THE DAILY CLIPS

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University system delays expansion of N.C. med school

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The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE — State university officials have delayed asking for money to build a proposed regional medical school campus in North Carolina’s largest city because of expected declines in state revenues.

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“I still think it will happen, it’s just the timing’s not good right now,” said Dr. James McDeavitt, senior vice president at Carolinas Medical Center.

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The expansion comes after the Association of American Medical Colleges said there is a need for a 30 percent increase in U.S. medical school enrollment by 2015.
Robert M.
Woodside Sr.

Mr. Robert M. "Bob" Woodside Sr., 74, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008, at his home. The funeral service will be conducted on Saturday at 11 a.m. at The First Presbyterian Church. A graveside service will be held later in Statesville.

Mr. Woodside, a native of Staunton, Va., served in the United States Army in intelligence following World War II. He received both an undergraduate degree in nuclear engineering and a masters in mathematics from NC State University.

Mr. Woodside moved to Greenville where he was a Mathematics Professor for 30 years at East Carolina University, retiring in 2000. While teaching he served as the Secretary Treasurer for the National Mathematics Honor Society, Pi Mu Epsilon. He was an avid Wolfpack fan, a lover of nature, and spent time this summer driving the Alaskan highway. He was an active member of the First Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his daughter, Kathryn W. Spagnola and husband, Joe, of Raleigh; son, Robert M. Woodside Jr., of Melbourne, Fla.; and sister, Dorothy McCabe and husband, Bob, of Wayne, Pa.

The family will receive friends tonight from 6:30 to 8 at Wilkerson Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to The Nature Conservancy, Attn: Treasurer, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203.

New Chamber chairman says he'll focus on work force health and the arts.

BY MIKE GRIZZARD
The Daily Reflector

Although merely symbolic, the passing of the torch from one chairman to the next at the annual Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce special awards luncheon Thursday underscored a tone of economic concern heading into 2009.

"The torch is passed amid economic challenges," announced Austin Bunch, the outgoing chairman, as he introduced Dr. Rick Croskery as the chamber board's new leader. The annual tradition is for a gavel and plastic flashlight torch to be passed as a symbol of the change in leadership.

"I had to improvise," Bunch said, handing Croskery a laminated paper torch. "And in an economy move, no batteries are required."

"No expense was spared on this," Croskery retorted, placing the torch in his lapel pocket.

Croskery, an internist at Physicians East, heads into his term amid economic challenges on a national scale that inevitably trickle down to the regional and local level.

He has identified two areas of focus which are also of great personal interest: health and the arts.

To promote fitness and a healthy work force, the chamber is kicking off a 100-day-health challenge, called, "Live Healthy Greenville" on Jan. 14. It is sponsored by Physicians East.

Croskery said any efforts to improve health and reduce health care costs will benefit the entire community.

"If we can't right our health care costs, at least we can be healthier and have less health care costs," he said.

He also sees the arts as an avenue to not only attract employees and businesses to the Greenville area, but a way to entice them to stay.

"The business community depends on the community at large to provide arts and entertainment so that they can recruit and retain good people in their businesses," he said. "In an economic time where we're having to lay people off and that sort of thing, anything we can do to make our community better in a special way, we want to latch on to it."

Chamber and business leaders plan a visit to Charlottesville, Va., this spring to glean ideas about enhancing the community. They have taken other information-gathering trips, including a visit to Athens, Ga.

"It's a university community," Croskery said of Charlottesville, the home of the University of Virginia. "It's an old, established, very cultural

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2008 CHAMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- Conducted a second "Membership Madness" campaign and recruited more than 50 new members.
- Worked with minority-owned member businesses to establish a Minority Business Steering Committee.
- Organized the Greenville-Pitt County Young Professionals Group, which has 127 members.
- Coordinated 37 ribbon cuttings.
- Held the Pitt County Business Expo, drawing 104 businesses and organizations and more than 2,000 in attendance.
- Honored Don Parrott as Citizen of the Year and Walter Williams as its first Legends Award winner.
- Education Cabinet implemented its drop-out prevention program for selected rising ninth-graders in conjunction with Pitt County Schools.
- Created a formal governmental affairs policies and/or processes to expand the chamber's involvement and leadership at the local, regional and state levels.
- Upgraded its Web site and launched it on Aug. 25.
- Launched a member-to-member discount program in January.
- Glimpse magazine replaced IMAGES magazine as the official newcomer/quality-of-life publication for the Greenville and Pitt County area.
- The Painted Pirate Project — a joint project of the chamber and the East Carolina University Alumni Association — unveiled 16 pirates in April.
community. Hopefully we will get a lot of good ideas from that on how to continue to grow and enhance our own downtown area as well as the whole community."

In closing out his term, Bunch reflected on numerous accomplishments of the past year and handed out awards to Mike Bostic (ambassador of the year) and Dan Nichols (special chairman’s award). He also recognized Susanne Sartelle, who recently completed her seventh year as president of the chamber as well as a master’s degree.

Bunch put much of his focus on having a more inclusive business community. During the past year, the chamber worked with minority-owned member businesses to establish a Minority Business Steering Committee, which developed a mission plan for programs in 2009. The Greenville-Pitt County Young Professionals Group also formed and ended the year with 127 members.

Contact Mike Grizzard at mgrizzard@coxnc.com or (252) 329-9580.
Duke's endowment shrinks 19%

Though the fund's value has fallen, the university sees recruitment opportunities

ERIC FERRERI, Staff Writer
Comment on this story

DURHAM - At first blush, it sounds like financial disaster: Duke University's endowment has lost more than $1 billion in value since July 1.

But some at Duke say even though the endowment is down 19 percent this year, opportunity is knocking.

"We're going to continue to recruit people," said Paula McClain, a political science professor and chairwoman of Duke's Academic Council. "We're going to go for our A-list people. It's probably not going to be on the same level. But this is probably the best time to pull people [from other universities]."

In academia, as in real estate, it's a buyer's market now, and a 19 percent drop might not be as bad as it sounds if your competitors are doing even worse.

Two notables: Yale's endowment has reportedly lost about 25 percent of its value, and Harvard's endowment is down 22 percent, leading to a hiring freeze in at least one college there. Those two institutions rely far more heavily on endowment income for their annual operating budgets than Duke does. Yale's endowment, for example, provides 44 percent of that university's operating budget, compared with 15 percent at Duke.

Still, Duke now joins plenty of other universities, public and private, struggling to balance its books as revenues become more scarce.

In e-mail to faculty and staff this week, Duke President Richard Brodhead spoke largely in general terms about some financial tightening. The endowment's 19 percent loss in value amounts to about $1.15 billion.

"We need to regard this as a time of challenge, not of retreat," Brodhead said. "All of us have been through a mix of better times and leaner times. When leaner days come, a family cuts back on less essential expenses and concentrates on what matters most. That is what Duke must do now."

Brodhead's e-mail message made no mention of any plans for layoffs. Asked about that possibility, Duke spokesman Michael Schoenfeld said: "We believe that Duke can manage through this situation without having to resort to job reductions by focusing on strategic priorities."

Capital projects

Duke will look for ways to be more efficient, said Schoenfeld, Duke's vice president for public affairs and government relations. One way to save in the shortterm is to put off capital projects. That may include a delay to the large central campus development planned along Campus Drive.

Duke has not made any plans to delay any projects yet because the university has no construction slated to start until summer, he said.

Duke recently wrapped up a $300 million fundraising campaign establishing a new financial aid initiative. Schoenfeld said recent hits to the endowment won't affect money targeted for financial aid.
That's good news to Jordan Giordano, a Duke senior and student government president. Financial aid is a big issue for students, many of whom would rather see budget cuts creep into the classroom -- perhaps in the form of fewer sections or larger class sizes -- than cuts to scholarships.

McClain, the faculty representative, said she doesn't expect cuts to reach the classroom level.

The same cannot be said for UNC-Chapel Hill, N.C. State and the state's other public universities, which are grappling with cuts of up to about 5 percent to operating budgets. The reductions could lead to fewer sections, larger classes and heavier teaching loads for professors.

"Students are not going to suffer," McClain said. "We're not concerned that sections are going to be cut. There's no indication that the kinds of things happening at public institutions are happening at Duke."

Giordano, the Duke student leader, said juniors and seniors are more concerned with how the bad economy is affecting the job market.

"There are just not a lot of companies hiring," he said. "That's on our minds."

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UNC system delays plans for med school expansion

From Wire Reports
Comment on this story

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North Carolina has two public and two private medical schools, Duke and Wake Forest.

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