THE DAILY CLIPS

June 19, 2012

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

The Greenville Daily Reflector
The Raleigh News & Observer
The New York Times
The Wall Street Journal
USA Today
The Charlotte Observer
The Fayetteville Observer
The Greensboro News & Record
Newsweek
U.S. News & World Report
Business Week
Time

East Carolina University News Services
Web site at http://www.ecu.edu/news
252-328-6481
East Carolina dental students will treat low-income, underserved patients across the state

By Karen Garloch

North Carolina has about four dentists for every 10,000 people, below the national average of 5.8 per 10,000.

Urban areas typically are better off, but not for long.

“About one-third of dentists are 55 years and older,” said Dr. Greg Chadwick, interim dean of the East Carolina University School of Dental Medicine. “They’re going to age out in the next 10 to 20 years.”

That’s one reason why legislators allocated $90 million several years ago to open the state’s second dental school at East Carolina.

UNC Chapel Hill dental school, established in 1950, graduates about 80 dentists a year.

ECU’s first 52 students – all N.C. residents – will be starting their second year in August. But their dental education won’t be confined to the campus in Greenville.

As fourth-year students, they’ll be dispatched across the state in 10 clinics, or “service learning centers.” Students will treat local patients, many of whom have not had access to dental care, while living in the same communities.

Like East Carolina’s medical school, the dental school’s emphasis is on training primary care practitioners who will practice in rural and underserved urban areas.

“The goal is to expand the number of dentists in North Carolina,” said Lara Holland, 23, an ECU dental student and graduate of Huntersville’s Hopewell High School and UNC Chapel Hill.

“We want people that have ties to North Carolina and are more likely to stay here.”

The first of 10 ECU clinics has opened in Ahoskie, north of Greenville. The closest to Charlotte will be near Lexington. Others are planned for Sylva and Spruce Pine in the west, Lillington in the central part of the state, and
Elizabeth City in the east. Land for the clinics has been donated by state agencies, including community colleges.

In most dental schools, students treat patients while monitored by faculty. But students might not have the same supervisor twice, and faculty dentists might supervise 10 students at a time, Chadwick said.

At the ECU clinics, faculty dentists will supervise only a four or five students while also treating their own patients. Teachers and students will get to know one another like colleagues in a practice, and they’ll have some continuity with their patients.

“We really are going to be a model for dental education,” Chadwick said. “It will be very much like a private practice…That’s not the case in the typical dental school.”

Many patients will be covered by Medicaid, the government program for the low-income and disabled. Others will pay based on income. Faculty salaries will come from the dental school budget, but other employees will be paid from income generated by treating patients. “We want to be sustainable,” Chadwick said.

Holland, the Charlotte student, has volunteered in more than a dozen free clinics operated by N.C. Missions of Mercy and looks forward to her fourth year in the clinics.

“I like serving,” she said. “I liked offering this opportunity for people who wouldn’t necessarily receive it otherwise. They might not have a dentist in their town…I’ve seen significant differences in patients’ smiles. It’s amazing to see.”

Karen Garloch writes on Health for The Charlotte Observer. Her column appears each Tuesday.
ECU player on mend

Tre Robertson is recovering after being stabbed at an off-campus party last Saturday.

BY NATHAN SUMMERS
The Daily Reflector

East Carolina offensive lineman Tre Robertson is recuperating this week after being stabbed in the back at an off-campus party last Saturday night, according to ECU head football coach Ruffin McNeill.

"We are very thankful Tre is OK," McNeill said of Robertson on Monday evening. "He is recovering and doing fine. He’s finishing up summer classes."

The third-year Pirate coach confirmed a Greenville Police report which stated Robertson, a 19-year-old redshirt freshman from Roxboro, was stabbed at a party at North Campus Crossing apartments on Saturday.

According to the report, Robertson told police at Vidant Medical Center that he and several friends went uninvited to a party in building 4310. A fight broke out about 12:47 a.m.

Robertson told police someone approached him and tried to fight with him as he was trying to leave the party, and he said he was then stabbed in the back.

The 6-foot-5, 320-pound Robertson — who began to blossom at right guard this spring — was taken to the hospital in a friend’s car, where he was being treated for non-life-threatening injuries.

For much of spring practice, Robertson was the top reserve at right guard behind rising junior starter Will Simmons.

“We are looking forward to Tre having a great summer and fall camp and being a big part of our success this season,” McNeill said.

According to the coach, the team is still gathering facts about the incident.

Police were called to the hospital, where Robertson described the person who stabbed him as a black male about 6-1 and 280 pounds. He has a beard, and was last seen wearing a white tank-top T-shirt and blue jeans.

Police are following up on the report and would like for anyone who can provide additional information about this case to call the Greenville Police Department at 252-329-4315.

Contact Nathan Summers at nsummers@reflector.com or 252-329-9595.
Considering what’s at stake and how many questions remain unanswered, University of North Carolina system President Tom Ross and some members of the system’s Board of Governors should be showing even greater urgency about an academic fraud investigation at UNC-Chapel Hill. The investigation has to do with the university’s African and Afro-American Studies department and whether football players were given special consideration by former department chair Julius Nyang’oro.

This is a serious matter, one that is putting the university’s academic integrity on trial. It follows an embarrassing and lengthy saga regarding the football program and players’ connections to sports agents that resulted in the resignation of Coach Butch Davis and the earlier-than-planned retirement of Dick Baddour, long-time athletics director.

During that painful period, which drew sanctions from the NCAA, the college sports governing body, Chancellor Holden Thorp continued to stand by Davis but ultimately authorized a $2.7 million buyout of his contract.

Core concerns

What’s under investigation now is even more alarming, as it concerns the core of the university, its teaching and academic standards. Overall, the emerging picture is of a department – otherwise well-regarded – where some courses were cobbled together to benefit athletes and where standards were low. In one stark example, Nyang’oro appears to have had a summer school course enrolled entirely with football players, who were not required to go to class but rather to write a paper at the conclusion of the course.

No information about the students’ performance – for example, how many completed the papers and what grades they received – has been released. That’s one illustration of how the university has been slow to answer obvious questions developing amidst the scandal, using what should be readily available information.

Nyang’oro, the university says, didn’t do any classroom instruction but was a paid $12,000 for “teaching” the class. That arrangement is presumably a focus of the probe being conducted by the State Bureau of Investigation at the request of the Orange County district attorney.
Certainly any conduct that might have been illegal needs to be uncovered and appropriate charges brought. However, academic fraud does not fall within the purview of the criminal justice system. The university itself – and ultimately the board overseeing the system to which the university belongs – must be responsible for doing whatever is necessary to put the academic house in order.

**Inside advice**

The N&O’s Dan Kane also reported Saturday that 23 Carolina basketball players were among the students enrolled in courses within Nyang’oro’s department where little or no instruction took place. What were academic advisers within the football and basketball programs telling these students? And why didn’t Chapel Hill administrators mention, while they were insisting that the courses didn’t benefit athletes in particular, that some courses consisted solely of athletes?

Ross said last week he found the situation “deplorable,” but his appointment of four Board of Governors members to review the university investigation seems to be a tepid response.

Some N.C. State supporters may have had something to do with the Board of Governors taking the matter up at all. NCSU backers note that 23 years ago the board launched a full-scale investigation through a commission into problems with the Wolfpack basketball program.

The Board of Governors can’t appear to take allegations at one school more seriously than at another, particularly when, in the case of UNC-CH, there is alleged academic fraud. Peter Hans, elected Friday as the board’s new chairman, surely understands this. And it should be said that his predecessor, Hannah Gage, also was candid in her exasperation.

Ross could have acted more forcefully by asking a judge, a retired judge, or perhaps more than one such respected figure to push for a conclusion to the university’s investigation and move on with a wider, independent investigation if so needed. As it stands now, things are festering, even as more embarrassing disclosures seem to be coming out all the time.
WASHINGTON—A national biodefense center will be opened in North Carolina to help protect the country against a potential pandemic or bioterrorist attack.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Monday that Duke University and N.C. State University will team up with Novartis at its Holly Springs facility to develop and produce vaccines to quickly respond to chemical and biological threats.

The threats that the nation faces today are constantly evolving, Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Monday. No one knows when or where the next public health crisis will come from.

“It could be a dirty bomb set off in a subway car,” she said. “It could be a naturally occurring super bug that’s resistant to most treatments. Or it could be another new strain of flu that will cause the next pandemic.”

The Holly Springs facility is one of three biodefense centers scheduled to be operational in two to three years. A second biodefense center will be led by Emergent Manufacturing Operations Baltimore in Maryland in collaboration with Michigan State University, Kettering University in Michigan and the University of Maryland, Baltimore. Texas A&M University System will lead a third center collaborating with GlaxoSmithKline Vaccines of Marietta, Pa., Lonza of Houston, Texas, and Kalon Biotherapeutics of College Station, Texas.

Sebelius said all three centers were chosen because of their experience developing or manufacturing medical countermeasures.

In 2010, President Barack Obama said he wanted the country to develop a new plan to respond to bioterrorism threats and attacks.

The federal government will spend about $400 million on the initial contracts. Novartis received a nearly $60 million 4-year contract, which can be renewed for up to 25 years.

Spokeswoman Liz Power said Novartis will retrofit some manufacturing space at the Holly Springs facility and plans a modest expansion of administrative space as part of this program.
In addition to the company’s existing federal pandemic projects, Novartis has committed to manufacture at least 50 million finished doses of pandemic influenza vaccines at the North Carolina facility within four months of a pandemic onset, with the first doses available within 12 weeks.

*The Associated Press contributed.*

*Ordonez: 202-383-0010*
My View: Fear rises with the sea levels

The Journal-Standard

In North Carolina a state-appointed science panel predicted that the sea level on the coast would rise by one meter, or 39 inches, by the end of the century.

A group of legislators in 20 coastal counties did not like the scientists’ prediction. So they introduced a bill designed to regulate the measurement of sea level. The bill reads, in part, “These rates shall only be determined using historical data, and these data shall be limited to the time period following the year 1900. Rates of sea-level rise may be extrapolated linearly to estimate future rates of rise but shall not include scenarios of accelerated rates of sea level rise.”

The bill also gives the state’s Coastal Resources Commission the sole power to calculate expected sea level rise for agencies and institutions, and it dictates to the commission’s scientists exactly what they can and cannot consider in making predictions. Exponential measurement is disallowed. The bill, passed by the North Carolina Senate 35-12 on June 12, has come under much ridicule. Scott Huler of the Scientific American (“NC considers making sea level rise illegal”) has compared the dictate to refusing to predict a hurricane seen on radar images moving toward the coast by insisting one can only count the last two weeks of fair weather. The bill has also been compared to calling Galileo a heretic for saying the earth was not the center of the universe.

No one likes their cherished beliefs contradicted, and no one likes to hear something that predicts possible disaster for the planet; Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth” was aptly named. However, more and more people are beginning to believe, at least, that global warming is happening. A February 2012 National Survey of American Public Opinion on Climate Change, a biannual survey organized by the Brookings Institute, shows that 62% of the American public believe climate change is occurring, and only 26% do not believe it.

But too many of us still like to think that climate change is an inevitable Act of God, that we bear no responsibility and thus we must accept or ignore something we cannot change. An April 2012 Rasmussen poll reports that 40% of the public believe climate change is caused by human activity, but 44% think the reason is “planetary trends.”
On the contrary, “planetary trends” would, left alone, cause a period of cooling. An 2009 AP article in the Anchorage Daily News by Randolph E. Schmid tells us that “the Arctic is warmer than it’s been in 2,000 years, even though it should be cooling because of changes in the Earth’s orbit that cause the region to get less direct sunlight.

“Indeed, the Arctic had been cooling for nearly two millennia before reversing course in the last century and starting to warm as human activities added greenhouse gases to the atmosphere.” The report is based on reconstruction of temperatures over 2,000 years using information from sources such as ancient lake sediments, tree rings and ice cores. Scientists then compared the data with computer climate model simulations at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder.

The consequences are dire for Alaska, as well as for the rest of the world. Alaskan waters are turning acidic, endangering the state’s fishing industry. Older crucial sea ice in the Arctic shrunk by 57% in the period from 2004 to 2008, according to NASA satellite measurements. Methane, 25 times more powerful in heat-trapping than carbon dioxide, is escaping in Alaska 50 to 70 percent more than previously predicted. And the melting of ice on land, such as the Greenland ice cap, could cause sea levels to rise across the world, threatening millions in coastal cities.

The threat to coastal cities is really what caused the North Carolina legislators to introduce their nonsensical, anti-scientific bill. Another Rasmussen poll reports that 52% of likely voters think there is a conflict between economic growth and climate change. The coastal legislators are afraid of driving away investors who may see their investments covered by water. Coastal geologist Stan Riggs of East Carolina University is quoted in the News Observer as saying, “We’ve got as many as 300 houses that are out there in the surf zone now, not because they were built in the surf zone but because sea levels are rising and shorelines are retreating. We have 25 miles of Highway 12 (on the Outer Banks) that DOT can’t even hold onto any more. This is happening very fast.” He also blames rising sea level for the heavy damage caused by Hurricane Irene, which was actually considered a minor storm.

Fear of economic loss is natural. Ignoring science instead of looking to logical, environmental and sound economic solutions is self-defeating. Fear may end up being our downfall.
New technology gets students' attention

June 18, 2012 9:00 AM

Imagine for a moment the classrooms of the future: no books, pencils or paper; North Carolina fifth graders collaborating on science projects with their peers in Japan; students required to read Charlotte’s Web seeing the text come to life with interactive videos on writing spiders or a Skype call with an East Carolina University arachnologist while riding the field trip bus.

These examples only scratch the surface of the capabilities provided by digital learning with mobile technology.

Children of the digital age learn and interact differently than those of previous generations. Students today, from preschoolers to grad students, are far more likely to use technology on a daily basis. A recent survey by OnlineEducaton.net revealed that among college students surveyed, 46 percent said they would be more likely to read an assignment if it were available in digital format. The same study found one in four students use videos or podcasts as study materials, and nearly 75 percent of students who own tablets prefer them over textbooks.

According to Jonathan Fanton, president of the MacArthur Foundation, "This is the first generation to grow up digital — coming of age when the use of computers, the Internet, videogames, and cell phones is common. Expressing themselves and building communities through these tools is the norm."

Clearly this change impacts how students learn and how our educational systems function.

Mobile technology lightens the load of textbooks and reference materials, enables flexibility in field research, provides adaptive software for students with special needs, offers online content and more. Students reap these benefits while simultaneously learning the skills they will need to thrive in an increasingly mobile, digital world.

Making efficient access to digital resources a reality for more students is a priority for our company. Over the past several months, Verizon Wireless
has rolled out 4G LTE wireless technology in markets across the nation, enabling wireless devices to access information 10 times faster than they could on 3G networks.

With the launch of 4G LTE in Jacksonville, students using 4G LTE-enabled tablets from Verizon can stream educational videos and podcasts seamlessly, access resource materials in the blink of an eye, download textbooks in seconds, and communicate with their teachers and classmates without lag time.

Clearly digital learning is here to stay, and mobile technology brings a wealth of resources to students’ fingertips. It’s time we embrace and encourage this new form of education to better prepare our students for the jobs our world will need in the future.

Hosea Dammons
Leadership drama consumes U-Va.; board names Zeithaml interim president

By Daniel de Vise and Anita Kumar

CHARLOTTESVILLE — A week of chaos and uncertainty set off by the removal of University of Virginia President Teresa Sullivan ended early Tuesday when the university’s Board of Visitors appointed an interim leader after almost 12 hours of debate.

Carl P. Zeithaml, dean of the university’s top-ranked McIntire School of Commerce, will start Aug. 16.

“We just feel that he has a unique skill set, considering the challenges we face,” Vice Rector Mark Kington said before the vote. The tally was not unanimous: board member Heywood Fralin voted against the appointment, and Robert Hardie and A. Macdonald Caputo abstained. Another member, Glynn Key, was absent.

Zeithaml has a bachelor’s in economics from Notre Dame, a master’s in health and hospital administration from the University of Florida and a doctorate in strategic management from the University of Maryland. He has worked at U-Va. for 15 years, with previous stints at the University of North
Carolina, the University of Maryland and Texas A&M. A biographical sketch says he has led McIntire to global preeminence in business education.

The vote on the interim president came after Sullivan met with the board on Monday and delivered a sharp defense of her two-year tenure, her first significant comments since her ouster became public June 10. Sullivan was cheered and supported by more than 2,000 demonstrators who gathered on the Lawn in front of the Rotunda.

“I did not cause this reaction in the last 10 days,” Sullivan said in a statement, “but perhaps the reaction speaks to the depth of the connections I have made in the last 22 months.”

In public remarks Monday, the leader of the board, Rector Helen E. Dragas, sought a resolute but contrite tone. She expressed regret — not for removing Sullivan, but for how the transition was executed.

The board sought Sullivan’s resignation without a formal meeting or vote, through a campaign waged privately by Dragas, Vice Rector Mark Kington and a few others, according to several people in contact with the board. The episode plunged the campus into turmoil, from which it has yet to recover.

“We certainly never wished nor intended to ignite such a reaction from the community of trust and honor that we all love so dearly,” Dragas read from a prepared statement. “You — our U-Va. family — deserved better from this board, and we have heard your concerns loud and clear.”

But Dragas added: “The Board of Visitors exists to make these kinds of judgments on behalf of all the constituencies of the university. . . . Simply put, we have the responsibility, on behalf of the entire community, to make these important and often difficult calls.”

Protesters packed the Lawn, a mix of students, professors, toddlers and doctors in lab coats. One young man held a sign that read, “Emperor Dragas, Darth Kington don’t speak for me.”

A sharp critique came from John T. Casteen, the revered 20-year president of U-Va. Sullivan’s predecessor arrived on the Lawn to thunderous applause. Casteen had urged the board — in vain — to hold Monday’s meeting in public, saying it was what the public deserved.

“What has happened heretofore has been kept in silence,” he said. “That’s not how Virginia works.”
Behind closed doors, board members reportedly asked Sullivan no questions. One member — medical executive Heywood Fralin — was said to have thanked her for her remarks.

Then Sullivan emerged and acknowledged her supporters. As the crowd chanted “TE-RE-SA,” she said, “I appreciate this so much.”

In her statement to the board, Sullivan defended her administration and its measured pace of change, which Dragas had repeatedly criticized as too slow.

“I have been described as an incrementalist. It is true,” Sullivan said. “Sweeping action may be gratifying and may create the aura of strong leadership, but its unintended consequences may lead to costs that are too high to bear.”

Sullivan said she had worked in collaboration with vice presidents, deans and faculty leaders, building a foundation for “greater change” later. “This is the best, most constructive, most long lasting, and beneficial way to change a university. Until the last ten days, the change at U-Va. has not been disruptive change, and it has not been high-risk change. Corporate-style, top-down leadership does not work in a great university.”

Sullivan indicated that board leaders pressed her to make “deep, top-down cuts,” potentially eroding the university’s portfolio of core programs.

“A university that does not teach the full range of arts and sciences will no longer be a university,” she said. “Certainly it will no longer be respected as such by its former peers.” She underlined the word “former.”

In a proposed settlement, Sullivan would receive her presidential compensation package, $680,000, for another year of sabbatical, research and consulting after her Aug. 15 departure, according to a person briefed on the document. She could then return to teaching sociology at a salary of $170,000, plus about $360,000 in deferred compensation.

Dragas has hired Hill+Knowlton, a public relations firm, to help the board ride out the backlash from Sullivan’s ouster, two knowledgeable university employees said. The U-Va. Foundation is picking up the tab.

Dragas met privately with U-Va. faculty leaders Monday morning at an undisclosed locale. Afterward, the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate issued a statement asking that Sullivan be reinstated and that the naming of an interim leader be delayed. The faculty leaders also asked that Dragas and Kington resign and that a faculty representative be added to the board.
Major donors to the university also continued to call for a change.

“The whole handling of this thing was outrageous,’’ said Mortimer Caplin, a lawyer and U-Va. alumnus who has donated millions of dollars to the school. He said the makeup of the board needs to change but stopped short of saying who needs to be removed.

Sullivan’s ouster has taken an incalculable toll, according to Casteen and others, in terms of potential for loss of donors, faculty defections and censure from higher education leaders. The action has spawned more than a dozen letters of protest and no-confidence votes from various campus constituencies. Sullivan herself warned that deans at competing schools “are setting aside funds now to raid the University of Virginia” of its stars.

Between Sunday night and Monday morning, a vandal spray-painted the letters “G-R-E-E-D” on the six columns of the historic Rotunda. Campus workers painted and repainted them until the letters were obscured.

Dragas had lined up a candidate for interim chief before Sullivan’s departure was announced, according to several officials who have knowledge of the situation but were not authorized to speak. He was Edward Miller, an ex-officio U-Va. board member and former chief executive of Johns Hopkins Medicine. But Miller has since said he does not want to serve, the sources said. Provost John Simon also was said to have taken his name out of the running.

Among potential candidates mentioned were Carl P. Zeithaml, dean of the university’s McIntire School of Commerce, and former Democratic governor Gerald Baliles, who runs U-Va.’s Miller Center, which is devoted to public policy.

*Kumar reported from Richmond.*