feel a little younger in the bargain.

Well, if not younger, at least I can tell you a few things now about the Baroque era, Beethoven, Brahms or Mozart and Haydn and the Classical period, and on a good day the difference between a sonata and the sonata form.

It has been fun — and fast.

By that I mean this class didn't dawdle. Study director Jennifer Bugos, an associate professor of music education and research at East Carolina University, kept things moving in order to get our class of about 15 men and women, all between the ages of 60 and 85, through music history from about the 15th century to the present, meeting for an hour once a week from mid-August to last Monday.

The class had assigned readings each week and a requirement of 30 minutes of daily music listening. The idea was to discern what was happening in the music. What was the composer doing and why? What techniques were used, what forms, what styles?

Before we started we took a battery of mental dexterity tests focusing on memory, concentration and cognitive ability. Then this past week I took the tests again, ostensibly to see if my months of music study and listening had any effects.

As the weeks went by I found my listening became more focused, and the music seemed to take on new sounds, or maybe I was just hearing them differently. Either way, the music became new, especially the music I had heard before. What had always been background music in the past was pushed to the foreground and sounded altogether different to me.

But that's what I've gotten out of the study. Dr. Bugos, meanwhile, hopes to show how musical instruction can improve cognitive ability in older learners, which holds promise as a tool to improve the overall quality of aging. As one of the earlier groups of Baby Boomers approaching retirement age, I have a clearly vested interest in the ultimate results of her work.

But the music has been great, too. Now if scheduling works out I will take part in a second semester of music instruction, this time on the piano. There is also a class based on using percussion instruments.

If you have an interest in music, you should think about joining the study. Again, the requirements are that you be between 60 and 85, be a native English speaker with no history of color blindness, no prior history of neurological impairment such as stroke or dementia, no difficulty with the movement of your hands, fewer than three years of prior musical training and not currently engaged in music reading or musical performance.

Last week I was driving to work and turned on the radio. I listened to the music for a few minutes, then said to myself, "I believe that's Mozart." Turns out I was right. Now that definitely made me feel a little smarter — and younger.

Al Clark is executive editor of The Daily Reflector. Contact him at aclark@reflector.com. To join Dr. Bugos' study, e-mail her at bugosj@ecu.edu or call her at 252-328-5721.
Record-setting win for Baldwin-Tener

The Daily Reflector

Sunday, December 13, 2009

HAMPTON, Va. — The East Carolina women's basketball team walked off the court at the HU Convocation Center on Saturday with a 65-61 victory over Hampton and a record for its head coach.

Saturday's victory was the 111th for ECU coach Sharon Baldwin-Tener, making her the program's winningest coach.

"In the time I've been here we've had a lot of good players," said Baldwin-Tener, who passed Catherine Bolton for first place. "We've had a lot of good assistant coaches. And we've had a lot of good people involved with the program. It's a lot more than one person.

"It also means I've been here a long time," she added with a chuckle.

After watching her squad suffer a 57-45 loss to Gardner-Webb in its last game, Baldwin-Tener said she was pleased with how her team responded Saturday.

"I was proud with the way we came out and played," she said. "We played with a lot more intensity.

"If you're going to be a good team, you have to be able to win on the road."

After giving ECU a 46-43 advantage with a pull-up jumper in the lane with 7 minutes, 56 seconds left, Ashley Clarke then began to turn up the defense, stealing and blocking balls on the way to giving her team a 57-49 advantage with just 3:41 remaining. Hampton tried to rally, but came no closer than four the rest of the way.

Hampton jumped out to a 6-5 lead at the 15:31 mark in the first half thanks to a pair of 3-pointers by Choicetta McMillan. Over the next four minutes, the teams traded baskets to make the score 10-9 in favor of the home team with 11:54 left in the half.

ECU (8-1) began to push ahead from there, producing a 16-5 run that put it ahead 25-15 at the last media timeout of the period.

The visiting Lady Pirates took a 33-25 lead into the break as the squads combined to score the last seven points on free throws.

Hampton came out of the locker room shooting, putting together a 8-2 run to pull within 35-33 at the 15:43 mark.

Breanna Jones tied the game at 39, capping off a modest 4-2 run, but Jean Best put ECU back in front by converting a three-point play.

Jones then hit a jumper to make the score 42-41 with 11:18 remaining in the contest.

Clarke, Kim Gay and Allison Spivey each scored 12 points to lead East Carolina.

ECU had the distinct advantage from the field, shooting at 43.5 percent, while holding Hampton to just 29.7 efficiency.

East Carolina returns to action Saturday against Houston-Baptist at the South Florida Shootout in Tampa, Fla. Tip-off is scheduled for 2 p.m.
Campus notes: Students inducted into honor society

The Daily Reflector

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Three Greenville residents recently were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Amy Beatrice Holter is a May graduate with a degree from the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and in psychology from the College of Arts and Sciences. She is the daughter of John Holter and Betty Williams.

Courtney Lyne Johnson is a senior communication studies and dramatic arts major with a minor in music. She is the daughter of Lynn and Darilyn Johnson.

Joshua Henry MacIлага is a senior economics major and is the son of Jan and Lynne MacIлага.

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation’s oldest college honorary society. The three Greenville inductees were among 146 at UNC-CH to receive certificates and Phi Beta Kappa keys, the organization’s symbol.

Phi Beta Kappa membership is open to undergraduates in UNC’s College of Arts and Sciences and professional degree programs who meet stringent eligibility requirements.

A student who has completed 75 hours of course work and has a grade-point average of 3.85 (on a 4.0-point scale) or better is eligible for membership. Also eligible is any student who has completed 105 hours of course work and has a 3.75 grade-point average.

Grades earned at other universities are not considered. Less than 1 percent of all college students qualify to be members.

Ebron inducted into honor society

Brittaney Ebron, a resident of Greenville, recently was inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society at North Carolina Central University.

The society honors juniors and seniors with a grade point average of 3.0 or above, and it encourages superior scholarship, leadership and exemplary character.

About 78 students were inducted into the society at NCCU.

Ella Roberson wins NCLM scholarship

Ella Roberson of Winterville was among four students awarded a $1,000 scholarship from the Black Elected Municipal Officials of the North Carolina League of Municipalities (NCLM), which held its meeting in Greenville in October.

A sophomore at Winston-Salem State University, Roberson is a nursing major and is the daughter of Veronica Roberson, an alderwoman in Winterville.

East Carolina University students J’manda D. Dunston of Riegelwood and Brittany Shaquana Kirksey of Bolton also won the scholarship along with Jaron R. Allen of Louisburg, a student at North Carolina Central University.
The NCLM held its 101st conference Oct. 24-27 at the Greenville Convention Center, culminating a five-year initiative of former Mayor Pro-Tem Mildred A. Council to bring the conference to the city.

The City of Greenville awarded $500 to the scholarship fund, making it the first city to help the organization fund a scholarship.

Mayor Perry Dixon of Sandyfield also awarded $500 toward the effort. Until this year, only three $1,000 scholarships had been awarded.

Leah Wilson wins prose competition

Leah Wilson's short story "Selling Out" won first place in the Marion Coe Scholarship in Prose competition at Appalachian State University.

Wilson will receive a $500 scholarship for winning the competition. The scholarship honors the memory of fiction writer Marian Coe.

Wilson, of Greenville, is a senior English major at Appalachian State.
Hughes named top adapted physical education teacher

ECU News Services

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Ann Hughes, a two-time graduate of the College of Health and Human Performance at ECU, recently was honored as the 2009 Adapted Physical Education Teacher of the Year by the Physical Education Association of the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (NCAAHPERD).

Hughes received the award at the 62nd annual convention of the NCAAHPERD in Winston-Salem. The award honors Hughes’ outstanding qualities as a professional physical educator and her creativity in finding ways to adapt physical activities and encourage inclusive opportunities for students with special needs, according to the association.

In her role as an adapted physical education specialist with New Hanover County Schools for the past three years, Hughes developed an integrated system, which allows students, regardless of their disability, to access the North Carolina Healthful Living Curriculum. She has worked collaboratively to develop an online resource for teachers to learn about adapted physical education.

Hughes received her undergraduate degree in physical education in 1985 and a master’s degree in adapted physical education in 1993.

During her 20-year teaching career, Hughes has received multiple honors.

She was honored as Teacher of the Year in 1987 at Brinson Memorial Elementary School in New Bern.

In 1994, she received the Julian Stein Spirit Award from the Total Commitment Conference in Greensboro.

In 1997, she was named Professional of the Year by the Association of Retarded Citizens of Guilford County.

She was honored as Teacher of the Year in 2005 at the Metro School in Charlotte.

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Kiwanis Clubs pledge $30,000 to teen lounge

The Daily Reflector

Saturday, December 12, 2009

Members of the Kiwanis Clubs of Division 17, which includes Pitt and Beaufort counties, pledged $30,000 to University Health Systems Children's Hospital for renovations for the Teen Lounge in memory of Les Garner.

Garner, known as “Mr. Kiwanis,” died at age 89 on Feb. 23 after a fall at his home.

Teen lounge committee chairman Will Sneed presented the pledge to the medical director of the Children's Hospital, Dr. Ronald M. Perkins, and his staff in front of the Children's Hospital main entrance.

The Kiwanis Clubs of Division 17 have paid $6,900 toward their $30,000 pledge. The balance of the pledge will be paid the next three years, with the final payment made on or before December 2012.

Division 17 of the Carolinas District is made up of 11 Kiwanis clubs in Pitt and Beaufort counties.

The presentation is a culmination of years of planning for the renovation of a room, which will be a space specifically for teenagers to utilize while in Children's Hospital. The room will include a computer with an Internet connection, various electronic games, an HDTV and other activity options.

Helping children was a passion for Garner, a Kiwanian for more than 40 years.

Garner was inducted into Kiwanis in 1968 and was named “Kiwanian of the Year” in 1971 by the Greenville Kiwanis Club. He served as lieutenant governor of the Carolinas District in 1974-75 and later as governor of the Carolinas District, chartering 26 clubs while serving in those roles.

In all, he had a hand in organizing more than 50 Kiwanis clubs, including the first Golden K Club (1975) and the first all-female club (1987) in Kiwanis International.

Garner was a founding partner in a successful wholesale business, Garner Wynne Manning, from which he retired in 1990.

Garner also was a former president of the ECU Pirate Club, a charter member of St. James United Methodist Church and chairman of its advisory board, chairman of the Salvation Army advisory board, master of the local Masonic Lodge and grand master of Grand Lodge of North Carolina.

He was a 33rd degree mason and an honorary member of 10 lodges in North Carolina.

For more information on the Kiwanis, visit online at http://www.ncdiv17.org.

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Cochlear implant program at ECU celebrates 10 years

ECU News Service

Saturday, December 12, 2009

East Carolina University's Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Cochlear Implant Program of Eastern Carolina.

On Oct. 24, 12 cochlear implant recipients, their family and friends joined ECU speech and audiology faculty to commemorate the occasion.

More than 80 adults have received implants and services since 1999 from the program's team of specialists: faculty and staff in the ECU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic, Dr. Bradley Brechtelsbauer with Eastern Carolina ENT-Head & Neck Surgery, and speech and audiology professionals at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

"It really has changed the quality of their lives for so many of them," said Dr. Gregg Givens, chairman of communication sciences and disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences.

Cochlear implants are small, complex electronic devices that can help provide hearing to a person who has severe to profound hearing loss. The implants consist of an external portion that sits behind the ear and an internal portion surgeons place under the skin along with an electrode array that curls around the cochlea.

The event was coordinated by audiology doctoral student Janel Cosby, the first A.G. Bell Fellow at ECU. The university received one of nine $15,000 fellowships awarded across the country — and the only one in North Carolina — from the Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing for 2009-10.

The reunion gave early recipients and new patients alike the opportunity to share their experiences of receiving a cochlear implant, as well as a time for patients, their family and faculty to reconnect.

"It was good for them to get together," said Dr. Sharon Rutledge, clinical assistant professor and audiologist who activates and programs patients' implants. "We could see how they're doing and what they're doing in their lives."

As part of her fellowship, Cosby developed a checklist of realistic expectations that is distributed to patients. Counseling is provided before and after surgery.

"People really don't know what to expect," Rutledge said. "When you activate them, they can hear, but they're not really processing or understanding speech. It takes time for the brain to adjust and retrain to sound or speech."

Audiology doctoral students and speech language pathology students collaborate to provide aural rehabilitation under the direction of Debby Bengala, an ECU speech-language pathologist and clinical associate professor who assesses cochlear implant candidates' speech and language skills.

Patients from a 41-county area come to ECU's speech hearing and language outpatient clinic.

"The reason we started the program is that we wanted patients to have access to the latest technology and clinical services in the region so they wouldn't have to drive hours for service," Bengala said.

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ECU chemist recognized for leadership in teaching

ECU News Services

Saturday, December 12, 2009

An East Carolina University professor has been recognized for leadership in teaching by a national chemists' association.

Anne Spuches, assistant professor of inorganic chemistry in ECU's Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, received a Leadership Development Award from the Younger Chemists Committee of the American Chemical Society (ACS).

The program helps emerging chemists prepare for leadership opportunities in their careers and through volunteer organizations such as the ACS, the world's largest scientific society.

"I am very honored to receive the award, and I believe it falls in line with the university's mission of leadership and service," Spuches said. "I have enjoyed teaching here at ECU. I especially love the fact that I can be a mentor to undergraduate and graduate students not only in the classroom but in my research laboratory."

As one of 15 recipients of a leadership award, Spuches will participate in the YCC Leadership Development Workshop in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 22-24.

Spuches began teaching at ECU in 2007 after completing four years of postdoctoral research at Dartmouth College. She received her doctoral degree in chemistry from Yale University in 2003 and her bachelor's degree in chemistry, with honors, from Syracuse University in 1996.
Bid to buy school is rejected

By Brock Letchworth
The Daily Reflector

Saturday, December 12, 2009

The Pitt County school system recently turned down an offer to purchase one of its schools near East Carolina University, school officials said.

Aaron Beaulieu during last week’s Board of Education meeting told the board that a group interested in developing a student housing complex wanted to buy the C.M. Eppes Middle School property.

The offer was between $4 million and $6 million, Beaulieu said. The system’s decision to decline it was based on the costs of replacing the school, he said.

“If there is a way for us to modernize a facility and get someone else to cover the costs other than what we have for capital, then yes we might be willing to entertain offers,” Beaulieu said. “But with this we didn’t feel we can afford it from a financial standpoint or with capacity.”

Beaulieu said a new middle school would cost the district $18 million and $22 million. He said the system would need to get 75-100 percent of replacement value if it was going to sell.

Eppes, located on Elm Street near ECU’s Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium, was built in 1957. With 434 students, it is at nearly 61 percent of its capacity — the third lowest percentage in the district.

Beaulieu said the recent offer was not the first time the system has been approached about selling the property. Interest also has been expressed in the neighboring Elmhurst Elementary property that sits beside the stadium, including talks with ECU a few years ago, Beaulieu said.

According to the Pitt County online parcel information system, the 13.6-acre Eppes property is valued at $11.9 million, and the 19.1-acre Elmhurst area is worth $4 million.

The properties are put to use for more than schooling during football season as fans flock to them prior to home games.

ECU’s Pirate Club leases the Elmhurst lot for $90,000 and sells the 820 parking spots to members based on their club rank. Beaulieu said school officials recently met with ECU to discuss the future of their agreement. The conversation included, among other topics, the potential for a longer deal and the need for more oversight of the area during tail-gating festivities.

The school system sells parking spaces on the Eppes property to football fans. They range from $150 to $300 a spot.

The overall parking revenue generated this season was $104,848. Officials send $15,000 of the revenue to each high school to help with Title IX facility issues. Other revenue covers administrative costs.

“It is very lucrative to us and very beneficial to us,” Beaulieu said. “But we feel like it is the community’s money, so we want to put it back into the community.”

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Holtz addresses rumors

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

Friday, December 11, 2009

Skip Holtz was back home again Friday, but already he's spent another December answering questions about where his future might lead him.

East Carolina's fifth-year football coach has spent the down time between the team's Conference USA championship game win and the start of bowl practice hearing his name swirling around numerous college coaching vacancies.

"When there is something to report, I'll be the first to report it," Holtz said Friday of the rumors connecting him to the vacancy with the University of Kansas, which comes on the heels of speculation about Virginia's opening a couple of weeks ago and quite possibly Cincinnati's vacancy in coming weeks.

The Kansas City Star reported Holtz had spoken with officials at Kansas, possibly while he visited New York City last week for the annual National Football Foundation awards celebration.

Another Kansas City source said Friday that Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh was a favorite to fill the Jayhawks position, and Buffalo's Turner Gill and Central Michigan's Butch Jones as are also considered strong candidates.

The Pirates, 9-4 for the second time in as many seasons entering the bowl break, will play in a second straight Liberty Bowl on Jan. 2, this time against 7-5 Arkansas.

According to Holtz, East Carolina and its bowl game are at the forefront of his focus.

"We've got a heck of a challenge with Arkansas. We've got finals going on right now. We're trying to get all the logistics with the travel and everything ready for the bowl game. We've got practice here Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 1, and right now, my energy and my focus is tied into what we're trying to do here," Holtz said.

On the same day in which Cincinnati players voiced their displeasure with the departure of coach Brian Kelly for the Notre Dame job prior to the Bearcats' Sugar Bowl appearance, Holtz said he'll keep an open-door policy when it comes to keeping his players in the loop about his future, vowing that his players will hear any news directly from his mouth.

ECU players were mostly low key about the Holtz rumors.

"I try not to think about it much because every year somebody's name is going to come up. It's just something that we can't control," said sophomore receiver Darryl Freeney, who emerged this season to join junior Dwayne Harris as the lead weapons in the Pirate pass attack. "The only thing we can try to control is getting this win in the Liberty Bowl."

Rock update

Defensive line coach Rock Roggemann, who is battling cancer and was forced to leave the team early in the season to concentrate on his treatment, paid a visit to the practice field Friday night.

According to Holtz, Roggemann's positive outlook has gone a long way as he undergoes more aggressive treatment.

"He's doing great, he's up to 205 pounds, he's putting some weight back on and he's getting his energy back and
he's feeling good," Holtz said of Roggeman. "He's undergoing some new treatment and right now, he's really positive and that's 90 percent of the battle. He's attacking it just like he does out on the field, with some passion and some energy."

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Global warming and the limits of theory

GREENVILLE -- President Barack Obama will lay out his commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions at the United Nations climate conference in Copenhagen. Whatever political and economic road map we follow in response to climate change must draw from a solid scientific basis and a clear grasp of the uncertainties. The high stakes involved compel us all to understand what guidance we can expect from climate science, now more than ever.

The theoretical foundation for how the Earth's climate changes is straightforward, based on physical principles. Application of those principles, variations in Earth's orbit around the sun key among them, explains Earth's primary long-term climate signal - the alternating warm and cold periods within the current ice age.

Positive feedbacks in the climate system amplify these temperature changes. The most important involve the oceans and the ice-covered regions of Earth. The theory clearly predicts that if CO₂ is injected into the climate system, as from human activities, the Earth will warm as a result. The warming should be greatest in the polar regions where the ice feedback is most active. That is in fact what is observed.

There is a very large body of published work spanning several decades over many disciplines of science that supports this theory of climate change. The recent "Climategate" e-mails notwithstanding, there are thousands of scientists working on the problem of climate change, not just two or three, whose combined efforts ensure that the scientific method won't let us down.

Why then are computer model predictions of future climate uncertain? Why is the crystal ball so clouded when we need it most?

The best we can expect from models are general climate trends. Climate models are inherently prone to error when we ask them to forecast future conditions at a specific place and time. To see why, let's think about the predictability of some simple natural systems that follow well-established theories.

A double pendulum (a pendulum that has another free-moving pendulum attached to its end) swings to the tune of Newton's laws of motion. But since the motion of the first pendulum influences the motion of the second one, its behavior becomes unpredictable after a short time. Does that invalidate the theory? Not at all - it just shows the limitation in the predictive capacity of a chaotic system.

The theory of evolution is one of the most successful scientific theories we have. Yet we can't use it to predict the precise form that a species will attain with time. The theory can tell us general functional features that will be favored, but not the details of what the future animals and plants will look like. This in no way invalidates the theory - again, it just highlights its predictive limits.

And so it is with climate change theory. Given these prognostic constraints, can we act on a climate model's vision of the future?
Here's an analogy. No one can predict exactly when and where the next big quake will hit California, but theory and data tell us to expect one every couple hundred years. Do we ignore the risk because of the limitations in the predictive capability of a very robust theory? Most would say no.

How should we respond to the climate change problem when the theory is sound, but its predictive capacity is intrinsically limited? We focus on what is known and on the risks.

Melting glaciers and warmer oceans lead to rising sea levels, up to 3 feet this century based on the trend in observed changes. Several feet of sea-level rise, combined with diminishing freshwater resources from disappearing glacial ice, will present tens of millions of people with intractable choices. Inevitably, those societies most at risk have limited means to mitigate their effects.

One way or another, we know enough to act.

Action won't play out in isolation. Obama will have much more than climate change on his mind when he addresses the Copenhagen climate conference this week. He's also thinking about dependence on unfriendly countries for oil. He wants to position his country at the forefront of the inevitable rise of the alternate energy economy. He is aware of the cost and sacrifice that carbon emissions reduction will entail.

Open and honest discussion from our leaders is the key to making the right choices.

We all have important roles to play in moving forward. Scientists must communicate the science clearly and honestly. Policymakers and voters must make educated choices. Scientific literacy is our birthright. Its cultivation is our society's greatest charge. We can and must rise to the challenge. Nothing less than our future lies in the balance.

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NCCU hopes alumni answer call for money

DURHAM -- In its attempt to improve private fundraising, N.C. Central University is turning to one of its most plentiful resources: its students.

NCCU is setting up its first call center, a one-stop shop where student leaders will call alumni and request money. It's the sort of initiative universities have employed for decades but one NCCU has not done in any formal, institutional way.

That will change in January when a Lawson Street house NCCU leases is fitted with 10 phone banks and laptop stations. The call center will also be used by the admissions department, athletics and alumni groups that need to communicate with students or graduates for fundraising or other reasons.

But the primary focus will be the university's Annual Fund, the perpetual fundraising enterprise that until now has been outsourced to a private company.

Last year, the firm RuffaloCODY raised about $217,000, and university officials hope to better that once they incorporate students.

'A compelling case'

"These young folks are pretty savvy and can really make a compelling case for support," said LaTanya Afolayan, NCCU's vice chancellor for institutional advancement. "Alumni like to hear from students majoring in the same thing they did."

The university is training students in the art of "The Ask." That's fundraising-speak for the culmination of the buttering-up process when a fundraiser actually requests a donation. NCCU expects to use 15 to 30 students in the call center, each of whom will have specific talking points and will be encouraged to talk up the university.

The effort comes against the backdrop of a new, $50 million fundraising campaign dubbed "Invest in the Vision," an effort all the more important in an era of declining state resources. NCCU is also celebrating its centennial this year, and fundraisers are planning events around that celebration in the hopes of getting alums in the giving mood.

"The more the alumni know about campus and the needs, the more alumni will give and engage and reconnect," said Anita Walton, NCCU's director of alumni relations.

But some are skeptical.

Corliss Robinson, class of '68, recently left her post as the head of the NCCU alumni association's Fayetteville chapter, frustrated by a disconnect she says she and other alums feel.

Robinson is a donor but said many other alumni are not because they don't see the need or feel
invested enough in NCCU after years or decades away from campus. About 7.9 percent of NCCU alumni give back to the university, below the 11.7 percent average for all universities.

Perhaps that's because the university isn't being aggressive enough. Historically black colleges and universities have taken a fairly passive approach to fundraising, essentially giving young alums a 10-year grace period before approaching them, said Marybeth Gasman, a University of Pennsylvania higher education professor who has studied HBCUs extensively.

"They would let their alums get on their feet and then ask them," Gasman said. "Most predominantly white institutions have recognized you have to begin talking about giving back during freshman orientation. You have to get in their heads."

Doing so may pay off. For her research, including a 2003 book on HBCU fundraising, Gasman has interviewed between 300 and 400 alumni of HBCUs and found that most who didn't donate to their alma maters chose not to simply because they had never been asked, she said. And yet, African-Americans collectively donate more of their discretionary income than any other group, she added.

"They're more inclined to give," Gasman said. "But if you don't ask, they'll give to something else."

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Path to a degree has grown long for some

DURHAM -- She looked like a good bet to beat the odds, but her first try at college, nearly 20 years ago, came up short.

From a tough, low-income neighborhood of Utica, N.Y., Catherine McNamara earned a scholarship to Northeastern University in Boston but soon returned home. Her second attempt, at a nearby community college, ended when a car accident knocked her husband out of work.

Since then: two kids, scattered jobs, a move south.

But on Saturday, McNamara crossed the stage at N.C. Central University to collect her bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences - with a 3.98 GPA. Her path took her to five institutions in three states over 17 years, and she earned a scholarship here in 2007.

An education, she said last week, "is the one thing you've earned for yourself that absolutely nobody can take away from you."

There are fewer so-called typical college students these days. Nearly a third of undergraduate college students are 25 or older. About 70 percent have at least one characteristic that makes them "non-traditional" to government statisticians, such as part-time enrollment, caring for dependents, or working full time while enrolled.

Supposedly, the "traditional" college student is 18 to 24, attending one institution full time for four years. But that ideal has been steadily sliding toward mythology for decades. A majority of students who finish a bachelor's degree attend multiple institutions along the way. Among older students, nearly half take eight years or longer.

What's unusual about McNamara isn't her winding journey, it's her success. No country gives students more second chances to enroll in college than the United States. But where it falls short is helping nontraditional students complete a credential.

"When you look at who succeeds in college," said Kati Haycock, president of The Education Trust, a Washington-based nonprofit, "you realize that any departure from the traditional path ... has huge consequences to the likelihood of students succeeding."

Last week, Haycock's group, working with a giant consortium of state university systems, released some of the most comprehensive data ever collected tracking individual students along their often peripatetic paths through higher education.

Like many older students, McNamara's route included community colleges. In other surveys, roughly 80 percent of community college students say they hope eventually to finish a bachelor's degree. But the Education Trust data estimated under 10 percent succeed within 10 years.
Some explanations lie in public policy. Schools serving low-income students often get fewer resources, and once enrolled, students find little help to graduate or transfer.

Institutions, meanwhile, complain that many students need so much remedial help that they're out of financial aid by the time they're ready for college-level work.

The hardest problems, however, lie in nontraditional students' complicated lives. Last week, the group Public Agenda and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation released a survey of people age 22 to 30 who had dropped out of college. Balancing work and school was by far the hardest challenge, said the respondents. They called for more services such as day care, nighttime classes and financial aid for part-time students.

How McNamara beat the odds reveals a lot about her determination.

Her father, Michael Meier, credits her curious mind and toughness. As a child in Utica, she walked two miles to music lessons when her school stopped offering them. A talented oboist, she earned a spot in a statewide orchestra.

"She just needed a chance, but so many people, her being from an inner city, they didn't want to give her a chance," said Meier. "Well, kudos to North Carolina Central for giving her a chance."

Determination helped her get through organic chemistry a dozen years after she'd last taken the subject. The hardest challenge was returning home from science labs after bedtime for her daughter, who was too young to understand why mom was rarely around.

But McNamara's story also says something about why so many others fail. She didn't just have curiosity and drive, she had help.

Her mother, father and sister followed her to North Carolina and helped care for her children, Nicholas, now 14, and Aislinn, 7.

She also had a mentor, NCCU faculty member Emmanuel Mba, who noticed her in a course at a local community college and steered her to a state-funded program to train biotechnology workers. That enabled her to enroll full time at NCCU. A federal Pell Grant helped as well.

McNamara is now looking for work in the pharmaceutical industry. "I'm still trying to get her to continue, go get a Ph.D.," Mba said.
Ethical fashion brand launches

DURHAM -- Glasses clinked, the disc jockey spun a pulsing beat, and cameras flashed while models strutted down the runway wearing - sweatshirts.

Two hundred community members cheered from their catwalk seats as students and one Duke University professor modeled the latest in licensed collegiate apparel from School House, a new company devoted to serving the interests of fashion-conscious and socially aware consumers.

As a celebration to launch its ethical fashion brand in Durham, School House hosted a lively cocktail party and shopping event at The Cotton Room this month. Guests browsed racks of North Carolina college wear, while servers bore trays of barbecue-filled hushpuppies and lemon ginger mojitos around the high-ceilinged loft. Friends and family connected over their support for School House's socially responsible mission, awe at the innovative design, and admiration for the young founder, Rachel Weeks.

"It is amazing to work with a young woman who is so passionate and committed to the company's economic sustainability initiative," said Lesa Melvin of The Special Events Co., designers of the event. "At the same time she's calm, collected and graceful."

The idea for School House came to Weeks in 2007 as she researched her senior honors thesis on women's studies at Duke. She began thinking about opportunities to merge her love of fashion and feminism, but it wasn't until she lived in Sri Lanka as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar that Weeks found a way to affect both arenas by designing college apparel with an ethical consciousness.

Now School House works with the first living wage factory in Sri Lanka to provide employees with a salary two times higher than other nearby plants.

"I saw a tremendous need for this company, and I saw a $4 million industry that has been dominated by the same five brands for years," Weeks said.

Tailored to schools

Determined to break into a niche market with high-quality materials and a better design, Weeks partnered with creative director Colleen McCann to hone School House's identity and aesthetic.

Weeks and McCann begin preparations for each collection 18 months in advance, researching everything from high fashion to vintage for inspiration. The partners also invest in the signature identity of each university, traveling to campuses and contacting students in hopes of tailoring their clothes to the personality of consumers.

✓ "Is this at ECU, where it's all about football; or Harvard, where it's more about tradition?" Weeks asked when considering pieces and graphics for each line.
The fashion show highlighted the differences between the styles of each student population. While a male model wore jeans and a T-shirt featuring a graffiti version of UNC-Chapel Hill's Old Well, a woman in high heels and leggings showed off a vintage-inspired N.C. State University T-shirt.

The event's show-stopping pieces were three Duke dresses with bodices crafted out of vintage shirts featuring the devilish mascot.

"I was so impressed by everything, even though there was a lot of Duke stuff," UNC student Kinsley Parsons said. "It really gives me hope that they'll make a UNC cocktail dress ... maybe by New Year's Eve."

Not a charitable whim

Although committed to the ethical consciousness of her brand, Weeks said that individualized design and superior materials were the line's main selling points. "We think about the market and see living wage as icing on the cake. We hope that it inspires people to buy our product, but we don't rely on it ... I know myself, and I wouldn't buy something on a charitable whim."

Prices range from $15 for a pair of underwear to $75 for a cardigan.

School House started with a single contract from Duke University Stores; now it's gone national with a deal with Barnes & Noble College Booksellers. After cold-calling the nationwide seller, Weeks landed a trial run at The Yale Bookstore. The success was immediate, and School House's accountant, Anthony Robertson, predicts that 50 to 60 schools will place spring orders.

"I saw the clothes around college campuses before I knew what it was, but I was easily able to go online and find information about the company," said UNC-CH alumnus Jordan Price. By using social media networks such as Twitter and Facebook to spread information, School House has caught the attention of undergraduates.

At show's end, Weeks and McCann bowed to applause, and guests began dancing. The collection seemed to win over the crowd visually and ethically.

"It's inspiring to see it grow so quickly in two years, especially because of the ethical fashion element, said Paula Long, a friend of Weeks'. "Rachel's doing a great thing making so many college students aware of these issues."