THE DAILY CLIPS

December 21, 2009

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by the East Carolina University News Bureau from:

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McCarthy to serve as honorary chairman for Live Healthy Greenville

Mack McCarthy, head coach of the East Carolina University men’s basketball team, will serve as honorary chairman for Live Healthy Greenville for the second straight year.

Live Healthy Greenville is presented by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce, Physicians East and University Health Systems/Pitt County Memorial Hospital. It is a 100-day, team-based, weight-loss and physical activity program that helps participants make positive changes that lead to a healthier lifestyle through increased physical activity and improved nutrition.

Co-workers form teams that track weight loss and/or minutes of activity during the challenge by reporting their progress on a weekly basis at www.livehealthygreenville.org.

Teams consist of two to 10 people with a team captain and a team name.

The challenge begins Jan. 14 and runs through April 23. The entry fee is $20 per participant.

As a part of Live Healthy Greenville, each team member will receive weekly fitness and nutrition e-mails, access to fitness and nutrition information through www.livehealthygreenville.org, a magazine subscription and a training T-shirt. Last year, more than 600 people lost more than 2,500 pounds and logged more than 19,000 hours of physical activity.

For more information or to register online, visit www.livehealthygreenville.org. For questions or help with registrations, call the chamber office at 752-4101.
Holiday Drive brings gifts to the needy

ECU News Services

Janet Heath’s co-workers at East Carolina University’s Laupus Library may think she’s crazy to offer to do their shopping and gift wrapping, but she doesn’t mind. Not when it helps out those in need.

Her co-workers donate money, and Heath hits the stores for their contributions to the university’s holiday drive.

“I get a kick out of doing it,” Heath, the library’s serials coordinator, said. “This time of year is all about helping your fellow man. This is a perfect way to do that.”

As a result of such giving spirit, the holidays may be a little less glum for some Pitt County children and senior citizens. ECU Business Services this week wrapped up its tradition, now in its 15th year, of coordinating a campus-wide holiday drive for residents in need of toys, clothing and seasonal cheer.

This year, individuals and university units, Laupus Library among them, sponsored 13 children and seven elderly adults selected by the Pitt County Department of Social Services.

“The sponsors really enjoy being able to provide for those less fortunate, and the social workers are so excited to see the outpouring from the campus community,” Leslie Craigle, Business Services’ director of marketing, said.

Pitt County social workers gathered wish lists from gift recipients, who included children removed from their homes and elderly residents under social services’ supervision. Children, ranging from 9 months to 7 years old, sought clothing, educational items and toys such as dolls, trucks and play toolsets. Senior citizens received clothing and hygiene items.

Business Services each year organizes the drive as a gesture of goodwill. This year, the unit decided to forgo the drop boxes traditionally scattered throughout campus and instead focus on matching givers and recipients. Staff worked this week to distribute the presents before the Christmas break.

“We weren’t able to help as many charitable organizations in the community in the past, but we were able to continue helping the clients of Pitt County Social Services,” Craigle said. “Considering the economy, I think this year went much better than I anticipated.”

The participating departments and units represented East and West campuses: Academic Advising, the College of Business, Comparative Medicine, Dowdy Student Stores, the English Department, Information Technology and Computing Services, Laupus Library, Mail Services, Materials Management, OneCard office, University Printing and Graphics, and University Publications.

Many units, like Laupus Library, have participated for years. Heath said the library likely will continue to do so — with staff eagerly donating the money and letting Heath do the shopping. “I just enjoy doing it,” she said.

East Carolina Friends host holiday party

East Carolina Friends, an ECU student-mentoring program, held its 23rd annual holiday party on Dec. 6.

East Carolina Friends pairs college volunteers with children referred by Pitt Country Schools’ classroom teachers and school counselors. Student volunteers commit to seeing their children for a minimum of two hours a week for one academic year, and to attending group get-togethers such as the holiday party.

ECU student-athletes donated more than $800 to buy presents for the children in the program.

The party was hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and organized with the help of Jarrett Newby, president of East Carolina Friends; Jamie Quinn, the SAAC adviser; and Samantha Litchner, the SAAC president.
CMN awards grant to psychology professor

One of ECU’s newest psychology professors is the recipient of a $12,381 grant from the Pitt County Memorial Hospital and the Children’s Miracle Network.

Tamarra Warner, assistant professor of psychology in ECU’s Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, received the Project SCORE award, which will help maximize treatment outcomes for children with sickle cell disease.

Project SCORE aims to increase school readiness for children with sickle cell disease by providing development screening and evaluations for children ages 3 to 8 who are seen in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Outpatient Clinic. Project SCORE is an acronym for “Sickle Cell-Optimizing Readiness for Education.”

“We are so delighted to have been awarded a Children’s Miracle Network grant through PCMH to provide early developmental screenings for children with sickle cell disease who have one of the highest rates of pediatric stroke and are at high risk for academic difficulties,” Warner said. “Through early identification and intervention, we hope to make a significant difference in the lives of these children and families, rather than waiting for them to fall behind and fail in the early years of elementary school.”

Warner is a licensed psychologist and certified health service provider in North Carolina. She came to ECU in 2007 from the University of Florida and is an active member of the clinical health psychology doctoral program in the Department of Psychology.

She holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Pediatrics Division of Hematology/Oncology, where she established a pediatric neuropsychology clinic. The clinic provides evaluations for children with sickle cell disease, as well as pediatric and cancer survivors, who have difficulties with learning or behavior. It also serves as a training site for doctoral students in the clinical health and school psychology programs.

Within her research interests, Warner focuses on health and educational disparities in pediatric chronic illnesses, development of executive functioning in childhood and adolescence, and the effects of adolescent substance abuse and prenatal drug exposure on brain development and behavior.

In addition to the Children’s Miracle Network grant, Warner is a principal investigator on a two-year, approximately $400,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) titled, “Brain Development, Behavior, and Cognition in Pre- and Postnatal Cocaine Exposure.”

“I can’t tell you how thrilled I am to receive my first NIH grant as a principal investigator. It is a privilege that only a small number of researchers in the country get to experience,” said Warner. “It has taken more than three years of hard work, and I am grateful to my research team, including my co-PI at UCLA and my mentors at the University of Florida.”

As a result of her research, Warner will participate as an invited speaker at a workshop entitled “Cognitive Control Training Interventions: What are the Neurobiological Mechanisms Underlying the Beneficial Effects?” sponsored by the NIH.

The goal of the meeting, scheduled for May 3-4 in Bethesda, Md., will be to determine the current state of basic and clinical research on cognitive control and to discuss training interventions that can be executed in combination with genetic approaches, neuroimaging and electrophysiological techniques, so that the neurobiological mechanisms that underlie training effects can be better understood.

Warner received her doctoral degree and her Master of Science degree in clinical and health psychology from the University of Florida in 2003 and 1999, respectively. She completed a Master of Arts degree in American culture from the University of Michigan in 1996 and earned her bachelor’s degree from Harvard University in 1992.
Sorry folks, white Christmas doubtful

By Brock Letchworth
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, December 20, 2009

It has been 20 years since Pitt County residents experienced a white Christmas, and forecasters say they will have to wait at least one more year before it happens again.

While today marks the first official day of winter, eastern North Carolina got an early taste of wintry weather during the weekend with cold rain and temperatures dipping into the 20s.

But temperatures are expected to rise to the low 50s by the end of the week, spoiling any chance of snow on Christmas Day. National Weather Service officials estimate about a 40 percent chance of rain instead.

That’s just fine for folks like Wes Anderson, Greenville’s director of Public Works who grew up in Massachusetts and regularly experienced snowfall during the holidays.

“When we get a snow down here and it is 2 or 3 inches, it seems like a big event, but to me that is just a normal storm during the winter,” Anderson said. “But I understand because it is not that common here.”

Snow was a big event in Pitt County 20 years ago when areas received 8 to 10 inches. The accumulation resulted in the first white Christmas in the past century east of I-95, according to reports, although there was snow near Christmas Day in 1993 and 2004 but nothing on the scale of that in 1989.

Georgia Childs, assistant director for peer health in the East Carolina University Student Recreation Center, said she was a 19-year-old student at ECU during that storm. She recalls being snowed in at her parents’ home in Chocowinity and unable to visit family in Greensboro.

Childs’ father was the division engineer for the local Department of Transportation office at the time. He spent much of that Christmas examining road conditions and dispatching crews to make the thoroughfares safer, she said, while the rest of the family enjoyed the snow.

“My dad passed away in 1996, but I think of him every time it snows now,” Childs said. “He is the one who actually taught me how to drive in it.”

City officials oversee the conditions of roads inside the city limits during such storms. The N.C. Department of Transportation is responsible for other roads in the county.

Anderson said the city began prepping its equipment in early October, and officials recently began testing spreaders and plows in case they are needed during the winter months.

The city has four trucks that can be equipped with spreaders and four others that can hold a plow. Anderson said officials have been spending some time in each to get used to operating them.

“We are ready,” he said.

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ECU's Hudson possible candidate for FSU spot

By Nathan Summers
The Daily Reflector

Sunday, December 20, 2009

East Carolina defensive coordinator Greg Hudson has not spoken to head football coach Skip Holtz about other job opportunities, at least not yet.

A week after Holtz was courted by Cincinnati, Hudson has been linked to a possible staff position with Florida State's new coach, Jimbo Fisher.

While Holtz acknowledged being aware his defensive coordinator, who has been on board since Holtz arrived at ECU for the 2005 season, is rumored to be a lead candidate to join the Seminole staff.

"There are rumors flying around," Holtz admitted after Sunday evening's practice ended. "I have not talked to anybody from that standpoint."

Holtz said he understands during this time of the year things can change quickly. The head coach has gone through the courtship process each of the last three seasons, and Hudson has drawn previous interest as well.

With the bowl postseason having just begun, Holtz is mindful many schools with new head coaches will be making hires over the next few weeks, and that those hires will in turn create further openings.

"The information travels about 10 times faster than the process in this business, and so with the Internet and the chat rooms and everything else, somebody finds a piece of information and starts running," said Holtz, who was also linked with openings at Virginia and Kansas this December. "It takes on a life of its own, as we saw in my own situation the last couple of weeks. Right now, there is nothing formally to report. Nobody has called me to ask for permission."

As Holtz said when offensive line coach and co-offensive coordinator Steve Shankweiler was named as a finalist for the Murray State head coaching job earlier this month, interest in his staff should come as no surprise.

Perhaps more surprising is that no significant member of Holtz's staff has ever left for another coaching position.

"They've made the decision to stay at this point and like the direction the program is headed," said Holtz, whose 9-4 Pirates will take on Arkansas at the Liberty Bowl Jan. 2. "I'll do anything I can to help them further their career or better their situation if they don't like where they are. I kind of embrace it. I want coaches that want to be wanted.

"I think it would be even worse to have a whole staff of guys that nobody called and nobody ever wanted."

In terms of when it might all end, Holtz knows there could still be hires being made after the bowl season ends.

In most cases, however, staffs are pieced together quickly over the holiday break.

"Seeing this process work now for about 20 years since I've been in the business, it's normally going to go another week or two," Holtz said. "I'm sure there have been some verbal communications where some people are saying, 'Is this something you'd be interested in?' What head coaches try to do is get four or five guys who might be possible candidates to replace somebody if they were to leave."

The schedule
The Pirates will conclude a stretch of five consecutive practices this morning before beginning their holiday break Tuesday.

The team's seniors had a relaxed schedule for last weekend's practices, which focused almost solely on the underclassmen in what Holtz described as a spring practice environment.

This week's five-day stint which began in the wake of finals week was more like camp, with walkthroughs in the morning, full-scale practice in the afternoon and meetings at night.

"This is all football, it's like a five-day cram session to get ready for the game," Holtz said.

Holtz added that he hopes the team will get more work done in Memphis this year after leaving Greenville a day earlier than last year.

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About 3,200 graduates receive degrees during fall ceremonies

BY JOSH HUMPHRIES
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina University awarded degrees to about 3,200 graduates during its fall commencement ceremony Friday morning.

The university awarded 2,092 degrees for undergraduates and 1,062 graduate/professional degrees. Eight graduates earned doctorate degrees in biomedical sciences. The ceremony included students who completed graduation requirements during the summer.

Individual departments and colleges scheduled ceremonies Friday and today.

Derek Alderman, ECU associate professor of geography and president of the Southeastern Division of the Association of American Geographers, gave the keynote address Friday morning. He stressed the work that many students do outside of the classroom for projects like art festivals, study programs abroad, internships, student government and other service projects.

“You’ve done much more than just go to class — you have worked hard to transform yourselves,” Alderman told the graduates.

“We are truly proud of the work you have

See DEGREES, B3

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DEGREES
Continued from B1

done and your role in making this university a place of transformation.”

Alderman, who says he is a geographer at heart, told graduates to think of their careers in terms of a map, which he said reflects the map maker.

“I would encourage you to think of your career, metaphorically of course, as a map,” he said. “What do you want the map to look like? It will require a moral and social compass.”

Maps are always changing, Alderman said. He told graduates to continue learning as they progress through life.

“Continue the learning process after you leave ECU,” he said. “Maintain a passion for discovery and innovation. Try

new methods and ideas.”

Alderman is the 2009 winner of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, the highest teaching award given at the university. He also is a 2008 winner of the research award for outstanding research and scholarly achievement for the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences.

The university recognized students who received advanced degrees and each student is recognized individually in departmental ceremonies.

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Holtz says he's staying with Pirates

By Nathan Summers  
The Daily Reflector

Friday, December 18, 2009

Skip Holtz confirmed on Friday he met with other schools regarding their football coaching vacancies in recent weeks, but once again he's staying at East Carolina.

While he would not comment on any specific school, Holtz said he tested the coaching market after the fifth-year ECU coach was courted by other schools for the third year running.

His name was mentioned prominently in connection with head coaching vacancies at Virginia, Kansas and Cincinnati, but Holtz said the special situation it would take to lure him out of Greenville never materialized.

"I did have an opportunity to talk to some people during the offseason who called. After sitting down and looking at everything and weighing all our options, Jen and I have decided that Greenville is the best place for us to be," Holtz said of the decision he and his wife made. "I'm not looking back. Right now, everything we're doing is getting ready for Arkansas and getting ready for this Liberty Bowl."

The 9-4 Pirates take on the 7-5 Razorbacks on Jan. 2 in Memphis, Tenn., their fourth straight bowl appearance.

Now that he's through the period of uncertainty, Holtz said he is energized by his decision to stay, and he has a renewed appreciation for his relationship with his team, the fans and even athletic director Terry Holland.

"It stimulates you mentally, where we're going as a program, what we're trying to do," said Holtz, 38-26 in five seasons. "It has stimulated some great conversations between coach Holland and myself. It's been a very positive couple of weeks."

Last year, Holtz was pursued heavily by Syracuse during the coach's annual trip to New York to attend the National Football Foundation's award ceremonies.

While he didn't say when or with whom he spoke this month, Holtz said he was happy to be coaching the Pirates.

"All of a sudden, you sit down and make that decision and say, 'We're staying. Greenville is home.' You roll your sleeves up and say, 'Let's get busy,'" Holtz said.

Holtz also confirmed that as of Friday afternoon none of his assistant coaches had plans to depart ECU. Offensive line coach and co-offensive coordinator Steve Shankweiler has been named as a finalist for the head coaching position at Murray State.

According to Holtz, interest in his staff is no more new than interest in him.

"We've got a great staff, and almost every one of them has had the opportunity to interview somewhere since I've been here over the last five years," Holtz said. "I'm sure we have some coaches that are interested in some of our staff, and I'm going to continue to have an open-door policy and give them the opportunity to look at them if that's what they want to do."

Mid-year trio

The team announced the impending addition of three junior college players who will join the Pirates immediately and add depth at vital positions.
Quarterback Dominique Davis comes from Fort Scott Community College in Kansas, but began his career at Boston College. That will likely help to pad the loss of senior passer Patrick Pinkney, one of 28 seniors who will play their last game Jan. 2.

Also arriving in time for off-season workouts and spring practice will be offensive lineman Diavalo Simpson (East Mississippi Community College) and safety Bradley Jacobs (Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College).

“We had a huge window of opportunity to bring in some guys at mid-year,” Holtz said. “We had 16 players who graduated. That created some openings and we felt we needed to go out and bolster our junior class a little bit.”

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Slain student's father opposes releasing video

ASHEBORO -- The father of a UNC-Chapel Hill student killed in a traffic stop testified Friday that the release of videos that show his son's last moments would have a deep, damaging impact on friends and family.

Pharr Smith testified that he didn't want memories of his son tarnished by images of the drunken incident that unfolded Aug. 23. He said the altercation contradicts the real Courtland Smith, whom his family knew and loved.

"It would be very painful for me to have that be the last picture in my mind," Pharr Smith testified.

Archdale police officer Jeremy Flinchum killed Courtland Smith, 21, of Houston at exit 108 off Interstate 85. The SBI investigated the case.

Randolph County Superior Court Judge Brad Long is expected to decide this week whether to release videos from dashboard cameras in two police cruisers.

Long told a crowded courtroom that he needed more time to review arguments made by attorneys both for Smith's family and for numerous media outlets that have requested that the videos be made public.

By law, the videos can be released under the court's discretion.

Two officers had responded to a 911 call of a man driving drunk on the interstate at high speed, armed with a handgun and reporting that he was suicidal. Smith's 911 call and police radio communications were made public, but the videos were not.

In September, multiple media outlets sued to get the videos released in the public's interest. Smith's family has sought to keep the tapes sealed.
Rocking grammar

CHAPEL HILL -- UNC-Chapel Hill's Marianne Gingher, a creative writing professor, begins her stylistics course each August with a grammar test. Most students fail it.

By now, Gingher expects this. In fact, she awards a prize for the funniest failure.

This year, the prize went to Jillian Vogel, a sophomore from New York City. "Words such as 'Holey Moley!' and 'Cowabunga!' are examples of what?" one test question asked.


Like many of Gingher's students, Vogel arrived at UNC without knowing formal grammar. "Not a lick," she says.

This is no surprise. High school grammar instruction fell out of favor in the 1960s and has never recovered.

Gingher is not dismayed. By the end of the course, her students will gain a new appreciation for grammar. They'll also give a public performance featuring - get this - the best of a semester's worth of grammar and language exercises.

When it's over, they'll post the show on YouTube. They'll marvel at how a playful grammar and language class made them better writers.

And years from now, after they've forgotten the content of entire college courses, they'll remember the night they elevated grammar to performance art.

Stylistics is the quirkiest course in UNC's Creative Writing Department. It may be the quirkiest creative writing course in America.

Officially, stylistics is the study of language elements such as sound, form and vocabulary. That's what UNC's course is, too, but filtered through the original mind of its creator, Chapel Hill writer Daphne Athas.

Athas, 86, a retired creative writing professor, grew up in an era when you learned grammar by parsing sentences - breaking them up and identifying each word by its part of speech. She didn't mind learning that way, but when she began teaching stylistics in 1976, she suspected contemporary students would balk.

"These days," she says, "you've got to beguile and delight."

So she concocted her own exercises: Write a story using a single verb combined with different prepositions. Create a poem with only conjunctions. Choose a piece of instrumental music, then write
a story that fits the beat.

About halfway through the first semester, she decided to end the class with a public performance. Students loved it.

Stylistics went on hiatus in the mid-'80s, when Athas retired from full-time teaching. But in 2001, Gingher, a fervent fan, revived the course.

About the kazooos

Now, she teaches it each fall using Athas' textbook, "Gram-O-Rama: Breaking the Rules." Cover illustrations include examples of word play. "I'll show you my diphthong," one says, "if you show me yours." Along with the book, students must have kazooos, for exploring how sentence rhythm conveys meaning.

One of Gingher's first assignments this year was Athas' no-noun exercise: Create synonyms for nouns without using nouns. Cow became "black and white udderly milked." "Baby" morphed into "tiny cranky drooling."

Soon, Gingher's 14 students were rewriting songs and famous passages, turning perfectly lovely active sentences into deadly passive constructions. In this way, they learn to spot passive voice. "They learn grammar," Gingher says, "on the sly."

By mid-October, they had eased into parodies, nonsense language and malapropisms. Each class, they took turns reading their assignments.

As each student finished, Gingher critiqued. One piece sagged under the weight of excessive malapropisms. Another nonsense-language piece didn't convey enough meaning. "Nonsense should make sense, in a weird way," she explained.

What works

So if grammar can be such rollicking fun, why isn't it taught more?

In large part, says retired Penn State Professor Martha Kolln, because experts concluded that old-style grammar instruction was ineffective.

"It was a matter of classifying, parsing, learning groups of words," says Kolln, author of "Rhetorical Grammar." Teachers didn't relate exercises to writing, so the grammar instruction didn't help students become better writers.

Today, students learn much more about writing - crafting a thesis statement, organizing a paragraph, polishing through rewriting. But they often can't identify a predicate or misplaced modifier. Kolln argues that anti-grammar forces went too far. "Students don't know how to talk about their language," she says. "They don't have a common vocabulary."

On stage

On a rainy evening this month, 150 people - students, faculty, family members - packed a room in
UNC's Wilson Library, eager to be entertained by grammar exercises.

Students titled this year's show "Battlestar Grammatica." Athas sat in front.

For more than an hour, the class performed chants, parodies, word play. They recited the Balloon Boy saga to the tune of "The Addams Family." They delivered a noun-free commercial for the Snuggie, the blanket with sleeves: "Ultra-soft and super baggy; move around and fits great!"

In one skit, a father and his son discussed sex - entirely in passive voice:

"It is not forgotten what was done by us in the back seat when it was told to our parents that the movies had been gone to."

"Aw, sick!" the son replied. "This is not needed to be heard."

"Protection must always be worn," the father counseled.

The son didn't want to discuss it. Tempers flared.

Then he stomped off: "It is wished that birth was never achieved by me!"

In many pieces, music, and especially rhythm, were integral. In "Hiya Gorgeous," women chanted lame male pick-up lines:

Damn girl. Ain't you fine?

I don't have a girlfriend. You can be mine.

I'll keep you at home so I know where you are.

Get out of my dreams; get into my car.

Then they chanted a reply:

Thank you, but I'd rather walk.

No. No. No. No.

I've got mace. I've got mace.

Reading the piece doesn't do it justice. You've got to hear it.

The same could be said of the entire stylistics course.

"Battlestar Grammatica" ended to enthusiastic applause. Classmates gave Gingher a bouquet. They hugged each other.

Vogel, the student who won the funniest failure award at the start of class, says knowing grammar rules has given her the confidence to play with them, break them and develop her own writing style.

Has her writing improved? She thinks so.
Certainly, her grammar knowledge has. A few days after the show, Vogel, along with the rest of the class, took Gingher's grammar test again. This time, she passed.

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Board told to let illegals study

RALEIGH -- A public hearing Friday on North Carolina community colleges' decision to admit illegal immigrants turned into a rally for immigrant rights.

A crowd of Latino students - along with educators, activists and civic and religious leaders - filled the auditorium at the State Library, many waving signs and wearing stickers supporting access to higher education for illegal immigrants. More than 50 gave speeches, invoking the Bible, the Declaration of Independence and the language of the civil rights movement.

Only six people spoke against the State Board of Community Colleges' September decision to admit illegal immigrants at all 58 campuses - a stark reversal in a debate that has often been dominated by opponents of illegal immigration.

"Everyone has a right to an education," said Gloria Garcia of Fuquay-Varina, a Wake Tech student. "It does not matter what race you are or whether you are documented or not. All of us should be treated equally."

Opponents argued that allowing illegal immigrants into community colleges amounted to a reward for breaking the law. They said illegal immigrants would compete with U.S. citizens in a time of high unemployment.

"Allowing illegal aliens to enroll in our colleges when we have 10 percent unemployment really speaks of incompetence," said Ron Woodard of Cary, head of the immigration enforcement advocacy group N.C. Listen.

The hearing was a legal requirement as the community college board moves toward adopting a permanent rule. System officials said board members will get a full transcript of the 2-1/2 hour hearing and will consider the comments before finalizing the rule next year.

They said the board has the power to tweak or reverse the rule, which was agreed to this fall after nearly two years of study and intense controversy. It's expected to take effect next school year, lifting a ban that has kept undocumented students out of degree programs since May 2008.

The rule admits illegal immigrants under strict requirements. They must pay out-of-state tuition, about $7,700 a year. They also will get last priority for classes.

Many speakers Friday said the board did not go far enough. They said immigrant students, many of whom were brought to this country as children and grew up in North Carolina, should be treated as in-state residents.

For legal residents, community colleges grant in-state tuition after they have lived in North Carolina for one year.
"How ridiculous to say people who have been here for many years should pay out-of-state tuition," said James Leutze, who was chancellor of UNC Wilmington until 2001.

William Gheen, head of the Raleigh group Americans for Legal Immigration, which argues for strict immigration enforcement, said the majority was not represented at the hearing. He said most who oppose the decision could not come on a workday.

"This entire meeting is a sham," Gheen said. "It is not a convenient time for the hard workers and the taxpayers of North Carolina."

Immigrant advocates said they mobilized their supporters to come en masse and arrive early to sign up for speaking slots.

"We're tired of a small group dominating," said Melinda Wiggins, a farmworker advocate. "The majority of people really do support access to education for all people."

Many comments were greeted with applause and, in the case of state NAACP President William Barber, a standing ovation. Barber compared the plight of immigrant students to the biblical story of Joseph and Mary, who were refused a room at the inn while awaiting the birth of Jesus.

"Instead of saying no room for Hispanic children," Barber intoned, "we would be saying no limits."

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