



FINAL ISSUE EDITION: This is the final edition of the spring semester. Summer publication begins May 16. In the meantime check out theeastcarolinian.com

BENKERT ANNOUNCES TRANSFER FROM PROGRAM

Turn to A10



The East Carolinian

Volume 91, Issue 56

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Thursday, 4.26.16

BOG set to name new chancellor

Javeria Salman
TEC STAFF

The University of North Carolina's Board of Governors will elect East Carolina University's next chancellor during a special meeting Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. at the Spangler Center in Chapel Hill. The BOG meeting will be live

streamed on the UNC website for those interested in watching the election process.

Following the election from the board, the university community will be able to watch the announcement of the next leader of ECU live on ECU's website or live via ECU's twitter account.

The board's election of the next chancellor comes after UNC system President Margaret Spellings's nomination.

Spellings has been interviewing the top three candidates recommended by ECU's Chancellor Search Committee since the beginning of the month.

During her visit to ECU in March, Spellings said she was excited to get to know and "develop a relationship" with the new chancellor, just as she has with Chancellor Steve Ballard.

"The process worked out perfectly," said Steve Jones, chair of chancellor search committee and

Board of Trustees. "I feel like we're going to be real excited of who we discern as our next chancellor."

Ballard announced last year that he would be stepping down. He will complete his term as university chancellor on July 1.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Relay raises support

Nneka Walson
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University students painted it purple by participating in volunteer-organized fundraiser Relay for Life to support cancer patients this past weekend.

"Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraiser that helps to fund cancer research and patient programs provided by the American Cancer Society," said Melissa Croom, community manager of Relay for Life. Croom also manages Relay for Life in Washington, Beaufort and Hyde Counties.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's way of giving the Greenville community the opportunity to celebrate the life of those that have battled or are currently battling cancer. Relay also gives the chance to remember those that were lost and help to fight against cancer.

Students, faculty and community members volunteered for the fundraiser as teams along with a captain. Each team fundraised throughout the year, then set up camp sites at Relay, selling food and beverages. According to Croom, there were teams selling items from

lemonade to popcorn and also teams that held and facilitated games. Along with sold items, dance teams and bands provided entertainment.

"Relay is supposed to be fun, but it also signifies what a cancer patient is going through," Croom said. "We have people walking on the track while relay is going on because that actually shows the importance and symbolizes the cancer patient's journey through treatment."

Croom said each year volunteers are asked to be on the Events Leadership Team serving different roles but always changes each year depending on the participants and volunteers.

"A lot of people question what Relay for Life does for the community," Croom said. "The American Cancer Society has had a hand in connecting the link between smoking and cancer."

According to Croom's reports, the money raised from Relay has helped pioneer the field of cancer research. Their work has led to medical advancements such as chemotherapy, the Pap test and mammograms. They have funded 47 Nobel Prize winning researchers and was created by volunteers turning them into the world's largest movement to

end cancer. When the American Cancer Society began, only 1-in-10 lives could be saved from cancer. Today, 2-in-3 people diagnosed with cancer are surviving. Croom said we celebrate 400 more birthdays every day that would have otherwise been lost.

"Relay for life at ECU is a collegiate relay, but we have community relays as well," said Croom. "At ECU, Relay used to raise \$100,000 and we would like to get it back to that. We really need to get all the organizations on campus involved again."

Last year, Croom said Relay for Life at ECU raised \$52,669 with campus greek organizations Alpha Sigma Pi and Sigma Sigma Sigma as their top fundraising teams. On Saturday, 39 teams and 1,003 participants were registered to fundraise and collected about \$40,267.

"Our goal for 2016 is to raise \$58,000 and we will continue to fundraise through the month of August," she said. "Relay for Life of ECU is very thankful to all of their teams, team captains and volunteers who make Relay successful."

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.



Paper bags holding a candle and honoring cancer fighters, survivors or those who have passed, sit next to the pond at North Campus.

ECU denies FOIA request for assault video

Matthew Prensky
TEC STAFF

Seth Gullledge
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University has declined to accommodate a Freedom of Information Act request by a faculty member regarding the release of video footage showing the violent campus assault of Patrick Myrick, and has yet to respond to a similar FOIA request from The East Carolinian.

According to Patricia Egly Valentine, public records officer with East Carolina University, the video footage that has become the center of the police investigation is not public record because it is in possession of the ECU Police Department and is part of an ongoing investigation.

In a statement addressed to ECU Professor Brian Massey, the university stated that the ECU Police Department also turned over a copy of the camera footage to the Greenville Police Department. After the GPD concluded their investigation on April 19, the case was handed over to the Pitt County District Attorney's Office.

The criminal prosecutions related to the investigation are

being handled under the direction of District Attorney Kimberly Robb, and she has not authorized disclosure of the video," said Valentine in the statement.

The East Carolinian also submitted a Freedom of Information Act request, but has yet to receive any response from ECU.

"Well ECU is claiming that the security camera video falls under the public records exemption for law enforcement, and that the video is exempt from disclosure, because according to ECU, it is investigative material," said Massey.

According to Massey, who filed the release of public records documentation on Sunday, April 24, the videotape that recorded the assault on Myrick is a public record.

"Well the public record law said that law enforcement, which includes prosecutors, should not prevent or prohibit another public agency from releasing a public record in that other agencies custody," said Massey. He went on to point out in the 2012 Hustle Mart triple murder case, images

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Cooking show adds spice to Greenville

Jennifer Hines
TEC STAFF

All of the foodies in Greenville will soon delight when the delicious cooking magazine Taste of Home brings one of its famous cooking demonstration to the Greenville Convention Center tonight.

Sponsored by The Daily Reflector, the Taste of Home Cooking Demonstration is an semi-annual event put on by the popular magazine.

"Taste of Home is a nationally recognized magazine," said Jessica Williams, coordinator of the event. "We have partnered with them to bring their cooking show to Greenville."

Tonight's cooking demonstration will cover a variety of food-related topics and delicious meals.

"They're going to have a total of eight recipes that they will prepare," said Williams. "They vary from appetizers to entrees and desserts. All of the recipes come from the Taste of Home cookbook."

The Taste of Home cooking show happens twice a year, one in the spring and a holiday themed show in the fall. This is the first year the cooking demonstration had been held in Greenville.

"We're expecting over 500 people to attend," said Williams.

A variety of sponsors, nationally and locally, have stepped up to provide items to be used before, during, and after the demonstration. Sponsors from Egglund's Best, Cooper Cheese and National Honey Board to Greenville TV and Appliance, Pitt

Community College and Lee Kia will all be featured in some shape or form.

"Furniture Distributor has donated furniture that will be on display on set and in the lobby," said Williams. "And Greenville TV and Appliance will have a display as well."

Before the demonstration begins, ticket holders will be able to browse items from the sponsors and vendors, as well as Taste of Home magazine.

"When the doors open at 4:30, there will be a small vender area for sponsors with various items for shopping and sampling," said Williams. "Sponsors have also donated items for raffles and goodie bags."

The demonstration itself will continue to be interactive with the audience. Williams said

audience members will be able to ask questions and interact with the chef preparing the meal.

During the event, "The Daily Reflector" will also be holding a food drive in partnership with the food bank.

"People who donate non-perishable goods will be entered in a raffle," said Williams.

The doors of the Greenville Convention Center opens at 4:30 p.m and the Taste of Home Cooking Demonstration begins at 6:30 p.m. The event is expected to last until 9 p.m.

Tickets are \$13 in advance and \$15 at the door.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.



Karen Davis is a chef on "Taste of Home."

ONLINE

» **Interfaith Pirates stress dialogue to resolve issues**

» **ECU women's tennis team wraps up second season in AAC**

SOCIAL MEDIA



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BRIEFS

Atkinson to deliver ECU commencement address

Pulitzer Prize winning author and military historian Rick Atkinson will deliver the commencement address during East Carolina University's 2016 Spring Commencement Ceremony. Atkinson graduated from ECU in 1974 and worked for 25 years with The Washington Post as a reporter, foreign correspondent and senior editor. Now Atkinson is an adjunct professor at the U.S. Army War College and is the author of several books focusing on military history.

Atkinson received a Pulitzer Prize in 2003 for the first volume in his Liberation Trilogy, An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943.

Alumni Leadership Award to be presented May 6

Five students will receive the 2016 Robert H. Wright Alumni Leadership Award from ECU's Alumni Association during commencement ceremonies on May 6. As the most prestigious award presented to graduating seniors, the Wright award recognizes academic achievement, service to the university and the community, and demonstrated leadership.

The alumni association presents awards and scholarships to current students to improve their college experience as the foundation of a lifelong relationship with ECU and the community.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper please contact Ryan Clancy, editor@theeastcarolinian.com

ECO-pirates and The East Carolinian would like to remind you to recycle this paper.

ECU nurses face daunting challenges

Anna Parrish
TEC STAFF

To earn a Pirate nurse title, it is more than just completing your undergraduate degree.

Pirate nurses have a demanding schedule that requires them to put in many hours, but in return gives them an experience that helps them to be successful in the real world.

Junior Kelley Brown, a current nursing student, said she has a lot to get done in a small amount of time. Each student has at least one day off and the rest of their week is filled with lectures, labs and clinicals. Brown said she usually spends her day off in the library because she knows her time is limited later in the week. She said long hours are a part of why this major is so strenuous.

Brown has always had a passion for the medical field, but her passion grew after her brother got into a hockey accident, where he broke his neck and became quadriplegic.

“Throughout his journey he has had some amazing nurses who have just made his experience so much better in the times he is hospitalized and I want to be able to make that difference for someone some day,” said Brown.

Each semester nursing students must attend clinicals. These are where students are placed in hospitals to further their experience and skills outside of the classroom. Brown said she was put into OBGYN and pediatrics unit this semester. A student can be placed in any unit, but typically



Three ECU nursing students sit in during a lab at the Health Sciences Campus examining equipment.

start out in the basic units first.

“You are going to see things you have never seen before,” said Brown.

Casey Brite, a junior first-semester student, recently got to watch doctors perform a C-section on a patient during one of her clinicals.

“I want to be in the labor and delivery, so that was really cool that I got to see the C-section because that is exactly what I want to do,” said Brite.

Brite said it was neat because she got to see a baby being born.

“They [the doctors] talked to us about what they were doing and what was suppose to be done,” said Brite.

Students can be placed anywhere in the eastern

region of the state to complete their clinicals.

Brown attended clinicals for eight hours in Tarboro her first semester and then in Vidant her second semester for five and a half hours.

There are around six to 10 students within each clinical group with an instructor. In the beginning, students learn more basic practices like how to give medicine and record vitals. They progress throughout the year with doing more advanced techniques like IV medicine and catheters.

“It’s a learning experience,” said Brown. “It is all about critical thinking and you need to know

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NC leading charge in CPR education

Matthew Prenskey
TEC STAFF

The Greenville Fire Rescue Department recently held CPR training for local sixth graders as part of North Carolina’s mandatory safety education.

“In the case of sudden cardiac death the actions performed in the first few minutes are especially critical and can make the difference between life and death,” said Dr. Juan March, chief of the Emergency Medical Services Division at the Brody School of Medicine. “The most important is to call 911 right away and if needed begin CPR.”

March, who also serves as a professor at East Carolina University, said multiple research studies have shown that bystanders administer-

ing CPR can double the chance of survival. According to Betsy Vetter, regional vice president of government relations at the American Heart Association, of the approximately 326,000 Americans who experience cardiac arrest out of a hospital every year, less than 10 percent survive. Vetter said many fatal cases of cardiac arrest result from the individual not receiving CPR or medical assistance quick enough.

“We ask that if you find someone unresponsive and not breathing, you call 911, or yell for someone else to call, and then start chest compressions, pressing hard and fast in the center of the chest until help can arrive,” said Rebekah Thurston, public information officer for Greenville Fire Rescue.

According to Vetter, who worked with the North Carolina state legislature on the CPR education law for teens in 2012, state Good Samaritan laws protect individuals who decide to intervene and help in resuscitating the individual.

“Although CPR can break ribs or cause other injuries, without CPR the patient will surely die. The real risk to the patient is withholding CPR,” said March.

For individuals who have not received CPR training or who have forgotten their training, many Pitt County 911 dispatchers are trained to assist callers in administering CPR. Also, Thurston said the beat in the song “Stayin’ Alive,” can give people the guide to the amount of compressions needed per minute.

“We are creating a generation of lifesavers and the life they save may be their spouse, child, parent or best friend,” said Vetter.

North Carolina is one of 21 states around the country that requires teens to complete CPR training before graduation high school. Vetter said CPR training is not a new topic in North Carolina schools.

“CPR training in North Carolina was in the curriculum all the way in the 1970s,” said Vetter.

In 2012, when the legislature was working on House Bill 837, lawmakers observed the curriculum could be improved. North Carolina lawmakers decided to make all students in

> RESCUE page A3

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES AND HAVE A SAFE SUMMER!

475+

Number of registered student organizations at East Carolina University during the 2015-2016 academic year.

600+

Attendees at East Carolina University’s annual production of Vagina Monologues, performed by students, faculty, staff, and community.

27,000+

Tickets distributed by the SIL Central Ticket Office for student, community, and East Carolina University shows and events.

40,000+

Amount of money raised by East Carolina University Greek organizations for local and national philanthropies in the Fall 2015 term.

72,000+

Hours of community service performed by East Carolina University Students over the last three years.

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Respect Care
S u p p o r t
Creativity
Restlessness
R e s p e c t

Strengths
Respect Care
S u p p o r t
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Graduation
Personal
Development
Dedication
Student Centered **Student Success** Growth
Creativity Adaptation Resilience Resources People
Engage Global Service Transform Create Empower
Encourage Success Trust Collaboration Diversity
Visual Identity Efficiency Consistency Resources
Creativity Unity Leadership Cohesion Innovation

East Carolina University

College Republicans offer survey results

Melissa Glenn
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's College Republicans chapter sparked discussion at Barefoot on the Mall last Thursday by asking students to complete a survey regarding the Student Government Association passing Resolution 22.

The survey asked students two questions: if they agreed with the HB2 and if they agreed that SGA should have taken a stance on this issue for the student body through Resolution 22.

Resolution 22 was passed on April 11. The resolution states that SGA opposes HB2, because it discriminates a protected class of

students on campus; therefore, it does not uphold ECU's Notice of Nondiscrimination and Affirmative Action Policy.

Incoming College Republicans Chairman Roger Villarreal said he wanted to inform students who were ignorant to SGA's decision to speak on this political problem.

"I wanted to raise awareness against the resolution, because I felt like it was done really subtly without the consent of the students," said Villarreal. "It came out of nowhere."

Villarreal said that the majority of the people who signed the survey were against SGA's action in passing this resolution.

"From our sample size, there was

a very strong majority of people that agree with HB2 but disagree with SGA's decision to take a stance on it."

The survey showed that only four students who signed the survey disagreed with HB2 and 15 students agreed with HB2. It also showed that 28 students who signed the survey do not agree with SGA's decision to speak on HB2 vs, while 4 do agree with SGA taking action.

Villarreal said he wants to get the resolution repealed altogether.

"I want to set a sort of precedence so that SGA does not have the power to take a stance on political issues that don't directly affect ECU without consulting the student body first," said Villarreal.

Villarreal wanted to take action as soon as he found out about SGA passing this resolution.

"It's not that I'm picking a side, I just believe that the student government should remain bipartisan on very touchy issues like this," said Villarreal.

Incoming College Republicans' Vice Chairman Wesley Foy agrees and suggested that SGA ask the entire student population on their opinion to reach a majority rule.

"While it affects, say a minority of students at ECU, it neglects a possible silent majority," Foy said. "Until we can get a student-wide consensus, it is very one sided."

Villarreal sent the completed

survey to former SGA President Mark Matulewicz, current SGA President Ryan Beeson, Chancellor Steve Ballard, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Virginia Hardy, and Senator Roderick Hall who introduced Resolution 22.

Matulewicz said the senators have a right to speak for the rest of the school because they were voted into their position.

"The senators who wrote the legislation and voted and approved the resolution were elected by the student body. They serve for the students and by the students," Matulewicz said.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

ARREST continued from A1

of the in store security footage were released and the case still resulted in a guilty conviction.

Greenville Police Chief Mark Holtzman has requested the FBI look into whether federal charges are applicable due a possible "racial overtone" regarding the beating. Tamar Turner, president of the Black Student Union at ECU, said that he is not yet certain whether the release of the video is necessary.

"While ECU has not released anything, I can't really say whether that is positive or negative for this situation," said Turner. "As an organization we just want to raise awareness to students just to let them know that these kinds of things are happening on our very campus."

According to Adam Goldstein, an attorney advocate with the Student Press Law Center, the state of North Carolina has special rules defining what evidence law enforcement must release to the public.

Goldstein said that in North Carolina video surveillance footage is not required to be released by law enforcement and that ECU Police's decision to not release any campus alert did not violate the Clery Act because they determined that there was no ongoing threat to the safety of the community.

Currently, Patrick Myrick is facing a misdemeanor charge of assault on a female. Myrick appeared in a Pitt County Courtroom on April 22, but the trial was continued to June 3, due to Myrick not having a lawyer yet, according to a Pitt County Courthouse clerk.

Massey said he does not plan to file any court action against ECU in hopes of getting the video released. However, Massey did state that the district attorney should not determine whether ECU releases the video tape or not.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

RESCUE continued from A2

state public schools complete a CPR training course that can be completed in a 30-minute period. According to Vetter, many North Carolina students learn CPR in the eighth grade as part of the "Healthful Living" curriculum.

"In less than the time it takes to watch a 30-minute TV sitcom, we give students the skills they need to help save someone's life with CPR," Vetter said. "With a short time investment, today's students will become tomorrow's life-savers."

CPR training courses are widely available in the area and are offered by both the Red Cross and East Carolina University, according to both organizations' websites.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.

HOURS continued from A2

when you need to get your instructor or what to do."

Aside from clinicals, nursing students attend regular class instruction and a lab.

In the lab, students learn skills that are put to use during their clinicals. This is the place where students practice and perfect these skills. They are instructed on things like how to use tubes to giving blood and fluids.

"This is where they are drilling these skills," said

Brown.

There are also open labs available for students who seek extra practice.

In addition to lab, students attend regular class instruction from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. with a two-hour break. Brown said they have at least one quiz and/or test each week, which is a large part of why her schedule is so time consuming. Brown said each test question is carefully thought out and extremely difficult.

"Each answer is right, but you have to pick which answer is the best right answer," said Brown.

To stay in the highly competitive nursing program, you must complete each class with a 78 average, or higher.

The College of Nursing is on a seven point grading scale.

Each semester there are 130 students admitted into

the nursing program at ECU.

For questions or comments, contact news@theeastcarolinian.com.



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PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants.

Feminism is literally the concept that men and women are equal. It's suppose to fight for the ridiculous social harms that both men and women go through. Most are feminists but are under the delusion of some fake men hating stereotypes. Like trying to say ISIS is what Islam truly is.

If you honestly think getting a college degree will make you rich, you are delusional! "Formal education [school] will make you a living. Self education will make you a fortune." If you want to be rich, stop waiting for a class to teach you something and learn it yourself!

You had to be THAT GUY who told the alumnus to submit something better instead of complaining about the rants. Also, it's "fellow alumnus," not "fellow alumni." Derp.

Dear Alumni Association, perhaps you should have a photographer remain at the finish line until the last runner crosses.

Forget all this transphobic bigotry for a second... why is no one concerned that the government is now telling us who can go into what bathroom? It is sexist to allow one gender into a space and not the other. Plain and simple.

They definitely do NOT publish every pirate rant they get. But some weeks they receive more than others and have to publish more of what they receive.

Today was my last class in Minges this semester, and the first time that I picked the unlocked door first.

How can you tell how many rants were submitted? By how many pick-up lines and pun rants they allow in.

Zombies are real. I've seen them on DayZ. Large-brained creatures should be very, very afraid!

If working out means doing more laundry I better buy some Tide

Why did the skeleton hate exam time? Because they always felt boned #punster

The math professor went crazy with the blackboard. They did a number on it #punster

Poll results

Have you ever listened to Brother Ross's speech?

Yes- 54.5%
No- 45.5%

Poll question

Should ECU release the video tape of the St. Patrick's Day assault?

Visit theeastcarolinian.com to vote.

Our view

Public deserves assault video access

The video footage of the St. Patrick's Day assault needs to be released to the public. The latest development in the story, the firing of East Carolina University police officer Sergeant Ralph Whitehurst, has left the ECU community demanding answers, and ECU has declined the opportunity to fully supply them. While the night's events have been well documented, the ECU police have yet to actually release any of the footage captured by security cameras. The East Carolinian has filed a Freedom of Information Act request, but ECU has stated that they will not release the video due to a directive from Pitt County District Attorney Kimberly Robb. The refusal to release the video is detrimental to the public's right to know. The editorial staff of The East Carolinian

believes that students and Greenville citizens alike should have access to information that is vital to their community. By keeping the video hidden from the public eye, officials appear to have something to hide. Ultimately the court of public opinion shouldn't affect the legal decisions made by government officials, but in this case, the public should have access to this information. This situation has been mishandled from the beginning, due to a seeming reluctance on the part of officials to release information. There is still time for local officials to do something to amend their failures. Releasing the video to the public is not only in the best interest of those in the community, but it also simply the right thing to do.

MEMORY LANE



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A backhoe is parked next to Founders Drive during 2014. Construction has been ongoing on East Carolina University's campus over the past few years.

2012-2016: Four years in review



Ryan Clancy
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After spending four years at ECU, three and a half of which I spent working at The East Carolinian, I've had a front row seat to the stories that defined this campus from 2012-2016. Here you go: 2012-2013: Before arriving at ECU (technically 2011), prospective ECU students across the country saw their social media light up with reports of a shooter on ECU's campus. After discovering the shooter is actually a man with an umbrella, cleverly titled "Gunbrella Man" everyone begins to wonder just how crazy life at ECU is going to be. Once freshman year begins, so does a life of dormitory living, abysmal Wi-Fi, and far too public bathrooms. A lucky few make it through the year without drinking tickets. Shane Carden becomes the starting quarterback. Some people ask "Whatever happened to Rio?" Most people reading this column ask "Who?" Construction is a thing. ECU Athletic Jeff Compher starts his job, foreshadowing the eventual end of coach Ruffin McNeill's tenure. An SGA President steps down amid controversy. ECU wins the CIT (College Insider.com Tournament) which is described to non-ECU students as "kind of like the NIT, but not really." All joking aside, Akeem Richmond's clutch 3-pointer should never be forgotten. 2013-2014: Construction becomes a thing,

as ECU's ominously titled "Master Plan" (the actual title of ECU's expansion plan) is put into effect. Jane Goodall visits campus. Belk Hall is torn down, while Aycock stays up and is still named after a white supremacist. A bandit steals bras from White Hall. ECU defeats Ohio in the prestigious Beef O'Brady's bowl, which is actually a sporting event, and not just an incredibly good marketing ploy. ECU athletics becomes #Undaunted by slightly changing its logo. Chaos ensues. ECU gets snow, leading to campus becoming a barren wasteland. Everyone freaks out. 2014-2015: ECU joins the American Conference, which is somehow different from Conference USA despite consisting of many of the same teams. On the bright side, ECU sees better competition in football. However, ECU now has to play UConn in men's and women's basketball. ECU starts a historic football season and gets ranked after defeating UNC-Chapel Hill in a 70-41 landslide during which God himself turns the sky purple. ECU continues to climb the rankings until a loss to Temple changes ECU's fortunes, and their regular season is capped with a brutal Hail Mary loss to UCF. Halloween ravages Riverwalk, as students who definitely, positively (OK it's possible) did not attend ECU smashed in bus windows, yanked up stop signs, and caused chaos until police used tear gas and riot shields to end the party. There's nothing like an ECU Halloween. Another SGA president resigns amid

controversy. Construction is still a thing, and ECU Nation becomes a thing, until everyone gives up on following them after their one millionth name change. Aycock is still named after a white supremacist, but people finally decide that should maybe change. 2015-2016: ECU drags their feet on renaming Aycock Hall until Heritage Hall is built first. Finally, Aycock's name is taken down from the dormitory. Kurt Benkert is announced as the new starting quarterback and immediately suffers a season-ending injury, leaving Kemp and Summers to inspire mostly pointless arguments among fans for the rest of the season. Everyone takes The East Carolinian's moralizing about having a responsible Halloween to heart, and it goes smoothly. ECU misses a bowl, and Ruffin McNeill is fired. Chancellor Ballard announces he intends to step down at the end of the year. The most important positions at a university, the chancellor and the football coach, change in one year. Construction continues to be a thing. Most importantly, The East Carolinian celebrates its 90th anniversary. 2016-future: If, I could save time in a bottle like Jim Croce, I'd save just a little more time to spend here as a student at ECU. It's a little crazy, but it's never boring. Enjoy your time here.

Ryan Clancy is a senior majoring in communication and the editor-in-chief. To contact him, email editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

Our staff

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Contact Info

The East Carolinian
Self Help Building,
Greenville, NC, 28889-4353

Email: editor@theeastcarolinian.com
Newsroom: (252) 328-9238
Fax: (252) 328-9143
Ads: (252) 328-9245
Classified: (252) 328-9290

SAYING GOODBYE

PIRATE RANTS

The East Carolinian does not endorse statements made in Pirate Rants.

Everytime I sit at the tables just above the lower section of Todd, I have to fight the urge to flick food at the unsuspecting people below me.

You're looking sharp, so let's go back to my flat and get natural #musicpickuplines

I'm not being obtuse but you're acute girl #nerdypickuplines

To the person supporting HB2, I'm pretty sure you are missing the point, so let me set up an example you can understand. Do you know someone who is older, say around the age of 50 or so? HB2 allows for age discrimination so if the person employing them thinks they could hire someone younger, bye bye paycheck for the older individual.

Next time a woman asks you how tall you are, ask her how much she weighs. It's all about the #equality.

The Senior Sendoff on Saturday was a huge disappointment. They advertised games... no games. The only food were those hard burgers and hotdogs from the dining hall. ECU, you tried it. Signed a sad senior pirate.

Candy is dandy, but liquor is quicker.

Crack is wack.

Why is Blackboard always crashing?

BEST OF PIRATE RANTS

Am I the only one who thinks I'm going to die or forever be stuck in Bate elevators?

Instead of giving me dirty looks when I try and ride on the bike path you're walking on, why don't you thank me for saving you a parking space?

Bernie Sanders looks an awful lot like Mr. Burns. This could be a trick.

It's a beautiful Thursday morning and UNC still sucks.

#IStandWithCampusCookies

So TEC is a social justice warrior this year but they were racist last year? Can't win TEC just keep being you.

No shoes, No shirt, No problems. Except well failing because I spend all my time at the pool. #gotoclass #Partyontheweekend

Tried heating up a hard boiled egg in the microwave. Bad decision.

Going to go drink away the rest of my money so I can forget how poor I am.

Why did the buccaneer crew sell their baked goods for \$3.14? Because it's the pi-rate #punster

I'm no James Monroe, but I can give you an Era of Good Feelings #nerdypickuplines

Beyonce was so gracious to allow two NFL football teams to play during her concert.

Yoga Pants season is the best season.

No shoes, No shirt, No problems. Except well failing because I spend all my time at the pool. #gotoclass #Partyontheweekend

Questions regarding rants can be directed to Tyler Kelbaugh at opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Chasing dreams brings fulfillment



Kelsey Padgett
MANAGING EDITOR

The first time I knew I wanted to be a journalist I was a 14-year-old high school freshman. From the moment I saw my name over the guest article I had written for the school newspaper, I knew my name was meant to be in print.

Over the next four years, I dreamed about a journalism degree. I lived and breathed my high school newspaper. The feel of a reporter's notebook in my hand, the click of the camera as I snapped photos, and the smell of the paper hot off the press; I was hooked.

By the time I was applying to colleges as a senior, I had already been editor of the paper for a year. It was then that my parents sat me

down and told me their concerns about me going to school to be a journalist. "The field is very competitive. What if you can't find a job?" "You won't make much money in that field. How will you support yourself?"

In that second, I panicked and knew I couldn't go through with it. Instead I applied for and was awarded the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship in 2010. I moved to Charlotte, North Carolina where I attended Queens University of Charlotte.

I loved the city, the university and the people, but I hated my degree. I didn't enjoy going into classrooms, having discussions on literature and writing narratives. I missed facts and newsprint. I missed InDesign and interviews. I left the program after one year and came home to do what I had been so scared to do from the beginning: become a

journalist.

So, today is my last day of classes as an East Carolina University communication student. It has taken me a long time to get here, but looking back I wouldn't change a single thing about my journey. The first time I see my diploma I will know the reward was worth the risk.

My hope is that others will learn from my story. Don't be scared to follow your dreams, no matter how scary they may be. Always listen to your head, but don't forget to follow your heart. Because it is not just a degree that gets you the job, but the effort and the passion that you put into it that really counts.

Kelsey Padgett is a senior majoring in communication and the managing editor. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Make the most of ECU years



Jessica McGettigan
A&E EDITOR

Graduation. One word, four syllables, a million different emotions.

You hear seniors say every day "I never thought this would actually happen," which is the truest statement I've ever heard. I never thought these four years would finally come to a close.

I have always been told that the college-years are the greatest learning experience, both scholarly as well as personally, but again, I never really acknowledged this sentiment until recently. Looking back, I realize how much I owe East Carolina University for the incredible lessons I learned in and out of the classroom, and as a graduating senior, I feel that some of these lessons could be valuable to all undergrads.

I spent almost 90 percent of my freshman year wishing I was anywhere but ECU. I was eight hours away from home and 500 plus miles away from my boyfriend at the time. Instead of going out and making a new life

here, I did everything I could to maintain my relationships and my life at home. I was scared, very self conscious and almost transferred home to be closer to him.

I can't explain to you how happy I am that I didn't do that.

Eventually I allowed myself to open up to everything that ECU has to offer. One very random day, my best friend and I stumbled upon open interviews at The East Carolinian, interviewed that same day and without even really realizing it, became a journalist in a five hour span. Three years later, I am the editor of the Arts and Entertainment section.

Through my experience at The East Carolinian, I have had the pleasure of meeting and interviewing people of all different backgrounds, cultures and preferences. As a journalist, the one thing you have to remain is open minded if you want to truly understand what or who it is you're writing about. I am forever grateful for that lesson because it has helped me learn and understand so much more about what comprises the ECU culture.

Of everything I learned in my time here,

those are two of the most important lessons that I've learned: prioritize your life and figure yourself out first and be open minded to everything and everyone around you. We are young. Live life for you while you're young and do what it is that makes you happy but keep in mind that others should be able to do what makes them happy as well.

So in short, go downtown a lot but hold yourself responsible enough to get yourself to class in the morning. Take certain nights to binge watch netflix with your best friends and put off doing homework until the next day. But make the most of your education, because as the cheesy saying goes, knowledge is power. Know enough about what is going on around you to be an integral part of the Pirate community.

Finally, I highly recommend taking a victory lap. But don't tell your parents I encouraged that....

Jessica McGettigan is a senior majoring in communication and the A&E editor. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Proud ECU tradition runs deep



Collyn Scheaffer
NEWS CHIEF

For as long as I can remember, East Carolina University has been a huge part of my life. My parents met bartending at Pantana Bobs when they were students here, so basically from birth I was bred to spend all of my Tuesdays at penny draft and my Thursdays at ladies night.

I always knew I wanted to be a Pirate. Ever since my dad would dress me up in purple and gold cheerleading outfits as a 6 year old and flaunt me around at football games in Dowdy Ficklen, I knew I wanted to go to school here. Now that my experience in Greenville is unfortunately coming to an end, I have the chance to reflect on my time here and try to figure out how I managed to actually get out of this place in four years.

From every emotional break down during finals to the weekends where I, somehow, spent way too much money downtown, for some very odd reason my parents have remained my number one fans. When my mom moved me into Greene Hall four years ago, I had no idea what to expect. I bragged to my friends from home about how my dorm room was closer to the bars than it was to my classes. I bragged to my friends from home about how the town is painted purple and gold head to toe every Saturday and I bragged to my friends about all of the friends that I made almost immediately. I loved everything about ECU.

Now, almost four years later, nothing has changed. I am still that silly little girl running around the streets of Greenville, hoping I am at least a little bit wiser but still bragging to everyone about how much better my school is than theirs.

Somehow between all of the daylong tailgates, 8 a.m. classes and dueling piano concerts, I have made it to my last day of classes here at ECU. To say that I'm unhappy about that is an understatement. I'll truly miss Brother Ross' rants in between each of my classes and not ever knowing if I can find a parking spot at Joyner Library. But I am excited for the next chapter of my life knowing how much I've grown because of my experiences at ECU. Whether it was in Cindy Elmore's classroom or in the offices of The East Carolinian, I'm confident in leaving East Carolina University and convincing everyone else they should want to be a Pirate just as badly as I wanted to be one.

Collyn Scheaffer is a senior majoring in communication and the news chief. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

Saying good-bye is never easy



Tyler Kelbaugh
OPINION EDITOR

Wow... well that went by quickly. For seniors, our final days at East Carolina have arrived. While the hazy memories of saying goodbye to my parents show just how long my college journey has been, leaving so soon just doesn't feel right.

College made me grow up, although I'd be lying if I acted like it was a quick and painless transition. Heck, part of me still feels like the child that nervously ate Papa Johns as strangers dancing the Wobble filled the Jones Hall lobby.

Still, East Carolina has turned me into so much more. From a child looking for acceptance to a man whose spirit is indomitable; these four years have showed me that anything can change.

I came into college with no real passion, aside from gaming and napping. I had no idea what I wanted to do with myself, so I took a stab in the dark and decided to major in communication. It turned out to be the best decision of my life. I fell in love with journalism almost instantly, with Dr. Elmore's Basic Reporting class cementing my love of all things writing.

Confident was the last word anyone would have used to describe me in high school. Once,

in Latin class, we had to look up an adjective and that the described ourselves. I went with "mediocris", or "average". Elmore, along with several other professors, made me believe in myself. They showed me that I had a least a little bit of skill in something other than beating my friends in Nintendo's *Super Smash Brothers*.

Armed with newfound confidence, I decided to take another completely out of character step, applying for a job at The East Carolinian. While still completely terrified by the thought of working in an office with people I didn't know, I suppressed my fears and got into the candidate program. Luck was incredibly good to me and the job of Men's Basketball writer opened up. My first editor, Dan Hunt, whose name I will never forget, gave me the nod despite my inexperience.

My first game was a hilarious embarrassment. ECU may have changed my meek personality, but it could not change my occasional... no, regular... lapses in common sense. I walked into the pressroom and saw guys dressed in button downs and girls in stylish dresses. Me? I was rocking a sloppy Oregon sweatshirt and jeans. Dan sent me back to Scott Hall, and I returned with a green golf shirt, one that I'd always wear on the sidelines in Dowdy-Ficklen when I was promoted to foot-

ball writer just a year later. Traveling across the coast covering football confirmed my passion for writing, and I hope I never lose it.

While the School of Communication and The East Carolinian changed the way I viewed my skill set, this wouldn't be a senior farewell column if I didn't shout out the friends who made Greenville evolve from my school to my home. It's those friends that make the fact that I'm graduating a painful truth. Whenever my confidence was rattled, or I felt alone and miles from my family, they were there to pick me up. In high school I was a cynic. I loathed people and trusted almost no one. The people I've met at ECU have completely transformed me into an optimistic and trusting person, someone I am proud to be.

Well... that's enough of the sappy stuff. While I wish I could keep writing words to extend this story, to delay the inevitable, I've also learned that in order to move forward one must accept the present. I don't know where my journey will lead me to next, but I will always be thankful for just how much ECU changed me for the better. And if I can change, anything can change.

Tyler Kelbaugh is a senior majoring in communication and the opinion editor. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

‘Buc’ hosts cover band

Rebecca Sefter
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Local cover band Steel Shot will be performing a variety of cover hits and music from all genres tonight at Greenville’s Buccaneer Music Hall.

Duo Jeremy Lowery and Shawn Mitchell grew up a half a mile from each other, both performing separately until finally coming together in 2009.

“I grew up in a musical family,” said Lowery. “I was a drummer my whole life and I had a best friend that played guitar, so we played together. [Shawn] grew up playing guitar, and as we got older, Shawn’s band and my band finally got together.”

Both Shawn and Jeremy have decided to perform in the band full-time.

“Back in 2009, we started playing together and we just started doing it for fun,” said Lowery. “But it’s picked up over time and this is what we do full-time now.”

After creating original music in the past, Lowery has decided to focus on performing cover songs.

“I just enjoy entertaining so many diverse audiences, and you can do that with cover music,” said Lowery. “I think I just got burnt out of doing originals. I can play big songs and entertain other crowds.”

Steel Shot performs around 4-5 times a week, with two of their locations being in Greenville at the Buccaneer Music Hall and AJ McMurphy’s.

From nightclubs to festivals, Steel Shot performs cover songs from a variety of genres, depending on the venue.

“Honestly, we play for anybody,” said Lowery. “It really depends on what location we’re at. We could be at a country bar one night and an upscale restaurant the next and we tailor [our songs] to the venue and we get better feedback from that.”

Shawn and Jeremy feel strongly about getting the audience involved in their performances.

“One of our main goals is crowd participation,” said Lowery. “You’ll very rarely see us play more than one song without interacting with the crowd.”

Currently, Steel Shot is the house band for Greenville’s Buccaneer Music Hall, performing every Tuesday night.

“The Buccaneer is awesome because one week you can play southern-driven country rock and the next week it’s more of a 90s, early 2000s crowd,” said Lowery.

Lowery and Mitchell also give back to their community at every show by being partners with the American Cancer Society.

“Every show that we play, a portion of it goes to the American Cancer Society Relay for Life,” said Lowery. “We like to make sure that’s out there. Not too much for us but for the fact that if someone is going to give a dollar bill and see that maybe they’ll give a five dollar bill if they got it. It goes to a good cause.”

Steel Shot performs every Tuesday from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Buccaneer Music Hall.

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



COURTESY OF VINCENT LI

Senior fine arts major Vincent Li creates art that is inspired by other-world ideas, including this creation that is his latest work in progress.

A world of art
Senior artist creates his own universe

Alaina Corsini
TEC STAFF

The projects created by artist Vincent Li embodies another universe all his own. Li, a senior majoring in fine arts with a concentration in painting and drawing, designs work based in an unknown world that are all painted, drawn and sculpted himself.

According to Li, his work is based off of cartoons, Italian and Dutch Art, nature and Cryptozoology; the search for creatures whose existence has not been proven. His projects also include influences from whatever artist he is currently admiring at the time.

“With these sources, I pull together a narrative using symbols and gestures to create visual metaphors and characters that exist within a parallel other world,” said Li.

Li’s work typically contains original characters, creatures and animals created with multiple different methods. Some paintings of his include rabbits and cloud babies, whom are a recurring character in his work.

“I like the characters more than anything, and as I continue to create work, I’ll think about how I can incorporate them

“[Art] plays a number of roles in society based on the context of the culture and time period you’re looking at”
-Vincent Li

into another piece,” said Li.

“Through doing so, I can hopefully create a cohesive story about the world I’m developing,” said Li. “It’s a good time.”

During the fall semester Li studied within the Italy Intensive program offered by the School of Communication and Fine Arts. Throughout the semester, Li studied various courses in fine arts with ECU professors in Certaldo, Italy. These courses included painting, drawing and digital photography studied in a workshop classroom in Tuscany.

Throughout his semester Li could always be found traveling Europe with his sketchbook in one hand, a pen in another and his camera around his neck. Li’s favorite method to work in is his set of pencils and

micron pens.

“I’ve also recently acquired a super neat electric eraser,” said Li. “That really gets me excited about erasing things.”

The assignments he is currently working on include a woodblock print about his mother and a small figure about opposites for his final assignments as a fine arts student at ECU. After graduation, Li plans to move out west to Colorado or Oregon for graduate school.

“So I can work on growing as a creator within a new environment,” said Li, “As long as things keep looking up.”

According to Li, art has various roles in the human experience and plays a vital role in creativity expressed by individuals.

“[Art] plays a number of roles in society based on the context of the culture and time period you’re looking at,” said Li.

Li said certain pieces of art can move you emotionally.

“Art can even be used to inspire movements and push people towards coming together as a community,” said Li.

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

Fashion assists in staying cool and cute



COURTESY OF AIMO

A student walks down the runway at this year’s AIMO fashion show donning this season’s spring and summer trends.

Victoria Schule
TEC STAFF

In warm climates like Greenville, staying cool during the hot months can be difficult. The trick to being comfortable is dressing for the weather.

“The best way to stay cool this summer is wear lightweight clothes,” said Charnae Ja’Nyse Brown, senior merchandising major and AIMO decor chair.

Summertime is known for their carefree styles in which wearing lightweight fabrics like scrim and cotton and clothes like crop-tops are popular.

“One trend I am really looking forward to this summer is the choker dress,” said Brown. “I love the concept of incorporating an accessory into apparel. There are many variations in that type of dress so everyone can find a style that suits them best.”

According to Brown, you can never go wrong with wearing casual shorts with a basic t-shirt.

“You can always do shorts and tanks for a laid back summer look,” said Brown. “Or if you want a chic ensemble, I would look for pieces like blazers, trousers, and dresses fabrics that are light weight.”

Along with the rising temperatures and pool parties coming up, buying a new bathing suit is a must for that summer closet.

“ I love the concept of incorporating an accessory into apparel. There are many variations in that type of dress so everyone can find a style that suits them best”
- Charnae Brown

Recently, Victoria’s Secret announced that this will be the last year they will be selling bathing suits, which means a summer sale is to come, but unfortunately this will be the last time to buy bathing suits from the brand ever.

“I actually never bought a Victoria’s Secret bathing suit,” said Brown. “I love finding Instagram stores instead and finding pieces you can’t find everywhere.”

Another way to stay cool with the summer heat is changing up beauty products and lotions that can last through the heat and won’t damage or dry out your skin according to Brown.

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STUDENT MEDIA

FASHION continued from A6

“I’ve recently been trying to up my makeup game so I’m going to be using my NYX primer and setting spray to keep my face looking fab in the summer heat,” said Brown.

“You could also find a great tinted moisturizer. They are usually good for your skin and give you coverage that isn’t heavy.”

When wearing a toner or a lotion, it is important to consider skin type.

Wearing a toner is good for acne-prone skin and which will help get rid of impurities, while lotions will help moisturize dry skin or sensitive skin.

Buying beauty products don’t always have to have a name-brand. Natural beauty products are a better alternative for skin protection as well as buying SPF creams to protect against the sun.

Brown advised to keep look out for award shows, upcoming events and social media to keep up with the summer trends.

This writer can be contacted at
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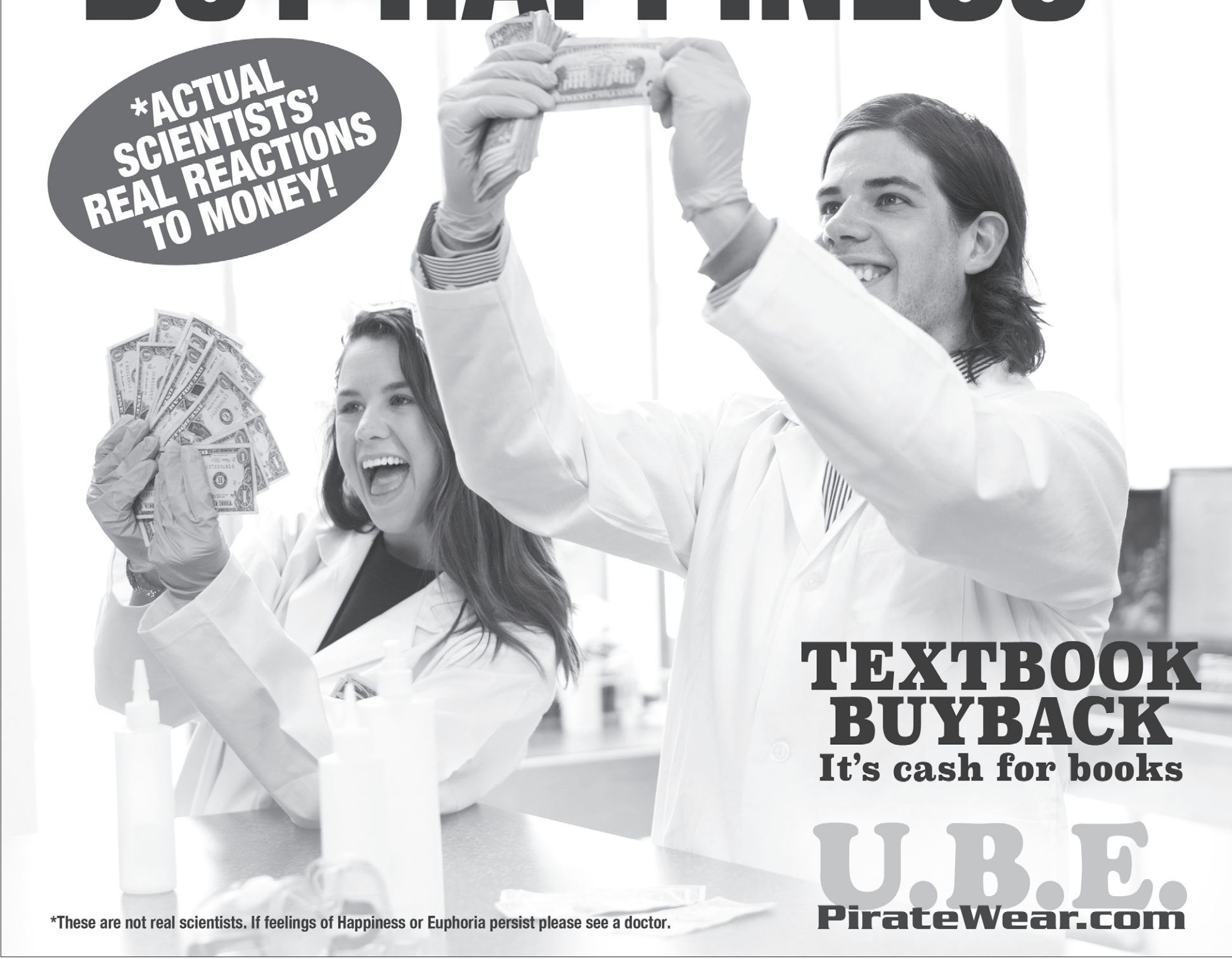
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2	8	1	4	6	3	5	7	9
6	1	4	9	3	8	7	2	5
7	3	2	5	4	6	9	1	8
8	9	5	1	2	7	3	6	4
5	2	8	3	7	1	4	9	6
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1	7	3	6	9	4	8	5	2

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COMICS

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- A rise in professional status is possible, if you work for it. Get help from a friend. Trust a crazy hunch. Listen closely for the best timing. You're earning your pay.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Dream big. Send applications and make reservations. Travels, research and inquiries flow with greater ease over the next two days. Investigate your curiosity. Your discoveries may startle you.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Work out shared finances together. With imagination, you can advance your plan. Consider an investment in educa-

tion. Pay bills first. A new power suit would be nice, too.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Work with a partner today and tomorrow. Investigate the unknown. Consider what needs to change. Listen graciously to an elder and learn new tricks from the past. Your influence is growing.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Today and tomorrow are busy. Focus on work and build up your reserves. Make a blissful connection. Expand your influence. Add artistic touches. Provide well for your family.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 5 -- Focus on love over the next two days. Whether it is

romantic, brotherly or toward a passion or enthusiasm, explore your heart's desire. Have fun with interesting people.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- It's a time of intense learning. You're especially clever for the next few days. Adapt to changing circumstances. Clean a mess. Review new findings with your team. Accept advice from loved ones (especially children).

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Work and make extra money today and tomorrow. Invest in creative work that you love. Use the right equipment for the job. Ask for what you need. List chores, and request volunteers.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Take charge of the situation. You're entering a confident phase for the next two days. Circumstances dictate change. Learn new tricks. Clean up and divvy a windfall. Let your love light shine.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Get others to help with your plan. An opportunity presents for a win-win situation today and tomorrow. Mutual benefits reward shared projects. Partnership unlocks doors. Renew old bonds for a new game.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 5 -- Get into thoughtful planning mode over the next two days. Take care of business behind

closed doors. Rest and contemplate. Keep your end of a bargain. Discover a beautiful possibility.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Friends provide a boost of energy over the next few days. Set up team meetings and social events. Your networks have the resources your project needs ... ask around and invite participation.

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FOR RELEASE APRIL 26, 2016

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

1 Doorbell sound
5 Radio switch
9 Pop out of the CD player
14 "Young Frankenstein" helper
15 "Deck the Halls" syllables
16 Use crayons
17 "The West Wing" actor Alan
18 Fed. agent
19 Best way to sing
20 Keep in suspense
23 Maker of Fiesta Flats taco shells
24 Gorilla who learned sign language
25 "... you for real?"
28 Half a Mork-to-Orson farewell
30 Symbol
32 Suffers from
35 Department store fixture
38 Tunnel effect
40 Actor's prompt
41 "We gotta move!"
42 Shingle securer
47 Roulette bet
48 Like a spoiled child
49 Didn't need to guess
51 Weekly NBC offering since 1975, briefly
52 Takes notice of
55 Like some country songs
59 It may be affixed to an email ... and, literally, what the last word of 20-, 35- and 42-Across can have
61 Drummer Ringo
64 Sheepish smile
65 First name in bike stunts
66 Japanese verse
67 Tupperware tops
68 Harvest
69 Kentucky Derby racer
70 Sporting weapon
71 Lacking, in Lorraine

DOWN

1 Old way to place a collect call
2 Creepy admirer
3 Signal silently to
4 Sculptured, as an image
5 Kabul native
6 Wee one's word
7 steak
8 Tropical fruit
9 Political debate topic
10 "Fear of Flying" author Erica
11 Antlered animal
12 Two-time 1500-meter gold medalist
Sebastian
13 Give it a whirl
21 "My stars!"
22 Maker of NORDLI furniture
25 Texas tourist spot
26 Fix a green
27 Revise
29 Shoreline protection gp.
31 Discreetly send a dupe email to
32 Chef's flavorings

Thur-sday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	P	I	C	B	O	S	C		C	A	L	F		
B	U	E	N	O	L	A	L	A		A	N	O	D		
A	S	T	O	R	A	T	A	N		S	T	A	R		
C	H	I	N	N	Y	C	H	I	N		C	H	I	N	
K	I	T		E	E	K		N	O	H	I	T			
				A	S	H		T	I	E	R	E	D		
E	P	A		N	O	B	S		C	R	U	D	E		
C	O	C	A	C	O	L	A	C	L	A	S	S	I	C	
G	O	T	T	A		E	T	R	E		T	E	A		
S	H	I	R	R	S		E	T	S						
			V	O	T	E	R		E	G	G	B	A	M	
	C	A	P	E	C	O	D		C	O	T	T	A	G	E
R	O	T	I		U	T	A	H		M	O	R	A	L	
A	D	E	N		R	O	D	E		A	D	O	P	T	
W	A	D	E		E	R	A	S		J	O	N	E	S	

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TUNE IN

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EVERYDAY

Benkert to transfer out of ECU

Adam Decker
TEC STAFF

East Carolina junior quarterback Kurt Benkert has decided to transfer from ECU, according to an announcement from head coach Scottie Montgomery on Monday.

“I am saddened to announce that I am transferring from East Carolina University,” Benkert said. “I feel it is in my best interest to explore other options for graduate school. Thank you again Pirate Nation for the support throughout the last three years, it was never unnoticed and I will forever be grateful for it.”

Benkert, who has served three years in

the Pirate program, was announced as ECU’s starter in 2015 before tearing his ACL in practice and was most recently battling with Rutgers transfer Phillip Nelson for the starting job in spring practices.

Benkert played in three games as a redshirt sophomore, serving as Shane Carden’s backup in 2014, passing for 58 yards on 8-of-10 passing with one interception. He also rushed for two touchdowns on the year.

“While it was initially disappointing to hear, our immediate focus needs to remain on Pirates who want to be Pirates,” Montgomery said. “We had a very competitive spring at many

positions and the objective is for that energy, work ethic and ambition to continue throughout the summer and into preseason camp. I am impressed by the leadership we currently have in place on this team and my confidence in those young men grows on a daily basis.”

While he has yet to indicate which school he intends to transfer to, Benkert will finish his business administration degree during ECU’s Spring Commencement on May 6 and attend graduate school at another institution, where he will be immediately eligible.

Benkert is the second quarterback to transfer from the program this spring, as last

season’s starter Blake Kemp left the program earlier in the spring.

With his transfer, ECU is left with Nelson, sophomore John Jacobs and juniors Jason Connella and Ray Smith as listed quarterbacks on the roster. Collectively, the group of passers have combined for zero pass attempts as Pirates.

All signs point to Nelson as the heir apparent to be the team’s starting quarterback during the season, but an injury could leave the Pirates with serious questions. Converted wide receiver James Summers split snaps with Kemp.

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

Golf eyes AAC tourney

Craig Moyer
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina men’s golf team is preparing to compete in the American Athletic Conference Championship at Black Diamond Ranch in LeCanto, Florida, May 1-3.

After struggling in the last two tournaments of the regular season, finishing ninth and 12th, the Pirates remain confident in their ability to finish near the top of the conference tournament.

“We are hoping to take good shots and then execute them with confidence,” ECU head coach Press McPhaul said. “In doing that over and over again, we trust that the result will be a good one.”

The team is hoping that a different schedule format for the tournament will help them



East Carolina junior catcher Travis Watkins follows through on a swing during the weekend series victory against conference foe Connecticut.

Pirates outlast Huskies ECU earns conference series victory over UConn

Kayla Morton
TEC STAFF

The East Carolina baseball team won its home series against the Connecticut Huskies in unlikely fashion this past weekend.

In extra innings during the first game of Saturday’s double-header, ECU (26-14, 7-5 AAC) won on a walk-off, bases-loaded walk after only registering three total hits in the contest. The diminished offensive output showed it was an uncharacteristic day for the Pirates, who have had double-digit hits in twenty-three games this season.

“This weekend, every single pitch was the difference between winning and losing,” ECU head coach Cliff Godwin said.

In the first game of the double header, the Pirates won 2-1 in extras after a walk-off bases-loaded walk to Tyler. ECU’s sixth-spot-hitters Dwanya Williams-Sutton, Kirk Morgan and Brady Lloyd went 0-for-1 with two walks, a hit-by-pitch and two runs to be the difference makers in the contest.

“You can’t complain about a double-header,” third baseman Eric Tyler said.

“You get to play a kid’s game twice in one day.”

The Pirates took the 1-0 lead in the second and held it all the way until the eighth inning when a throwing error by Tyler kept a batter safe at first. The run would eventually come around to tie the game.

Despite pitching eight innings and tying his strikeout career-high with 10 strikeouts, highly-touted pitcher Anthony Kay received a no decision once closer Randy Polonia blew the game for the Huskies.

Polonia hit Lloyd to begin the tenth frame and shortstop Turner Brown moved Lloyd to second on a sacrifice-bunt. Polonia then walked two consecutive batters to load the bases and walked Tyler, bringing in Lloyd for the walk-off walk.

In the second leg of the double header, the Pirates racked up five hits, the most hits they had on the weekend, but took the loss when they gave up just as many runs.

Jimmy Boyd (5-3) was the losing pitcher after allowing six hits, three runs, two walks and four strikeouts on 98 pitches in 6 2/3 innings. Denny Brady allowed two more runs

out of the bullpen, in a disastrous inning for the Pirates. Chris Holba ended up finishing out the game once Godwin realized Brady could not turn an out in the contest.

“I wasn’t proud of the way we played,” Godwin said. “We didn’t play loose and aggressive, and we complained a lot to the umpires.”

Eric Tyler batted in the lone run for the Pirates after left fielder Parker Lamm reached base safely earlier in the third inning. ECU held the 1-0 lead until the top of the seventh when it surrendered three runs followed by two runs in the top of the ninth.

Once again on Sunday ECU recorded just three hits but it was enough to give them the win on the day and the weekend series win. Starting pitcher Jacob Wolfe collected the win on four hits, two runs, three walks and five strikeouts on 105 pitches in 7 2/3 innings.

“Stop thinking; don’t think about mechanics,” said Godwin about his conversation with winning pitcher Jacob Wolfe. “In the game get

> UCONN page A11

Jones set to take final jumps

Tori Poole
TEC STAFF

After a very impressive three years competing for East Carolina’s track and field team, one of the school’s most accomplished high jumpers, Avion Jones, is about to say goodbye.

“I haven’t even thought of this being my last year doing track,” said senior jumper Avion Jones. “I probably won’t think about it until I complete my last meet and that’s just when all of that will hit me.”

After spending his freshman year at Virginia Military Institute Jones decided to transfer to ECU. A part of his decision was due to a high school friend and teammate, Allen Bordley, who had chose to attend ECU, according to head coach Curt Kraft.

“Allen Bordley is a triple jumper on our team and they were high school teammates at first colonial high school in the 757 area code,” said coach Kraft. “So one of the reasons he chose

to come here was because Allen Bordley was already here.”

In Jones’s sophomore year he proved he was a great asset to the ECU track and field roster after setting a school record in the men’s high jump with a mark of 2.19 meters to win the event. He went on to continue his success throughout his junior year where he closed with the individual medal in the men’s high jump with a mark of 2.15 meters in the AAC Championship.

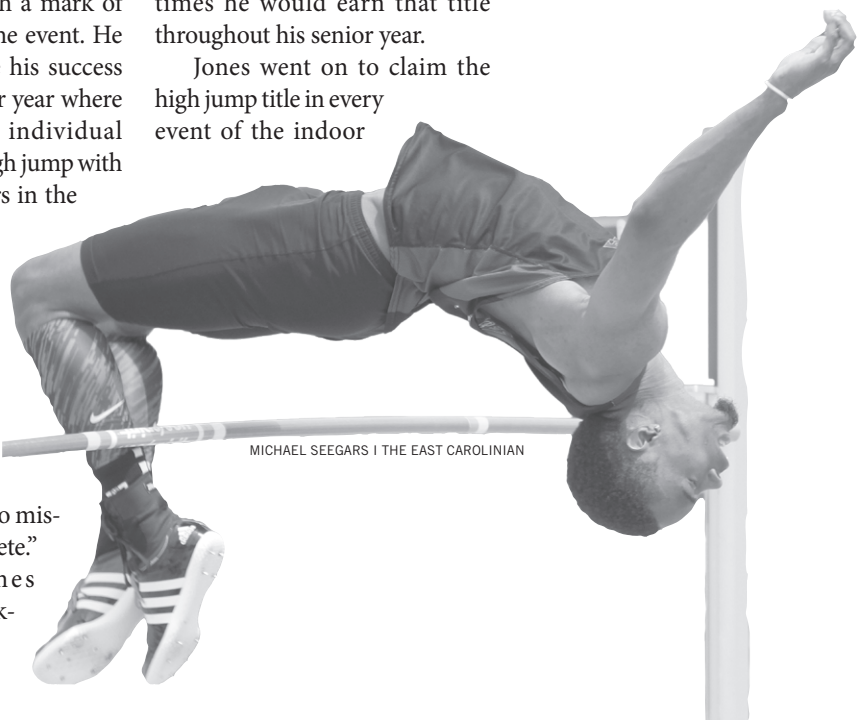
“When he first came in here three years ago we knew he was a really good athlete and we knew he was a really good high jumper,” said coach Kraft. “Make no mistake he is a great athlete.”

This year Jones started strong by breaking his own program indoor record with

an event winning 2.25 meters in the high jump at the Dick Taylor Carolina Cup. He went on to be named the AAC male field athlete of the week after that performance, which was only one of the four times he would earn that title throughout his senior year.

Jones went on to claim the high jump title in every event of the indoor

> JONES page A11



TAKEAWAYS

FOOTBALL

Head coach Scottie Montgomery announced that QB Kurt Benkert will transfer from East Carolina’s football program.

BASEBALL

ECU (26-14, 7-5 AAC) claimed the rubber match Sunday to take the series vs. UCONN.

TRACK AND FIELD

ECU won seven events at the Duke Invitational.

MEN’S TENNIS

East Carolina fell to top-seeded USF 4-0 Friday, ending its season.

SOFTBALL

The Pirates (22-28, 4-11 AAC) claimed their first AAC series win at home over Houston this weekend.

CHARLOTTE HORNETS

The Hornets defeated the Miami Heat 96-80 Saturday night. The Heat lead series 2-1.

ONLINE

Follow us on Twitter, @TEC_Sports for ECU sports coverage.

www.theeastcarolinian.com

GOLF continued from A10

play more relaxed and allow them to execute their shots. The tournament will last three days with one round each day, unlike the usual format of a two-day tournament where the first two rounds are played in one day.

The 36-hole days are tough on the players, meaning the three-day format will likely help the team in playing the way it is most comfortable with.

“It helps everybody is going down there. The 36-hole days are long days and guys are accustomed to playing 18 holes in a day,” McPhaul said.

Windy conditions are often something golfers have to battle at Black Diamond Ranch, but it’s not something the team is worrying about.

“We want to give the elements the proper respect, without changing everything that we’re doing,” McPhaul said. “If you hit a solid shot, the wind doesn’t mess with it too much, so we just want to take good, normal shots.”

The team is hoping for a better result this season, after finishing seventh in last years AAC championship. Four of the five Pirates who will likely play in this season’s tournament are familiar with the course after competing last season.

“Any time you are going to somewhere that you’ve played helps. There’s a higher degree of comfort, you understand what the golf course is demanding,” McPhaul said.

Wes Conover and Jackson Spires both

finished tied for 14th at even par, 216, and led ECU in the 2015 AAC championship. Juniors Jacob Hicks and Al Dickens finished tied for 34th and 39th respectively in last season’s tournament and will be competing this year in their senior seasons.

The play of the four returning starters in last season’s tournament is something that the team is looking to build off of this year.

“You’re going to a place that you’ve had some success before and you’re hopefully better than you were a year ago,” McPhaul said.

South Florida dominated the field last season, finishing 13 shots ahead of second-place finisher SMU and 44 shots ahead of ECU. Sophomore Tim Conover will likely be the fifth member of the team this season as they compete at Black Diamond Ranch’s Quarry Course.

This season the No. 61 Pirates will face off with several top-50 teams, including No. 15 South Florida, No. 49 SMU and No. 39 Memphis.

Even though ECU is going up against tough competition, its coaches are urging its players to not worry about its opponents and to focus on its own play.

“We need to do the little things well, pay attention to ourselves and play the best that we can play and then trust that a good result will come,” McPhaul said.

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

JONES continued from A10

“He’s gonna be sorely missed, and he definitely put East Carolina on the map, so to speak, at the national level. He has just been a very very good representative of our program and has represented ECU in a very very good way,” Kraft said.

Jones will stay at ECU to finish up one last year of school to complete his degree in special education, and hopes to continue to compete after he graduates. Jones will travel to Orlando, Florida May 12 to compete in the AAC Outdoor Championships in hopes of continuing to compete in the NCAA Championships.

“I wouldn’t have chose any other school, with the coaching staff that we have,” he said. “They’re pretty lenient with a lot of things and pretty understanding. My jumps coach, coach Blaney, is the most understanding and caring man in the world. I definitely wouldn’t have changed any decision that I made to transfer to ECU.”

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

UConn continued from A10

up there and compete, give us a shot to win.”

The Pirates took the lead early when third baseman Eric Tyler hit in his third run of the series. After one of Wolfe’s three walks, UConn’s (21-18, 6-5 AAC) Tyler Gnesda made it to third base before scoring on a sac-fly by Connor Buckley, tying the game at one apiece.

In the third frame, Willy Yahn got a groundout RBI to put the Huskies ahead 2-1 until UConn’s William Montgomerie hit Kirk Morgan in the fourth inning. On the very next pitch Travis Watkins cranked a two-run homer that would later be the winning runs of the game.

“I’d been getting beat earlier in the game. We have to make an adjustment so I stepped off the plate a little bit,” catcher Travis Watkins said. “The hits don’t always matter, we’re just trying to have quality at-bats.”

For questions or comments, contact sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Residence Halls: April 23rd - May 8th; Drop off locations in each Residence Hall.

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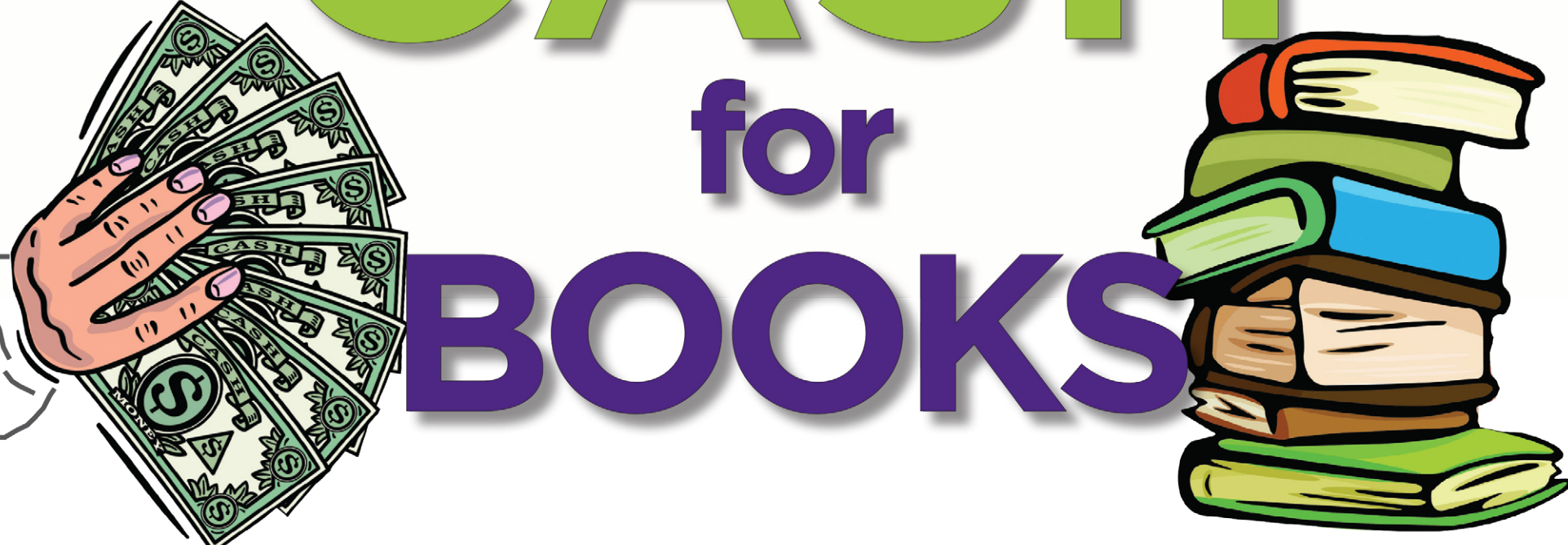
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April 27: 8am - 5pm

April 28: 7:30am - 6pm

April 29: 7:30am - 5pm

April 30: 11am - 3pm

May 2 - May 5: 7:30am - 6pm

May 6: 7:30am - 5pm

Dowdy Trailers

- **Bottom of the Hill**

- **West End near Old Cafeteria/Faculty Way)**

April 28 - April 29: 9am - 4pm

May 2 - May 5: 9am - 4pm

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