THE DAILY CLIPS

January 13, 2012

News, commentary, and opinion
compiled by East Carolina University News Services:

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The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
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UNC-Chapel Hill freshman Ellen Currin shows her feelings as she listens to the proceedings about tuition increases for the university system. About 20 students marched down Raleigh Road to the meeting.

Ross wants UNC hikes to stay below 10%

BY JANE STANCILL - jstancill@newsobserver.com

CHAPEL HILL—UNC system President Tom Ross said Thursday that he will recommend tuition and fee increases of less than 10 percent for next year, below what many campuses are seeking as they cope with state budget cuts.

Ross will offer the UNC Board of Governors specific recommendations in the next few weeks. But he said he hopes his plan will represent an average systemwide increase that is below the 9.3 percent average increase enacted last year. He doesn't want any campus to raise its price tag above 10 percent, he said.

The UNC president's plan would generate less than $50 million in revenue, he said. After setting aside financial aid money for needy students, the revenue would make up less than 15 percent of last year's state budget reduction.

But something must be done to preserve educational excellence, Ross said.
"It's about a balance," he said. "It is about a balance between low tuition and high quality, maintaining excellence."

UNC campuses have proposed undergraduate tuition and fee increases ranging from 4.3 percent at UNC Pembroke to 13.5 percent at UNC Asheville. The proposed undergraduate tuition and fee increases are 11.4 percent at UNC-Chapel Hill, 10.4 percent at N.C. State University and 8.5 percent at N.C. Central University.

A group of students from UNC-CH walked to the UNC board meeting Thursday to protest the proposed increases. The students displayed signs that began, "I care about tuition because ..." with handwritten phrases such as "North Carolina promised," "I don't want to graduate with DEBT" and "Tough times test our values." The boardroom was packed, so most students had to watch the presentation on TVs in the lobby.

The board could accept or reject Ross' recommendation, and a brief discussion Thursday revealed a wide variety of viewpoints among board members. A vote on 2012-13 tuition is expected in February.

**Funding cuts**

Tuition always prompts heated debate among leaders of the public university system in North Carolina, where the state constitution requires that higher education be provided free to the people, "as far as practicable."

Three UNC chancellors made their case for higher-than-usual tuition increases to mitigate the effects of last year's state budget cut, which Ross called the largest in UNC history.

But the budget losses extend over the past four years, resulting in a net permanent budget reduction of $482 million for the system, after taking into account new funding for additional students. Per-student state funding has dropped nearly 13 percent from 2007-2008 to 2011-2012, according to UNC data.

During that time, class sizes have swelled, and course offerings have dropped. Since last year, the UNC system is teaching an additional 2,300 students with 1,100 fewer faculty and 1,250 fewer staff members.

At NCCU, for example, 350 students were unable to get required math classes. NCSU has 400 fewer seats in entry biology courses.

NCSU Chancellor Randy Woodson said his campus has experienced permanent cuts of $127 million, along with $100 million in one-time
reductions during the past five years. NCSU's total budget in 2010-2011 was $1.189 billion.

During the past decade, Woodson said, the undergraduate population has grown by nearly one-third without an appreciable increase in permanent faculty. Part-time, adjunct faculty are handling a larger share of the teaching duty.

At a research university such as NCSU, Woodson said, "we're losing the capacity to be the world-class researchers and innovators that this state has demanded of us."

UNC Asheville Chancellor Anne Ponder said the small liberal arts university has been hit hard by budget cuts. If UNCA has a major roof leak, she said, it results in the loss of a job. The campus has slashed elective courses so that none is offered that's not a graduation requirement. Student leaders at UNCA support a proposed 13.5 percent tuition and fee increase, she said.

"I want you to resist and reject the stereotype that our faculty are slackers and don't work very hard," Ponder told the board. "I want you to know that if our faculty were not stepping up in this emergency, the quality of what we offer would be seriously and significantly compromised."

But students said the double-digit, multiyear increases campuses proposed would be too burdensome for families in the current sluggish economy.

"Student debt levels are going up," said Spencer Kuzmier, a UNC-CH senior from Greensboro.

**Looking to Raleigh**

Greg Randolph, a UNC-CH senior from Raleigh, wants to see a stronger push back to the state legislature.

"This needs to be a statewide campaign to protect public education," he said. "I don't think we're seeing that campaign, and I don't think we really, as a state, are grappling with the gravity of the situation."

Ross said the university must find a new way forward. It will be a four-pronged approach, he said: save money, bring in more private donations, maintain taxpayer support as the main source of funding, and ask students to help through their tuition dollars.

"I believe deeply in the University of North Carolina," he said. "It needs to be great if North Carolina is going to be great, and we think some tuition increase is going to be necessary to maintain that quality."
Board members will leave this week's meetings with thick notebooks of tuition data and detailed analyses of the impact of budget cuts. They also have a letter signed by at least 20 former board members, asking them to reject the tuition proposals.

The petition also has the support of former UNC presidents Bill Friday and C.D. Spangler Jr.

Next month's vote promises to be a marathon session, with more student protesters.

"Tuition is always difficult, and it should be," Chairwoman Hannah Gage said. "It should be bumpy and contentious and emotional. The day it's not is probably the day we should all resign."

Stancill: 919-829-4559
Friday, January 13, 2012

Dr. Paul Cunningham, Dean and the Senior Associate Vice Chancellor for Medical Affairs at the Brody School of Medicine, speaks during the ceremony Thursday morning. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

Ed Broderick, Executive VP with Gibane Construction, and Daniel Hoffmann, Director of the VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network, right, talk discuss the future Greenville VA Outpatient Clinic after a ground breaking ceremony Thursday morning. (Rhett Butler/The Daily Reflector)

Crowd celebrates veterans clinic

By K.j. Williams

A groundbreaking ceremony Thursday drew a crowd to celebrate what will be the newest and largest veterans clinic of its type when it opens in Greenville in 2014.
Army veteran Howard Davis, 64, of Ayden, was among a number of former service members attending, easily visible by caps they wore declaring their military affiliation or membership in a veterans service organization.

“I wanted to be a part of this dedication ceremony,” Davis said. “And it’s long overdue and I’m just glad to see it happening right now. And I just wanted to see it kick off.”

People who use the 18,473-square-foot Veterans Affairs clinic said the facility is overcrowded, and it is a long and inconvenient trip to the Durham VA Medical Center for more extensive treatment.

The new two-story, 116,000-square-foot clinic will offer specialty services that will eliminate the need for many visits to Durham unless hospitalization is required. It is expected to serve up to 20,000 veterans in eastern North Carolina. When it opens, the current clinic will close.

The new facility will provide services including audiology, cardiology, chemotherapy, dermatology, gastroenterology, hematology, oncology, optometry and otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat).

“It represents a significant step forward in our drive to provide specialty care closer to where veterans live,” Ralph Gigliotti, director of the Durham VA Medical Center, said. “Most importantly, we want to recognize and thank our heroes who are here with us today — all our veterans.”

He also noted the ongoing and expanded contributions expected from students and professors at East Carolina University’s Brody School of Medicine, located opposite the 12-acre clinic site at the intersection of West Fifth Street and Moye Boulevard.

Dr. Paul Cunningham, dean of Brody, praised the advocates who helped bring an expanded clinic to Greenville.

“We believe it will open an absolutely new chapter for health care in our region,” he said.


The congressmen gave speeches detailing the way they worked together to bring the expanded clinic to Greenville.

Jones said he and Butterfield are solidly behind veterans’ issues.
“We did what we could as foot soldiers to see what we could do to make this become a reality,” he said.

Butterfield said that many veterans live in Districts 1 and 3.

“We are your friends, and we will always fight for our veterans,” he said. “The veteran is very special to every American. They defended American and the American way of life so we are indebted to their service.”

Keynote speaker Daniel Hoffmann, director of the VA Mid-Atlantic Health Care Network, also thanked supporters.

“I want veterans to wear out this clinic. It will be the strongest justification and verification” for its existence, he said.

“America’s liberty has been bought and continues to be paid for by its citizens,” Hoffmann said. He thanked “veterans for keeping America safe and secure.”

Afterward, he said that three other expanded clinics are in the works for North Carolina, but they aren’t at the groundbreaking stage yet. They will be located in Charlotte, Fayetteville and Winston-Salem.

The clinics are part of the Department of Veterans Affairs’ plan to meet needs which have grown due to the now-ended war in Iraq and continued fighting in Afghanistan.

R.I.-based Gilbane Development Co. is expected to being construction of the Greenville VA Clinic soon. Under a 20-year contract, the VA will pay $3.8 million annually for the construction, maintenance, and lease of the building.

The Greenville VA Clinic has been designed to meet the region’s needs for the next 15 years, Hoffmann said, adding: “We have the ability to expand at this site.”

He commented on the number of attendees at the event.

“This is a very robust turnout for a groundbreaking,” he said.

George Cherry, 67, of Greenville, was among that group. Cherry, who retired from the Navy after 20 years, said he’s traveled to Durham VA Medical Center for treatment, as did his late father, a World War II veteran. Cherry was anticipating the convenience of receiving more care locally.

William Burrows, 83, of Greenville, retired from the Army after 20 years.

“We’re all going to come to it,” he said of the future clinic. “I want to see the bigger one do even more things.”
Other veterans who attended came from American Legion Post 58 in Rocky Mount and Post 110 in Nashville. James Ervin, 70, of Nashville, served in the Army for 14 years but didn’t see combat.

“But I have strong feelings about those who served and suffered for their service,” he said.

Contact K.J. Williams at kwilliams@reflector.com or 252-329-9588.
A trolley car crosses Linden Avenue on Main Street on Wednesday, Jan. 11 in Memphis, Tenn. A proposal to rename nine blocks of Linden Avenue to Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue is expected to pass Thursday when it comes before the Memphis and Shelby County Land Use Control Board. As of Tuesday the board hadn’t received any comment opposing the honor for King, who was killed by assassin James Earl Ray on April 4, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel. (AP Photo/Adrian Sainz)

**Memphis may finally name city street after King**

By ADRIAN SAINZ, Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — In the more than four decades since the Rev. Martin Luther King was assassinated on the balcony of Memphis' Lorraine Motel, about 900 U.S. cities have named local streets for him. Memphis is not one of them, though there is a stretch of interstate bearing his name.

Now Memphis officials will consider a naming a key downtown street for the civil rights icon after years of inaction that some say reflects a sense of shame and denial in the city where he was cut down.

The proposal to rename nine blocks of Linden Avenue to Dr. Martin Luther King Avenue is expected to pass Thursday when it comes before the Memphis and Shelby County Land Use Control Board. As of Tuesday, the board hadn't received any comments opposing the honor for King, who was killed by assassin James Earl Ray on April 4, 1968.
Berlin Boyd, a former city councilman, came up with the proposal earlier this year while still in office and it easily passed. He predicts it will pass the land use board, with a naming ceremony expected to take place on April 4. The board has final say unless an appeal is filed within 10 days.

The street re-naming is being seen by many Memphians as a symbol that the city is taking steps to heal the wound caused by the assassination.

"It was something that had a place in my heart for some time," Boyd told The Associated Press. "Here is a city where Martin Luther King's blood cries from the streets, and we don't have anything to pay tribute to him."

King came to Memphis to support a sanitation workers strike in 1968 in what became his final act as a civil rights leader. The National Civil Rights Museum is built at the site of the former Lorraine Motel, where King stayed while supporting the sanitation workers. A wreath marks the spot on the balcony where King was shot.

The Rev. James Netters, who marched with King and the sanitation workers as a city councilman, said he proposed naming a street for King in the early 1970s, but the City Council voted to dedicate a stretch of Interstate 240 to him instead.

Supporters say renaming Linden Avenue for King is more significant than the dedication of the interstate because the avenue is in the heart of the city's downtown and residents will have to use the avenue's name to give directions. They also say that new businesses along it — including two hotels set for construction — will use the King address, giving the street more importance and visibility.

Netters, 84, said he does not know why another proposal did not appear before now, a sentiment echoed by many others.

"Memphis can't do enough," Netters said. "Any honor that we dedicate to him is very, very critical."

Kenneth Whalum, a school board member and Memphis native who was 12 years old when King was killed, said no street has been named after King because Memphis has been in a state of denial and depression over the assassination.

"Just as when you lose any loved one, you get depressed," Whalum said. "For the last 43 years we've hoped that the incident didn't happen. We wished it would disappear and go away."
Boyd chose Linden Avenue because he saw a sign with the street's name in a photo taken of a rally led by King. The avenue runs in front of the Clayborn Temple — where King rallied with members of the civil rights movement — and the FedExForum, the arena where the NBA's Memphis Grizzlies play their home games.

It runs parallel to Beale Street, the famous Memphis tourist drag, and is near the offices of the local chapter of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the union that King came to Memphis to defend.

One of the advantages of choosing Linden Avenue is that no businesses will have to change their address with the name change, according to the land use board's report on the street re-naming.

The report, which recommends approval, notes that Linden Avenue is not named after a real person, so no one will be offended that their family name is being stripped from the downtown avenue. The name honors Under the Linden Trees Boulevard, over which the Brandenburg Gate was built in Berlin, Germany.

Should the proposal pass, Memphis would be added to the long list of cities, both big and small, that honor King with a street name. About 75 percent of the roughly 900 cities are found in 10 Southern states, with Georgia leading the way, said Derek Alderman, an East Carolina University geography professor who penned a 2006 study, "Naming Streets for Martin Luther King Jr.: No Easy Road."

Next in line are Texas, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana and Alabama.

Alderman says cities have endured heated debates over naming streets after King: A common dispute centers on whether to select a street that is in a predominantly black neighborhood, or one that cuts across racial boundaries and "embodies the message that King was preaching when he was alive."

Alderman also notes that naming a street after King is an appropriate way to honor him because African-Americans looked to movement and transportation as ways of challenging and changing the racial status quo and creating racial equality. The Underground Railroad, the Freedom Riders and King's protest marches and leadership of the Montgomery, Ala., bus boycott are good examples, he said in his study.

"Street naming can be a pretty powerful way of honoring somebody when you consider the way streets connect people," Alderman said. "A significant amount of the actual mechanics of protest and the mechanics of carrying out
the civil rights movement was actually carried out in street level protests and marches."

Renaming Linden Avenue for King may change the way residents give directions, but it also may help Memphis live down any shame and embarrassment that comes with being the city where King was assassinated.

Boyd said acknowledging King with his own street may be a symbol that Memphis is making strides in eliminating racial tensions and is finally dealing with King's death.

"We have to start embracing the heritage of our city," Boyd said. "Until we understand who we are as a city, we will always be left behind."

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"Locomotion," a play based on a book by the same title, will be staged at 7 p.m. Friday in East Carolina University's Wright Auditorium. The play tells the story of Lonnie Collins Motion, a boy who writes poetry to help cope with his feelings of loss.

‘Locomotion’ national tour pulls into ECU

Do you ever have a lot to say, but can’t get the words out? That’s the problem confronting Lonnie Collins Motion, a kid who’s so full of energy that everybody calls him “Locomotion.”

“Locomotion” takes the stage at East Carolina University’s Wright Auditorium at 7 p.m. today as part of the Family Fare Series. The play is adapted from the award-winning book of the same title by author and South Carolina native Jacqueline Woodson.

“This is the best piece of children’s theater I have ever seen,” said Michael Crane, associate dean of research, marketing and outreach for the College of Fine Arts and Communication at ECU. “It is such a compelling story.”

Crane, who selects shows like “Locomotion” for the Family Fare Series, traveled to Washington, D.C., with his two daughters, who were 8 and 10 at the time, to see “Locomotion” before booking the show.

“After seeing it, we drove back for 5½ hours and all we talked about was the play,” Crane said. “The acting is exceptional.”

“Locomotion” is about an 11-year-old boy whose life moves from tragedy to hope after he loses one family and gains a new one. The boy finds that the power of poetry provides him the perfect outlet for expressing his feelings about his sister, his new life in a foster home and the fire that killed his parents.
Crane said this is a play for middle school-aged students, unlike many Family Fare events which are generally geared toward elementary school children.

“This one is a little bit older, and it will raise questions like what ‘would happen if my parents were killed in a house fire? as the main character’s parents did,” Crane said.

While the story deals with a serious subject, it sends a positive message. “The main character grows through the production,” Crane said.

The play, by the Kennedy Center Theater for Young Audiences on Tour, began a national tour last week that will include 26 cities in 19 states. The cast for “Locomotion” includes Julian Elijah Martinez as Lonnie Collins Motion, MaConnia Chesser as Ms. Marcus, Mama and others, and G. Alvarez Reid as Enrique, Daddy and Agency Man. The actors and director Jennifer L. Nelson are members of the Orlando Repertory Theatre based in Orlando, Fla., that partnered with the Kennedy Center for the commissioned play.

Woodson is the author of numerous picture books, young adult and middle-grade novels and is the only author to receive three Newbery Honor Awards. She is the recipient of the Coretta Scott King Award, the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and is a two-time National Book Award Honor winner. In 2006, she was the youngest person ever to win the Margaret A. Edwards Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Young Adult Library Services Association. Her novel “Miracle’s Boys” was adapted into a miniseries on Nickelodeon.

A resident of Brooklyn, N.Y., Woodson was part of the founding faculty of the master of fine arts program in writing for young children at Vermont College and has served as a writing teacher at Goddard College, Eugene Lang College, and as a writer-in-residence for the National Book Foundation. Some of her other books include, “Feathers,” “Hush,” “I Hadn’t Meant to Tell You This” and “If You Come Softly.”

If you Go!
What: Family Fare Series presents “Locomotion”
When: 7 p.m. today
Where: East Carolina University’s Wright Auditorium
Cost: $9 for adults, $6 for children and $9 at the door
Call: 328-4788
Arts Datebook

Gray Gallery

The Wellington B. Gray Gallery will show “The Art of Influence,” an international exhibition of metal design and other art media today-Feb. 18. An opening reception will be held at 5 p.m. today.

The exhibition will be held in conjunction with the “Material Topics: Merging Methods” Saturday in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center. Artists will lecture, and the event is open to the public.

The exhibition is a celebration of excellence in contemporary metal design and a revealing exploration of the lines of influence between teachers and students, peer artists and artistic traditions. Co-curators Joshua Craig and Tina Lazzarine, both graduate students in the metal design program at ECU, collaborated on this exhibit with Interim Director Tom Braswell of the Wellington B. Gray Gallery.

Gray Gallery is located in the Jenkins Fine Arts Building on the ECU campus. Hours are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Call 328-6336 or visit www.ecu.edu/graygallery.

Unitarian Universalist

The Unitarian Universalist Church is featuring a 20-piece exhibit of acrylic, oil and watercolor paintings by Greenville Brushstrokes artist Betsy Leech through February. An artist reception is planned from 5:30-7 p.m. today at the church, 130 Oakmont Drive. Email tshank@embarqmail.com.

City Art

City Art Gallery will hold its second annual multi-media invitational exhibition of art based on the poetry of James Applewhite, North Carolina author and member of the North Carolina Literary Hall of Fame from Jan. 20-Feb. 11.

An opening reception will be held from 6-8 p.m. Jan. 20. Applewhite will read his poems at 7 p.m.

The Applewhite show features paintings, ceramics and sculpture by more than a dozen artists, several of whom are East Carolina University alumni
and faculty. Participating artists were asked to contemplate three poems by Applewhite and then create a work inspired by the poem of their choosing.

City Art Gallery is at 511 Red Banks Road. Hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Call 353-7000.

**PCAC at Emerge**

The Pitt County Arts Council at Emerge will display “The Schwa Show: National Juried Art” exhibition through Jan. 29.

Emerge is at 404 S. Evans St. Hours are 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Call 551-6947.

**Call for entries**

Entries for the 11th Annual Tiny Art Show will be accepted Jan. 27-28. All work must be 5 inches by 7 inches or smaller. There is no entry fee.

Images of entries for the DownEast Juried Sculpture Exhibition will be accepted through February. This is for both indoor and outdoor sculpture and the top prize is $1,500.

Download the call for entries at www.pittcountyarts.org.

**Brushstrokes**

The following Greenville Brushstrokes members are currently exhibiting their work:

- Brenda Behr, Brook Valley Country Club, 311 Oxford Road.
- Catherine Spruill, A Tavola Market Cafe, 620 Red Banks Road.
- Linda Griffin, Greenville Country Club, 216 Country Club Drive.
The New York Times

January 12, 2012

Penn State's president, Rodney Erickson, on the screen at left, heard alumni support the fired football coach Joe Paterno at the first of three town hall-style meetings.

Penn State President Draws Fire From Alumni

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A plan designed to soothe angry Penn State alumni may instead be sowing seeds of outrage.

The Penn State president, Rodney Erickson, appeared Thursday night in the Philadelphia suburb of King of Prussia at the second of three town hall-style events, and alumni are not exactly rolling out the red carpet.

Franco Harris, a Penn State alumnus and longtime Pittsburgh Steelers star, conducted a competing event at the same hotel, after broad dissatisfaction with Erickson’s first talk in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. A third event was set for Friday in New York.

Two alumni told Erickson on Thursday that they might withhold some donations until they get answers from the trustees about how they handled the scandal. About 650 alumni attended the sometimes-heated 90-minute session.

But even some critics say Erickson, who became acting president after Gordon B. Spanier was fired in November, should not be getting all the
blame for what many view as a floundering public relations effort. Erickson is trying to repair the university’s image after the arrest in November of the former assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky on child sexual abuse charges and the subsequent firing of Coach Joe Paterno.

“Let’s face it; he takes his marching orders from the board of trustees,” Ryan Bagwell, a 2002 Penn State graduate who is seeking a trustee seat in voting that will start next week, said of Erickson. “The board has sent him out on this three-day spree.

“We want to hear from the trustees. We want them to explain why they made the decisions they did. Their silence is just incredible. It just keeps getting worse.”

The chairman and vice chairman of the board of trustees, Steve Garban and John Surma, released a statement Thursday responding to questions raised at the Pittsburgh meeting. Paterno, they said, was removed in November instead of being allowed to retire after the season because of “extraordinary circumstances.”

“The details of his retirement are being worked out and will be made public when they are finalized,” the statement said. “Generally speaking, the university intends to honor the terms of his employment contract and is treating him financially as if he had retired at the end of the 2011 football season.”

In Pittsburgh, the most impassioned applause came after a questioner suggested that the entire board step down. Several others questioned why Penn State was struggling to manage questions from the public and the news media so long after the crisis began.

“If you keep doing the same thing over and over again, you shouldn’t expect different results,” said Tim King, vice president of the greater Pittsburgh alumni chapter.

The alumni meetings come as investigators are re-interviewing current and former employees of the athletic department as part of the case against Sandusky, who is charged with sexually abusing 10 boys over a 15-year period. Sandusky, who maintains his innocence, remains free on $250,000 bail while awaiting trial.

Two Penn State administrators, Gary Schultz, a former vice president, and Tim Curley, the athletic director, have been charged with lying to a grand jury investigating Sandusky and failing to properly report suspected child abuse. They have denied the allegations.
Many alumni are unhappy about the way Paterno was fired, but some said there were no good options. “I don’t think there was any graceful way to handle that problem,” said John Burness, a former senior vice president of public affairs for Cornell, Duke and Illinois.

Harris, who played for Paterno from 1968 to 1971 before helping the Pittsburgh Steelers win four Super Bowls, castigated the board of trustees for showing “no courage” by firing Paterno. Harris stepped down as chairman of Pittsburgh Promise, a scholarship foundation, after Mayor Luke Ravenstahl complained about the statements, but he was reinstated in December.

Burness said people seeking quick changes to Penn State’s board forget there is a reason it is difficult to make such changes.

“It isn’t a simple thing to do, and it shouldn’t be a simple thing to do,” he said, because it is important for trustees to have a high degree of independence.
More out-of-state, foreign students apply to UC schools

With the University of California system recruiting more out-of-state and foreign students for the extra tuition they pay, applications from such students rose 56% over last year.

By Larry Gordon, Los Angeles Times

Sharply higher numbers of students from other states and countries applied for admission to the University of California this year, following UC's controversial efforts to recruit more such students for the extra tuition they pay, according to a report released Thursday.

At the same time, UC administrators said a new policy that reduced the standardized testing requirements for admission appears to have encouraged more Californians than ever to apply to the university system.

The number of non-Californians seeking to become UC freshmen in fall 2012 rose 56% over last year to about 33,000, officials said. About 93,300 in-state students, up 9.8%, applied for freshman entrance to at least one of UC's nine undergraduate campuses, even though the number of students graduating from the state's high schools remained level.

Overall, freshman applications to the university rose 19%, to 126,300.

Kate Jeffery, UC's interim director of undergraduate admissions, described those statistics as "both a good news and a bad news story." She said it is gratifying that more young people want a UC education but frustrating that state budget cuts make it unlikely that enrollment of California students will grow. She said more than before will be rejected at their first-choice campuses and instead will be offered a spot at UC Merced, the newest and smallest UC campus.

Many out-of-staters are also expected to be disappointed when admissions decisions are announced this spring, although UC campuses will enroll more of them than in previous years. Out-of-state students pay an extra $23,000 on top of regular UC tuition and fees, now about $13,200 annually.

For the current freshman class, UC boosted enrollment of non-Californians
to about 12%, with big clusters at UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego. Out-of-staters now comprise about 7% of undergraduates systemwide, and the UC regents want to cap that figure at 10%. Even that level has upset Californians who worry that their children may be squeezed out.

Freshman applications from other states rose nearly 50% this year to 19,128. International applications grew 66.4%, to 13,873; China, India, Korea and Canada sent the most.

Admissions expert Jerome A. Lucido, executive director of the USC Center for Enrollment Research, Policy, and Practice, said he was not surprised by the UC numbers, noting that the public university system has recently begun to recruit strongly outside California. Its elite reputation and West Coast location are particularly attractive to students from Asia, he added. Lucido also said that students from elsewhere in the country were not scared by UC's budget woes because many other states face similar austerities.

The current crop of applicants is the first since UC instituted changes to widen its applicant pool. The requirement for supplemental SAT subject exams was dropped, although applicants still must take the main SAT or ACT tests. Jeffery said that change, along with a national trend of students applying to more colleges, especially public campuses, probably helped boost this year's applications.

The most popular UC campus again was UCLA, with 72,626 freshman applicants, up 18.1% from last year. UC Berkeley was next with 61,661, up 16.5%, and UC San Diego had 60,819, up 13.8%.

In an opposite trend, the number of Californians seeking to transfer to UC declined about 6% this year. Jeffery attributed the drop to the budget-related difficulties community college students face in registering for classes they need.