

College of Education receives grant to aid librarian student recruitment

Community Oriented Librarian Recruitment Scholarship to benefit

CLAYTON BAUMAN
STAFF WRITER

The ECU College of Education was recently awarded an important grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

According to a press release distributed by the college itself, the department of Library Science and Instructional Technology was awarded a \$747,000 grant aimed at funding the Community Oriented Librarian Recruitment Scholarship.

The grant will be geared toward finding a way of recruiting as many potential school librarian students into the program as possible by offering scholarships.

"There are a lot of studies showing statistically that there's going to be a very massive number of positions available within the next five to 15 years," said Dr. John Harer, the graduate program director for librarian sciences and co-director/developer of the scholarship program.

"And that's because a large number of retirements, the librar-



More librarians like Mark Sanders and Stacey Thompson will be needed for work in the next five to 15 years.

ians in all fields of librarianship are experiencing an aging population."

Harer said that the prediction is that there is going to be a need for between 20 and 30 thousand librarians over the next fifteen years.

Currently, librarian schools

around America are only producing about 12 to 15 thousand librarians to fill those positions.

Harer noted how more urban areas, such as Raleigh and Charlotte, have dramatically increased pool of people to recruit from as opposed

to more rural areas like Greenville.

"People want to move to those communities where there are more services, amenities and that sort of thing," said Harer.

see LIBRARIANS page 3

Students urged to 'Plunge into Purple'

Weeks of Welcome begin August 18

RACHEL KING
NEWS EDITOR

Beginning a long journey can only be done by taking that all-important first step, or so students have been told since the beginning of time.

This year, those first steps can be taken in the right direction with help from the brand new program set to commence Aug. 18 at ECU and run for the next eight weeks, 'Weeks of Welcome (WOW),' also known as 'Plunge into Purple.'

The program will feature an extensive array of activities, ranging from performances by The

Swash Improv group, which is an acting troupe comprised solely of ECU students, to informal dinners with some of the university's professors, where students may openly voice any concerns or questions to the people in the know.

The purpose of WOW is to assist new students with the tougher aspects of such a life-changing event as starting college, such as learning to find their way around campus, finding out what professors will expect from them, sharpening study, time management and leadership skills, along with what is perhaps the hardest thing of all: meeting new people and becoming comfortable in a brand new environment. When a student is away from home for

the first time, he or she may find it difficult to adjust, after all. By participating in all the various types of events, students may also learn what it truly means to be a Pirate.

WOW will begin with a leadership symposium and luncheon on Aug. 18, followed by "an evening of social activities" at Mendenhall Student Center, according to The Pirate Parent newsletter.

Day two will start with a mid-morning swim party at the Student Recreation and Wellness Center, next to Mendenhall, and progress into a late-afternoon cookout between the two buildings. After that, students will be able to enjoy other assorted activities in Mendenhall until 2 a.m.

Freshmen are encouraged to

attend the events on day three, Aug. 20, as Pirate Parent promises the day to be "one of the most important days of all." The event that is causing such a stir is the Freshmen Convocation in Wright Auditorium at 3 p.m. Chancellor Ballard, among other top officials here at the university, will be present to officially welcome all students to ECU.

Afterward, students can "Explore ECU in 3-D," which has been described as a "tridimensional program based on discover, design and delivery."

Around 8 p.m., everyone will have the chance to relax and laugh with The Swash Improv Group and a headliner comedian.

see WOW page 2



KEITH LECLAIR

Keith LeClair loses battle with ALS

Former ECU coach dies

ERIC GILMORE
SPORTS EDITOR

Former ECU baseball coach Keith LeClair succumbed to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis late Monday morning. LeClair lost his battle with the incurable muscular disease, which is commonly referred as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease. He died at his home with family and close friends at his side.

The New Hampshire native became the second-winningest baseball coach in school history in five seasons at ECU. He succeeded Gary Overton as ECU's eighth Head Coach in the summer of 1997 and through 2002 compiled a 212-96-1 (.688) record.

He led the Pirates to four straight NCAA Regional appearances, three Colonial Athletic Association championships and one Conference USA title. His 2001 club advanced to the NCAA Super Regionals and finished with a No. 11 national ranking after registering a 47-13 mark.

He continued to coach during the 2002 season despite learning he had the disease during the previous summer. Throughout the season, his health declined, causing him to lose weight and become frail.

By LeClair standards, the squad struggled to a sixth seed in the C-USA tournament held at Grainger Stadium in Kinston, N.C. With

see LECLAIR page 9

Announcements

2006 ECU/Loessin Summer Theatre

Individual ticket sales began June 1. Please see ECUARTS.com to purchase tickets or call 1-800-ECU-ARTS. Summer season tickets are available now.

"Footloose: The Musical"

July 25-29, 2006

One of the most explosive movie musicals in recent memory now bursts onto the live stage. When Ren and his mother move from Chicago to a small farming town, Ren is prepared for the inevitable adjustment period at his new high school. What he isn't prepared for are the rigorous local laws, including a ban on dancing. The ban is the brainchild of a preacher determined to exercise the control over the town youth that he cannot command in his own home. When the reverend's rebellious daughter sets her cap for Ren, her roughneck boy friend tries to sabotage Ren's reputation, with many of the locals eager to believe the worst about the new kid. To the rockin' rhythm of its Oscar-nominated top 40 score (the soundtrack album reached number one on the Billboard charts and has sold over 15 million copies!) to which new, dynamic songs have been added, Footloose celebrates the wisdom of listening to young people, guiding them with a warm heart and an open mind.

SGA recruiting Cabinet

The SGA is actively recruiting new cabinet members for their Executive Cabinet for 2006-2007 school year. Applications can be picked up in the SGA office in Suite 101, Mendenhall Student Center. The deadline to apply is Aug. 31 by 5 p.m. For more information, contact the SGA at 328-4SGA.

Graduate Assistantships

The College of Education is looking for a graduate student to work with the Interim Dean, Administrative Assistant and office assistant in the Dean's Office for the fall and spring semesters. This is a full time, 20 hour per week position. Includes general office duties and research. For more information, call 328-4260 or come by Speight 154 and fill out an application.

The East Carolina Alumni Association is looking for a Communications and Marketing graduate assistant. The position will be available starting in the summer of 2006. Responsibilities include: updating, maintaining and responding to requests associated with the alumni online community, assisting with promotion of alumni programs through print and media and Web site maintenance.

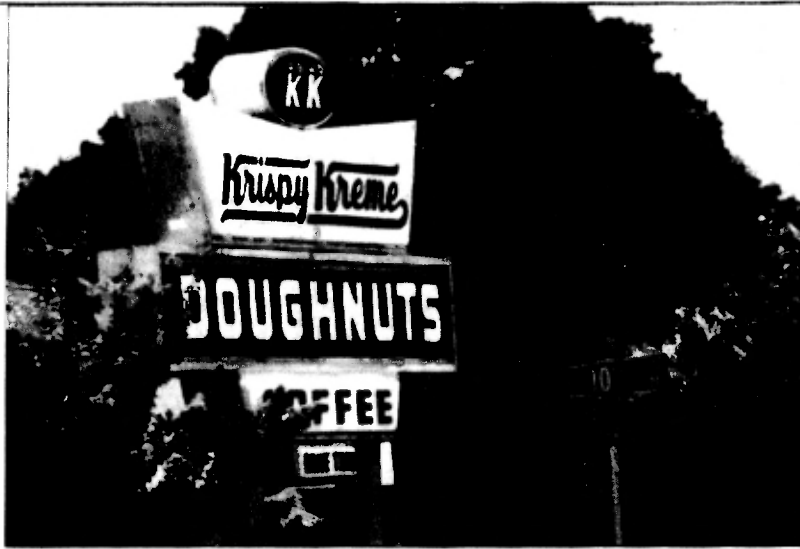


Photo by Zach Sirkin

Everyone is invited to celebrate at the Krispy Kreme on 10th and Charles St.

Krispy Kreme turns 69

Festivities to include a doughnut station, balloon animals and free samples

BY LEE SCHWARZ
STAFF WRITER

Krispy Kreme celebrates its 69th anniversary today, starting at 9 a.m. Festivities will include a doughnut station and frozen blend samplings. DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) will be handing free ID cards and information to children about resisting drug usage from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., from July 19-21.

Balloon animals with Cherry the Clown and a T-shirt design contest will be also be available. The winners will be announced at 11 a.m. 'Hot Light Saturday' will be held on July 22. Hot Original Glazed doughnuts will be available for extended hours.

"DARE has never been involved before," Joe Rivett of Faulkner Advertising Associates said.

"We hope that it will turn out

positive and maybe help some children in the future as well."

"We are excited about our opening anniversary events going on at the store. I think we have two great programs for children to enjoy and have fun with," said Glenn Parrish, manager of the Greenville Krispy Kreme.

"D.A.R.E. America has been around for over two decades and we are very enthusiastic about having them at Krispy Kreme to educate children and parents on safety issues," said Amanda Tilley, marketing manager of Krispy Kreme.

Krispy Kreme (NYSE: KKD), headquartered in Winston-Salem, N.C., has recently opened operations in Japan and has authorized operations in the Philippines. As of close in the stock market on Monday, July 17, the stock price was \$7.37 per share. All Krispy Kreme's U.S. markets have been committed, as far as franchising opportunities are concerned. Krispy Kreme was founded in 1937.

This writer can be contacted at
news@theeastcarolinian.com.

WOW from page 1

On Monday, Aug. 21, WOW will host ECU Idol, a program that looks to provide "stiff competition" to American Idol, and on Tuesday, things will really heat up with the annual Pirate Ploozza party outside of Mendenhall Student Center... all in the same week.

The next seven weeks will comprise of additional workshops, so if students happen to miss something they really wanted to attend, chances are, they'll be able to catch it.

Healthy lifestyles, career planning and introductions to all the various programs on and around campus will all be topics of discussion at these workshops as well.

On three different Fridays, students that have a desire to do

volunteer work can learn about the benefits and advantages of assisting those in need right outside their new front doors at a special project called "From Houses to Homes," sponsored by Habitat for Humanity.

These are just some of the innumerable events taking place in the first eight weeks for school. From diversity to culture, from friends to faculty, from confused to inspired, ECU's WOW Program seeks to teach each new Pirate exactly what the university can do for him or her and the future, as well as how to properly walk the plank.

This writer can be contacted at
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SGA finalizes goals

More documents approved

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
STAFF WRITER

The legislative branch of SGA approved additional documents and made plans to finalize their last goals for the summer.

According to Ben Wyche, the final goal of defining a funding board will be initiated during next Monday's meeting.

Legislative members are currently coming up with ideas and ways of getting this last goal accomplished before the conclusion of summer congress.

The second goal, revising the funding manual, is near its last stages. The manual has been spilt into two parts and been reconstructed for better understanding.

Two documents were approved in Monday's meeting which included a congress motion sheet and an act to enter the emergency funding manual into the general statutes.

Both of these approvals were made to produce better clarity when dealing with funding issues.

Jon Massachi brought up the

issue for approval to the congress. The branch also agreed to add an author to the bill or resolution for the motion sheet.

SGA also discussed adding the emergency funding manual into the general statutes.

This included discussion about getting approval status by the SGA advisor, president and treasurer before making a document official.

The organization formally known as GSAC will now be known as GSC which stands for Graduate Student Council. This was confirmed by M. Cole Jones, student body president.

Wyche mentioned that GSC may potentially provide funding for graduate students in the future but they will continue to receive funding from SGA until further changes are made.

One of the last issues discussed in Monday's meeting were updating the SGA Web site which is currently in the process of being updated.

Jones encouraged congress members to inform him about any additional things they would like to see on the Webs ite to represent SGA.

This writer can be contacted at
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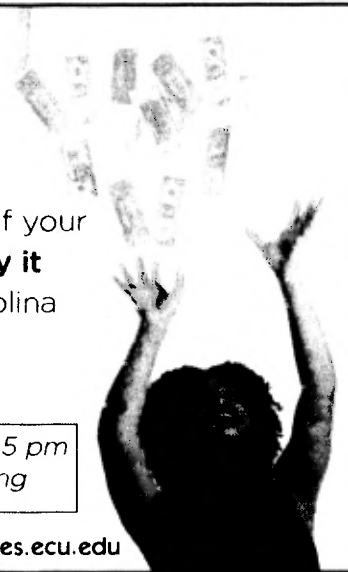
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Librarians from page 1

"Rural school districts in eastern North Carolina have a much harder job of recruiting teachers and school librarians."

"We are focusing our emphasis on recruiting school librarians for rural districts, especially eastern North Carolina districts."

Despite just receiving the grant, the College of Education has wasted no time in getting the program rolling with student interest already peaked.

"We just think it's a great opportunity for the university as well as for eastern North Carolina to actually get very well trained

school librarians," said Harer. The grant was co-directed and co-developed by Dr. Harer and Dr. Larry White.

Dubbed the Laura Bush Twenty First Century Librarian Program, the program has outward respect for librarianship, as the first lady herself was a former librarian.

Based out of Washington, D.C., the grant is distributed by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

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In My Opinion

Green design could benefit ECU

Progressive energy policies are key for a growing school

ED MCKIM
PRODUCTION MANAGER

ECU is a decidedly growing school, with the third largest student population in the University of North Carolina system. As the university continues to expand to accommodate these students, its demand for resources will continue to grow as well. As these demands for resources continue to grow, the demand for new resources will increase as well, but these resources are not unlimited. New solutions will be necessary for a clean transition into the future. I think the most obvious solution to this problem is utilizing the principles of green design.

Green design is, at the surface, anything designed with a certain amount of sustainability. Using recycled papers (and in turn, recycling used papers), using inks that are non-toxic and able to be recycled, and using renewable energy sources scratch at the surface of what green design really is. At a deeper level, green design is the ability to make something that can sustain itself long term and do so in a way that is conscious (and conscientious) of its impact on a community or an environment.

An essential element of green design is the conservation of energy, water and other resources through the use of renewable resources and infrastructure (like solar panels and recycling rain water). Creating a successful infrastructure will be essential to the university's expansion. Green design opportunities exist at all levels of development, from materials that are non-toxic and renewable and sustainable (using recycled materials and recycling materials), to less complicated

designs which need to be replaced less often and require less maintenance.

Utilizing renewable resources is something that is very important. The benefits of using renewable resources could help to move our region (and ideally, our nation) to a higher level of civilization.

Green Design, as an idea or movement isn't particularly new if you've been around the design industry for a while, but as of recently, it has begun to pick up some steam. Architects are beginning to embrace the ideas of Green Design, and probably have been aware of these concepts for some time. Ultimately, it's not up to the designer to advance the movement, it's up to the client. The client needs to be willing to pay for these advances (which, by the way have a way of paying themselves back in the long run).

More and more humans and animals are dying each year due to pollution. It's an inevitable fact that the more pollution we create, the more consequences we will suffer. One way to limit pollution here at the university would be to upgrade our motor fleet, which ECU has begun to do. Limiting greenhouse gasses and pollutants preserves the environment around ECU that are being poisoned constantly by careless people who feel it's easier to stick with the status quo than to make a legitimate change.

Some people would say ECU has begun to embrace this movement. I can agree they have taken steps in the right direction, like using ethanol fuels and beginning to build more energy efficient buildings. I think there is a lot of work left. My vision of the ECU of tomorrow contains autonomous structures, vehicles that are using hybrid technologies and systems that sustain and renew themselves. The university needs to utilize natural and renewable resources, build structures that respect nature and use vehicles that do not pollute

our river and wetlands. ECU could only stand to benefit from these environmentally friendly technologies and practices.

The green design movement has been lightly handled to say the least at the government level. I mean, when you got something that's working, why change?...Not exactly. What we have is working, but a new, sustainable and equitable system would work much better in this changing world. ECU needs to accept that sustainable infrastructures are the key to a successful future for the institution.

Quick action will always be preferable to bureaucracy; however, the state has a penchant for bureaucracy. So that means now is the time to get the ball rolling on a new, green university infrastructure. The costs might be magnificent at first, but the savings in the long run will be inarguably greater. The moral and environmental benefits will always be greater than the financial ones, but the financial ones will be huge as well.

Lets look at some realities of energy prices: oil prices are nearing \$80 a barrel. Wars are being fought over oil interests; traditional industries and resources are just not worth the prices (environmental, financial, physical and political) that we are paying and they are too substantial to ignore. Electric lighting is expensive and relatively unnecessary if you design around it and use sunlight as your main source of energy. Water could be recycled, and rainwater could be collected and re-used instead of city water. All these things are not only possible they are plausible.

Alternative sources of energy and environmentally conscious design are at the roots of tomorrow's technology. If tomorrow really does "start here" at ECU, we need to upgrade our industrial practices and step into the forefront of environmentally conscious development.

Pirate Rants

I know no one understands it, but I have been so bored this summer I want school to start again.

I love that I get as many DVDs mailed to me as I can possibly watch for one set amount every month.

Don't you hate flaky opinion writers?

Why is it that you can only be someone's hero if you find what he or she needs in a 15 hour time range? I mean I have tried to find it, but give me a little more time next time ... please!

Greenville needs to build a bubble over the whole city to control the temperature. Wouldn't it be nice if it weren't so hot and humid all summer?

Why are certain parking lots chained so that no one can park there? If I've paid for a parking pass for that particular lot then I want to park there! The true axis of evil is not N. Korea and Iran, it's the ECU parking gurus and the tow truck companies! I hate you! Thank you, I feel somewhat better now. Not really.

Does anyone find it ridiculous that networks send their best anchors to war zones?

Where is Suri Cruise? I am beginning to think she doesn't really exist.

I shower every other day and shave maybe once a week or so. Or is it the other way around? Hard to say, it's been a while. Is that a problem you think? Oh yeah, sometimes I forget to brush my teeth. I do, however, use deodorant. Sometimes. Wanna be roomies?

Yeah, so I understand the purpose of cleaning the bathrooms daily but I don't understand why you have to close our particular bathroom every afternoon for four hours straight. I would understand this better if you actually cleaned the showers every

day or did something that actually took a long time to do. So please, clean the bathrooms in Cotten but please don't close ours off all afternoon because the other bathroom is way dirtier and nastier than ours. Oh yeah, please clean the showers more often too. Thanks!

I got a digital camera as a present and you would think that I would have nice group shots because you can retake pictures if they aren't good. But no, most of my pictures still have closed eyes or goofy looks, what gives?

Come here with an open mind. Attend class regularly. Read and study. Do well. Commit yourselves to success. Or go home. No sense in wasting your time and ours. Good luck.

I really hope that future columns by Dustin B. Pittman will not be littered with sentences ending in prepositions. Have you taken English 1100? It is really annoying.

I work in the dining hall and it's a pain to clean up. Why can't you just clean up after yourself.

Hey! Keep your eyes on your own paper!

Ew... don't be "that guy" who sticks his head out of his car window and takes a double look when I am walking on the sidewalk.

I don't care if you're blow drying or vacuuming over there, but please stop doing it at 1:30 a.m.!

I hate when I am outside all day and even with two different times of putting on sunscreen, I get sunburned. Why is it so hard to find sunscreen that work well?

I am having beach-withdrawal. I need to go back A.S.A.P.!

How did we live when we only had house phones to talk to each other?

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Summer comedy 'You, Me and Dupree'

Last weekend's apparent box-office success

ZACH STEPHENSON
STAFF WRITER

I was sophomoric enough to believe Owen Wilson blunt-slid that handrail in the old *Yeah Right!* skate video. To pile on more embarrassment, I was bummed out all day after the extra features unveiled the true assailant.

That might be slightly embellished, but it holds some truth. Wilson has a weird, stranded puppy appeal that hypnotizes you into hoping for his success. But the Russo brothers' bid to swill Wilson's attribute into two hours of gold seems crafted more along the lines of Criss Angel than P.T. Barnum.

The film follows Carl Peterson (Matt Dillon) through discrepant relationships between his newlywed wife, Molly (Kate Hudson), her dad (Michael Douglas) and Dupree (Wilson). Instead of developing these bonds beyond a peripheral glimpse, the film quickly puts all eyes on Dupree.

When the Russo brother's

piloted the *Arrested Development* series, they won critical acclaim for juggling dysfunctional relationships into a whimsy melee. The show focused on a handful of quirky characters, but was able to interconnect and draw humor from their clashes.

You, Me and Dupree attempts the same brand of situational comedy, but swaps wit for predictable posture. After Dupree forgets to tell his boss he took some days off to attend Peterson's wedding, he gets fired and moves in with the Petersons. His mishaps become too much to handle and he is eventually given the boot. When the Petersons find out he has nowhere to go (again - the stranded puppy appeal), they bring him back in, where he changes and eventually saves their relationship. Substitute Wilson for Brandon Frazier and we have *Encino Man II*.

It's cliché to say that Hollywood is running out of ideas, but like a drunken shoplifter, *You, Me and Dupree* steals a scene straight from the pro shop of *Happy Gilmore*. It switches Sandler's paranoid dream of Shooter and his girl for one



Permanent guest Dupree relaxes with newlyweds Molly and Carl in the summer comedy *You, Me and Dupree*.

of Dupree and Molly. It's smart to throw in some scenes of the proclaimed "band-aid" wearing a skimpy swimsuit, but at least do it with some principle.

Ironically, the Russo broth-

ers fail at the technique that put them on the map. Then again, *Arrested Development's* run disjointed quicker than Dillon's nine-iron in *Drugstore Cowboy*. And from the looks of it, *You, Me and Dupree*

is going to be a summer hit. In the words of Barnum, "There's a sucker born every minute."

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Be careful out there gentlemen

Clues your girl is searching for her future ex-husband

LIZ FULTON
SENIOR WRITER

Remember the 1960s and 1970s when women started demanding equal pay for work and wanted to get out of the home? Well you can kiss those days good-bye because more girls in college are out for a degree you can't walk across the stage for. It is, of course, the highly coveted M.R.S. degree.

If you know what to look for, it is easy to see the hints dropping from these seekers of life-long pampering. When cruising around Facebook, and admit it you do, if a girl belongs to groups such as "Future Trophy Wives of America" and "All I want to be is a Country Club Mom" then you may be in a bit of a pickle.

If said girl belongs to a sorority, then her odds jump 62 percent at wanting to play "wifey." If she is a member of a service sorority, the odds decrease slightly.

It is moreover safe to surmise



Can you spot some characteristics of a trophy wife in the woman above?

that any lady who only dons pastels and owns a Lily Pulitzer golf bag is not planning on actually getting an education while in college. They know that the true accomplishment of school is to graduate with a steady beau who holds a degree in finance and owns prime beach real estate.

These girls are not to be taken lightly. Stay around too long and you could find your trust fund spent on a three-carat princess cut diamond set in platinum. She also probably has a wish list at every

fine jewelry store south of the Mason-Dixon line.

These girls make wonderful first wives. They will keep your houses immaculate by learning the best way to handle the hired help and sire perfect children who will carry on your distinguishable name. They are always first to compliment you and will never think for herself.

see WIFE page 7

Last minute fitness plan

Getting fit before school starts can be done

SARAH CAMPBELL
SENIOR WRITER

Let me be the first to admit that this summer I had planned to get into shape, but with a hectic work schedule it seems that I barely had time to brush my teeth, much less work out and plan healthy meals. However, with a month of summer left before school starts back, I still have time to devote to my fitness goals.

The first step to becoming healthier is attempting to eat healthier. It's always tempting to stop by Krispy Kreme when the "Hot Now" sign is lit up, but eating sweets will not satisfy your hunger and in the long run you will end up gaining weight. When you are craving a snack try some fruit or grab one of my favorites, the new "100 Calorie Packs."

Many people believe that skipping out on breakfast will help them lose weight, but the truth is quite the contrary. When you skip out on breakfast your body will need more food by the time you eat lunch. So, rather than overeating at lunch, grab a light breakfast such as

a bagel or toast with fruit to get your metabolism going for the day.

When it comes to eating healthy the rules are pretty simple, follow your food guide pyramid. Eating more grains, fruits and vegetables will fill you up for a longer period of time. As always, remember to that portion control is key when eating meats and sweets.

As far as working out, pretty much anything goes. You can go for a run around your neighborhood, ride your bike to class, take the stairs rather than the elevator or park at the end of the parking lot when you go shopping. No matter how you get it, exercise is a key ingredient to getting fit.

If you enjoy more structured workouts, heading over to the Student Recreation Center may be more your speed. The SRC offers tons of workout equipment, an indoor track, indoor and outdoor pools and a climbing wall. At the SRC you can use the equipment to time your exercises and plan a regular routine.

If you prefer to keep your workouts in your home you may want to buy a DVD to follow, workouts include dancing, Tae Bo, yoga,

see FITNESS page 6

Fitness from page 5

Male or female, personal appearance can measure self-esteem.

pilates and many more. These videos are usually geared toward your entire body rather than just one area and progress from beginner to advanced levels.

No matter how you choose to get fit this summer, remember to stick with it. Once you have a plan, don't give up. The pounds aren't going to melt away instantly and

getting in shape is hard work, but in the end you will be a healthier, happier you, which will make it all worthwhile. Not to mention all of the looks you will be getting while you strut your stuff through the Wright Place on August 23.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

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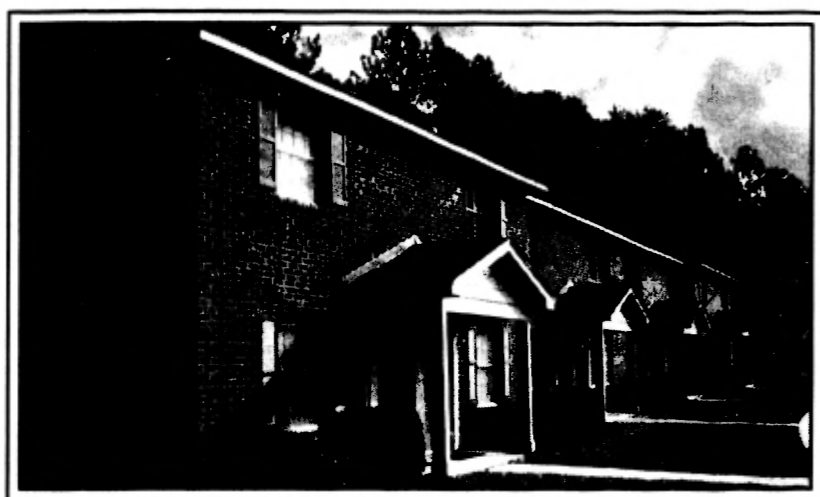
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Wife from page 5

So if you make contact with a pretty girl drinking a vodka-pineapple with big pearl studs in her ears, follow these simple steps to extract yourself should she get a fervent grip on your wallet.

First, inform her that you own a Tag watch. If she stares blankly at you, then you are in the clear. If she asks you why you don't own a Rolex, run fast.

If you start discussing common interests and the topic of golf is broached, deny having any knowledge of the Masters or who Phil Mickelson is. Golf has always been

a sport synonymous with money and feigning ignorance will make you seem "common" in her eyes.

Despite how much time these girls take in making sure they have the perfect appearance for catching a man, do not be fooled into thinking they have heads full of bubbles. These ladies know exactly what they are doing and make no qualms about their quest for a life full of tennis and having their share of cabana boys.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Coach LeClair leaves lasting legacy at ECU

*LeClair survived by wife,
two children*

ERIC GILMORE
SPORTS EDITOR

Even in death, Keith LeClair's legacy will live on.

A stadium bears his name. Hall of fames don his plaques. A round robin tournament provides a stage for big time college baseball.

The stadium is a brick-by-brick metaphor of the foundation he built at the helm of ECU's baseball team. Both the ECU and Western Carolina University Hall of Fames display the hard work and passion he put in as both a player and coach. Like his teams, the tournament puts Greenville in the national spotlight.

At the end, it didn't matter. Neither did LeClair's body, which slowly failed him over the five years that he was afflicted with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease.

What did matter were his faith, his mind and his family. Three things, a trinity if you will, that never failed him.

"The experience of the disease caused him to go a bit deeper in his faith and to look inward and think about what's important in life," said Oakmont Baptist Pastor Greg Rogers.

"He decided that family and faith was number one and everything else would come second."

LeClair had been unable to communicate since his eyes deteriorated in October from using his laser eye technology. Even his wife Lynn, who is described as a "saint" by Rogers, lost the ability to speak with her husband.

"Most people are defined by what they do in terms of wins, honors, accomplishments ... Keith is defined by the way he lived his life."

TODD RALEIGH
WCU HEAD COACH

"It all comes back to faith," said Joseph Hastings, a former ECU player who is one of six college assistant coaches that played under LeClair.

"They took the situation and used it as an opportunity to reach out to people.

On Father's Day, there was LeClair sitting in his power chair worshipping at the Oakmont Baptist

Church watching his only daughter, Audrey, sing a musical solo.

"He didn't have to say anything to be an inspirational type of figure for people," Rogers said.

"His presence in our worship service was something that touched people deep within their hearts."

Still, LeClair kept fighting. And through his five-year battle, he got to treasure moments with his children as they grew. Little things, like baseball games and Sunday afternoons were experiences he preserved as sand piled in his hourglass.

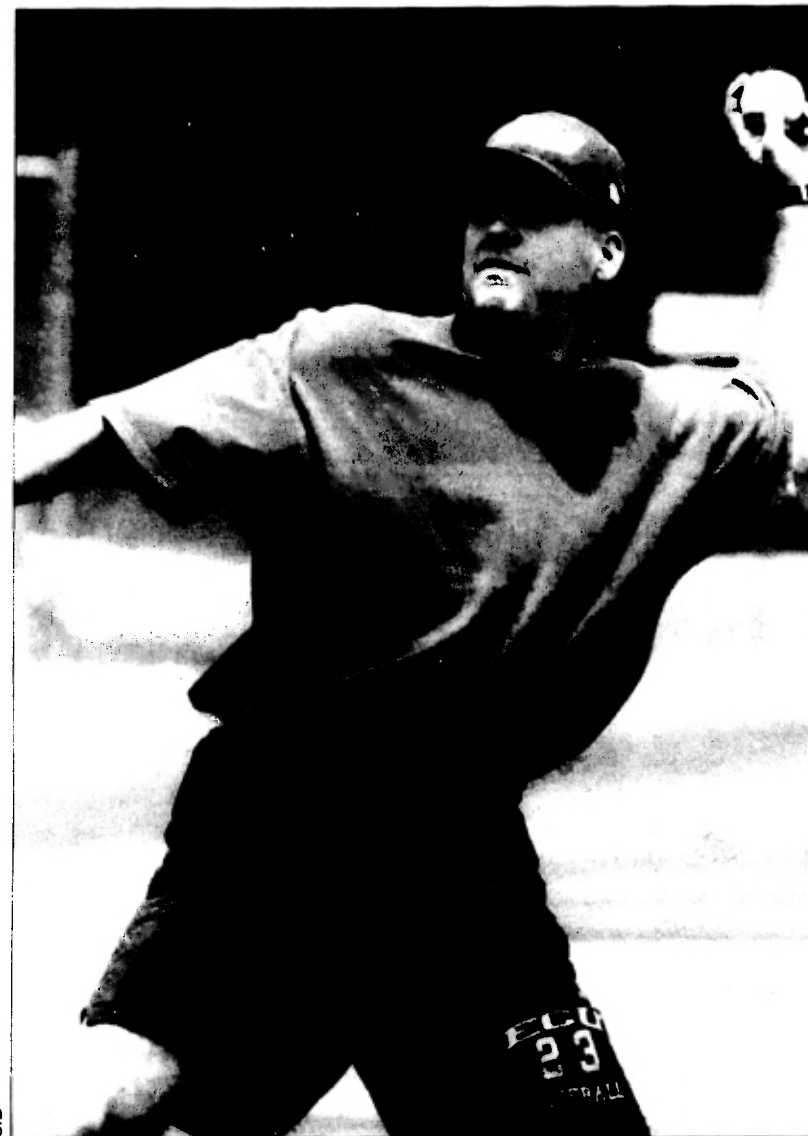
"These last five years have been a real gift for Keith in respect to his children because he was able to watch them grow," Rogers said.

He got to watch the dedication of the stadium that bears his name. He helped to raise money for ECU athletics and ALS awareness. He wrote devotionals to family and friends. Through it all, LeClair was happy and at peace.

"Most people are defined by what they do in terms of wins, honors, accomplishments and things like that," WCU head coach Todd Raleigh said, a former teammate and assistant coach.

"Keith is defined by the way he lived his life. He put his family and religion first and did everything else after that the right way."

This writer can be contacted at
sports@theeastcarolinian.com.



Keith LeClair, 40, conducted practice before being stricken with ALS.

Mark Wharton settles in as new Pirate Club Director

*Wharton returns for
"dream job"*

RON CLEMENTS
SENIOR WRITER

So often we hear of former players returning to their alma mater to coach. Mark Wharton graduated from ECU in 1993 and has returned to Greenville as the new Executive Director of the Pirate Club. Wharton, who assumed his new duties July 17, didn't play sports at ECU, but his mark on campus was there even when he wasn't and his return is something special.

"It's amazing being back - how many of the same faces and a lot of phone calls congratulating and saying hello," Wharton said.

"It's kinda weird. Not a lot has changed. I left here in 2000 and I told everyone that my dream job would be back in this capacity. I thought it would come down the road when I

was 55 or something, but it's more of an honor and privilege now."

Wharton obtained his bachelor's degree in leisure studies with a concentration in community and commercial recreation from ECU in 1993 before adding a master's in human ecology with an emphasis in sport management from the University of Tennessee in 1995.

This is Wharton's second stint with the Pirate Club. In 1996, he returned to Greenville as the Club's assistant director - a position he held for four years. During that time, Wharton led a campaign to revamp the athletic department's facilities. He was responsible for the development of 17 Pirate Club chapters in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. In addition to identifying members for annual campaigns, he qualified individuals and businesses for ECU's "Kick-off To Victory" campaign to raise \$10.5 million for the construction of the Pirates' new

strength and conditioning building, later named the Murphy Center. Wharton also played an active role directing the Young Graduate Campaign and Student Pirate Club while coordinating parking and seating assignments for games.

"We are fortunate to have someone of Mark's capability who also brings a wealth of experience to this job," Pirate Club President John Hudson said in May.

"He developed his foundation at ECU and will bring a passion back to the Pirate Club."

Wharton's most recent position was associate director of athletics for development at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas for the past two years, where he headed all development and fundraising activities for the Rebels' intercollegiate athletics program.

"We are thrilled to welcome Mark back to the Pirate family," said Terry Holland, ECU athletic director.

"His experience, institutional knowledge and vision will serve our fund-raising efforts very well for years to come."

Wharton served as the Associate Athletics Director for External Affairs at UNC-Asheville from 2003 to 2004. Prior to that, he spent three years at James Madison University as Director of the Duke Club. The 37-year-old father of two began his professional career while a student at ECU, earning an appointment as the Kinston Indians' Director of Regional Marketing in January of 1991.

"Mark is a Pirate and therefore understands the mission and vision for ECU as a university and as an athletic department," Holland said.

"He is a good fit yet also has an extensive and varied background in fundraising at different types of institutions in different parts of the country. Mark's experience here in the Pirate Club in the late 90s, at James Madison, UNC-Asheville and

UNLV provide him with the ideal foundation for leading the Pirate Club into a new era. He respects and understands the great job the Pirate Club has done for ECU Athletics over these many years and he brings new ideas and proven concepts that can help us be even more competitive over the next decade."

Wharton has the future on his mind, to reward the long-time supporters of the Pirates while continuing to emphasize growth of the Pirate Club.

"We've got to grow our base and for those long-time supporters, we've got to move them up the ladder," Wharton said.

"We have to continue our facility improvements and build our endowment. Ten years ago, they were talking about having \$10 million, now we're pushing for \$20 million. We can't settle with where we are."

This writer can be contacted at
sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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LeClair from page 1

NCAA regional berth at stake, LeClair watched his team defeat Houston 4-0 from a van located along the foul line to capture his only C-USA tournament crown. After making the final out, the team doused his vehicle in celebration. The act, done spontaneously, was a symbol of the respect mutual respect between he and his players.

He was inducted into the ECU athletic hall of fame in 2002 and was honored as the first recipient of the C-USA Student-Athlete Advisory Committee's (SAAC) Coaches Choice Award. In addition, the C-USA Baseball Coach of the Year Award is named in his honor.

He won the American Baseball Coaches Association's East Region Coach-of-the-Year award in both 1999 and 2001. During his collegiate baseball career as a player, assistant coach and head coach at Western Carolina and ECU, LeClair was a part of 13 NCAA Tournament teams and earned five conference coach-of-the-year awards.

LeClair played at WCU under current Clemson head coach Jack Leggett. LeClair was an All-Southern Conference selection in 1988 while earning SoCon Tournament MVP honors the same season. The former walk-on also established

Catamount records for hits and total bases in a season. He was inducted into the WCU athletic hall of fame in 2002 and his jersey was recently retired.

LeClair signed a minor league contract with the Atlanta Braves after finishing his collegiate career. After a spring training stint with the San Francisco Giants in 1989, he was offered a student assistant coaching position at WCU. At WCU, he had a 229-135-2 (.628) record while winning four Southern Conference championships and advancing to NCAA regional play four times.

The funeral service will be held on Friday, July 21 at 2 p.m. at Oakmont Baptist Church in Greenville. The family will receive friends on Thursday evening between 5 and 8 p.m. at S.G. Wilkerson and Sons Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that donations be made to the ALS Foundation, SPORTworks Ministry and The Pirate Club.

LeClair is survived by his wife, Lynn, two children, Audrey and J.D., and his father and mother, Andy and Doris LeClair, of Walpole, NH.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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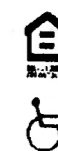
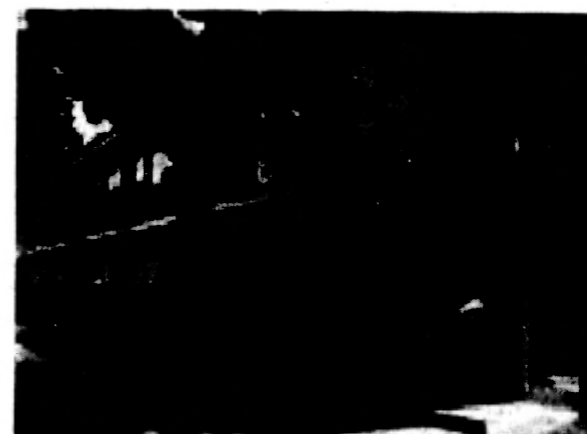
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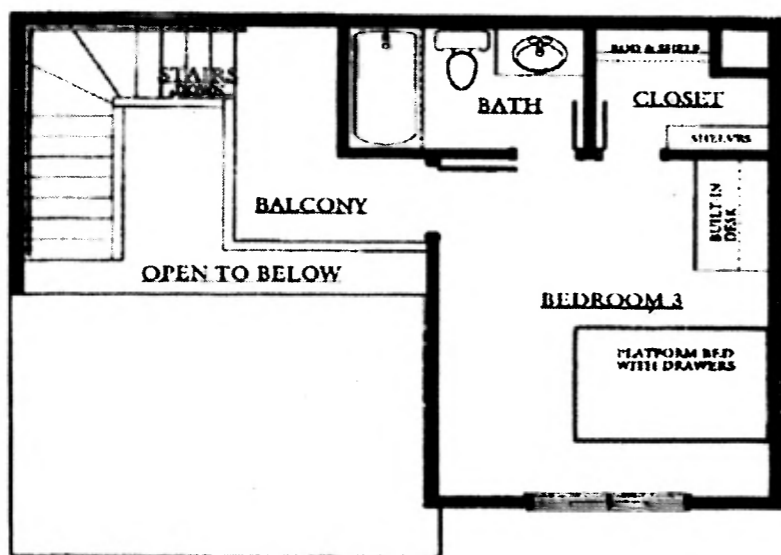
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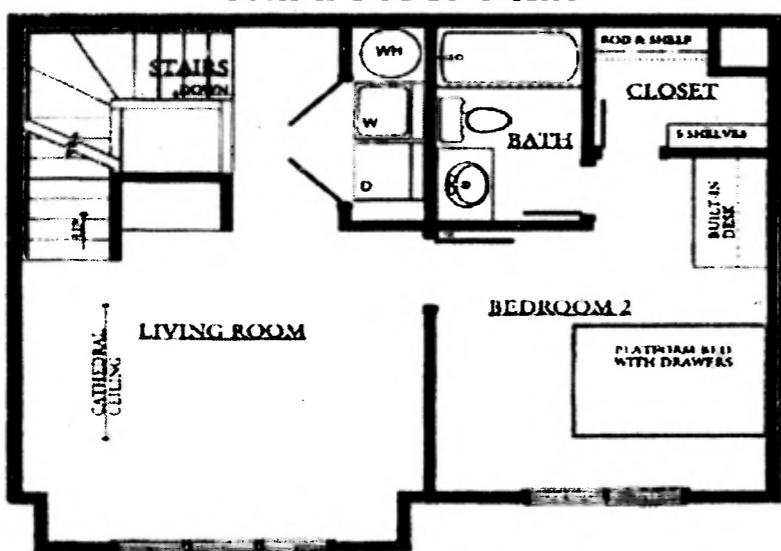
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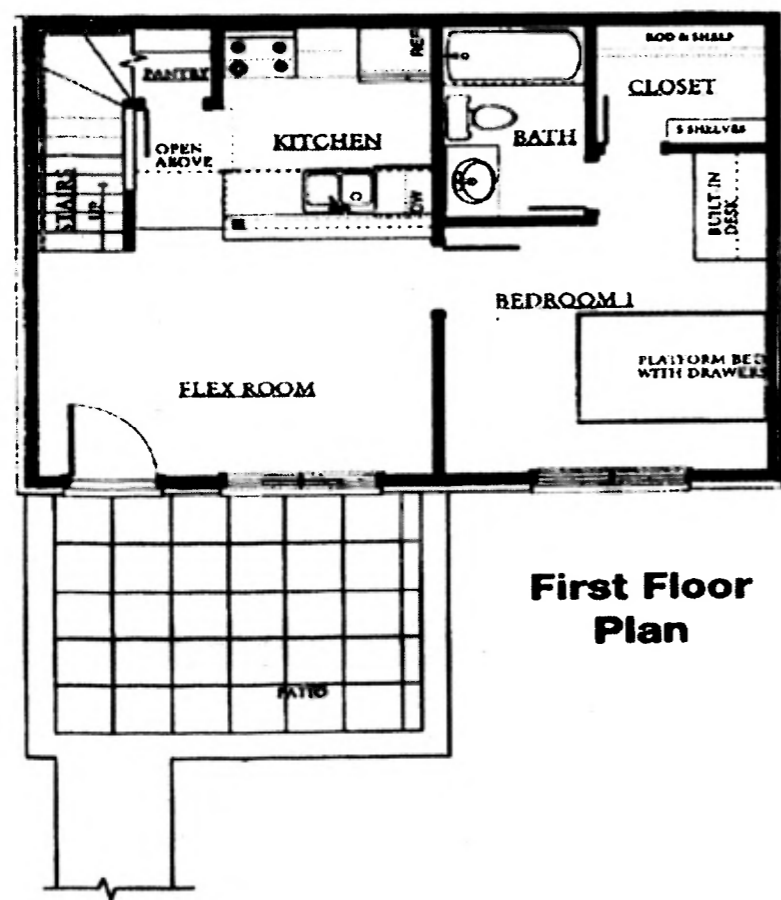




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