THE DAILY CLIPS

November 23, 2010

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Two young women killed in a Saturday car wreck were remembered during a Monday night memorial service for the joy they brought friends and family and their work in the community.

About 1,200 people honored Briana Latrice Gather, 20, of Winston-Salem and Victoria Carter, 20, of Raleigh during the event at Wright Auditorium at East Carolina University. They died from injuries suffered in a 6:30 a.m. wreck on Greenville Boulevard, according to the Greenville Police Department.

Kamil Shaunay Arrington, 20, of Nashville and Taylor Nicole King, 19, of Chapel Hill also were injured and remain hospitalized.

Their roommates joined more than a dozen speakers from nine organizations the women were members.
Carter's parents and her uncle spoke. University officials said Gather's parents were unable to attend.

“Sometimes, as a parent, you never know if you have made the right decisions for your child,” Bernadette Carter said. “This has shown me that I had, her father had (made the right decisions).”

Gerald Carter spoke about his daughter's Christian faith, becoming the youngest person baptized at her church, and invited the audience to share her experience.

Her uncle, Walter Smith, said Victoria Carter always put others before herself.

Deron Hall, president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, announced that a memorial scholarship named for Carter and Gather is being established. It will be awarded to an ECU student who exemplifies the lives the two women lived.

Brittany Myers, Gather's roommate, said her friend made her a better person.

Steven Foley with the university's Residence Hall Association met Gather when they were first-year resident hall advisers. He recalled how nervous he was the first time he had to approach a group of students who were playing loud music.

“All of a sudden I heard, ‘Hey!’” Foley said. “Then in the sweetest voice (Gather) said, ‘Can you turn the music down?’”

The group complied, and Foley said Gather became his back-up in unruly situations.

“The sign of a great person is that even though you're sad, thinking about that person make you smile,” Foley said.

Gather was a member of the Gold Key International Honor Society. Steven Canady, president of the organization, said Gather brought a smile and positive attitude to everything she did.
Justin Salisbury, president of the student group Voices for Victims, brought laughter to the audience and received a standing ovation after sharing his memories of Carter.

“I went to Victoria earlier this year for a little bit of fashion advice,” Salisbury said. “I wanted to wear a pink shirt to an event where I was receiving a scholarship. Victoria said ‘No.’ My girlfriend wasn't too happy because I let Victoria override her.”

Carter, Gather, Arrington and King were going to have their hair styled for their induction into Delta Sigma Theta sorority later Saturday when the wreck occurred.

Linda Wilson, a regional director of the sorority's national organization, read a letter from the organization's national president, Cynthia Butler-McIntyre.

“We saw them as the kind of women who would bring honor to our organization,” Wilson said. “We do not understand the workings of God, but we trust and believe he does not make a mistake.

“The beauty of these two ladies will last forever,” Wilson said.


“The entire East Carolina University community mourns the passing of these two young students,” said Marilyn Sheerer, provost and senior vice chancellor for academic and student affairs.

“Our sincere sympathy is with their families and friends.”

Contact Ginger Livingston at glivingston@reflector.com or (252) 329-9570.
Students were driving to salon

By Ginger Livingston
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

The ECU students involved in a fatal wreck Saturday were driving to a hair salon in advance of a sorority induction ceremony, a university official said.

Briana Latrice Gather, 20, of Winston-Salem and Victoria T'nya-Ann Carter, 20, of Raleigh died from injuries suffered in the 6:30 a.m. wreck on Greenville Boulevard, according to the Greenville Police Department.

Kamil Shaunay Arrington, 20, of Nashville and Taylor Nicole King, 19, of Chapel Hill were injured.

The students were preparing for their induction in Delta Sigma Theta later that afternoon, said Keith Tingley, East Carolina University's director of Greek Life.

Their 2008 Toyota collided with a tree in a residential area near Rosewood Drive, according to an accident report.

A witness told police the Toyota was traveling west when it ran off the right side of the road, struck a utility pole guy-wire, became airborne and struck a tree.

Gather and Carter had been riding in the back seat. Carter died at the scene, and Gather died later at Pitt County Memorial Hospital on Sunday.

King, the front-seat passenger, was listed in fair condition Monday afternoon. Arrington was the driver. Information from about her condition was unavailable from the hospital.

The report said Carter and King were wearing seat belts. It could not be determined how Arrington and Gather were restrained, the report said. None of the students were ejected from the vehicle.
Tingley said two cars filled with incoming Delta Sigma Theta members were driving to the salon when the wreck occurred. The other vehicle was not involved in the wreck, he said. The sorority was set to induct 17 members on Saturday.

A memorial service was held at 6 p.m. Monday at Wright Auditorium on ECU's main campus. The university's student affairs office also established a memorial page for Gather and Carter.

The Office of Greek Life will compile the tributes in a book and present it to the families. The memorial can be found on www.ecu.edu/greeklife.

Police on Monday had not reported what caused the wreck. An investigation by the traffic safety unit was continuing. Alcohol was not believed to be a factor.

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Perdue seeks feedback on regulations

By K.J. Williams
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

Gov. Beverly Perdue told Pitt County officials and businesspeople Monday that she wants their feedback on rules and regulations they perceive as barriers to business.

Perdue was speaking at a roundtable discussion at East Carolina University, one of several planned statewide to introduce the governor's initiative to address outmoded and unnecessarily cumbersome state rules and regulations, including ones that impact business and job growth, she said.

“The bottom line is the regulations are killers,” she said.

Perdue asked members of the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce for their honest feedback on her Regulatory Review initiative.

“There will be no retribution,” Perdue pledged. “What is it you would get rid of? What would you change?”

Several chamber members answered, naming the regulations or issues that hamper their operations.

Benjamin Hardy of Page & Smith, a certified public accounting firm, said his clients are penalized by an “outdated law” about storage tanks.

He also said it is unfair for retailers to be required to pay the state based on estimated sales tax.

Perdue agreed it isn't the best policy but noted the budget climate makes a change unlikely.

“It may not happen this budget year because of the magnitude of the budget hole,” she said.
Leo Corbin of Attends Healthcare Products asked for a change to give more teeth to the executive order that helps N.C. companies land state contracts.

Perdue called the measure “a start.”

The governor said that creating more jobs and education are her top priorities, and she asked the business community to rethink opposition to incentive packages meant to attract companies to North Carolina.

Owen Burney of Burney & Burney Construction Co. said that minority contractors need help in obtaining federal military contracts.

“We're bleeding on the internal,” he said. “They have a lack of funds — undercapitalization.”

Burney said the requirements on the large contracts make it difficult for businesses, especially when it's hard to get lines of credit from banks.

Perdue said it's true that big companies will have an edge on larger contracts, suggesting smaller outfits have opportunities as subcontractors.

“But I get a list every month, so I know that North Carolina is getting a bit of the apple,” she said.

She admits that the lack of lending is a problem.

“That's the biggest concern that I hear; it's the lack of capitol,” Perdue said.

As part of the initiative, Perdue asked state agencies to stop creating rules that aren't essential for the public's health, safety or welfare without a thorough review.

She's also inviting comment online at www.setgovernmentstraight.nc.gov.

At the roundtable, Perdue was flanked by state officials who fielded questions about regulations at the state departments for health and human services, transportation, and environment and natural resources.

Lou Farrow of All Caring Network spoke of the concern about expected state cuts to Medicaid due to projected budget shortfalls.
“Clients are being delayed services that they're entitled to,” he said.

Lanier Cansler, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said, “We are trying to stop the changes as best we can and trying to help things stabilize.”

Cansler later said the department could face a 15 percent cut, or $600 million, in its budget for the coming fiscal year.

“There's no easy way to do this, and it's going to be an unprecedented cut,” he said. “How do we eliminate some services that we absolutely don't have to have?”

He noted that these cuts will come despite a growing demand for services due to the economy and a growing state population.

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Editorial: Community feels loss
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

What started as a day of anticipation and excitement became one of tragedy on Saturday when a one-car accident claimed the lives of two East Carolina University students in Greenville. Four young women in the vehicle were headed to an early morning salon appointment in advance of their sorority induction ceremony later that evening.

There can be nothing worse than young lives ended before they have an opportunity to realize their tremendous potential and that is certainly the case here. All of Pitt County can do little more than gather with the families of those killed and injured, their extended sorority family and the university community in mourning those lost and hope that healing comes in time.

The 17-person pledge class for Delta Sigma Theta expected Saturday would be a day to treasure. The sorority had scheduled induction ceremonies for that day, and both members and pledges would have anticipated the event would be among the highlights of their college years.

In preparation for the event, four young women — Victoria T'nya-Ann Carter, 20, of Raleigh; Briana Latrice Gather, 20, of Kernersville; Kamil Shaunay Arrington, 20, of Nashville; and Taylor Nicole King, 19, of Greenville — loaded into a Toyota for an early-morning appointment at a local salon. Though an investigation into the circumstances of the accident is ongoing, the car drove off the right side of the road as it traveled west on Greenville Boulevard near Rosewood Drive before striking a tree.

Carter and Gather, who were in the back seat, were killed. Arrington and King were injured and it is without hyperbole to say it will take a lifetime for them to heal.

The outpouring of sorrow that followed this tragedy provides some insight into the depth of the loss.

That all were in college at East Carolina speaks to their determination and desire for academic achievement. That all four women were pledging a
highly touted service organization speaks to their commitment toward community improvement. That memorials, both in Greenville and online, appeared quickly speaks to the impact these young women had on the people around them.

And their ages — both only 20 years old — offers a lament to a tremendous potential that will not be realized.

This is a difficult time for the families of those lost and it will take overwhelming support and care for the survivors. Remember East Carolina and the Delta Sigma Theta communities in the coming days. They will need all the strength they receive.
Robert and Katie Morgan's home in Buies Creek has a view of the Cape Fear River and is about a mile from Robert Morgan's birthplace. Staff photo by Andrew Craft

Published: 04:47 AM, Sat Nov 20, 2010
By Chick Jacobs, Staff writer

BUIES CREEK -- Robert Morgan was happy to see someone else's name on the plaque.

Especially his lifelong dance partner.

When Morgan's wife of 50 years, Katie, received the Order of the Long Leaf Pine last month, he watched with a combination of pride, and a little relief.

"I thought, 'Finally! She's always been a doer, helping so many people, and she's finally getting the recognition that she deserves.'"

Then, a couple of weeks later, the couple had a matched pair. Robert Morgan was awarded the prestigious state award for volunteerism, making them the first Harnett County couple so honored.

It wasn't the first time Katie Morgan has received a statewide award. In 1976, she helped establish the state's Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. She was also named one of East Carolina University's "100 incredible women" in 2007.
Robert Morgan, meanwhile, was honored for a record of public service stretching back 60 years, from a clerk of court to United States senator.

"It's been a long, winding road," he said in the couple's home near Buies Creek. Their home, built overlooking the Cape Fear River, is about a mile as the crow flies from Robert Morgan's birthplace. But it's a world away.

He was born in 1925 into a farming family, the baby of six children. He worked in the fields ("I was too slow to pick cotton, so they sent me out suckering tobacco," he noted) and did well enough in school to go to East Carolina College after serving in World War II.

That's where he met Katie Owen, a coed pursuing a teaching degree.

"You need to remember that back then there were a lot more girls than boys at East Carolina," he said. "Even a little guy like me would get swarmed by girls at the dance. Us boys would sit in the middle and fend off the girls."

Katie wouldn't be fended, however. There was something about the short, shy fellow with a crew cut and a quick smile.

"Besides, he was the perfect height for me to dance with him," she said.

It turned out the couple was born to jitterbug, and soon they were an item on the dance floor and off. After a six-year courtship, and a few elected offices for Robert, Katie landed a teaching job in Fayetteville, and they were married.

"At one point," she recalled, "Robert asked, 'Katie, could you possibly get a job closer to Lillington?' The next day, I interviewed and got a job at Fayetteville High School teaching English."

"It's a good thing, too," Robert said with a laugh. "That drive about ran me ragged."

That was 50 years ago, and the couple is still in step.
"We actually did the jitterbug on stage back in 2007," Robert said. "There was a program at Campbell University, and they couldn't find anyone who knew how to dance it.

"So, we dusted off our dancing shoes. It's one of the best exercises to stay young."

Over the years, Katie has served with several organizations, including the state Cystic Fibrosis foundation; Governor's Council for People with Disabilities; the President's Committee for Handicapped Persons; as a trustee for East Carolina University and the National Special Olympics Committee. Currently she is a member of the state's Veterinarian Medical Board.

"We both love animals," she said. "I'm so happy to be active in an organization that makes sure they receive proper treatment."

Robert's love of animals goes back to his farm days.

"I remember raising two cows for the 4-H and taking them to the fair," he said. "Then when I had to sell them and they took them away, I just cried and cried. I'd still have them in the yard probably."

One of his proudest achievements was helping establish the medical school at East Carolina in 1972. Another was creating the Consumer Protection Division and the state Utilities Commission while he was the North Carolina Attorney General.

He also served as Harnett County clerk of Superior Court; North Carolina state senator; United States senator; director of the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation and board of trustees for Shaw University; chairman of the North Carolina Center for Voter Education; and former trustee for East Carolina University.

"The things that I was part of that offered help or protection for citizens in this state are what I'm proudest of," he said.

"In my years of public office, some of the best advice I received came from my early days here. (Longtime Harnett County politician) Venable Baggett pulled me aside once and said, 'If I ever ask you to do something, whatever
it is, don't decide until you sleep on it. That way you'll be able to say you made the decision with a clear conscience.' "

Staff writer Chick Jacobs can be reached at 486-3515 or jacobsc@fayobserver.com
Police unveil mobile command center

By Kathryn Kennedy
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

The rumbling Greenville Police Department bus parked Monday afternoon on the Town Common will become a familiar sight at large events requiring police presence.

Housing the city's first mobile command center, the bus will aid in enforcement at East Carolina University football games, Halloween and July Fourth festivities. It also can be used for hostage situations or if suspects are barricaded, according to Lt. Robert Williams.

The vehicle was delivered to the department earlier this month from the Greensboro-based manufacturer. City officials, media representatives and curious passers-by were offered tours Monday.

Williams said many metropolitan police departments already have these types of vehicles.

The climate-controlled command center features two main rooms. One narrow space accommodates four dispatchers with equipment that can connect with the radio system and records management.

Hostage negotiations also could be conducted from there, Williams said.

The technical equipment hasn't been purchased because the city is waiting for a $45,000 federal grant. Grants have covered $106,900 of the total $324,368 costs to purchase the vehicle. It was part of the department's budget allocation this year, Williams said.

A table surrounded by bench seating faces a large SMART Board and two flat-screen televisions in the second room. Any of the three can broadcast feeds taken by a high-definition camera mounted to a 30-foot retractable mast on top of the vehicle. The camera can rotate or zoom when directed by a joystick inside.
Williams said the SMART Board comes with special pens that write on the screen. The camera could photograph a site, and police could draw out the approach route and assignments for a response team before printing copies and handing them out at a briefing.

The two rooms are connected by a galley including a bathroom stall, mini fridge, microwave and coffee maker.

“If we needed to set it up somewhere and stay for several days, we could do it,” Williams said.

One of the vehicle's two entrances is in the galley, alongside storage space. All the storage compartments are covered in white-board coating so they can be written on and later erased.

The second entrance at the front of the bus, which can be closed off from so dispatchers can work in silence. An outside perch is available on top of the bus at the rear, accessible by ladder.

“Once the communication equipment is in here, there's not another vehicle like it in eastern North Carolina,” Williams said.

He said nearby agencies would be able to request use of the vehicle as needed.

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Letter: Orchestras special treat
Tuesday, November 23, 2010

I have been privileged to observe the growth and progress of the Eastern Youth Orchestras since its inception in the 1970s. The program this past Saturday in the A.J. Fletcher Auditorium of the East Carolina University School of Music was outstanding.

The three orchestras are currently directed by Wendy Bissinger, Dr. Greg Hurley and Dr. John O'Brien. They exemplify the love and dedication of all involved.

The polish in all performances, including two featured seniors, invites all who love music to attend at the next opportunity.

CHARLES W. MOORE
Greenville
Gov. Bev Perdue's administration is weighing sharp and painful budget cuts next year that would include state park closures, tuition hikes at community colleges and major state layoffs.

Faced with a projected $3.5 billion budget shortfall next year, Perdue asked the heads of state departments, agencies and colleges to develop plans for cuts ranging from 5 percent to 15 percent. The governor's office made public those recommendations Monday at the request of news organizations.

The proposals are just the first step in what is likely to be a long and winding political path as the Democratic governor considers her options and then the new Republican legislature enacts a budget, probably some time next summer. But the options are the clearest indications yet, that the lives of millions of North Carolinians will likely be touched by a new wave of austerity in state government that has not been seen since the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Students enrolled in North Carolina's 58-campus community college system - which has boomed during the recession as people sought new job skills - would see tuition rise $10 per credit hour to $56.50 per credit hour. At the same time, 1,000 teachers will likely lose their jobs, meaning that fewer community college courses will be offered in nursing and welding and other subjects.

"We are talking about a 10 percent cut that is real pain," said Scott Ralls, president of the state community college system.

State parks, such as the Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest in Wilkes County, the Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest in Bladen County, Mount Jefferson State Natural Area in Ashe County and Singletary Lake State Park in Bladen County would be closed under the proposals being considered.
Also under consideration is closing many other state parks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays - the days when they are least used.

For those who rely on home health services, deep cuts appear likely. Last week, the state Department of Public Instruction laid out options that would result in the loss of 5,300 of the roughly 82,000 state-funded teachers and an increase in class size.

Andy Taylor, a political science professor at N.C. State University, said it was difficult to tell whether the state agencies were trying to influence public opinion by proposing to cut popular programs.

"Obviously both on the federal and state level, on occasions like this, agencies understand some of the things they do are less valued by the public than others," Taylor said. "It makes sense to put the more valued services on the chopping block to make the public aware that they will have a tangible impact."

But Taylor added, "In North Carolina most people have been primed that there will be significant cuts. We are moving into the third year of the fiscal crisis. People understand it hurts. It's hard to imagine that it would be an effective strategy."

The coming cuts also come on top of two years of austere budgets. But the crunch is expected to worsen in the fiscal year beginning in July because $1.3 billion in tax increases is expected to expire and $1.6 billion in federal stimulus money will run out.

The anticipated cuts alarmed advocates for public services.

"These kinds of cuts would be an absolute disaster," said Rob Schofield with N.C. Policy Watch, a liberal advocacy group. "They would decimate a host of already underfunded programs and wipe out decades of progress. We're talking about firing thousands of teachers, health care providers, mental health workers, and providers of aid to seniors.

"If we want North Carolina to look like some dark, crumbling rust belt state that's all but given up on progress, that is merely trying to survive, these are the kinds of cuts we would implement," Schofield said.
Where the cuts could come
Here are some of the cost cutting options laid out by various state agencies.

Community Colleges
Scott Ralls, the president of the community college system, called his department's proposal balanced, with some budget shortfall being made up with a $10 credit hour increase, and the rest coming from budget cuts. He said the cuts are particularly difficult because the system has seen a 25 percent increase in student enrollment since the beginning of the recession.
For a full-time student, the increase will likely mean an increase of $100 to $150 per semester.
He said about 1,000 positions would be cut, which would have the effect of eliminating 100,000 class registrations.

Correction
The department is putting forth the option of closing Haywood Correctional Center in Haywood County. It is proposing the option of eliminating the substance abuse programs by the Evergreen Private Substance Treatment Services for men and the Mary Francis Substance Abuse Treatment Services for women.
It is recommending cutting back inmate road litter crews, eliminating 39 correctional officers. It has suggested cutting back inmate community work programs, such as help during snowstorms or hurricanes or painting, thus eliminating 22 correctional officers.
It is asking the legislature to stop admitting misdemeanants, such as drug abusers, into state prisons, providing them with alternative punishment.

Cultural Resources
The department is proposing to reorganize and consolidate the N.C. Museum of History with the Museum of the Cape Fear and the Museum of the Albemarle, eliminating 13 positions.
It is laying out the option of making the N.C. Transportation Museum in Spencer self-supporting through fees. Admission is now free.
It is considering a 5 percent reduction of state funding of the N.C. Symphony, eliminating eight to 10 of the symphony's 80 education and evening concerts outside the Triangle.

Environment and Natural Resources
Close the Rendezvous Mountain Educational State Forest in Wilkes County, the Turnbull Creek Educational State Forest in Bladen County, Mount Jefferson State Natural Area in Ashe County and Singletary Lake State Park in Bladen County.
Also on the table is closing all state parks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays except those in which there is a contractual agreement to keep them open - Carolina Beach, Chimney Rock, Fort Macon, Haw River, Jockey's Ridge and Mount Mitchell. The department said it was impracticable to close Hammocks Beach or Umstead parks.

Health and Human Services
The department is proposing major cuts to community health services that help people in the home.
It would also cut Smart Start, the program started in the 1990s by then-Gov. Jim Hunt to provide quality child care and early education to families where the children are regarded as at risk.

"To achieve the necessary reductions, it will require the elimination or curtailment of some services and programs as well as potential downsizing of operations and personnel," said Lanier Cansler, the DHHS secretary, said in a statement.

He said the agency will be "focused on accomplishing required budget reductions in a manner that works to protect the most critical services and maximizes the benefit of every dollar available to the agency."

**University of North Carolina**

UNC proposed reducing 1,869 full-time equivalent positions if necessary, to save $270 million. About 600 would be faculty teaching positions, 133 would be academic support positions, 133 people involved in operation of the physical plant and 113 in business affairs.

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Aid for N.C. college students is running low

BY JANE STANCILL - Staff writer
North Carolina is giving low-income students more than $210 million in grants this year to help them go to state community colleges and universities.

But that money is likely to slow to a trickle in the near future, when families may need it most.

Of the $210 million, only about $34 million is a sure thing that state leaders can count on; it's money reserved for scholarships from state lottery proceeds.

The rest will be hard to come by, particularly because North Carolina's largest single source for financial aid - the state's escheats fund of unclaimed property - is nearly tapped out.

About 90,000 to 100,000 low- to middle-income students now receive state grants, which do not have to be repaid. Most students also take on loans to pay for tuition, room, food and books. The state grants are layered on to other forms of financial aid, including the federal Pell Grant for low-income students and other grants and loans provided by universities.

Cassandra Stokes, a Kinston sophomore at N.C. Central University in Durham, said she and her classmates are already fretting about a tuition increase for next fall.

"If I did not get grants and loans, I would not be here at all," said Stokes, who comes from a single-parent home and has two younger brothers.

She pieces her education together semester by semester. An honors student majoring in political science and history, she has a 3.5 grade point average. She has an office job on campus, where she works five hours a week. She also receives a Pell Grant, a couple of academic awards and, so far, her loans have reached about $9,500.

"I'll probably have to take out more loans," she said.

North Carolina's grant program, which has been around for a little more than a decade, has helped many students such as Stokes pursue higher education.

Attendance rising
Between 1999 and 2009, college participation rates for students from lower-income families in North Carolina jumped 7.9 percentage points, according to statistics released
in October by Tom Mortenson, policy analyst and author of Postsecondary Education Opportunity, an Iowa-based monthly research publication.

The state recently surpassed the national average, 27.4 percent, for college attendance by low-income students. Last year, North Carolina ranked 20th overall in its lower-income college participation rate - 28.5 percent - and fourth in the nation in its increase during the past decade. "I think we've got an awful good case to make that this is an investment in North Carolina's future," said Steve Brooks, executive director of the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority, the agency that distributes financial aid. "There's clearly an individual gain and a societal gain."

Studies show those with higher education degrees have more economic well-being and are less likely to end up incarcerated or dependent on government-funded social programs such as Medicaid and food stamps.

**Closing the door**
The question is whether state financial aid will continue to flow and drive up the college-enrollment rate.

North Carolina's unclaimed property fund, which contained $419 million in June, has long been a source for college scholarships, going back to a constitutional provision in 1789 to transfer unclaimed property to the University of North Carolina. The interest earned on the fund's investments was used for scholarships for many years.

Then, in 1999, the state university system and the community college system started new grant programs to help low-income students. Previously, the state had not provided much in the way of grants to low-income students, instead clinging to the philosophy that the best form of financial aid was low tuition.

The community colleges' need-based fund has been stable in recent years at about $15 million a year. But as university tuition increased, spending on need-based grants mushroomed. The UNC program cost $6 million in 2000; this year, the figure is $162 million.

As the cost grew, so did the pressure on the state's escheats fund. In 2003-04, lawmakers began to dip into the fund's principal and have since paid the college grants entirely from the fund.

State Treasurer Janet Cowell has warned that if the withdrawals continue, the fund will have a negative balance by 2012. "That means money available for an incoming college freshman for financial aid will not be there by senior year," Cowell wrote in a letter to lawmakers last year.

The grants are vitally important, said Jennifer Haygood, vice president of business and finance for the state's community college system.
"Obviously this program is key to our ability to provide financial aid for our students," Haygood said, "to support and maintain our open door."

**Nowhere to turn**

There aren't many other places to turn for the money. The state faces a $3.5 billion shortfall next year, and state agencies are facing deep budget cuts.

Last month, Republicans won control of the legislature for the first time in more than a century. GOP leaders have said the voters sent a message that government spending is excessive. Some of them have promised to return state spending to what it was four, five or six years ago.

Sen. Richard Stevens, a Wake County Republican, said it's too early to have any clear indication about the future of the grant programs. Stevens, a former UNC-CH trustee who has co-chaired a Senate education appropriations committee, added: "We all know, of course, the importance of financial aid for those students who need it."

Rep. Mickey Michaux, a Durham Democrat who until the election held the top appropriations post in the House, said one possibility is to plow any revenue from tuition increases directly to financial aid.

In recent years, UNC campuses have set aside a chunk of the proceeds from tuition increases to cover the bill for low-income students, resulting in tens of millions of dollars in new spending on financial aid. In 2008-09, grants from UNC institutions to their students totaled nearly $103 million, though nearly $45 million was spent at two campuses - UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

Campuses could face significant cuts next year, though. And lawmakers will have to deal with other education budget pressures - keeping K-12 teachers in the classroom, for example.

"Those who are coming in are going to have to put their minds to it and see what they can come up with," Michaux said of the Republican majority. "They're in charge now."

One recommendation on the table is to merge university, community college and lottery scholarships into one program that would simplify things. But it would not save money.

A study group last month recommended consolidation, using the federal financial aid formula as a single standard. That might cut some middle-class students out and would result in a reduction of money to some campuses, such as UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

**Pell Grants hurting, too**

Complicating the situation is what's going on nationally. Congress last year approved an increase in the Pell Grant, which now has a maximum annual award of $5,550. But the Pell program also faces a huge shortfall for the 2011-12 year. Meanwhile, the Department
of Education forecasts the number of Pell recipients will grow to 8.7 million next year - about 1 million more than received them last year.

Job losses and tuition increases during the recession have meant more students seek need-based financial aid and qualify for it.

"The needs are not going down, they're going up," Brooks said. "There's not enough money as it is."

Joseph Lancaster, a student at NCSU, doesn't get a penny of it, though. The freshman from Mount Olive dutifully filled out his federal financial aid request forms, but he was rejected. His mother is a teacher and his father is a timber buyer whose business is down.

"We're not rich," said Lancaster, an agricultural business major who works on a tobacco farm in the summer. "It's unreal the people they turn away because they say their parents make too much money. My parents are doing what they can to keep me here."

His classmate Kathleen Bell, a freshman bioengineering major, received a Pell Grant, state grants and loans worth nearly $6,000 this year. She is prepared to borrow more money if she has to.

"It's not fair," she said, "but you do what you can. It will pay off down the line."

She hopes. Students are fearful of taking on big debt, even though studies show a college degree is important for future earning power.

Michaux points out that even though the financial aid program was created during the state's good times, access to higher education should still be a priority.

"Those people who cannot afford it, we're going to have to find a way for them," he said.

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ECU Notes
Sunday, Nov. 21, 2010

As part of ECU’s observance of National Philanthropy Week, Joyner Library commemorated the birthday of Verona Joyner Langford with a cake and refreshments in the Collaborative Learning Center. Lou Rook, an accountant at Joyner Library, left and Dawn Wainwright, marketing director with Academic Library Services, serve cake to students and other attendees. ECU News Photos by Cliff Hollis.

**ECU College of Education inducts Pitt County residents into Hall of Fame**

This year’s inductees to the East Carolina University College of Education’s Educators Hall of Fame included five Pitt County residents and one local organization.

Ella E. Tyson Harris, Nancy Houston, Olive McCallum Smith, Odell Welborn and Mollie McKeithan Young were inducted at a ceremony Nov. 6, at ECU’s Fletcher Recital Hall. Communities in Schools of Pitt County will also be inducted in memory of Kathy Taft, who served as executive director for two years.
Begun in 1999, the ECU Educators Hall of Fame recognizes the service of those to whom ECU alumni and friends are most grateful. In 12 years, more than 300 outstanding educators have been inducted into the Educators Hall of Fame.

The guest speaker at this year’s ceremony was Dr. William Harrison, the governor’s advisor for the Education Transformation Commission and chairman of the N.C. State Board of Education. This year’s inductees also included Charles Atwater, Vickie Atwater, William C. Harrison, Grace Hooper, Pat MacNeill, Sarah Stallings May and Phillis Ostheim.

Inductees are university professors, teachers, counselors, school board members and others whose service made an impact in the lives of those recognizing them with a monetary gift.

The goal of the Educators Hall of Fame program is two-fold — to honor outstanding education professionals and to create a scholarship endowment to support future educators.

All gifts received go to the Hall of Fame Scholarship endowment. Annual interest from the $1 million endowment is used to fund merit-based scholarships for College of Education students. This prestigious merit scholarship program attracts more of the best and brightest students to the College of Education.

The 12th Annual Educators Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was followed by a reception and the opportunity for the inductees to view their plaques on the Educators Hall of Fame wall in the Speight Building.

About the inductees:

Communities in Schools of Pitt County is committed to providing a safe place for children to learn and grow through a number of character building and dropout prevention programs.

Harris was a teacher in Greenville for 21 years and then served as an assistant principal for 20 years at J.H. Rose High School. She is the recipient of the 2005 Best Irons Humanitarian Service and the 2007 Girl Scouts of the Carolina Woman of Distinction awards.

Houston held several positions throughout her career including sixth-grade teacher, reading specialist, curriculum coordinator, regional director of teacher development, and most recently, lead coordinator in the Office of Clinical Experiences in the College of Education at ECU.

Smith received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Winthrop College in 1941 and her Master of Arts in education from ECU. She taught at Chicod High School for 24 years and Ayden Grifton High School for 11 years.
Olive is a member of the N.C. Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Archimedean Honor Society, National Catholic Educational Association and N.C. Retired School Personnel.

Welborn served in the U.S. Air Force for four years, taught at J.H. Rose High School for three years and taught at ECU for 30 years. Welborn was a member of the American Football Coaches Association, N.C. Coaches Association, and N.C. Driver and Traffic Safety Education Association.

Young received her Bachelor of Science in education from ECU in 2006. She is a fourth-grade teacher at South Greenville Elementary School where she was awarded the “Rookie of the Year” award in 2007 and Teacher of the Year in 2010. Young was also recognized as Pitt County Teacher of the Year in 2010.

For more information, contact Kendra Alexander, director of development and communications for the College of Education, at 252-737-4162 or alexanderk@ecu.edu.

**Birthday reception marks National Philanthropy Week**

ECU capped off National Philanthropy Week by commemorating the birthday of Verona Joyner Langford on Wednesday with a cake and refreshments at Joyner Library’s Collaborative Learning Center.

Langford, a 1935 graduate of East Carolina Teacher’s College, left $8 million to the library after she died in 2000.

“She knew her gift would continue doing good long after she was gone,” said Beth Ward, a family member who spoke at the reception.

Ward and Emily Monk Davidson, another family member, said Langford carefully considered how to bequeath the money that she and her husband, Fred, had worked so hard to save.

“She wanted this library to be a place where you wanted to come,” said Davidson, looking at students seated nearby.

ECU held events throughout the week to instill in students the importance of philanthropy. Many students have been given purple piggy banks as part of the Purple Pig fundraising campaign. Purple caution tape was placed around some facilities that benefitted from donations.

The week’s events were designed to show how philanthropy affects the university’s resources and students.
Horns honored by alma mater

Dr. Phyllis N. Horns, vice chancellor for health sciences at ECU, was one of 60 alumni the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Nursing recently honored as a visionary leader at the school’s 60th anniversary celebration.

Horns was recognized Oct. 22 in Birmingham. She received her doctorate in nursing in 1980 from UAB and was a faculty member there from 1979 to 1988. She also has a bachelor’s degree in nursing from ECU and a master’s of public health degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

“Alumni from the UAB School of Nursing have been integral in distinguishing the school in state, national and international circles and in shaping the nursing profession,” said Dr. Doreen Harper, dean of the school. “These awards were established to celebrate the school’s renowned graduates and their mark on nursing.”

Horns joined the ECU nursing faculty in 1988 and was dean of nursing from 1990-2009. From 2006-2008, she served as interim dean of the Brody School of Medicine. From 2001-2002 and 2006-2009, she served as interim vice chancellor for health sciences at ECU. She was appointed to the vice chancellor role permanently in 2009.

“As part of my doctoral work at UAB, I was privileged to study and work in nursing education administration with some very strong faculty and mentors,” Horns said. “This has been the single greatest factor in my career in university administration. I am honored and humbled by this visionary leader award.”

The ECU Division of Health Sciences comprises the Brody School of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the College of Allied Health Sciences, the new School of Dental Medicine, the East Carolina Heart Institute and Laupus Health Sciences Library.

Kolasa receives national dietetic award

Dr. Kathryn Kolasa, a professor and registered dietitian at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, is one of eight recipients nationwide of a prestigious dietetic award.

Kolasa accepted the 2010 Medallion Award from the American Dietetic Association on Nov. 7 at the ADA Food & Nutrition Conference and Expo in Boston.

Kolasa, an ADA member since 1974, is a professor and section head of the Department of Family Medicine and associate director of the ECU Pediatric Healthy Weight Research and Treatment Center. She has been an ECU faculty member since 1986.

Among many honors, Kolasa received the 2002 Board of Governors Distinguished Professor for Teaching Award from the University of North Carolina system. A researcher, teacher and consultant, Kolasa is an authority on incorporating technology into nutrition education; preventing childhood obesity; and nutrition education for medical students and physicians.
Kolasa is a graduate of Michigan State University and has a doctorate from the University of Tennessee. She writes a regular nutrition column for The Daily Reflector.

**Moody is finalist for Nancy Susan Reynolds Award**
Deborah Moody, director of programs at the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center in Greenville, is a finalist for the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award given by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

This award recognizes the unsung heroes of North Carolina whose vision, determination, resourcefulness and strength of character have made a positive difference in the state.

Moody has worked tirelessly in west Greenville to help establish the Lucille W. Gorham Intergenerational Community Center. She worked alongside her mentor and friend, the late Dr. Lessie Bass, an ECU social work professor, to engage the community in planning the center. Moody has developed partnerships to bring attention, resources and support to the underserved area. The nomination recognizes her generosity and commitment to strengthening the community.

The ECU College of Human Ecology is an IGCC partner. The college’s dean Dr. Judy Siguaw said, “Ms. Moody believes that the center should never turn anyone away, so it is not uncommon for the staff to help community members with job résumés; health, childcare, and legal issues; obtaining social services; and locating food banks. She actively engages troubled youth and has turned many young lives around for the better.”

Up to three awards are presented each November through the Nancy Susan Reynolds Award, one in each of the following categories: Advocacy, Personal Service, and Race Relations.
College ratings ignites debate over core requirements

By Daniel de Vise
Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, November 20, 2010; 8:51 PM

BALTIMORE - Johns Hopkins University is America's premier research institution. Yet a student could complete a bachelor's degree here without ever taking a course in science. Or math. Or history. Or English.

Students at Johns Hopkins - and many other prestigious colleges - choose classes the way a diner patron assembles a meal, selecting items from a vast menu. Broad distribution requirements ensure that students explore the academic universe outside their majors. But no one is required to study any particular field, let alone take a specific course. Shakespeare, Plato, Euclid - all are on the menu; none is required.

The American Council of Trustees and Alumni, a Washington-based advocacy group, handed out F grades in August to Hopkins and many of its peers, inviting debate on a basic question: What, if anything, should America's college students be required to learn?

The group faulted the schools, including Yale, Brown, Cornell, Amherst and the University of California at Berkeley, for failing to require students to take courses in more than one of seven core academic subjects: math, science, history, economics, foreign language, literature and composition.

"At Stanford, you can fulfill the American cultures requirement by taking a class on a Japanese drum," said Anne Neal, president of the trustees group.

"We're certainly not saying that Harvard or Hopkins or Yale are not good schools, or that their graduates are not smart kids," said Neal, who attended Harvard and Harvard Law.

"What we're saying is that those schools don't do a good job at providing their students with a coherent core."

Some higher education leaders say Neal misses the mark. The point of a college education is to teach students to think, solve problems and change the world, they say, not to download a compendium of facts.

Brown University's New Curriculum, liberated from the strictures of general education in the 1960s, was "designed to produce independent, creative thinkers who will make a difference in the world," said Katherine Bergeron, dean of the college at Brown.
Brown is an outlier. Most colleges do expect their students to learn certain material, a priority reflected in nearly universal requirements that students take courses in several broad academic categories.

Yet many deans acknowledge that the system is flawed. Curriculum decisions are intensely political. Any attempt to list "fundamental" courses or texts will elicit howls of outrage from departments that are passed over. "No one wants to be left out," said Harry Lewis, a Harvard professor and former dean of its college.

**The old school way**
It wasn't always this way. College faculties taught from the same, fairly static list of Western scholars until the late 1800s, when the American research university took shape and students began to choose their own majors.

A wave of immigrants in the early 1900s prompted a return to "core" academic programs that surveyed the Western intellectual tradition for students who hadn't learned it in high school. The academic freedom movement of the 1960s set off another pendulum swing.

Today, only a handful of national universities require students to survey the span of human knowledge. Two schools, Columbia University and the University of Chicago, are known for century-old core programs that have managed to survive. They cover enough subjects to earn each institution a B from the advocates of general education.

"If you tried to start a core curriculum today, the battles you'd fight would have to be enormous," said John Boyer, dean of the college at Chicago. "Once you have it, you don't want to lose it, because it's very hard to get it back again."

More extreme is the "great books" approach of St. John's College in Annapolis, where students follow a four-year syllabus of essential texts. St. John's campuses in Maryland and New Mexico are two of 17 colleges that receive an A in general education.

St. John's students emerge with a working knowledge of ancient Greek and a foundation in the classics, a skill set that defined an "educated man" two centuries ago.

"They are perfectly capable of coming up to someone at a cocktail party and talking about their soul," said Eva Brann, a senior faculty member.

But the great books model is at odds with the structures of research universities, whose faculties succeed by cultivating academic specialties.

Even liberal arts schools, whose faculty are theoretically supposed to focus on teaching, are caught in the "centrifugal forces" of specialization when they hire faculty from doctoral programs at research universities, Lewis said.

**Ratings criticized**
Within the higher education establishment, the new A-to-F ratings have not been warmly received. Many scholars mistrust the group behind them, founded in the mid-1990s by a group including conservative activist Lynne Cheney, partly as a foil to collegiate liberalism. Even supporters cannot agree whether the raters have chosen the right way to measure general education.

But the idea behind the ratings has broad appeal.

"I think the criticism that students may not be learning enough in general education resonates with most colleges," said Richard Ekman, president of the Council of Independent Colleges in Washington.

Ekman contends that Neal's group overstates the problem. Most general-education course lists, he said, require students to choose among "highly specified courses" - a student who doesn't read Shakespeare will "be taking Milton or Chaucer instead, which isn't bad."

Neal says the group's examination of more than 700 college catalogs proves otherwise. "It is quite possible to avoid American history, or Plato or science," she said. "Many colleges don't even require their English majors to take a course on Shakespeare."

The schools awarded "A" grades by the raters are an unusual bunch: highly structured military academies, a few public universities with unusually deep general-education lists (the University of Texas at Austin), tradition-minded Christian institutions (Baylor University) and the "great books" schools. All require at least six of the seven "essential" subjects.

Harvard, meanwhile, got a D. Only a few of the nation's top national universities and liberal arts schools fared better. Not by coincidence, the group released its ratings - expanding on a smaller effort a year earlier - to coincide with the popular college rankings from U.S. News & World Report.

Georgetown University received a D for requiring just two of the seven prescribed subjects, composition and foreign language. The College of William and Mary, which requires foreign language, math and science, drew a C.

Hopkins students must complete 30 credit hours outside their major. To guarantee academic balance, a humanities major must take at least 12 credits - roughly four courses - in math, science or engineering. A math major must take 18 credits in humanities or social science. It would be difficult, but not impossible, for a humanities major to satisfy the distribution rules while avoiding natural science entirely.

"Everything we teach constitutes 'essential human knowledge,' " said Katherine Newman, dean of the university's college of arts and sciences, "but that's a huge range of territory, and we encourage students to make some serious choices about what they specialize in."
Chung-Ha Davis, a senior science major from Brandon, Fla., acknowledges that his Hopkins education has left "some gaps in my knowledge, where people say there shouldn't be a gap if you've had a university education."
He says he has traded breadth for depth.

"If you want to go somewhere in life," he said, "you've got to pick one thing and get really good at it."

Bruce Marsh, a professor in the earth and planetary sciences department, said he wishes all Hopkins students got a firm foundation in collegiate science.
Marsh does his part. Students sign up for "Guided Tour: The Planets" expecting Star Trek. What they get is a dose of the scientific rigor for which Hopkins is known.

"We have to kind of seduce them into these classes," Marsh said. "We kind of sweet-talk them until they're beyond the add-drop period. And then we put it to them that they have to know what the hell a planet is."

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