



Black Student Union celebrates 10-year anniversary

Event will recognize past presidents and members

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

ECU's Black Student Union (BSU) will celebrate 10 years of existence on campus at two different events on Saturday, Feb. 23.

The day will begin by honoring past executive members, including the first BSU president, at a luncheon in Mendenhall Student Center (MSC) Great Rooms. "We really put a lot of emphasis on the past presidents and executive members, almost like our 'founding fathers,'" said John Michael Harris, co-chair of the financial affairs committee of BSU.

The event will also look back

at the past things that BSU has accomplished since its creation.

"The luncheon is focused on our history with various speakers and presentations about our organization," said Patrick Dixon, president of BSU.

The keynote speaker for the luncheon will be Nell Lewis, former director of the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center.

Lewis was influential in getting students resources in the first couple of years BSU was getting started, according to Dixon.

The luncheon will be held at 12 p.m. on Saturday and is by invitation only. People such as the mayor of Greenville, City Council members, Chancellor Steve Ballard and Lynn Roeder, dean of students, have been

see **BSU** page A4



The ECU baseball team starts the 2008 season on the road against one of the nation's best teams this weekend. Turn to the sports section for a series preview.... **PAGE B1**



Top-ranked Memphis is trying to capture Conference USA's first-ever men's basketball national championship this year. That feat will be tested in the weeks to come, beginning this weekend against No. 2 Tennessee.....**PAGE B1**



The Ledonia Wright Cultural Center gave students a look inside Africa with a program on Wednesday night, part of their month-long efforts to celebrate Black History Month.....**PAGE A6**



Current members of the executive board of BSU pose for a picture after one of their general meetings.

Matt Roloff shared the story of his life with students

Administration welcomes change
Middle ground reached in protest

YAZID FINN
STAFF WRITER



Matt Roloff tells the audience how he has overcome obstacles in his life.

Star of "Little People, Big World"

NADIAH SARSOOR
STAFF WRITER

Matt Roloff from the TLC show "Little People, Big World," paid ECU a visit and gave students the opportunity to look beyond their TV screens into the Roloff's life.

Roloff made an entrance rolling his motorized scooter on stage at Wright Auditorium as an audience of more than 1,300 applauded.

When Roloff was born, his parents' gratitude was not

fully completed. Roloff said his family was "disappointed and shocked that I wasn't the perfect baby."

As a youngster, Roloff relied heavily on his hands. He liked to build things himself. But when it came to school, he was anything but ready. He said during finals, he would be working on a personal design or project of his instead of studying.

With time, Roloff proved that perfection has no size. His driven personality shielded his little figure.

He never looked at himself the way people looked at him. Roloff said he's

always "seen myself as a very large and capable person. I can do just anything."

With that thought in mind Roloff embarked on a journey that eventually led to his success and recognition.

At one point of his life, he decided he wanted to shift his focus from design and work with sales.

This decision had a good turn off. In fact, Roloff said he brought in more sales for the company he worked for in his first year than the previous salesman in four years.

Roloff had to put his job on hold when he heard about an organization called "Little People of America."

Little People of America is a non-profit organization that aims at giving support to little people.

It was there where he met his wife Amy and started a family. He decided to join and worked on bringing home awareness about dwarfism.

But what's a better way to bring about his message than sending it through the screens of each home.

Roloff said his story was sent out through a string of callers until it reached one TLC producer.

Roloff had to then make a decision of signing a contract with TLC and allowing them to shadow his

family's daily routines.

Amy, Roloff's wife, was not very receptive of the idea but after long deliberation, the Roloffs signed a contract with TLC to kick off the show's first season.

Roloff said this decision came under the premise that "it's our desire to educate about dwarfism and not to become a celebrity or for money."

Roloff said they try to reject "the notion of big Hollywood, red carpet, glitz and glamour."

Not only did the show bring entertainment, but it brought inspiration as well.

Roloff shared a story with the audience about a little eighteen-year-old young man. He told Roloff he was never invited to a party before.

Roloff paused as the audience let out a sigh of compassion then added how after his show started he was asked by three girls to go to prom.

Roloff said that even though their show brought about inspiration he gained the same thing from people.

"Most times they don't realize how much their story inspired us, so it's been a good mutual experience," Roloff said.

This writer may be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com

New Chief Diversity Officer appointed



Kimberly Baker-Flowers chosen for position

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

The Office of Institutional Diversity has appointed a new leader. Kimberly

Baker-Flowers has been selected to permanently fill the position as chief diversity officer for ECU.

Baker-Flowers will officially start the new position on Feb. 29.

Formerly director of minority student success at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, she was selected from a group of four candidates chosen from a nationwide search.

A selection committee of students, faculty, staff and community members interviewed the candidates.

"I am delighted that Ms. Baker-Flowers has accepted our offer to join East Carolina. She was selected from a very strong field of candidates, and she impressed the search committee as well as the

administration with her team orientation and her strong leadership skills," said Chancellor Steve Ballard.

She will take over the position of Virginia Hardy, who is currently holding the interim position.

see **CHIEF** page A3

Society of Thoracic Surgeons announces new president



ECU surgeon elected

NIA RICHARDSON
STAFF WRITER

Dr. W. Randolph Chitwood was elected president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) last January.

Chitwood was elected as vice president of STS in 2006, which gave him the opportunity to be elected as the president.

Thoracic surgery is the surgical treatment of the organs of the chest.

STS is the world's largest non-profit organization of professionals that practice this form of surgery, representing over 5400 thoracic surgery professionals.

Chitwood has been an active leader in STS since 1994. As president he

will oversee the activities of three STS divisions: Quality and patient Safety, Education and member Services, and Health Care Policy and Databases.

He will also work to promote international surgery issues, government policy, and the education of future thoracic surgeons.

"I have little doubt given his proclivity for organizational development, that he will not only deliver great stewardship to the STS but also great vision over the course of his term," said Dr. Michael Rotondo.

Other doctors and colleagues also seem sure that Chitwood will do well in this new position.

"His vision for the future and his awareness of the actions needed to achieve that future are essential for this type of role in a major national organization," said Dr. Phyllis Horns, dean of Brody School of Medicine

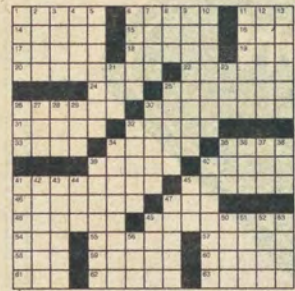
Chitwood founded the cardiac surgery program at ECU. He also developed the Robotic Surgery Center to train surgeons in the methods of less invasive robotic surgery.

In 2000 he performed the first ever mitral valve repair in North America.

"My interest in the development of new technology and less invasive surgery has been on the forefront of my clinical and research work and has been recognized worldwide," Chitwood said.

see **SURGEONS** page A4

Crossword



Page A9

su | do | ku

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- OPINION.....Page A5
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PIRATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Voyages of Discovery: Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture
Thursday, Feb. 21
7 p.m.
Wright Auditorium
University of Minnesota historian Lisa Norling will deliver the series' Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture, 'Captain Ahab Had a Wife' and will examine gender roles in maritime men and women's work. Faculty, staff and students will be admitted free, but should request tickets through the ECU Central Ticket Office, 328-4788. Tickets for the general public are \$10.

Dialogue Training for Daring Dialogues
Thursday, Feb. 21
3-5 p.m.
MSC Social Room
Dialogue - Learn what it is... Learn what it isn't. Learn how to lead dialogue discussion groups. Learn how to facilitate Daring Dialogues. Meet new people. Learn new skills. Talk about making diversity work at ECU! Students, staff, and faculty are all welcome.

Sorority 101
"Facebook & Myspace...Is it really your Friend?"
Friday, Feb. 22
7 p.m.
Brody School of Medicine
This event is open to ALL Greeks & Non-Greeks.

College of Health and Human Performance Leadership Forum
Friday, Feb. 22
12:30 p.m.
Hendrix Theatre
The forum will begin with a ceremony recognizing Health and Human Performance Leadership Centennial Leaders, followed by a panel discussion, and collaborative sessions between these leaders, faculty, and students. The forum has been made possible due to the generosity of the ECU BB&T Center for Leadership Development, Industrial & Construction Enterprises, Inc., and University Book Exchange.

Asian Studies presents Korean music
Saturday, Feb. 23
5:30 -7 p.m.
Rivers West 105
ECU presents: "Enchanted Sounds of Traditional Korean Music: Kayagum Presentation and Demonstration" featuring Grace Jong Eun Lee. Free. Sponsors are the Korea Society, the Korean Association of Greenville, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences, its Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Program, and the International Studies Program.

Sorority 101
Saturday, Feb. 23
8:30 -9 a.m. - Registration
9 a.m. -3 p.m. - Workshops & Lunch
Nursing Building (Allied Health Sciences Complex)
This part of the conference is only open to Greeks. Registration \$5 for undergraduates. For more information contact: Shawnte McMillan at mcmillans@ecu.edu, 252-328-6794

College of Business hosts Beta Gamma Sigma lecture
Monday, Feb. 25
3:30 p.m.
Greenville Hilton
Federal Reserve Governor Frederic Mishkin is the keynote speaker for the 21st Annual Beta Gamma Sigma Distinguished Lecture Series. Mishkin will present "The Federal Reserve's tools for responding to financial disruptions." The event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by ECU's College of Business and Beta Gamma Sigma.

21Thu 22Fri 23Sat 24Sun 25Mon 26Tue 27Wed

Voyages of Discovery: Sallie Southall Cotten Lecture
7 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

Dialogue Training for Daring Dialogues
3-5 p.m.
MSC Social Room

Women's Tennis
North Carolina Central
5 p.m.

Women's Basketball
UAB
8 p.m.
Minges Coliseum

Sorority 101
"Facebook & Myspace...Is it really your Friend?"
7 p.m.
Brody School of Medicine

College of Health and Human Performance Leadership Forum
12:30 p.m.
Hendrix Theatre

Softball
Syracuse
2 p.m.
Greenville, NC

Baseball
South Carolina
3 p.m.
Columbia, SC

Asian Studies presents Korean music
5:30-7 p.m.
Rivers West 105

A Tribute to Motown Blues and Jazz Vocalist-"AISHAH"
Special guest vocalist- Bill Crews
Saturday, Feb. 23
8 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

Sorority 101
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Nursing Building (Allied Health Sciences Complex)

NC Day of Percussion
8 a.m.-7 p.m.
A.J. Fletcher Music Hall

University Chorale Concert
3-5 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

Mr. and Mrs. Jones Hall
8-10 p.m.
Jones Hall Lobby

School of Music Symphonic Band Concert
8-10 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

Rivers Scholar lecture
4 p.m.
Bate 1032

Blood Drive
11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
505 E. 5th St.

Prince Cedza Dlamani Lecture
5-6 p.m.
MSC Great Rooms

Pirate Gladiators
5:30-9 p.m.
Student Recreation Center

FEATURED EVENT:



A Tribute to Motown Blues and Jazz Vocalist-"AISHAH"
Special guest vocalist- Bill Crews
Saturday, Feb. 23
8 p.m.
Wright Auditorium

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For information call the Media Board office at 328-9236

Two ECU faculty members will lead dialogue at "The Dream"

Event analyzes past, current and future progression in equality

KIMBERLY BELLAMY
NEWS EDITOR

Multiple members of the ECU community have collaborated to create an event called THE DREAM, which will celebrate Black History Month.

THE DREAM will take place on Friday, Feb. 22 in the Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms.

Dialogue will be exchanged among speakers and attendees to stimulate change and reflect on changes that have been made in equality.

Two of ECU's very own will lead the discussions at this event. Reginald Watson, professor in American and multicultural literature, will be one of the two.

Accompanying Watson in the discussion, will be Corey King, assistant vice chancellor of Student Experiences.

The event serves as a way to

eliminate some of the attitudes of different cultural groups and practices.

"I hope that THE DREAM program will inspire others to dream and put aside the nightmares of oppression, disillusionment and disfranchisement that still plague our society today," Watson said.

Changing the way people think about the possibility of accomplishing things and adapting to situations is one of the goals of the event.

"Remember, dreams set the stage for tangible and obtainable realities that bring about revolutionary change," Watson said.

"Hopefully through, THE DREAM program will serve as a proper 'alarm clock' that will eradicate the tendency to sleep-walk through a life of ignorance."

By opening up this topic to a range of people, a better idea of the progression that has been made will be achieved.

"What a wonderful idea to bridge generations concerning our past, our present and our future," King said. "Open dialogue and discussions are great ways in exchanging ideas and experiences. This is as real as it gets."

Alpha Phi Alpha Fra-

ternity Inc. and Expressions Literary Magazine are the sponsors of this event.

SGA and Student Media are also playing a role in the event by hosting a reception, which will follow occur at the conclusion of the event.

"It felt natural for Expressions Magazine, as a minority publication, to co-sponsor the event with Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.," said Guillaume Bagal, general manager of Expressions Magazine and member of Alpha Phi Alpha.

"SGA was only too happy to support such a cause by helping with the reception that is to follow the event."

The idea for the event stemmed from Bagal and his fraternity brother, Deron Hall.

Although, this is the first time this event has occurred, Bagal mentioned that there is a possibility to make it an annual event.

For more information about THE DREAM, visit expressions.ecu.edu or etanu1906.org.

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

CHIEF continued from A1

"She [Baker-Flowers] possesses many of the characteristics and talents needed to move the diversity agenda at ECU," Hardy said.

"She has a long history of working with different populations on campus and in the community and with building relationships."

As chief diversity officer, Baker-Flowers will hold the responsibility of leading the Office of Institutional Diversity as well as the university community in promoting an environment that harbors diversity and promotes the acceptance of different cultural attitudes.

Baker-Flowers will additionally serve on the Chancellor's Executive Council, which aids in directing the progress of the university.

"Having this position permanently filled provides the university the opportunity to move for-

ward and make diversity a reality at ECU," said Patrick Dixon, president of the Black Student Union.

According to Hardy, Baker-Flowers possesses the ability to think critically and creatively which will be influential in her success of building on the agenda of diversity.

"She will continue what Dr. Hardy started in promoting a sense of balance in diversity affairs and programs," said Jennifer Nnamani, secretary of diversity affairs.

To learn more about the Office of Institutional Diversity, visit the Web site at ecu.edu/ediversity.

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

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BSU continued from A1

Contributed image

Pictured above are some of the members that make-up the current body of BSU.

invited to the event.

"We first invited any past presidents or people on executive boards, faculty and members of BSU," said Kendra Lewis, chief of staff of BSU.

On Saturday night, BSU will have a more relaxed celebration by having a semi-formal ball in the Great Rooms of MSC at 9:30 p.m.

The semi-formal ball is open to everyone and attendance is highly encouraged for the whole student body.

Members of BSU agree that it is necessary to take a look back on what has been done and what can get accomplished by the organization in the future.

"It's important to let stu-

dents know that they should be involved on their campus and this anniversary can let them know how important BSU really is," Lewis said.

The anniversary celebration will be used as ammunition to aid the organization in growth and more opportunities to accomplish initiatives.

"As our charge is greater and our ability to do things is greater, our impact will become greater..." Dixon said.

The organization started discussing having the event last April and actually started working on implementing it in December, according to Dixon.

"We've been working on

it hard for about the previous month and half," Lewis said.

Students who are interested in attending the semi-formal ball may purchase tickets at the Central Ticket Office in MSC.

The tickets are \$5 for current and past BSU members with membership cards and \$10 for the general public. Those who present their Motown Ticket stubs, which will occur earlier in the evening, will be offered a discounted rate of \$5.

To learn more about BSU, you can visit the Web site at ecu.edu/org/ecubsu.

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

CHANGE continued from A1

Parking and Transportation get is 100 percent of the \$20 administration fee out of the towing. Parking and Transportation only receives 20 percent of the remaining parking fines on campus, the remaining 80 per-

cent goes to the public schools," Vaughn said.

Yopp will work with Parking and Transportation to look into implementing previously proposed policies, including the boot replacement or to expunge

student records at the beginning of each semester for their parking fine's history.

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

SURGEONS continued from A1

Chitwood is the founding director of the East Carolina Heart Institute and is also currently serving as senior associate vice chancellor for health Sciences at ECU.

"We have a tremendous

investment in education for practicing surgeons as well as those in training," Chitwood said.

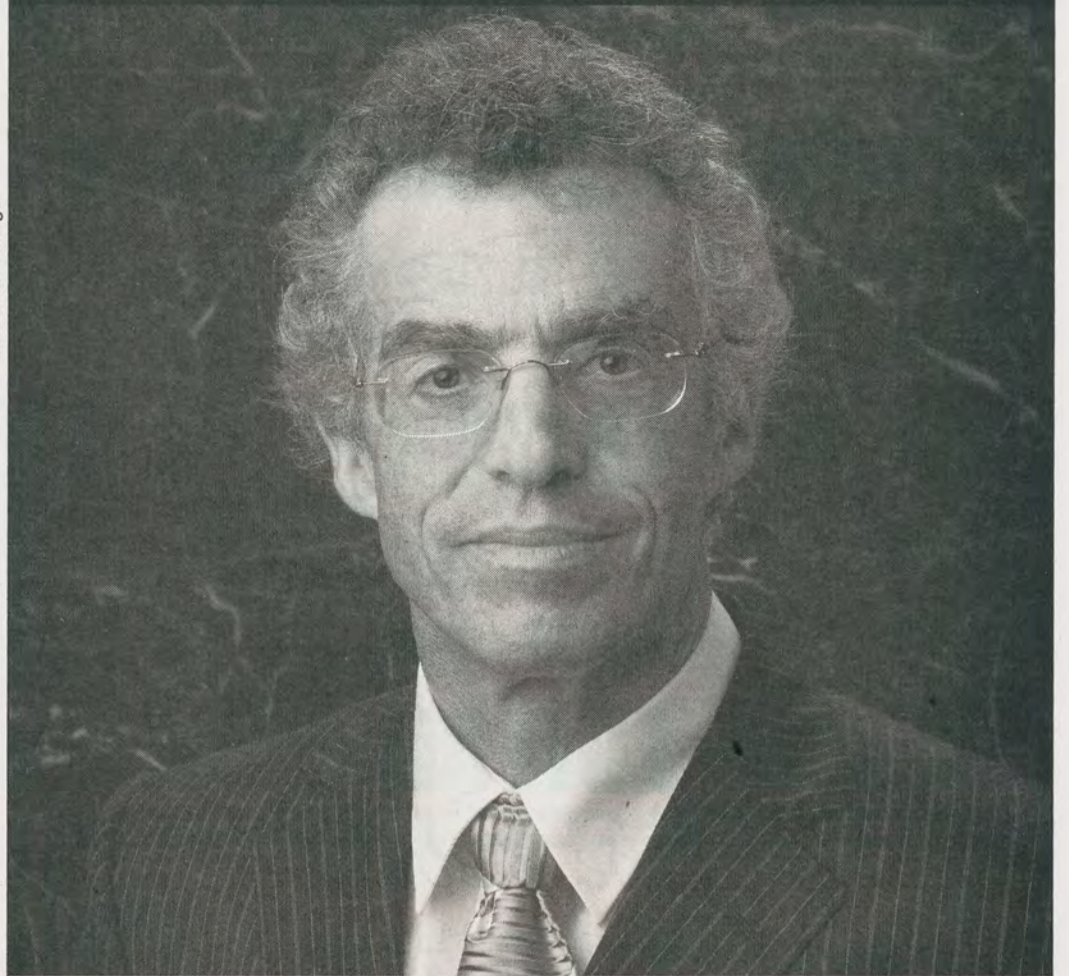
Chitwood holds a bachelor's degree from Hampden-Sydney College, a medical degree from University of Virginia, and he

completed his surgical residency at Duke University.

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

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Opinion

RANT OF THE DAY

Stop trying to look over my shoulder; you can see my rants on Thursday

{Your procrastination destination}

Southern accents don't make you stupid

Being stupid does

LARA OLIVER
OPINION WRITER

One of my mom's favorite anecdotes from my childhood is a story that a lot of northern-born parents seem to share when raising their children in the south. You see, about 17 years ago, back in Morrisville, North Carolina, she remembers me running home excited because I'd just learned to count to 10 and wanted to show off for her. So, I started counting, "One, two, three, *foah*..." At this point in the story, my mom likes to laugh and tell people about how scared she was that I would start talking like that for the rest of my life.

We'd moved down to North Carolina from Pennsylvania when I was about five years old. I have very few memories of actually living in Pennsylvania, so I like to think of North Carolina as my home, and my accent has reflected that quite often. Yet, I've never really felt like I truly belong. Sometimes, when I force myself to speak like my parents do, people ask me in an angry tone where I'm from (seems that attitudes are still a little sour from carpet bagging...), but when I accidentally slip into a southern twang I get laughed at by young locals who've learned to hide their accents.

It seems there's really no way to win for the young people being raised in the south. We're constantly bombarded with images of the stupid, ignorant southerners in movies, television and radio; can anyone really say that Larry the Cable Guy helped improve the south's image at all? Yet, we're told to hold onto our pride and have dignity for our home. It's gotten to the point where almost every person I know who was born and raised in North Carolina can slip in and out of their southern accent, depending on the situation. In line at Parker's? Time to pull out the accent. Talking in class? Better hide it. I've even met people who lie about where they're from along with hiding their accent, despite the fact we go to school in North Carolina.

Can anybody really blame them? The southern accent has become the catch-all stereotype for ignorance and stupidity, and we're helping it along by forcing ourselves to hide any accent and consuming the entertainment that exploits southerners. As I mentioned earlier, Larry the Cable Guy helped reinforce a lot of negative attitudes about the south — the fact that we're stupid, fat, white trash hillbillies who have less class in our whole body than the rest of America has in their pinky fingers. Can anyone even think of a positive portrayal of a person with a southern accent in popular entertainment anymore? Outside of Mark Twain, idiot-savants like Forrest Gump, and a few characters from *Fried Green Tomatoes*, the south just can't seem to find a positive role model in movies or TV. A lot of those born-and-raised North Carolinians I mentioned, tell me they don't like to speak with an accent because it "makes them sound stupid." Stupid to whom? We're in North Carolina, for God's sake. If I went to North Dakota I wouldn't be shocked by people talking like they did in *Fargo*, and if I was in New York City, I wouldn't laugh at a person with a Brooklyn accent; so why do we feel like we need to hide ours in our own state?

We need to stop being ashamed of a colloquial accent and start embracing it. My doctor once told me he was teased in medical school because he talked so slowly, yet he graduated top of his class and surpassed everyone's expectations of him. If he'd dropped his accent around his peers, he would've just reinforced their stereotype of where he came from, so why don't we do the same?

If someone makes fun of you for your accent, prove him or her wrong. It's time we stopped buying into stereotypes, letting them control who we are, and start being ourselves.

And for the love of God, don't give any more money to Larry the Cable Guy.

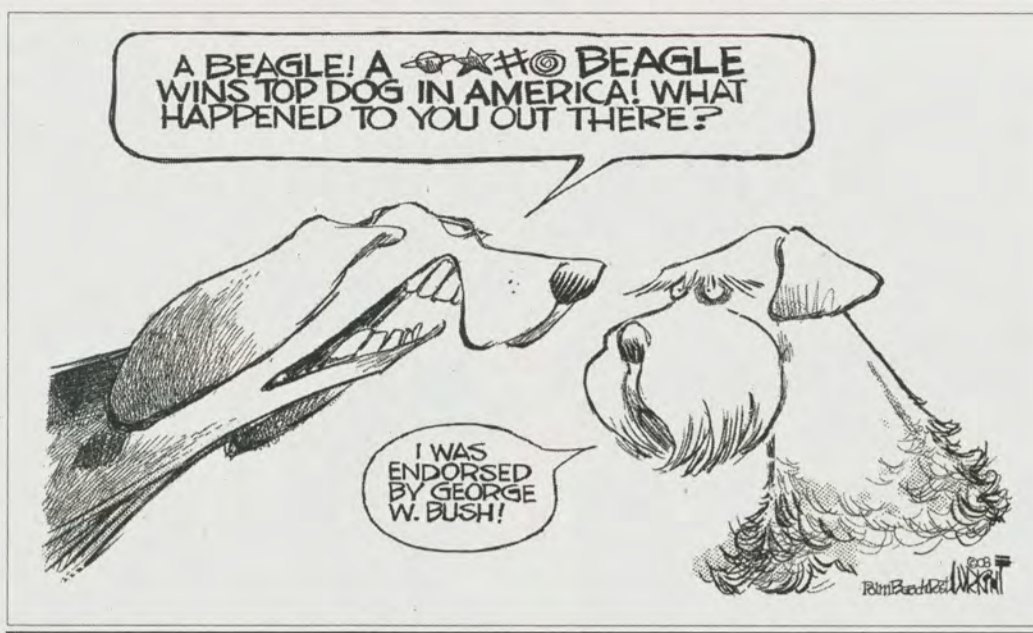
This writer can be reached at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.



"Sadly, my computer is down right now. Do you people mind if I indulge in a bit of verbal blogging?"

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PIRATE RANTS

The *East Carolinian* does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants. Questions regarding Rants can be directed to J.D. Lewis, Opinion Page Editor, at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com. Log onto theeastcarolinian.com to submit a Rant of your own.

Dear Pirate Rant Chooser: quit picking the "I love you" rants. THEY AREN'T RANTS!!

Dear Ranters: Submit something besides "I love you" rants, and I will.

I gave my fiancé a black eye the other night.

No one really cares if you're miserable, so you might as well be happy.

I cheated on my boyfriend.

My roommate has chlamydia. Don't go home with her tonight, please.

You're getting married in less than 15 weeks!!!

I broke into her e-mail and saw her naked pics. Now I want to forward them to her boss. That's what you get for sleeping with my fiancé.

I can't, I won't, I will not do it.

Yo quiero Taco Bell.

Gordo's Cheese Dip: My reason for living.

I'm so excited that Ryan Newman won the Daytona 500!!!

Smidgits make me happy. That's why I heart you.

I'm majoring in Facestalking.

FYI, the wind does not blow inside.

Just because you're in the corner does not mean you can talk on your cell phone on the quiet floor of the library.

Variety is the spice of life!

If you ask, I will say yes!

Your family is slowly destroying our relationship.

I wonder if you would've married her if I had said yes.

True friends don't blame you for their own problems.

MOTIVATION!!! Where can I get some?

Trying to stay sober in Greenville is like taking Ambein and trying to stay awake. You know you're eventually going to give in and end up waking up on the floor.

This is my chinchilla; I wear it specifically to show the world how wealthy I can be.

My friend gave up his fraternity for Lent!

I've been chewing this same piece of gum for three hours. Eww.

I sometimes feel like my rants don't get through. Prove to me different.

No offense, but how come we don't get President's Day off, but get Martin Luther King Day off?

To the tall guy with the dimples that walked past our table in the dining hall the other day: Yes! We were talking about you, and you are a hottie! Next time you pass our table, come back and say "HEEEEEEY!"

It makes me feel good about myself when I see a professor on campus carrying a Microsoft Excel for Dummies book.

Maybe it's just me, but I hate the fact that the bathroom doors in Brewster are propped open everyday. There are doors there for a reason. Maybe it's just me, but I generally don't want to deal with the sights and sounds of open bathrooms when going to class every morning.

Am I the only one who doesn't get the weather around here? I mean, we're in T-shirts at 65 degrees one day, and the next it's 34 and we're all in coats! I just wish it was consistent (with warm weather).

I'm smooth and creamy like peanut butter.

Thanks, ECU, for changing the 30-minute loading zone in front of Garrett to an A1 zone without telling me. It cost me \$70.

To the person who wants a parking deck near the Rec Center: If you are coming to the Rec to work out, why don't you park a little further away and WALK to the Rec Center. Heaven forbid you exercise on your way to exercise!

Really?? Weed whacking outside of my window at eight in the morning???? You must be kidding me. Thank you, Exchange.

To the person that feels that a woman, black man, elderly man, or the cartoon character can't run this country any better than the current middle-aged white man that is seated in that office now, then you're as stupid as your rant. Accept change. It's good for you!

Don't you hate it when someone asks you to tell them the truth, and then they can't handle it? You already know how blunt I am. I tell these little fibs to spare your feelings. Be careful what you ask for!

The few. The proud. The undiseased.

None of the guys we saw at UNC smoke, and the majority of them were hot too.

I wish I had half the nerve of that guy that walks around hitting on every girl that walks through Central Campus.

Don't look at me in that tone of voice.

My roommate has had three significant others admit that they wish they had met me first.

I think my boyfriend's roommate joined a cult!

I missed 11:11 by one minute last night. I guess that's fate's way of telling me you're not worth wishing for anymore.

Does it creep anyone else out that every day most of the Pirate Rants are losers confessing their love to someone they'll probably never talk to?

This is not a class. It's a 75 minute discussion about everyone's life story. I'm learning nothing.

Am I the only one who hopes my sociology professor leaves and doesn't come back?

I find it unfair that we have yet to get a day off for a hurricane or snow.

I ate an apple today. Does that turn you on?

Stop trying to look over my shoulder; you can see my rants on Thursday.

Affirmative Action is racist

You look like a monkey ... and you smell like one too!

You know you like it when I sniff your farts!

To the guy in my one o'clock philosophy class: Why do you always feel the need to teach the class? Present me your credentials, sir!

I enjoy making love ... much more than making war.

Castro has resigned. Here comes capitalism and consumerism!

You taste like sunshine dust.

Chemistry lab is supposed to last for two hours and 50 minutes, not three hours and 20 minutes. Why would they make us do labs that are impossible to finish?

Okay, first of all, most of us in pep band are NOT music majors; we do it for fun. And if you're so good, why don't you man up and audition next year?

I understand everyone thinks that English professor is so hot, but forgive me for just not seeing it.

It's so hard to not believe in God given that you're such an angel.

I feel obligated to wish people a happy birthday because Facebook reminds me ALL day long.

You just keep assuring me that I made the right decision to move out... keep 'em coming. I dare you.

I cringe at the thought of coming back here after the weekend.

When I get a bumper sticker error message, I want to throw my laptop across the room.

I went to a particular restaurant and asked for half fries and half onion rings like I always do. The lady told me I couldn't have both. She was clearly not aware that I was supposed to get it my way.

After days of missing class, I finally beat bubble shooter at 2:47. Yeahhyaaaa!

After I wrote my Pirate-Rant about my favorite dancer being hurt, she was cleared to dance again. If you only knew how happy I was to see you on the court again Wednesday and Saturday!

To my neighbor at University Suites: Your voice is more annoying than nails on a chalkboard. Please stop having such loud fights with your boyfriend!

Another shooting?

When is this going to stop?

JESSICA DUNLOW
OPINION WRITER

Not even a year after the tragedy at Virginia Tech, another university shooting has captured headlines. Last Thursday (on the loathed Valentine's Day, no less), Steven Kazmierczak opened fired in a classroom at Northern Illinois University, which eventually led to the shooting of 21 people and the death of five.

What is going on here? First VT, and now this. These two shootings are even connected! The same Web site that sold Cho the gun used for his massacre at Tech, also sold Kazmierczak his! It is bizarre to have this happening and hitting close to home so seriously again, when all of us are old enough to remember the aftermath of the Columbine shootings. ECU keeps updating our security and crime system, but will it ever be enough?

The launching, finally, of the security text messaging system is a wonderful addition. But what about all of the students that are not allotted texting in their plans and do not receive them? How are we supposed to know if something happens during our class day and where not to go?

Granted, I think ECU does a pretty good job of keeping us as safe as possible, and I speak as a resident of Clement from the year of the fire, but they can only do so much.

It's not like we should be afraid of every person who is on medication or has a diagnosed mental disorder (even though both Kazmierczak and Cho were on medication for their conditions, and both had stopped taking their medicine prior to the shootings) because that is unreasonable. I just would like for the time to come again when students can attend classes on a daily basis without the paranoia that someone might pop out from behind a projector screen or open the door and fire gunshots around the room.

All we can really do is remember those students who were placed in the line of fire and made the nation realize that college campuses are a fragile balance that can easily be disrupted, and that we are easy targets. I'm mostly just angry at the fact that these shooters seem to believe that it is the entirety of the student body that is at fault for the wrongs to them, or that maybe shooting innocent students will bring them some sort of final peace before they finish themselves off.

It is a sad thing that they do end their own lives, but because Kazmierczak and Cho took the lives of so many talented individuals, the world will never know what they were capable of and what they had to offer humanity. There could have been a future president, a great musician or a Teacher of the Year amongst them. The shooters should not have taken these lives away from the world.

It is unreasonable for these things to keep happening, and there has to be something that we can all do about it. We just have to band together and try. Who's with me? Because I sure do not want anymore talent going to waste because of someone's personal disdain for life.

This writer can be reached at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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This writer can be reached at
opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Strong enough

But are we?

MARGOT ROGERSON
OPINION WRITER

Sometimes I have trouble coming up with ideas for this column. Oftentimes I ask my friends what is going on in their lives and/or what recent issues they feel strongly about. I figure that if it affects them, it has a better chance of having significance to others.

Last week I was speaking to a friend at work, and she relayed the story of Maria Lauterback, a pregnant Marine, who was raped and killed by her senior officer. With my focus on other news, this was something I had overlooked. She concluded by saying, "Sure makes you think before sending more daughters into the armed forces"

I didn't give it much thought then, but the other night I was watching *Law and Order*, and the storyline, although fictitious, was about a female cop that had been overpowered, raped and beaten by an inmate.

I have always been a proponent for female rights, especially in the workplace, but I couldn't help but question our equality in this arena. Are our physical capabilities equal enough?

I suppose the women that enter these professions know what is to come. I also suppose that in most instances they are able to perform their duties without any problems or impediments.

But what about the rare cases? The Maria Lauterbacks? These cases in which the females are unable to protect themselves from their inequalities? Although the plot in the *Law and Order* episode was made-up, it seemed plausible and realistic.

Then I thought of another question: should we protect them? When two males go into a fight, one of them is physically weaker because the other one wins. However, I next thought of the instance in which a male to male comparison is inadequate: women that are overpowered and sexually abused. There really is no comparison or horror that is equivalent.

So, what should we do? I really cannot answer that question. The United States court systems have upheld decisions to maintain the woman's right to enlist and become every bit as active in the military as men. I am not sure, however, if I agree with this. I suppose only time will tell.

Features

{Campus Scene}

Horoscopes

Aries
The work has been piling up, and there's no way to get around it. Start with a plan, so you can do the most important tasks first. Devise a schedule and stick to it.

Taurus
You're very attractive now, and very popular, too. This can cause a few problems. Don't think you have to accept every invitation. Exercise discretion.

Gemini
You can't always have your own way, so don't throw a hissy fit. Do what's best for the whole family, even if it's not much fun. You'll be appreciated.

Cancer
Finishing an old task may require learning a few new skills. Give yourself time to practice before you attempt the fix. You don't want to break anything.

Leo
There are a few things you need to buy, but you can't quite afford them, yet. What to do? Take on an extra job. That's better than going into debt.

Virgo
You're gaining confidence, and with good reason. You've been doing the work and doing it well. Be gentle with a critic who doesn't know the whole story.

Libra
Be very careful traveling; expect delays and hassles. Watch out for accidents in your workplace, too. Proceed with caution.

Scorpio
You have so many invitations you hardly know which to accept. Take care not to double-book. That could cost you dearly. Remember, family comes first.

Sagittarius
Things are getting a little complicated. You're being asked to comply with rules and regulations that seem unnecessary. Do them anyway, to win the reward.

Capricorn
Not a good time to travel. Haste makes waste, too. Make your life easier by postponing an outing, and a purchasing decision.

Aquarius
Financial matters deserve your attention. You may feel wealthy, but you won't be if you don't plan ahead. Start by paying off all your debts.

Pisces
It's going to be difficult to get all sides to agree. Instead of seeking consensus, be a good listener. Let them talk and reserve your decision for a while.

Did you know: Black inventors?

Otis Boykin invented an improved 'Electrical Resistor' used in computers, radios, television sets and a variety of electronic devices.

C. B. Brooks invented a street sweeper truck for which he was issued a patent on March 17, 1896.

Henry Brown patented a "receptacle for storing and preserving papers on November 2, 1886" It was special in that it kept the papers separated. Perhaps an early forerunner in filofax history.

Marie Brown invented a video home surveillance security system.

Benjamin Carson was a pioneer in surgery technology.

John Christian invented and patented new lubricants used in high flying aircraft and NASA space missions.

Dr. Charles Richard Drew was the first person to develop the blood bank.

In 1989, Philip Emeagwali won the Gordon Bell Prize, considered the equivalent of the Nobel Prize, for developing the fastest supercomputer software in the world.

Lloyd Hall is responsible for the meat curing products, seasonings, emulsions, bakery products, antioxidants, protein hydrolysates and many other products that keep our food fresh and flavored.

Augustus Jackson, a confectioner and businessman from Philadelphia, invented an ice cream recipe in 1832.

Today in history...

1933



Singer Nina Simone is born in Tryon, NC.

1936



On this day Barbara Jordan, who will be the first African American woman elected to the House of Representatives, is born.

1965



On this day Bro. El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz (Malcom X), American black nationalist, is assassinated.

Concert unifies a variety of backgrounds



Carroll Dashiell Jr. dressed as Mr. Big is wearing an all red suit. Laughter erupted while he performed the skit.



A variety of performers come together to present an evening of Motown.

Tribute to Motown set for Saturday evening

SARAH CAMPBELL
EDITOR IN CHIEF

During the 1960s, the American music scene exploded with a variety of genres and artists including rock n' roll legend Elvis Presley, folk singer Bob Dylan and Motown marvels Diana Ross and The Supremes. The decade produced music that continues to thrive today.

The fusion of pop music, arranged harmonies, orchestration, string instruments and vocals combine to create the

beloved sounds of Motown.

The sounds of Motown will be heard live on Feb. 23 with the twelfth annual Tribute to Motown concert featuring musicians performing Motown classics such as "My Girl," "Respect" and "Super Pie Honey-Bun" along with mainstream music by artists such as Beyonce.

"The intent of the program is to bring people together. We want to enhance community support by bring different communities together, whether they are white, black, green, blue or purple," said Carroll Dashiell Jr., music director of jazz studies.

"We decided to focus the

concert around Motown because everyone loves that type of music."

When the concert first began only around 250 people attended the show, which was held in the A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall. Over the years popularity has soared leading to a change of venue to accommodate the swelling crowds.

Now held in Wright Auditorium, the concert draws a crowd of nearly 1500 each year.

"Forget about your worries and troubles and come enjoy the music. The main thing that we want people to take away from the show is to have a good time," Dashiell said.

Vocalist Bill Crew and guest pianists Bill Ford and Jon Ozment will accompany blues and jazz vocalist Aishah Dashiell, who will also perform along with current students, faculty and alumni.

The concert is also a way to celebrate the influence that African-Americans had on crafting the truly authentic sounds of Motown.

Each year after the hustle and bustle of the concert has subsided Dashiell begins making preparations for the coming year.

"Immediately after the show is over I give everyone the dates for the next year so the performers can make plans to play. We

don't actually rehearse together until about three days before the show," he said.

Tickets to the event can be purchased in advance from the Central Ticket Office located in Mendenhall Student Center; they are \$5 for students and \$10 for the general public. Tickets can also be purchased the night of the event for \$10. Proceeds from the evening will go to benefit the Jazz Studies Program.

The concert is sponsored by the ECU School of Music and the Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach.

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

Ledonia Wright brings taste of Africa



Students from the African Student Organization put on a lively African dance last night for the "Rhythm and Voice" program to celebrate Black History Month at the LWCC.

Rhythm and Voice teaches about culture

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Ledonia Wright Cultural Center continued its celebration of Black History Month last night with the "R & V: Rhythm and Voice" program, which

featured African dance, food and language in the Center's gallery.

LWCC, in collaboration with the African Student Organization and Jahnaz Jamaican Restaurant presented onlookers with tasty food and lively dance.

"The goal for tonight is to learn a little bit more about African culture," said ECU

graduate student and Student Outreach Chair for LWCC Jennifer Nnamani, originally from Nigeria.

"We dance for everything, funerals, weddings, everything. The main goal of [African] dance is to interact with each other and to preserve our culture," Nnamani said.

Associate Director for the Center, LaQuesha Foster came

up with the idea and Nnamani took up much of the responsibility of putting on the event.

"I am originally from Africa so I just ran with it," Nnamani said.

Some of the languages taught at the program were Igbo, an Eastern Nigerian language, and Twi, a language that hails from Ghana.

Members of the African Stu-

dent Organization also taught those who attended the program original African dances that some remember from their childhood. "For me, for example, I only moved to the United States in 2003. I grew up in Africa and remember the dances," said Uchechi Anumudu, President

see LEDONIA page A8

ECU, Illinois exchange students

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Students from Southern Illinois University Carbondale revealed their take on the injustices of the area's educational system through photos.

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Art students show off work in exchange

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

Photography students from Southern Illinois University Carbondale put on an exhibit titled "The New Pariah" in ECU's Mendenhall Gallery this week that opened on Jan. 31 and will run until Feb. 22.

The exhibit features cultural and regional problems that face the Illinois educational system.

In addition to having work by SIUC students displayed at ECU, ECU students will have a chance to show off their talents at SIUC this week. This exchange of artistic talent is a part of the first artist-in-residency program ever to be instituted at ECU.

According to a statement by the SIUC students, the exhibit was dubbed "The New Pariah" because it portrays the poorer members of society in all of the photographs displayed.

"For this exhibition, 'Pariah' is a term that generally refers to the concept of social outcast and the false assumptions with being classified as such," said the SIUC

artists in a collective statement.

"We feel the superior-inferior binary that distinguishes rich over poor, urban before rural and intellect above labor, is a real force, but do not accept it as a given condition," they added. "By refusing to accept this 'given' binary, one may begin to adjust and to see the good hidden in their assumed pariah state of being."

SIUC is located outside of the budding metropolis of Chicago, which many distinguished colleges and university call "home."

"With so many educational institutions to compete with from the Chicago area, one cannot [help] but feel underestimated, overshadowed and overwhelmed by the competition," said SIUC in a previously given report.

The photographs portrayed at ECU this week show the "competition" of the Illinois area.

The exhibit to be shown at SIUC by ECU students will feature work by a select group of art and photography students.

The ECU students chosen to attend SIUC include Lizz Wells, Justin Flythe, Shawn Enojado and Rod Fincannon.

"We're talking about the college [ECU], the [art] pro-



The exhibit is displayed in the Mendenhall Gallery until Feb. 22.

gram and the individual work each of us has done," said Rod Fincannon, the only graduate student attending SIUC.

"Each of us has our own style and processes we go through to make it work."

To be chosen for the artist-in-residency program, students had to present samples of their work, along with a written statement detailing why they wanted to be in the program.

To see "The New Pariah"

exhibit, visit the Mendenhall Gallery. The photographs will be available to students until Feb. 22.

For more information about the exhibit or upcoming events, contact Ameena Mohyuddin, Assistant Director for ECU Student Activities and Major Events.

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

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Web site offers options



Cellswapper makes it easy to get out of your wireless commitment

ELISE PHILLIPS
FEATURES EDITOR

One thing can be said about college students: we love our cell phones. All over campus, students can be seen gabbing into the device or frantically punching in text messages. But, like most technology, some of us want to get rid of the old and usher in the new.

However, with cell phone contracts, that is not always possible. Sometimes phone companies charge exorbitant prices just to disconnect your cell phone, and there's usually even more fees besides the early termination ones.

Not to fear, if you want to get out of your wireless commitment without breaking the bank, cellswapper.com is here to help. Named one of the Top 50 Web sites in 2007 by Time Magazine, Cellswapper gives consumers a "way out."

The idea behind Cellswapper was conceived in 2003 when consumers all around the country were complaining about sub-par cell phone service. According to the site, The Council of Better Business

Bureaus reported in 2004 that the most product complaints that year were about cell phone issues. Cellswapper gives some examples of early termination fees set by cell phone companies:

- >AT&T: \$175 per Phone Line
- >Verizon: \$175 per Phone Line
- >Sprint: \$150 per Phone Line
- >Cingular: \$150 per Phone Line or up to \$240 per Phone Line in New York
- >T-Mobile: \$200 per Phone Line
- >Nextel: \$200 per Phone Line
- >CellularOne: \$200 Phone Line
- >Centennial: \$250 per Phone Line
- >Alltel: \$200 per Phone Line

Once the makers of Cellswapper realized that America had a problem, they came up with a solution. Cellswapper allows customers who are unhappy with their service to turn over their contract to another person.

The process is simple: type in the logistics of your plan (like how many anytime minutes you have, mobile to mobile minutes, unlimited texting, etc.). Then enter your personal information (like your name and address),

and finally, type in an incentive to get your plan picked up faster (like throwing in your phone and charger, or even cash!).

To have a plan posted, users of Cellswapper must pay a one time posting fee. They have two payment options before posting: the \$18.95 (power poster) option allows users to have basic exposure of their plan. The \$24.95 option (showcase poster) gives customers preferred placement on the Cellswapper homepage.

Once someone picks up your cell phone plan, there is nothing more for you to do! Your name is officially taken off your old wireless account and replaced by the buyer. The buyer assumes all the fees of your previous account.

You are free to start another plan elsewhere, or you can find a plan for yourself on Cellswapper. If you choose to do this, you are refunded 25 percent of your posting fee.

There is a way to beat all of those early termination fees that wireless companies try to stick you with. Cellswapper.com takes away the stress and the questions about unsatisfactory cell phone service without making you cough up hundreds of dollars.

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

LEDONIA continued from A6



Tasty Jamaican food from Jahnaz Restaurant catered the event, featuring tasty dishes like jerk chicken.

of the African Student Organization and senior chemistry major.

Anumudu taught a native dance to the onlookers.

"We draw inspiration from everywhere. It all stems from the kind of background we have," Anumudu said.

The event was catered with Jamaican cuisine, which is similar to African food. Jerk and stewed chicken, rice and peas cooked

with coconut milk, curried goat and beef patties were some of the delectable food items that program-goers could sample.

"We usually do cater for multicultural events," said Genara Smith, owner of Jahnaz.

"[Then] people can learn about the food and we can learn about culture."

The Rhythm and Voice program was advertised on Facebook and through

flyers around campus.

The LWCC's mission is to "develop comprehensive, culture-specific programming that serves students, faculty, staff and the community," according to its Web site.

For more information about the Center or about upcoming programs, visit ecu.edu/lwcc.

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

Celebrating Diversity! Diversity Week 2008

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 23rd
A Tribute to MoTown
Location: Wright Auditorium
Time: 8:00pm
Tickets at the Central Ticket Office
328-4788, or 1-800-ECU-ARTS, V/TTY 252-328-4736
(School of Music and Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach)

Diversity Week 2008
KICK-OFF event!

Sunday, February 24th
Muhamad: The Legacy
Location: Hendrix Theatre, Mendenhall Student Center
Time: 12:00-1:30PM
(Muslim Student Association)

Tentative

Monday, February 25th
Multicultural Reading Day: Revealing Our Culture
Location: Ledonia Wright Cultural Center Reception/Gallery
Time: 3:00-5:00pm
(Diversity Week 2008 Team and Emissaries)

Post Secret Reception & Display
-join the postsecret international arts community and design a postcard and write your greatest secrets; cards will be posted anonymously in a non-judgmental environment;
Location: Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms/Mendenhall Gallery
Time: 6:00-9:00pm
(Pagan Student Association)

Adapted Rugby Game
Location: Student Recreation Center
Time: 8:00-9:00pm
(Campus Recreation and Wellness, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

Tuesday, February 26th
Living with Diversity through the Arts: Colors in Diversity
-Asian American, bisexual, and female musician Magdalen Hsu-Li presents music from her latest CD, Smashing the Ceiling and talks about identity issues-
Reception to follow
Location: Multipurpose Room, Mendenhall Student Center
Time: 4:00-5:30pm
(Office of Co-Curricular Programs and Cultural Outreach)

4 Little Girls
-a documentary of the notorious racial bombing of an African-American church during the Civil Rights movement-
Location: Ledonia Wright Cultural Center
Time: 6:00-7:30pm
(Ledonia Wright Cultural Center)

Equality on Campus: Panel Discussion on GBLT issues
Drag Show (To Follow)
Location: Hendrix Theatre
Time: 9:00-11:30pm
(ECU Prism, formerly known as B-Glad, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

Wednesday, February 27th
La Tragedia de Macario
- documentary ...followed by an open forum -
Location: Bate 1015
Time: 6:00-8:00pm
(ECU Spanish Club, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

Thursday, February 28th
Black Student Union AIDS Benefit Fashion Show
Location: Wright Auditorium
Time: 7:00-9:00pm
(Black Student Union)

AFRO Punk
-a documentary about racial identification in the punk scene; panel discussion to follow-
Location: Hendrix Theatre, Mendenhall Student Center
Time: 7:00-9:30pm
(Student Union Popular Entertainment Committee and Student Union Films Committee)

Friday, February 29th
What In The World Do You Know...About Africa?
Location: Mendenhall Student Center Bowling and Billiards area
Time: 4:00-5:00pm
(Jazz Band to follow)
(African Student's Organization, Diversity Week 2008 Team)

ExPrEsS Yourself
Location: Mendenhall Student Center Bowling and Billiards area
Time: 6:00-7:00pm
(Diversity Week 2008 Team, ECU Expressions)

The Remix: Intercultural Party
Location: Mendenhall Student Center Great Rooms
(FREE Entry with ECU-One Card)
Time: 10:00-1:00am
(Diversity Week 2008 Team)
Saturday, March 1st

Diversity Retreat: Bridging the Gap
Location: Minges Coliseum
Time: Contact the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center for registration fee and information 328-6495
(Ledonia Wright Cultural Center)

For questions or additional information call:
The Student Government Association at 328-4742.



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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2008 PAGE A10

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ON TAP...

A look ahead to the weekend in sports

Men's Basketball
Saturday
at. UTEP
9:05 p.m.

Women's Basketball
Saturday
vs. Memphis
2:00 p.m.
* * * *

Baseball
Friday
at. South Carolina
3:00 p.m.
Saturday
at. South Carolina
1:30 p.m.

Sunday
at. South Carolina
1:30 p.m.
* * * *

Softball
Friday
vs. Syracuse
2:00 p.m.
vs. Purdue
4:00 p.m.

Saturday
vs. Penn State
10:00 a.m.
* * * *

Men's Tennis
Friday
vs. UAB
TBD

Saturday
vs. Southern Miss.
TBD
Sunday
vs. UCF
TBD

* * * *

Women's Tennis
Saturday
vs. Campbell
11:00 a.m.
Mount Olive
4:00 p.m.
* * * *

Track and Field
Friday
at North Carolina,
Virginia Tech
All Day
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Saturday
at North Carolina,
Virginia Tech
All Day
Chapel Hill, N.C.

Pirates prepare to set sail for battle



ECU baseball begins this weekend

RONNIE WOODWARD
SPORTS EDITOR

The ECU baseball team will be excited to see a different team in the opposing dugout this weekend.

After weeks of practices and intra-squad scrimmages against each other, the 24th-ranked Pirates will travel to Columbia, S.C. for a three-game series with No. 12 South Carolina.

"I feel like the last two weeks have been really good and our guys are ready," ECU coach Billy Godwin said after the team's final practice before departing. "We'll go down there and do what we do."

"We haven't talked a whole lot about South Carolina. We know we're going into a great environment and they have a great program, but I think we have a good program too...our guys are just ready to compete."

ECU returns a slew of offensive players from last year's team that finished with a 40-23 record and a berth in the NCAA Tournament.

Junior first baseman Stephen Batts is among the returnees, and enters the season with the nation's second-longest active hitting streak, at 29 games.

The Pirates also return senior leadoff-hitter Harrison Eldridge, second baseman Ryan Wood and Designated Hitter Kyle Roller, who emerged as ECU's top power hitter last year.

Six of the nine players in ECU's projected batting order were starters last year.

"They certainly have proven experience," Godwin said of his offense. "They're proven at this level, which is exciting, but they also realize that they have to come out every day and reprove themselves, which puts some hunger in them."

USC also returns one of the best offenses in the nation, starting with first baseman Justin Smoak, which could result in a lot of runs scored this weekend.

Smoak, regarded as one of the best hitters in the nation, had 22 home runs and 72 RBIs for the Gamecocks last year. Third baseman James Darnell batted .331 last year with 63 RBIs and a .450 on-base percentage.

"I think our hitters and pitchers are both excited about seeing a different team this weekend, but we know we're going to have our hands full," Godwin said. "If we're going to compete for championships, we have to go into environments like that and be successful."

While both teams return impressive offenses, neither one has many proven, experienced pitchers.

Senior T.J. Hose highlights ECU's pitching staff. Hose has been ECU's top starter the past two seasons and will take the mound Friday against the talented Gamecocks' offense.

"I've been looking forward to this series since the last game of the regional last year," Hose said. "It's just been a long wait for this series."

Behind Hose, ECU has a freshman and a transfer rounding out its weekend rotation.

Freshman right-hander Seth Maness will make his first career

see **BASEBALL** page B3



PROJECTED LINEUP

1. Harrison Eldridge, CF
2. Trent Ashcraft, LF
3. Stephen Batts, 1B
4. Kyle Roller, DH
5. Ryan Wood, 2B
6. Justin Bristow, 3B
7. Jamie Ray, RF
8. Corey Kemp, C
9. Broc Sutton, SS

Staring Pitchers

T.J. Hose, Sr.
Seth Maness, Fr.
Justin Bristow, Jr.
Sthil Sowers, Fr.
Matt Cox, Jr.

Bullpen

Bailey Daniels, Jr.
Josh Ruhlman, Sr.
Brett Butts, Sr.
Ryan Wood, Jr.

Memphis vaulting C-USA into national discussion



Memphis coach John Calipari has an outstanding record with the Tigers, but has yet to take them to the Final Four.

Undefeated Tigers have many critics

KELLEN HOLTZMAN
STAFF WRITER

The rise of Memphis to the top of the AP Top 25 poll has thrust the Conference USA into the national spotlight.

However, the attention C-USA has received so far is not the kind of notoriety Commissioner Britton Banowsky would like to see.

Many of the so-called "experts" proclaim that the Tigers aren't being tested in C-USA, and that the lack of competition will hurt their chances in the NCAA tournament. This line of reasoning has been presented for the past two seasons as Memphis has crashed out of the NCAA tournament earlier than expected after several successful regular season campaigns.

Memphis coach John Calipari has a somewhat different perspective. Calipari believes his Tigers are getting every C-USA team's best shot night in and night out, which will ultimately help his team when tournament time comes.

So, which argument is the correct one?

Both sides have flawed logic.

Playing in C-USA shouldn't be an "automatic disqualification" for a good team. If Memphis fails to make the Final Four this season, critics will point to the Tigers' "weak" conference schedule. If UCLA or Kansas miss out on the finals, no criticism of the Pac-10 or Big 12 is likely to be made.

Michigan State, for example, has not made the Final Four in the past two seasons. It is not because the Big 10 failed to prepare it; the Spartans were simply outplayed.

If anything, C-USA is creating an illusion that Memphis is better than it really is. The Tigers coast through conference play and in return, soar

see **MEMPHIS** page B5

Men's tennis off to a fresh start



Young players leading ECU

SETH STRINGER
STAFF WRITER

Fresh off of a strong fall campaign, the ECU men's tennis team has a balanced lineup from top to bottom, stacked with talented freshmen and experienced veterans prepared to lead this program in the right direction.

Jaroslav Horvath, Henrik Skalmerud and Stephen Whit-

well are three freshmen that have anchored ECU's lineup throughout nine away matches this season, occupying three of the top six singles spots. But their freshman status hasn't confined or limited any impact they've had on this team's success, as the three have combined for a 17-6 singles record, led by Horvath's compelling 7-1 mark at the No. 2 position.

"We don't place an emphasis on grade level or experience," said ECU coach Shawn Heinrich. "The real experience

lies in how the players handle the pressures on the court, focusing on the matches they can control and not letting the team's status or position in the match affect their emotions. I couldn't be happier to how our freshmen have adapted to this level of play."

Complementing each other's strengths, the freshmen have been integrated into inspiring doubles play this season, with veterans Henrique Viana, Alek-

see **TENNIS** page B6

The Pirates have won four of their last five matches headed into conference play this weekend.

Staff photo

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MONDAY

All U Can Eat Wings \$8
Domestic Beer \$1

TUESDAY

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WEDNESDAY

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THURSDAY

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FRIDAY

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SATURDAY

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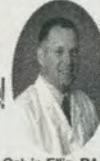
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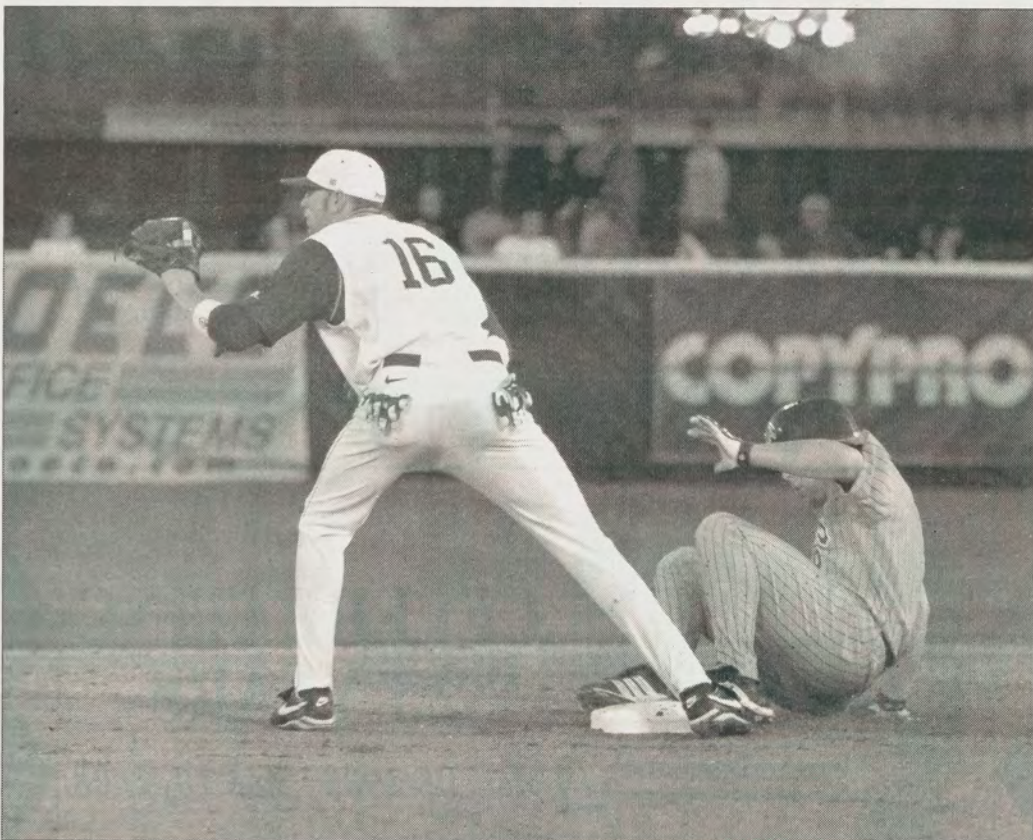
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BASEBALL continued from B1



Ryan Wood is one of ECU's experienced hitters returning this season, but he will also pitch some.

start on Saturday.

Bristow, who will play third base on Friday and Saturday, will be the Pirates' starting pitcher on Sunday.

"Pitching will definitely be one of the keys to this series," said Hose. "Our starters need to get to the fifth, sixth or seventh inning. We'll just go out there and try to pound the strike zone

and not try to do too much, and just let our defense play."

ECU played USC in the 200+ Columbia Super Regional, one step away from the College World Series, but the Gamecocks swept the Pirates, winning both games.

The Pirates are hoping for a much better result this weekend. "It's going to be a great

atmosphere there, a SEC-type and a great experience for our younger guys," said Hose. "It will get us used to the type of atmosphere we'll see the rest of the year, and in the postseason."

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

UPCOMING BASEBALL SCHEDULE

Date	Opponent	Time
2/22/08	at South Carolina	3:00 p.m.
2/23/08	at South Carolina	1:30 p.m.
2/24/08	at South Carolina	1:30 p.m.
2/27/08	at Elon	4:00 p.m.
2/29/08	vs Monmouth N.J.	5:00 p.m.
3/01/08	vs Monmouth N.J.	2:00 p.m.
3/02/08	vs Monmouth N.J.	1:00 p.m.
3/04/08	at Old Dominion	5:00 p.m.
3/05/08	at VCU	3:00 p.m.
3/07/08	vs Pittsburgh	5:00 p.m.
3/08/08	vs Michigan	3:00 p.m.
3/09/08	vs Georgia Southern	2:00 p.m.
3/11/08	vs VCU	3:00 p.m.
3/13/08	vs Quinnipiac	7:00 p.m.
3/14/08	vs Rhode Island	7:00 p.m.
3/15/08	vs Rhode Island	2:00 p.m.
3/16/08	vs Rhode Island	1:00 p.m.
3/18/08	vs Elon	6:00 p.m.
3/21/08	vs Houston	7:00 p.m.
3/22/08	vs Houston	3:00 p.m.
3/23/08	vs Houston	11:00 a.m.
3/26/08	vs Campbell	6:00 p.m.
3/28/08	at UCF	6:30 p.m.
3/29/08	at UCF	6:30 p.m.
3/30/08	at UCF	1:00 p.m.

Staff photo

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Health and PE Coordinator

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Winterville, NC 28590

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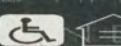
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ECU golf enjoys rewarding week



Williams. "This validates our wonderful fall that we had winning four team titles. It was a tough field with four of the top-35 nationally-ranked teams competing against one another."

"I am very pleased with the way Abby (Bools) and Amber (Littman) played, as well as Colleen (Estes) who played her best golf this week."

Because of Bools' performance in the sunshine state, the sophomore was named Conference USA Golfer-of-the-Week for the second time this season.

Bools tied for the tournament lead in par-4 scoring, while ranking among the leaders in par-3 scoring, par-5 scoring and total pars (+1). She became the third Lady Pirate golfer to record a pair of tournament titles in the same season joining former all-conference players Jessica Krasny (2002-03) and Adrienne Millican (2003-04).

This is the second weekly honor for Bools (Sept. 26), third of her career and the fifth time this season that a member of the Lady Pirate Golf Team has been named Golfer-of-the-Week (Emelie Lind/Oct. 17; Amber Littman/Oct. 31 and Nov. 8).

At the Qdoba Invitational, freshman Amber Littman (221) finished in fifth, while classmate Colleen Estes (225) took a share

of ninth and senior Emelie Lind (227) tied for 15th.

Rounding out the Pirate individuals was sophomore Ana Maria Puche who finished tied for 24th with a score of 229.

The Pirates, who have been ranked in the Top 25 since Oct. 1, 2007, posted a 54-hole score of 887 (296-294-297) finishing 14 shots ahead of No. 29 Lou-

isville (300-298-303=901) and 16 strokes ahead of No. 23 Virginia (307-298-298=903). Host school University of Miami finished fourth (907) while San Jose State (909) claimed fifth place.

ECU has now extended its school record by picking up its fifth team title of the year. The Pirates have won four tourna-

ments in a row and five of their last six.

The Pirates' 54-hole score of 887 in Miami, Fla. this week was the third best in school history.

ECU will hit the links again on March 9, 2008 when they travel Pinehurst, N.C. for the Pinehurst Challenge.

Bools leads Pirates to fifth title

SID—ECU's women's golf team picked up its fifth tournament championship in six events Tuesday afternoon at the 2008 Qdoba Invitational.

The tournament was being held at the par-72, 6,210-yard Don Shula Golf Resort in

Miami, Fla.

Abby Bools guided the 21st-ranked Pirates (70-14-0) to the title with a two-over-par 218 (75-72-71) and recorded her second individual title and fourth top-10 finish of the season.

"I'm extremely excited about the way we played in this tournament," said ECU coach Kevin

time this season that a member of the Lady Pirate Golf Team has been named Golfer-of-the-Week (Emelie Lind/Oct. 17; Amber Littman/Oct. 31 and Nov. 8).

At the Qdoba Invitational, freshman Amber Littman (221) finished in fifth, while classmate Colleen Estes (225) took a share

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MEMPHIS continued from B1



Photo by Jessi Braxton

to the top of the rankings. If they achieve the status of a No. 1 seed and lose, the loss is perceived as an upset.

If Memphis plied its trade in the Big East and earned a No. 3 or No. 4 seed—and then lost, the boys in blue would blend in with the other losers.

The situation the Tigers face is similar to the one Hawaii faced this season in football. The Warriors dominated the WAC and rose high enough in the rankings to garner a BCS bowl berth.

The difference is that Memphis won't have trouble competing against big-time non-conference opponents. Hawaii was destroyed by an athletically superior Georgia team. Memphis can play with any team in the country, even if C-USA is a less than stellar league.

C-USA has never been an NCAA power, but the league has enjoyed moderate success.

Unfortunately, the days of basketball powers like Cincinnati, Louisville and Marquette roaming the conference are gone. Even lesser powerful former members, DePaul and Charlotte, boosted the league's credibility.

Memphis now stands in a league of its own atop C-USA. The Tigers are a perfect 10-0 in conference play, but didn't

get a true challenge until last Saturday's game against UAB.

The Blazers were the first conference team to put Memphis on the ropes—but the Tigers showed a killer instinct mentality in their come-from-behind win.

Outside of UAB, Houston appears to be the only other C-USA squad that can compete with the giants from Tennessee.

UCF, Marshall, Tulane, UTEP, Southern Miss and Tulsa have solidified their positions in the middle of the pack in C-USA and look average at best; ECU, SMU and Rice fall in the below-average category.

ECU may be having another sub-par season, but even bottom-tier teams like the Pirates have shown they can compete with the likes of Memphis when the game is being played away from Memphis, Tenn.

In 2006 and 2007, ECU gave the Tigers more than they bargained for, nearly completing upsets of the Top 5 opponent.

Calipari's biased analysis of C-USA is much easier to dispel.

Sure, Memphis is taking every conference team's best shot. Nevertheless, aren't Duke and North Carolina? And the

best shots of Clemson and Wake Forest are a little more impressive than UCF and Marshall.

Playing in C-USA may not be a *disadvantage*, but surely it isn't an *advantage* either.

Regardless of where one stands on the level of talent in C-USA, the idea that the conference is holding Memphis back should be dismissed.

Memphis' strong non-conference schedule should be enough to quiet the critics. The Tigers have defeated the likes of Oklahoma, Connecticut, USC, Cincinnati, Georgetown and Arizona.

No.1 ranked Memphis looks to remain undefeated this weekend in another brutal non-conference game against No. 2 Tennessee, in what is arguably the best match-up of this college basketball season.

No conference other than the ACC, Big East, Big Ten, Pac-10 or SEC has claimed a national championship since 1990, when UNLV won it from the Mountain West Conference.

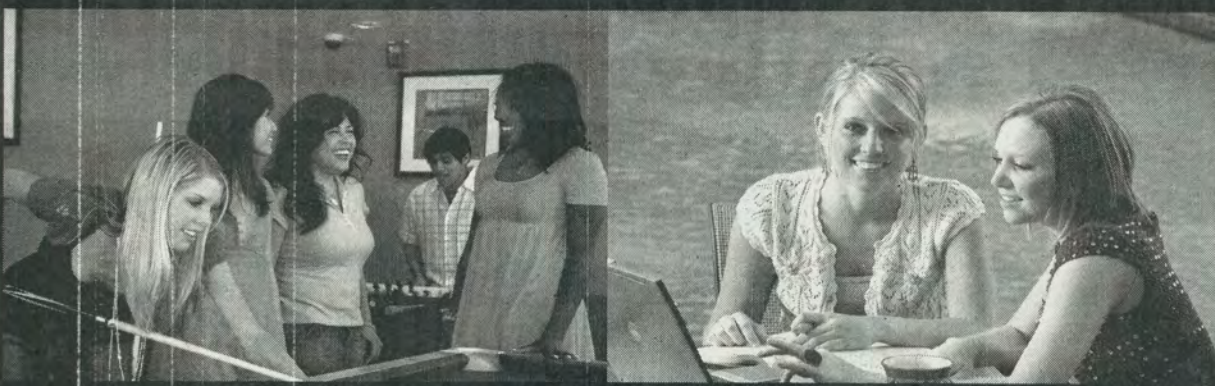
So the question is: Will Memphis break that trend?

Everyone seems to have his or her own opinion—but only time will tell.

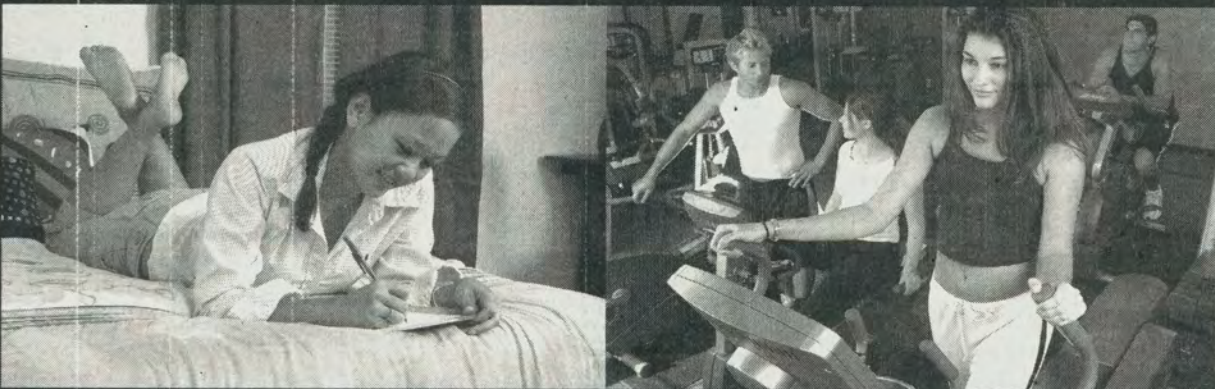
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TENNIS continued from B2



Youth has led the ECU tennis team this spring, as freshmen and sophomores dominate ECU's roster.

sey Kochetov and Bryan Oakley, all who have been instrumental in leading this team on and off the court.

Oakley and Whitwell have yet to drop a set this season, sporting a 4-0 record in the doubles competition, while Kochetov and Skalmerud have yet to lose as well, winning all four match-ups and doing so in a convincing fashion.

The freshmen have been an integral part of this team's success so far this season, but with experience, there comes results.

In the top doubles spot, Viana and freshman Horvath have found their rhythm, winning three of four and headlining ECU's consistently impressive doubles pairings.

In the past few months, Viana has been playing the best tennis of his career. As the only senior in this year's singles

and doubles lineup, Viana is at the peak of his game, dropping only one match this year on his way to a team best 8-1 singles record.

But, his game has come a long way after recovering from an off-season shoulder surgery, which caused him to see limited play in the fall, amassing a 3-0 record.

"It was crushing for us not to have Henrique last year," Heinchon said. "He's such a successful individual who exemplifies a great student to athlete balance and that success carries over to the team."

"Talent wise, he's one of the best players we have and he's flourished at the top end of the lineup. In the next couple of weeks he'll move up position wise and if he continues to play at this level, good things are going to be in store for this team."

With Viana finally playing at full strength, Heinchon points out that despite his team's success, their best player, Kochetov, is still fighting through nagging injuries.

The Pirates will need Kochetov to anchor singles play like he did last semester, leading the team with an imposing singles mark of 7-1. So far this season, Kochetov's success has been limited to a 1-4 singles record, but at 100 percent, Kochetov should return to old form to lead this deep ECU squad into conference play.

Win or lose, 100 percent or playing through pain, the ECU players recognize the importance of playing as a team and preparing as a cohesive group in what has been stereotyped typically as an individual sport.

"We cheer each other on and pump each other [up] for every match," said Oakley. "There's a lot of pressure individually for each player, so no matter what, we just try to go out there and support one another."

The Pirates tennis team doesn't have a blueprint for winning or how the game should be played, but according to the coach, if the players prepare hard and handle the pressures of competitive action, the ceiling's endless on what this team can accomplish this season.

Even without its top player at full strength, ECU's secured a 5-4 record with convincing victories over Liberty, Barton and Mount Olive, while dropping close matches to James Madison, High Point and just recently a 3-4 loss to Campbell.

The Pirates hope to continue their success when the team returns to action next weekend for conference tourney play in Hattiesburg, Miss. The Pirates will face UAB on Friday and Southern Miss on Saturday before closing out with a meeting against UCF on Sunday.

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com

One up!

Soccer team adds a player

SID—The ECU women's soccer program announced that Meagan Davis (Mesa, AZ) has signed a National Letter-of-Intent and will join the Pirates in 2008.

Davis is the eighth student-athlete to sign a National Letter of Intent with the Pirates.

"I knew the moment I set foot on campus that I would love ECU," Davis said. "Everything was absolutely amazing. I can't wait to become a Pirate next year."

The class also includes Jessica Woodward (Wake Forest, N.C.), Stephanie Shaw (Knightdale, N.C.), Rachel Fuller (Coppell, Texas), Leah Bagonis (Wallingford, Penn.), Kendall Booth (Epping, N.H.), Amanda Malkiewicz (Forked River, N.J.) and Amanda Windsor (Temecula, Calif.).

Davis was a member of the Arizona Olympic Development Program (ODP) team from 2002-2004 and captained the team in 2004. She joins the Pirates as a transfer from Chandler-Gilbert Community College where she was named a NSCAA First Team All-American while serving as a captain for her team.

Davis played for the ASUSC 88 Blackhawks club team, coached by Laila Modi. Her team was Arizona State Cup Finalists (2005) and Third Place finishers (2006). Davis also played for Highland High School coached by Jonathan Berzins. She was named First Team All-State and offensive Player of the Year (senior year) Second Team All-Region (sophomore year), First Team All-Region (sophomore-senior year), and All-State honorable mention (junior year).

"Meagan lives and breathes soccer," ECU coach Rob Donnerwirth said of Davis. "She is a workhorse and a good 1-on-1 player. She has a very good tactical sense, which makes her very versatile and she can play various positions."

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