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ECU awards 2,000-plus degrees
By Jackie Drake
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, December 18, 2010

Cold winter weather couldn't dampen the spirits of more than 2,000 graduates of the East Carolina University fall class of 2010.

Tassels were turned Friday morning in the 102nd fall commencement in Williams Arena at Minges Coliseum for nine colleges and the graduate school.

“I'm so excited and relieved to be done,” said Brandon Craft, an Edgecombe County teacher who earned his masters in math at ECU. “It was a tough ride, but I'm glad I did it. It makes a great Christmas present.”

“I'm pumped,” said economics major Sean McAndrew, who is heading to a sales and marketing job in Texas. “It's nice to be done. I'm sad to leave Greenville, but it's been a great time.”

About 2,230 degrees were awarded, including 1,480 undergraduate degrees, 752 graduate or professional degrees and one medical degree, according to figures from the registrar's office.

Degrees for students who completed graduation requirements in the summer but participated in the Dec. 17 ceremony also were included.
Before offering advice to graduates, commencement speaker Brig. Gen. James R. Gorham of the N.C. National Guard cautioned that his words would be neither deep nor heavy.

“Sometimes you'll feel like the windshield, and sometimes you'll feel like the bug,” Gorham said, recalling the words of his sharecropper father growing up in Falkland.

“Regardless of your profession, things may not always work out. As you leave the hallowed halls of academia, I encourage all of you to take a risk.”

Gorham, an ECU alumnus, closed by quoting John Adams' call for wise and honest citizens to serve the public good.

“What a great day to be a Pirate,” said Chancellor Steve Ballard. “One of the greatest pleasures of being with the university is being able to confer degrees.”

Parent Tim Cottrell said his daughter was excited about her education degree, but “not as excited as we are. We're very proud of her.”

“I'm real proud,” said Angela Cohen, whose daughter earned a nursing degree. “She has struggled but she's been tenacious. This is a blessing and we give glory to God.”

“It's wonderful, it's like a weight has been lifted — a two-year journey is a long time,” said Chris Fields, a teacher who earned a masters in library science on a full federal scholarship.

“It's amazing to be done,” said economics major Heather King. She plans to return home to look for a job. “I don't mind taking a break.”

“It feels great to be done,” said recreation therapy graduate Alisha Dowdy. “My favorite part of school was meeting everybody and the true friends I had over the last four years.”

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Dr. Frank Serio, left, demonstrates the A-dec dental equipment system as he talks with prospective dental school students about some of ECU'S facilities and future medical equipment purchases in the Medical Pavilion offices on 5th Street Friday, Dec. 17, 2010. (Justin Falls/The Daily Reflector)

Potential ECU dental students get peek
By Kim Grizzard
The Daily Reflector
Saturday, December 18, 2010

Students hoping to get in on the ground floor of one of the nation's newest dental schools came for a visit at East Carolina University on Friday, even though there are not yet floors to tour at the School of Dental Medicine.

As construction continues on Leyard E. Ross Hall, the dental school is putting together its inaugural class of 50 students to begin in August 2011. The school, which extended more than 20 offers of admission Dec. 1, invited prospective students and their families to take a peek at what ECU plans to offer.

“All of you accepted applicants have to have faith in us because we are a new school,” Frank G. Serio, associate dean for clinical affairs, said. “You have to have faith in us that we know what we're doing, and that something will be there in the hole that you see out there.”

Dental school faculty not only unveiled building plans but a proposal they hope will change the landscape of dental education. ECU's school, which only is accepting applicants from North Carolina, plans to offer its students clinical experience in 10 service learning centers to be located in rural and underserved areas of the state.

Gregory Chadwick, associate dean for planning and extramural affairs, said all but seven of the state's 100 counties are below the national average of six dentists per 10,000 residents. Rural areas of North Carolina have half that number, and four counties have no practicing dentists.
ECU's plan is to send fourth-year dental students into those areas to work in clinics alongside dental school faculty.

“Your traditional model, they're typically four-story buildings, and most of the dental education occurs within the four walls of those dental schools,” Chadwick said. “We're going to move the fourth floor of the dental school out into rural, underserved areas of the state.”

The emphasis on clinical experience is what drew Kathryn Hall, a 2009 graduate of Clemson University, to ECU.

“I found that really attractive ... being able to get out and meet real patients and be able to work and do more in-depth things than most dental students can do,” she said. “I think that's a really strong point for East Carolina.”

On Friday, Chadwick identified Davidson County, near Hall's native Salisbury, as a potential site for a service learning center. Other counties being considered for centers include Brunswick, Burke, Harnett, Mitchell, Robeson and Yancey. The dental school already has settled on three sites for centers — Ahoskie and Elizabeth City in northeastern North Carolina and Sylva in the western part of the state.

Prospective dental student Anna Liakh knows what it is like to live in an area with little access to care. She lived in Sylva after moving to the United States from her native Estonia eight years ago. The nearest dentist was in Waynesville, about 25 minutes away; it was 50 miles to see a dental specialist.

For Liakh, who has spent the last two and a half years completing prerequisite courses to prepare for dental school, practicing in a town like Sylva would be a dream job. “To me the smaller the better,” she said. “I like to be in a community where everybody knows each other.”

Liakh feels the same way about the prospect of being part of a class of 50 at a dental school that is just getting started. Though she has applied to nine dental schools, ECU is her first choice. “I love it,” she said. “I love that it's a new school. It's exciting.”

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Jim and Amy Kearns had their dream wedding two years ago and decided to save up for their dream wedding trip. Their plans were delayed slightly by a move to North Carolina for his new job at the East Carolina Heart Institute at East Carolina University.

They finally made it to Hawaii in September and it was worth the wait, they said. The islands lived up to the reputation in travel articles and their friends' raves.

While touring the islands, Amy said they did what many honeymooners do — they ran a marathon. “What other people don’t do this?” she said laughing.

Jim Kearns is a physician assistant in the Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery at the East Carolina Heart Institute at ECU. His undergraduate degree from Rutgers University is in English and comparative literature. He went back to school to become a physician assistant and during his last rotations at St. Francis University in Loretto, Penn., he fell in love with cardiology and cardiac surgery. He joined the ECU program two years ago.

Amy Kearns is a registered dietitian with Fresenius Medical Care-Greenville working with dialysis patients.

They were married Oct. 25, 2008, at the historic Stony Hill Inn in New Jersey. “We went all out for our wedding, so we delayed our honeymoon,” she said.
“We decided on Hawaii because it was exotic. We went to three islands — Kauai, which is called the greenest island and least developed with chickens running around,” Jim said. “We also went to the Oahu where Waikiki Beach is and it's very commercialized. It was nice, but sitting by the pool it's like being in Miami or Las Vegas. It had night life, nice restaurants and shops.”

This island is also where Jim lived out his “Man vs. Food” dream, trying to eat four pounds of pancakes with one pound of topping with no time limit. “I failed miserably,” he said.

And their final island was Maui, where the 40th annual Maui Marathon was held Sept. 19. “It was our favorite. You have the mountains on one side and the beach on the other. You have the black sand beach, the white sand beach, the red sand beach. It's unbelievably beautiful,” Jim said.

“Maui wasn't supposed to be our last destination, but we had just finished booking our trip when Amy, who is an avid runner, said, I wonder if there's a marathon in Maui,” Jim said.

Amy laughed and said, “Because that's what honeymooners do, right?”

At first Jim told Amy not to search for races online. “I said, not this time because you always want to incorporate running into our vacations,” he said.

Amy couldn't resist looking, and the Maui Marathon was set for their time in Hawaii. The travel agent was able to rework their reservations so they could be in Maui on the marathon date.

As Amy was signing up to run the marathon, she asked Jim if he wanted to run, knowing it's been on his “bucket list” for a while.

Jim said, “We were watching ‘The Biggest Loser’ while we were planning the trip, and they had the contestants run a marathon. There was a particular contestant and I said, ‘There's no way he's going to finish. If he finishes, then I'll run.’ And sure enough, he finished.

“And then she said, ‘If you run the marathon, then we can start a family.' I said, OK, sign me up,” he said.

It's important to note, when Jim decided to sign up, it was four weeks before their trip and he hadn't been training seriously for running a marathon. The farthest Jim ran during his weeks of training leading up to their trip was 13 miles; a marathon is 26.2 miles.

Amy is an avid runner; this was her 13th marathon. Jim said, “She's always running.”

Amy, 34, finished 17th overall and was the third female across the finish line with a time of 3 hours, 18 minutes. She won a $150 prize, which covered her entry fee. Jim, then 39, finished 548th with a time of 5 hours, 45 minutes. He admitted that he stopped once to walk and again to aid a man who was having heat stroke.
Jim laughed about his time compared to his wife's. “Amy had finished and probably could have gone back to the hotel to take a shower and come back,” he said. She jumped in, “No, no, I went and got the camera.”

Jim said, “When I came around the corner, she was cheering me on, saying ‘You're almost there.' And I just wanted to know how much farther? Where's the finish line?” Amy ran the last few yards with him as he crossed the finish line.

“It is nice because people are cheering for you, but at that point, you feel like your legs are falling off. And the next day at the hotel, you could tell who had run the marathon, because they all have that marathon walk,” he said.

Jim admitted that the next day, he told Amy that he might want to run another marathon. Amy said, “Once you run a marathon, you want to try to beat your time.”

Dr. Blaise Williams, associate professor in the Department of Physical Therapy in the College of Allied Health Sciences, said he was surprised and impressed that Jim was able to finish the race with the limited time he was able to train.

“People train for six months at a time or more for their first marathon. The training schedules for people who are running their first marathons are usually at least 16 weeks. It's getting your body ready to endure that distance,” said Williams, whose clinical and research interest includes the biomechanics of the legs, feet and ankles during running. “The other part of a marathon is that you're dealing with the elements — the heat, the cold, the rain,” he said. “I would not recommend this for the average person to pick up and run a marathon in a month's time. Chances are you'll end up getting hurt.”

As for future marathons for the Kearnses? “Definitely,” Amy said. Jim wasn't as sure. “We'll see.”
Rumor has it there's a marathon in Alaska in 18 months calling their names. Vacation included.

**ECU Family Medicine Center honored**
The Family Medicine Center at ECU has gained recognition as a “patient-centered medical home” from a national organization.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance has identified the center as a medical practice where each patient has an ongoing relationship with a doctor who leads a team that takes responsibility for patient care and, when needed, arranges referrals for care with other doctors.

ECU achieved level III recognition, the highest possible.

“NCQA certification is a formal recognition that we have created a patient-centered medical home that allows for easy access for our patients, continuity with the same medical provider, (and) comprehensive care including hospital care and obstetrical care,”
said Dr. Robert Newman, vice chair for clinical services for the ECU Department of Family Medicine. “We have also started to measure our clinical performance and patient-satisfaction scores against nationally established benchmarks.”

Patient Robert Fulghum, a retired microbiology faculty member at ECU and a patient of Newman's, said he has recommended the Family Medicine Center to several people who wanted to establish care at a medical practice.

“They don't just examine you and say, ‘Here, take these pills,' and send you off,” Fulghum, 81, said. “They allow you to participate in the decisions that are made.” When referrals to specialists are needed, Family Medicine Center staff members assist with that and follow up. “However, I haven't really felt the need to go to a specialist,” Fulghum said.

Faculty and staff members began working on the certification in February 2009 and submitted an application in April.

Numerous physician groups contributed to the nine standards for measuring patient-centered medical homes, such as access, communication, care management and referral tracking.

“The patient-centered medical home promises to improve health and health care,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O'Kane. “The active, ongoing relationship between a patient and a physician in medical homes fosters an all-too-rare goal in care: staying healthy and preventing illness in the first place.”
Dr. John Norbury and Dr. Leonardo Villarosa, musculoskeletal and rehabilitation specialists, have joined the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and its group practice, ECU Physicians.

Norbury joined the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation as a clinical assistant professor. He is a graduate of Yale University and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine and completed residency training at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia.

His clinical and research interests are musculoskeletal disorders such as arthritis in older adults. He performs musculoskeletal ultrasound, electrodiagnostics and interventional spasticity management.

Appointments with Norbury for musculoskeletal care at the ECU Physicians Firetower Medical Office are available by calling 744-1122. Appointments for spasticity management, Botox treatment and electromyogram studies at Pitt County Memorial Hospital are available by calling 847-6600.

Villarosa joined ECU as a clinical assistant professor. He has a medical degree from the University of Santo Tomas in the Philippines and completed internship and residency training in physical medicine and rehabilitation at ECU.

Villarosa also is a physical therapist and is certified in wound care. His clinical and research interests are general rehabilitation, musculoskeletal disorders, musculoskeletal ultrasound, electromyogram and nerve conduction studies, spasticity management and wound care. He sees patients at the ECU Musculoskeletal Clinic and at Heritage Hospital in Tarboro, where he is the medical director of the Northeastern Rehabilitation Center.

For appointments with Villarosa in Greenville, call 847-6600. For appointments in Tarboro, call 641-7776.
Erik Moses thinks Washington, D.C., is ready to be a college football town.

While the District of Columbia itself lacks a major college program of its own, Moses, the chief of the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission, hopes the Military Bowl can become a celebrated D.C. tradition in years to come and help to make the game and the city a neutral ground for an entire region rich with major programs.

When 6-6 East Carolina clashes with 8-4 Maryland on Dec. 29 in the first installment of the game as the Military Bowl after two years under the name Eagle Bank Bowl, Moses said it will be a dream come true for the game's planners.

“We want this game to feel like it belongs to this region and to this city,” Moses said. “It's pretty unique to be able to have a game like this with big-time college football right in the shadows of the monuments and the White House. One of the main focuses of the Military Bowl is really to try to add to the fervor around college football in the Washington, D.C., region.”

Moses said he thinks the game can write its own tradition, especially if it stays committed to bringing regional teams to the bowl played in RFK Stadium, the former home of the Washington Redskins of the NFL and the Washington Nationals of Major League Baseball.

The chance to bring together two fan bases each year that can easily travel to the nation's capital, along with creating a chance to honor nationally the efforts of the armed forces, was the driving force behind the game.

“When we started the game, I remember spending lots of time — wishing, hoping, praying, strategizing — to have a local team play in this game in the very first year in 2008,” Moses said. “We can cement this local imprint on the game and make certain it's built like a Washington, D.C., institution because that's what we're trying to build.”

Although Moses said the Eagle Bank Bowl was disappointed back in 2008 to not get the Terrapins, Military Bowl executive director Steve Beck said he is thrilled to not only have gotten Maryland but is doubly pleased to get ECU in the same year.

In fact, Beck said he made those wishes known last spring when he met the wife of ECU head coach Ruffin McNeill at a dinner.
“We sat down and talked about my dream of having East Carolina here, a little drive up the road, so it's tremendous to see that happen,” Beck said. “This puts D.C. on the map as a college football destination. It's a great matchup, great programs.”

**Past history**
Fittingly, the first-ever Military Bowl will mark another first, as Maryland and ECU have never played one another in football.

Yet, the game's two head coaches have faced each other, sort of.
When McNeill was a defensive back for the Pirates in the late 1970s, Terps head coach Ralph Friedgen was the offensive coordinator at The Citadel, an opponent of ECU in those days.

Friedgen said he doesn't specifically remember McNeill as a player, but he can readily recall playing ECU.
“I do remember those games,” Friedgen said, also saying he remembered former ECU offensive guard Wayne Bolt, whom he'd recruited, and Friedgen recalled Bolt eating an entire cheesecake baked by his wife. “They were always a very tough game.”

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ASU seeks legal sale of class beer

BOONE—Appalachian State University trustees recently voted unanimously to pursue state and federal permits to establish a brewery that would allow the university to sell beer made by professors and students in brewery classes.

Ivory Tower Brewery, in the basement of the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center, is a small nonprofit brewery operated by university professors who taught an honors class in beer brewing to 12 students last spring.

The class covered the chemical, biological and production process of brewing malted beverages, including the science of how to combine hops, malt and yeast to produce styles and flavors of beer.

Since that beer was used for research and educational purposes by a university, it was legal. But selling beer is another matter.

"The university is authorized to sell products that are incidental to instructional and laboratory work already," said Dayton Cole, ASU's attorney. "But because alcoholic beverages are so heavily regulated, we need to get permits."

Making it above-board
Getting state and federal permits is part of a process that could mean that beer produced by ASU classes would be sold at the Broyhill Inn and Conference Center as early as next summer, once the permits are in place.

It's also a step in a continuing effort by the university to offer more classes in wine- and beer-making, and, eventually, start a four-year degree program in fermentation sciences.

Brett Taubman, an assistant professor of chemistry, and Shea Tuberty, an associate professor of biology, operate Ivory Tower Brewery and taught last spring's class, "The Science, History and Business of Beer and Brewing."
"With the production license, it's sort of untrodden territory," Taubman said. "By getting the permitting, we'll be absolutely compliant under the eyes of the state and ABC."

Money from sales of the beer could be put back into buying supplies and equipment.

**A state industry**
There's an economic vision to the enterprise: training workers for what is a growing business.

North Carolina has about 50 craft breweries, more than any other state in the South. Asheville, with about 50 local varieties of brews offered by nine craft breweries, is considered one of the top craft-beer cities in the nation.

"It's really increased the tourism in that city," Taubman said. "That's what we see for the High Country as well."

**Teach responsibly**
The university is aware that students often abuse beer, Taubman said. He said they are trying to deal with those problems.

"We're trying to educate students about the entire process and to appreciate beer and the good beer so they won't abuse the product," he said.
General hails 'special' class

By Martha Quillin, staff writer

RALEIGH–If Saturday's graduates of N.C. State University were discouraged by news of a worsening job market this week, their commencement speaker suggested they view their prospects from another angle.

Gen. Ray Odierno, commander of U.S. Joint Forces Command and an alumnus of NCSU, acknowledged that some believe U.S. prosperity is a thing of the past.

"I reject those views," Odierno said, challenging the students to apply their discipline and dedication to causes greater than commerce, greater than themselves. "America's real power comes not from its wealth, but rather from its values."

Yes, Odierno said, the nation's finances are strained and terrorism is a constant threat. But the nation is full of people who, in pursuit of the greater good, work toward solutions. Many of them, Odierno hoped, stood before him on the floor of the RBC Center awaiting the conferment of graduate or undergraduate degrees as members of the Class of 2010. The university lauded 3,157 graduates at the ceremony.

Odierno noted the achievements of a couple of NCSU graduates from past years - one who has worked to provide safe drinking water in undeveloped countries, and another who helped create an institute for the research of autism.

He also mentioned Staff Sgt. Salvatore Giunta, an Iowa native who enlisted in the Army out of high school and who received the Medal of Honor last month for his actions during an ambush of his patrol in October 2007.

Odierno's appreciation for military service resonated with those gathered for the occasion; 14 graduates had received their ROTC officer commissions Friday and stood in uniform at Saturday's ceremony.
"Your generation is special," Odierno told the Class of 2010. "You are the reason I have hope. You all ... are the source of my optimism."

As commander of Joint Forces Command, Odierno oversees more than 1.6 million soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. The command is charged with training, equipping and coordinating teams of troops to make sure the nation has forces that can be readily deployed now and in the future.

Before taking over command of Joint Forces, Odierno was commanding general of multinational forces in Iraq. His 4-1/2 years in Iraq are the longest any U.S. service member has spent in that country. Odierno was the architect of the troop surge in Iraq that first sparked increased violence in the country, but is now credited with helping it achieve some stability.

Odierno is a native of New Jersey who entered the military academy at West Point at age 17. While he was stationed at Fort Bragg, the military asked him to pursue a graduate degree, he said, and he decided to get a master's in nuclear engineering from NCSU.

After the ceremony Saturday, he said that his time at NCSU from 2004 to 2006 was his first experience with civilian college life and that he took full advantage of it, attending men's and women's sporting events and other activities across campus and in the area. His third child, a son, was born while the family lived here, he said.

NCSU awarded Odierno an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters on Saturday.

On the day he was attending the graduation, the U.S. Senate voted to repeal the law that bans gays from serving openly in the military. Speaking with reporters later, Odierno said the key to changing the policy would be taking the time to do it carefully, to avoid its becoming a distraction for troops in the field.

"It's all about readiness," he said.

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DREAM Act comes to an end in Senate

WASHINGTON—The Senate killed a bill Saturday that would've provided a conditional path to citizenship for the children of illegal immigrants in a vote that highlighted the dim prospects of getting a comprehensive overhaul of the nation's immigration laws through Congress over the next two years.

Democrats couldn't muster the 60 votes required to overcome a Republican filibuster on the Development, Relief and Education of Alien Minors Act, which the House of Representatives passed earlier this month.

The Senate's 55-41 vote broke mostly along party lines, though three Republicans - Sens. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, Robert Bennett of Utah and Richard Lugar of Indiana - voted with the Democrats.

Five Democratic senators - Mark Pryor of Arkansas, Kay Hagan of North Carolina, Ben Nelson of Nebraska and Jon Tester and Max Baucus of Montana - sided with Republicans. Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., announced his opposition to the bill but missed the vote.

President Barack Obama, who promised in the 2008 presidential campaign to revamp U.S. immigration laws, called Saturday's vote "incredibly disappointing."

"A minority of senators prevented the Senate from doing what most Americans understand is best for the country," Obama said in a written statement. "There was simply no reason not to pass this important legislation."

Comprehensive immigration overhaul opponents rejoiced over the defeat of a measure that they considered an amnesty bill that rewarded bad behavior and a test for a liberalization of U.S. immigration laws.

"This law, at its fundamental core, is a reward for illegal activity," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said on the Senate floor. "This is an amnesty bill because it
provides every possible benefit, including citizenship, to those who are in the country illegally."

Under the DREAM Act, illegal immigrants younger than 30, who entered the U.S. before age 16, lived here for five years without committing any serious crimes, graduated from high school and attended college or joined the military, would've been eligible for legal residency after meeting other criteria.

A study by the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that the act would've helped 300,000 to 500,000 illegal immigrants. However, the Federation for American Immigration Reform, which opposed the DREAM Act, estimated that it would have benefitted 2.1 million illegal immigrants.

DREAM Act supporters crammed into the Senate visitor's gallery to witness the vote. Several wore graduation caps and held hands as a Senate clerk announced the tally.

Many sobbed and hugged each other outside the Senate chamber after the vote.

Clarissa Martinez, director of immigration and national campaigns for the National Council of La Raza, said Saturday's vote is likely a harbinger for the future when it comes to immigration and Congress.

With Republicans taking over the House of Representatives next month and with the 2012 presidential election looming, Martinez predicted that little, if anything, will be done on immigration over the next two years.

"I think it looks tough," Martinez said. "It's going to continue to be an uphill battle."