



The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Tuesday, 11.12.19

Pirates look to defeat App. State

Brendan Gillespie
TEC STAFF

Coming off of a 62-57 loss against the United States Naval Academy (2-1, 0-0 Patriot League), the East Carolina University (1-1, 0-0 AAC) men's basketball team will travel to Boone, North Carolina and face Appalachian State University (1-1, 0-0 Sun Belt) tonight at 7.

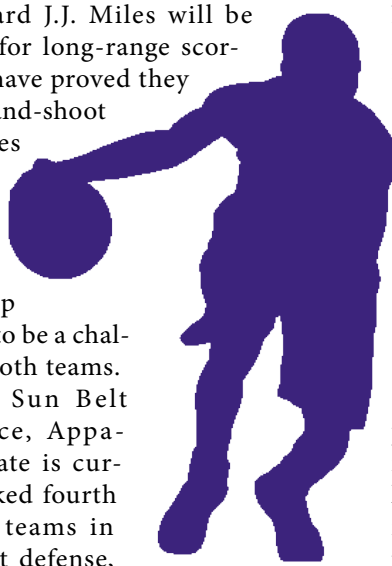
"They (App State) are very experienced, obviously. They've got some upperclassmen, (senior forward Isaac) Johnson, (redshirt senior forward Hunter) Seacat, and all those guys, (senior guard) O'Showen (Williams), who have played a lot of minutes," head coach Joe Dooley said.

Sophomore forward Jayden Gardner will likely be a key to ECU's success, as the team's leading scorer with 43 points and 19 rebounds in two games. Although he is arguably ECU's best player, Gardner did not start against Navy, and finished the game with 15 points.

"He (sophomore forward Jayden Gardner) couldn't practice. He cramped up during the VMI game and then wasn't able to practice for the next two days. He felt better at shootaround, but we weren't sure after not practicing for two days if he would be able to go. I assumed he would be able to go, but if you don't practice, you don't start," Dooley said.

While Gardner is a specialist in driving to the basket and drawing fouls, freshman guard Tristen Newton and junior guard J.J. Miles will be looked to for long-range scoring. Both have proved they can catch-and-shoot open threes when asked, and today's matchup will prove to be a challenge for both teams.

In the Sun Belt Conference, Appalachian State is currently ranked fourth out of 12 teams in three-point defense, an area that ECU is ranked third within the American Athletic Conference. In light of these two contesting statistics, ECU may look to place emphasis on Gardner's abilities within the paint.



> PIRATES page A4



MITCHELSON

University now under new leadership

Summer Tonizzo
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University's newly appointed Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson is the second person to accept the position in the span of six months, and he plans to lead until the search for a permanent chancellor concludes.

Following the resignation of former Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach on Oct. 26, the appointment of Mitchelson to the interim chancellor position was announced by the University of North Carolina (UNC) System Interim President Bill Roper five days later, on Oct. 31.

In an interview with *The East Carolinian*, Mitchelson said he was not surprised to be appointed to the position. Prior to the appointment, Mitchelson had been working the jobs of both ECU's provost and acting chancellor between the time Gerlach had been placed on administrative leave and his resignation.

"I think he (Roper) went through a pretty deliberate process and he called me on a couple of occasions to let me know about the process, so he kept me apprised along the way, so I don't think there was a lot of surprise (with the appointment)," Mitchelson said.

Mitchelson said he remains in contact with Gerlach now that the investigation has subsided. He said he thinks Gerlach made the right decision in resigning but hopes the community continues to support the former interim chancellor.

Gerlach has since moved back to his permanent residence in Raleigh, North Carolina, according to Mitchelson.

"I'm going to do my best to maintain a good level of visibility, but I think Dan (Gerlach) was remarkable in that effort and his ability to be visible, so think they'll be some drop off there but I'll be visible," Mitchelson said. "He's (Gerlach) going to be fine, he's going to land on his feet, such a committed and talented human being that there's a role out there for him."

Mitchelson has been employed by ECU since 1999, coming to the university as a professor and chair of the Department of Geography and serving as provost for the past four years, according to an ECU News Services press release.

Until the UNC System Board of Governors (BOG) finishes out the search for ECU's next permanent chancellor, Mitchelson will serve as ECU's interim chancellor, the press release said.

Mitchelson said the transition from provost to acting chancellor to interim chancellor has been hectic at times, but he accredits the chancellor's and provost's teams to keeping things organized and running smoothly.

"For at least five weeks there I was trying to keep the two jobs glued together, which is not easy to do, and I'll attribute the chancellor's team and

> LEADER page A2

Investigative report finds no foul play

Summer Tonizzo
TEC STAFF

Sarah Hooper
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN



The results of the month-long investigation into East Carolina University's former Interim Chancellor Dan Gerlach were released Friday, detailing the findings of the privately hired law firm, Womble Bond Dickinson.

Allegations against Gerlach stemming from his night out drinking at downtown Greenville bars on Wednesday, Sept. 25 into early Thursday morning, were sent in several emails to local media outlets, ECU's Board of Trustees (BOT) members and specific members of the UNC System office, according to the Womble Bond Dickinson report.

The emails were sent from the address "johnqpublicatecu@gmail.com" and included a narrative which offered numerous allegations against Gerlach, including that he engaged in "sexual conduct in public and made inappropriate remarks," according to the report.

Womble Bond Dickinson's investigation findings delved into Gerlach, lawyer Peter Romary, other public figures involved and provided a detailed timeline of the events on the night of Sept. 25 and the weeks following. The report revealed that Gerlach did not engage in inappropriate sexual conduct or make inappropriate remarks.

"All but one of the eyewitnesses interviewed reported that Gerlach was not drunk. This impression was shared by numerous people who encountered Gerlach throughout the entire evening, including those at Sup



Dan Gerlach

Dogs, 519 and the 5th Street Annex. Additionally, no eyewitness reported inappropriate behavior by Gerlach consistent with intoxication," Womble Bond Dickinson said in its investigative report.

The report additionally referenced the idea of the night being a "set up," and said the findings from the investigation do not "entirely rule out that possibility," while also not confirming it.

According to the report, the individual who took photos of Gerlach at Club 519, captured the situation to protect Gerlach's reputation.

The investigative report said Romary is linked to some of the figures included in the report released Friday night, including Jeffrey Foster, Matt Davenport, and members of the ECU Board of Trustees and the UNC Board of Governors, including Vern

> REPORT page A2

Resilience stories shared at 'EC Oops!'

Hannah True
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

East Carolina University's Student Activity Board (SAB) and Student Activity and Organization (SAO) hosted its third annual "EC Oops!" event yesterday at 5:30 p.m. in Black Box Theatre to showcase different ECU pirate experiences.

For the last few years, Stanford University has hosted a project called Stanford, I Screwed Up! and as part of East Carolina University's resiliency program, ECU has adopted its own version of it titled "EC Oops!". The event is aimed to show stories of resilience to fellow pirates according to Lauren Thorn, associate dean of students in charge of programming and initiatives.

"EC Oops!" is a performance-based program that shares stories of resiliency, overcoming adversity and working through obstacles. Students are encouraged to share their

own experiences through music, spoken word or dance performances, according to Thorn.

"In the past two years, we've had musicians, comedians, poets and dancers that have all performed and talked about how their love for music or performing has helped them through difficult times," Thorn said.

Yesterday was the third year for "EC Oops," which is usually held in the spring, but this year they moved it to the fall to "attract a different audience," according to Thorn. The Office of the Dean of Students has worked with SAB and SAO to put on this event and even expand the performers to faculty this year.

"We have a great collaborative relationship with SAB/SAO, which allows us to tap into their list of student performers and



HANNAH TRUE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

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Senior Operating Officer for Student Affairs Chris Stansbury.

ONLINE

» ARTS: Season two of 'The End of the F***ing World' toys with emotions

» Check out our website for stories, photo galleries and more

SOCIAL MEDIA

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BRIEFS

OCSS to host financial education event today

Today from noon to 1 p.m. in room 307 of the Main Campus Student Center, Off-Campus Student Services invites students to learn about financing off-campus housing.

Office of Global Affairs to hold study abroad seminar

Today between 4 and 5 p.m. in the International house there will be a seminar providing students with study abroad program and scholarship opportunities.

Peer-Led drug and alcohol support group to meet

Today between 7 and 8 p.m. in Rawl Building room 204 there will be a peer-led confidential support group for people struggling with drug or alcohol use.

College of Business to host career related discussion

Tomorrow between 9 and 9:30 a.m. in Bate room 3201 the College of Business will be holding a seminar for students interested in career-related topics.

Salary negotiation strategies event to take place tomorrow

Tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Main Campus Student Center room 253 there will be a seminar providing negotiation strategies for women entering the workforce.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

If you feel there are any factual errors in this newspaper, please contact Jenna Price at editor@theeastcarolinian.com.

LEADER continued from A1

the provost's team for keeping it all glued together and making sure I was in the right place at the right time," Mitchelson said.

Mitchelson said he hopes to see a permanent chancellor hired by July 1, 2020, by the beginning of the next fiscal year. He said he does not plan to abandon the interim chancellor position.

Once the university's next permanent chancellor is hired, Mitchelson said he would like to return to his position as provost.

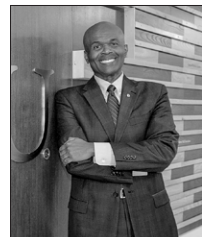
"I don't have any intention of applying for the permanent (chancellor) position," Mitchelson said. "I would intend to return to the provost position, now you'd also understand that a new chancellor has choices to make and that could be in the cards as well, that a new chancellor might want a change in leadership."

Mitchelson said his immediate goal as interim chancellor is to assist with the new student recruitment cycle. He said by increasing enrollment some of the university's "budget shortcomings" will be corrected.

The main priority is to focus on the recruitment of transfer and graduate students, along with the freshman class of fall 2020, Mitchelson said.

"The reason I'm here is mission. I just love East Carolina University and its mission, so it'll continue to be all about bringing students to ECU and making sure they're successful and making sure that the region is successful," Mitchelson said.

Last Wednesday, Mitchelson appointed Grant Hayes, the former dean of the College of Education (COE), to the position of acting provost for the time being.



Grant Hayes

According to Mitchelson, having an acting provost will help balance the workload the senior administration has.

"I really wanted to make sure it was one of the deans for a variety of reasons, visibility, credibility, and Grant is a remarkably popular leader and I think right now we could use his stability," Mitchelson said.

In an emailed statement to *The East*



COURTESY OF TWITTER

Mitchelson stands during last week's Pledge Purple resource fair and banner signing on the lawn.

Carolinian, Hayes said the transition from dean of the COE to acting provost has been "exciting."

Hayes said he has received support from other deans, vice chancellors, the provost's office, faculty and staff during his transition.

"I am honored to have been asked to step into this role as Acting Provost & Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. I am ready to continue to support ECU's mission, now not only in the College of Education, but throughout the university. Being a part of ECU's senior administration gives me the opportunity to advocate for the faculty, staff and students at this university," Hayes said in the emailed statement.

Virginia Hardy, ECU's vice chancellor of student affairs, said she believes Mitchelson was the right person to be chosen to lead the university during this time period.

Hardy said she hopes Mitchelson will help ECU continue to move forward by

providing a "trusting, helping hand." She said his "unquestionable ethics, integrity, commitment and passion" for the university will serve the community well during the transition period.



Virginia Hardy

"East Carolina, as we all have been reading it, seeing it, living it, of course, has had some challenges over the past few years, but even with those challenges the thing that's been consistent is the way East Carolina pulls together during those times of challenge and adversity," Hardy said.

Hardy said she hopes the university sees a permanent chancellor hired after the search committee, ECU Board of Trustees and BOG finds the right candidate to take the position.

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



COURTESY OF WWW.QVERITY.COM

QVerity's lawyer Peter Romary (right) was the first American Judge to be sworn in on United Kingdom soil last year. Judge Jeff Foster (left) administered the oath of office during Romary's ceremony.

REPORT continued from A1

Davenport, Fielding Miller, Max Joyner, Phil Lewis, Angela Moss, Leigh Fanning, Philip Byers, Harry Smith and others.

Romary was an employee of ECU Legal Services from 2006 to 2014. Romary said he's additionally represented individuals who are on the ECU Board of Trustees, some on the Foreign Relations Council, and clients on legislative and governmental panels.

The Photographer, unnamed in the report, works at a local restaurant in Greenville. The report said the Photographer was overheard by Matt Davenport, who was having lunch at the restaurant on Sept. 26, talking and showing photos of Gerlach from the night before.

"About 20-25 minutes after Matt Davenport started having lunch, Matt Davenport was joined by Foster. The Photographer was unaware of Foster's identity at the time," according to the report. "According to the Photographer, Matt Davenport indicated that Foster was a judge and that the Photographer needed to AirDrop the photos and video on his phone to Foster. The Photographer complied."

According to the report, Foster Davenport "denies" being present when Foster obtained the photos, and it said Davenport thinks "Foster may have gone back to the restaurant" to get the photos. Later in the report, Foster confirms to investigators that he initially drove away before obtaining the photos "changed his mind, turned around, and went back to the restaurant."

The report said the Photographer had confirmed the photos and videos he transferred to



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Dan Gerlach poses with students in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium's Boneyard during a football game.

Foster on Sept. 26 were the same found in the media's reporting. Foster said he had downloaded the photos and video to a USB drive.

"Foster did not send the photos to the media and stressed he did not want to damage ECU's reputation," the report said. "Foster gave the USB drive to his friend, but declined to say who that person was."

In an interview with *The East Carolinian*, Romary said he is good friends with both Matt Davenport and Foster whose name shows up multiple times in the Womble Bond Dickinson report.

After a forensic analysis was conducted, Womble Bond Dickinson said it was unable to determine the owner of the johnqpublicatecu@gmail.com account. The report said the account has since been shut down after

attempts to email the account failed.

In an interview, Romary said he had "nothing to do with" the johnqpublicatecu@gmail.com account.

Romary said many suspected him to have started this situation, but he said he wanted to be clear that he was not involved. Romary offered to provide documentation proving he was in the UK without access to wifi when the mail packages were sent out by John Q Public.

Romary said he found out about the email address johnqpublicatecu@gmail.com by his clients, investigators and "pretty much every-

body in the media."

"The name of the account was not a secret. People had been saying they received stuff from an anonymous account from John Public. I was asked by investigators (Womble Bond Dickinson), 'are you John Q Public?' I was interviewed by the investigators. Why was I interviewed by the investigators? That's what I want to know," Romary said.

According to the report, Romary represented the regional divisions of the Police Benevolent Association (PBA) and the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), whom he filed, on behalf of, a petition with the city for the street camera footage on the night in question regarding Gerlach's appearance downtown.

Romary was additionally working on a separate case on behalf of BOG member Tom Fetzter, who retained him shortly after Romary began investigating on behalf of the PBA and FOP, according to Romary.

"People can make up what they want about me and infer what they want about me. They can try to take texts and string them together without knowing what was in phone calls or emails. They can do as they wish. I have done what I did for the police. It was not part of any nefarious set up or collaboration," Romary said.

When asked if anyone else on the BOG was involved in his hiring by Tom Fetzter, Romary said he could not answer.

"I'm not ashamed of anything I've done, because what I did at the end of the day revealed the truth, and that's all we're looking for," Romary said.

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



Peter Romary

OUR VIEW

Flu vaccines prove to be important

With flu season beginning and many people coming down with the flu, people are hesitant to get the flu shot due to their personal beliefs about the flu shot.

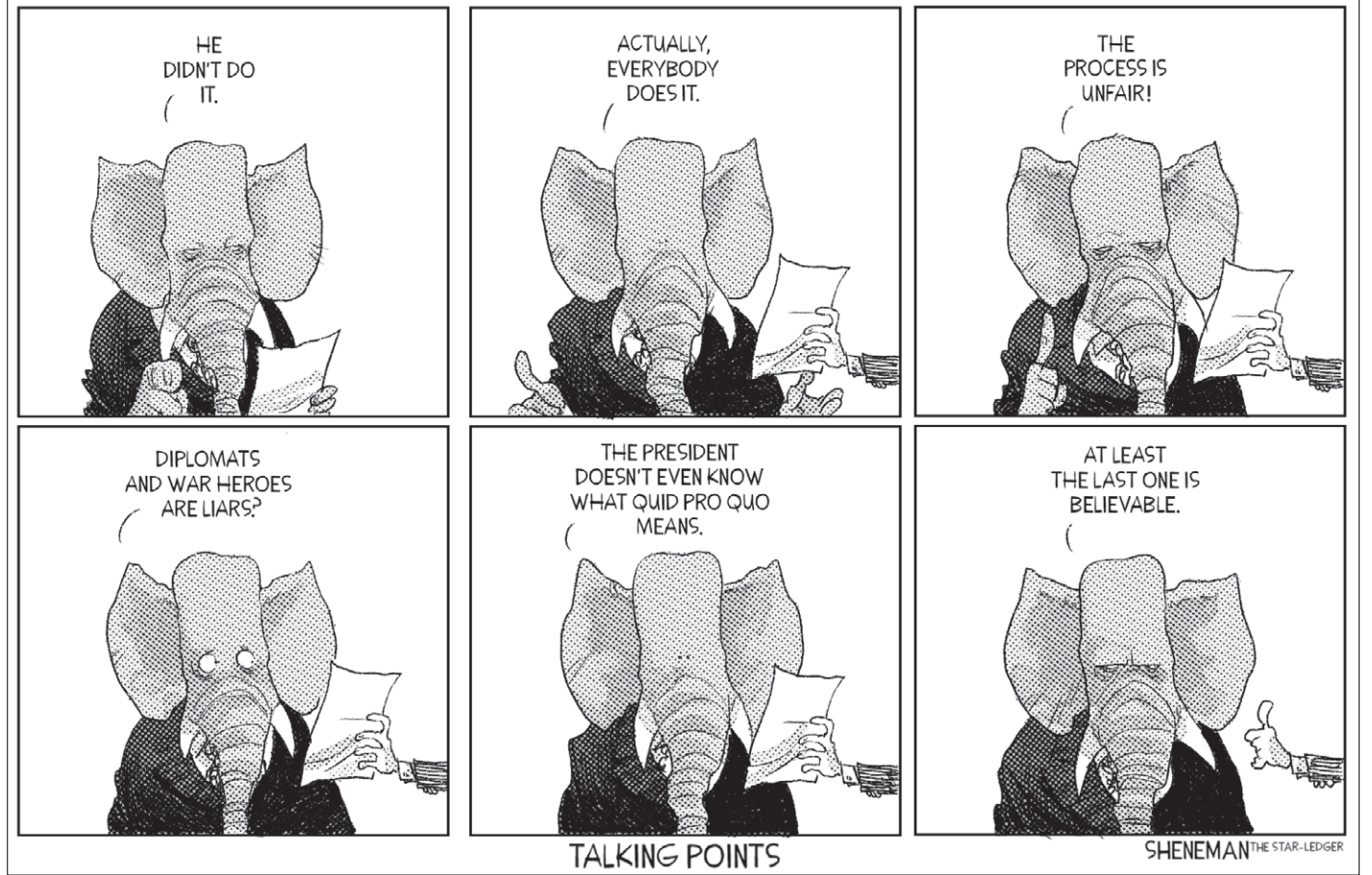
Last year, East Carolina University employee and volunteer firefighter Dawn Harrison passed away from the flu in January 2018. In September, four North Carolina State University students had already been diagnosed with the flu.

With the deaths of members of the ECU community in previous years and students at other universities in North Carolina suffering from the flu, it is important that the ECU community takes preventative measures to prevent the spread of flu on campus.

The flu vaccine is life saving preventative measure that saves the lives of children and many others. Other benefits from the vaccine include reducing the severity of illness in those who get vaccinated but still get sick. The vaccine also prevents flu-related hospitalization of children, working-age adults and older adults.

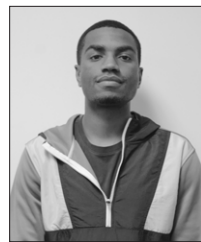
Staff members of The East Carolinian have lost friends and family members due to the flu. While many believe the flu shot may not prevent the flu, it prevents the severity of the flu. We have felt the impacts of losing loved ones to the flu and we don't want that for anyone else.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that flu prevention is important and encourage the ECU community to get a flu shot, which you can get at the Student Health Center, to ensure not only your health, but the health of others.



Prioritize mental health

Stress of being a college student impedes well-being



Trajan Warren
TEC STAFF

Recently, I was talking with a close friend of mine who had left East Carolina University and moved out of state with family.

Our conversations range a variety of topics, from music or movies to memes or old memories. But

rarely, if ever, do they reach any level of solemnity. This particular conversation had been the first one of length we'd had in a while.

After a few minutes of trivial and inconsequential conversation, he brought up the recent student deaths that have occurred by students on campus. The fall 2019 semester had seen students lose their lives to a drug overdose and two suicides, on top of several reported suicide attempts.

I told him that. Then he told me that his last semester here, he had gone through a tough period of trying to justify his place in this world and as a result contemplated suicide.

I didn't know how to respond to this. Here was someone I considered to be

one of my closest friends, someone I had known since high school, more than a quarter of my life. And I realized how little I actually knew because I assumed that everything was alright.

This is a crime that a lot of us are guilty of. We forget to take a pause and think about how those closest to us are doing, let alone properly addressing our own mental and physical health needs.

According to two separate surveys conducted by the World Health Organization, 33% of students have suffered from serious depression and 39% of students have admitted they were struggling with at least one mental illness.

The American College Health Association conducts a survey once every semester of college students and in the spring of 2019 they found that in the last 12 months approximately 66% of college students have felt overwhelming anxiety, 45% felt too depressed to function normally and 13% seriously considered suicide with 2% actually attempting to take their own lives.

These numbers are drastically higher than they were just a decade ago, and both of the statistics regarding suicide have doubled since the ACHA conducted the

survey in spring 2009.

The four quick years, give or take, that young adults move away from everything they've ever known are pivotal in how the next 50 years of their lives will turn out. So, it's not hard to understand why such a high percentage of college students are dealing with these mental health issues.

From skipping meals in order to turn in that Blackboard assignment after leaving your payless internship, to attempting to manage a healthy relationship with their social lives, the level of stress college students go through is a reality for far too many.

We get so caught up in preparing for our future, that we forget to ensure that we'll even get there.

We shouldn't be too busy to ensure that our health is in the green or too busy to keep an eye on those we care for. The adage, "You never know what people are going through," seems trite and cliché, but it's important, especially during these crucial years of a student's life.

Warren is a senior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Hiding likes won't make a difference

Tano Talk



Macie Tano
TEC STAFF

Instagram has proposed a new idea that would hide the number of a user's likes from public viewing. While this initiative hasn't been set in place in the United States yet, Instagram CEO Adam Mosseri tweeted on Nov. 8 that the feature

will be tested in some parts of the US in the following weeks.

Instagram has already been testing the idea of making likes private in multiple countries since earlier this year. They have received a variety of feedback, with some users appreciating the new "no like" approach, but other users have not been as thrilled about it.

Some users have expressed their disappointment with the new policy, especially those who have amassed a heavy following over the years since the creation of Instagram. Celebrities such as Nicki Minaj have publicly conveyed their concern, with Minaj stating that if the initiative takes place, she will stop using the app. Rapper Cardi B shared her opinion on the plan, stating that the removal of likes won't make the social media app any less "toxic."

However, other well-known celebrities, such as Kim Kardashian West, have shared their full support of Instagram's decision. During a conference with The New York Times, Kardashian-West discussed how the removal of likes could be beneficial for the mental health of the app's users. Actor Keith Powers tweeted in support for the plan, stating that he "loves" the idea and believes it will allow for self-expression and creativity. Many Instagram influencers, many of

"At first, I believed the initiative was a great idea, and I still do believe that it could have some positive impacts, such as more creative posts that focuses on the actual content rather than the engagement it receives."

whom make their profit by selling sponsored content on their popular accounts, have discussed how Instagram's plan could negatively affect their profit, as they make a career out of the amount of likes and engagement they get on their posts.

After reading the news releases and discussing the like sharing plan with my friends, I have mixed views on it. At first, I believed the initiative was a great idea, and I still do believe that it could have some positive impacts, such as more creative posts that focuses on the actual content rather than the engagement it receives. However, I don't believe it will make a difference in the self-image problems many users have.

Someone who gets less likes on a post than their friends and followers may feel like they aren't good enough, and this has been a prevalent issue with many users, so much that some have gone as far as spending money on followers and likes, an extreme measure that obviously represents a problem with our society.

An issue that has been heavily discussed in many debates about social media and mental health is the idea of validation from the amount of likes one receives. Someone who posts a picture and doesn't receive a "good" number of likes may believe they aren't good enough, a warped ideology that unfortunately affects many people. So, the

removal of likes may ease the minds of those who are worried about like count.

Hiding the number of likes may only have beneficial effects on some users who have problems with self-esteem and self-image for a small amount of time. Think about it, follower count and comments can also affect how one sees themselves, so should those features be taken away also?

Like Cardi B said, the number of likes being removed from view won't stop negativity on the app. Cardi B pointed out that comments are still enabled and allow for bullying, harassment, etc. I believe that she makes a good point here. Bullying on social media platforms is still a huge problem in our society, and like count doesn't make any difference.

Whatever, your viewpoint is on Instagram's plan, it is important to remember that this is only a test trial to see what feedback it'll receive, and that this feature isn't permanent yet. While removing likes may be viewed as a good idea that allows for more self-expression, self-image issues related to social media engagement will still persist.

Tano is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

» ANALYSIS

Offensive line secret to success

Pirates' front five has paved the way to offensive resurgence of late



Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

For the second straight week, the East Carolina University (3-7, 0-6 AAC) football team played a nationally ranked opponent to within one score by the final whistle. This time, it was Southern Methodist University (9-1, 5-1 AAC), a team that entered Saturday's matchup as a well-rounded team on both sides of the football.

Offensively, SMU ranked solidly inside the top-10 in the FBS averaging over 40 points per game on the back of a unit that racked up nearly 510 yards each time it has taken the field.

Defensively, however, the Mustangs rolled into Saturday's game averaging better than 4.4 sacks per contest, the top mark in the FBS at the time. In the tackles of loss department, SMU also ranked inside the top-five nationally with nearly nine every time out.

Even with that pass rush anchored by guys like senior defensive end Delontae Scott and senior safety Patrick Nelson, both of which entered the game against ECU with double-digit tackles for loss, the Pirates' offensive line was able to keep sophomore quarterback Holton Ahlers upright for much of the afternoon.

Nelson, who took his first snap of the day sporting 12 tackles for loss and 9.5 sacks, failed to record so much as a quarterback hurry in 60 minutes against the Pirates. For Scott and SMU's other top pass rushers, that was the narrative as ECU's offensive line yielded just two sacks and seven tackles for loss on the evening.

While those two sacks did tie an SMU record for most in program history (42) for a single season with two games left, they both occurred in the first quarter and had little impact on the outcome of the game.

"That's the real key to everything the past several weeks has been their (the offensive line) continued progression," head coach Mike Houston said. "We've had some guys out of the lineup and you've had some guys step in and perform very, very well. I think that just shows you all the work that group and coach (Steve) Shankweiler and the other guys have put into developing our line this year."



Mike Houston

Hurried just a total of three times on Saturday, Ahlers ripped the Mustangs' defense for 498 yards and threw six passing touchdowns to establish a new school-record.

After struggling to find consistency on the offensive side of the football earlier in the season, the Pirates have drastically increased production, churning out an average of 516.5 yards per game over the last two contests.

"We can do this, we can play with anyone in the conference," senior offensive lineman Branden Pena said prior to the SMU game. "I think we've shown strides of it through some earlier games, but I feel like we came together more this game (against Cincinnati)."

Ahlers has been at the fore-front of that attack, racking up over 1,000 passing yards combined the last two weeks while the Pirates have executed an average of 14.5 more pass plays compared to the first eight games of the season.

With the top two passing totals in ECU history under



Holton Ahlers has

2,705 PASSING YARDS

232 FIRST DOWNS

making ECU 10th in the country



100+ RUSHING YARDS

in seven games this season

MICHAELA EMORY AND ERIN FLYNN | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

From top to bottom: quarterback Holton Ahlers, tight end Zech Byrd and wide receivers Tyler Snead and Blake Proehl.

his belt, Ahlers has enjoyed the security of playing behind an offensive line that is getting the job done. Following the aforementioned two sack performance by SMU's defense on Saturday, the Pirates' front five has allowed only 17 sacks through 10 games, a number that ranks 50th in the FBS.

A respectable number, Houston and offensive line coach Shankweiler have tabbed six different starting combinations along ECU's front this season. On Saturday, sophomore offensive lineman Matt Morgan received his first start of the year at right guard while redshirt freshman Noah Henderson earned the nod at right tackle for the second consecutive week.

Two games ago, Pena was forced to shift from his typical center position to right guard for junior offensive lineman Sean Bailey who was out with an injury.

"I pride myself on knowing the positions on the offensive line," Pena said. "Ever since I was little, that's how football made sense to me. If I know what the guys to the left and right of me right are doing, I know what I'm doing. I'm just trying to help my team in any way possible."

Pena, who has started seven games for the Pirates this season, has been one of the more consistent members of the line this season. With junior Cortez Herrin nursing an injury, junior D'Ante Smith is the only Pirate offensive lineman to start every game at the same position (left tackle).

Through it all, however, ECU's big men up front have been getting the job done, even with the uncertainty as to who will play week-to-week. Over the last three games, Ahlers was sacked only a trio of times while he has not been sacked more than three times in any games this season.

"I think it is a pride thing. A lot of people are stepping up," Pena said. "I think (senior offensive lineman) Fernando Frye is doing a great job. D'Ante (Smith) has always done a

good job. I think you just have a lot of guys stepping up."

In the run game, ECU's offensive line is continuing to play a vital role. With 146 yards on the ground between five rushers against SMU, the Pirates have rushed for at least 100 yards seven times in 2019, amassing at least 84 yards in two other games.

The only game in which ECU failed to crack the 84-yard mark, or even the 50-yard threshold, was the season opener against North Carolina State University (4-5, 1-4 AAC). On 29 attempts, the Pirates managed only 41 total yards on the ground in a blowout loss to the Wolfpack.



Branden Pena

"I think it's a huge improvement. If you look at that NC State film, you look at this film, I think you're going to see two different offensive lines," Pena said. "You're going to see different people in different places, but we work on getting better everyday."

The improvement along the offensive line, much like with the rest of the team, is very noticeable to those who watch the Pirates play. With two remaining on the schedule, it may be too late to turn this program into a bowl eligible team in 2019. Nevertheless, with the foundation laid from the impressive play of late, there is potential for a giant step forward in 2020 under coach Houston.

ECU will return to the field on Nov. 23 after a bye week when the Pirates face the University of Connecticut (2-8, 0-6 AAC) on the road. Kickoff is slated for noon in East Hartford.

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

PIRATES continued from A1

App. State's junior guard Justin Forrest will give ECU troubles defending him, as he scored 27 points during the team's 79-71 loss to the University of Michigan (1-0, 0-0 Big Ten). Forrest is the leading scorer with 44 points and has shot 3-of-9 from three point range.

"We have done a lot of film work.

We know that their guards are usually the people that lead the team," Miles said. "We all came here (ECU) to win, so however coach Dooley sees fit, we gotta to follow through and play our role."



J.J. Miles

Another key player for the Mountaineers is Johnson. The six-foot-nine forward has a total of 16 rebounds with 14 of them being defensive rebounds.

Tonight, ECU will look to improve its record and more importantly, give younger players more playing experience.

"Well we have a long way to go. I think the group is going to be a good group. We've just got to get some experience. Going on the road to begin is probably not great, but it is what it is so you take it and learn. Hopefully as these guys are getting minutes, who wouldn't be getting minutes, I think that will help us later in the year that they've played in real games," Dooley said.



Joe Dooley

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

Pirates add pitcher for 2021

Daniel Shepard
TEC STAFF

"He's a leader. He's a quiet kid but he's a competitor. He's not a smack-talker, he goes out there and he's all business." That is how Riverside High School's varsity baseball coach Sam Plank describes junior Wyatt Shenkman.

Shenkman, a 6-3 right-handed pitcher from Virginia, committed to play baseball at the collegiate level last Monday, announcing on Twitter his intent to play at East Carolina University for head coach Cliff Godwin.

Having made his official visit during the Purple-Gold World Series, Shenkman was given a full tour of the facilities and amenities available to Pirate players.

"I think everything pretty much stood out, just really enjoyed my time there," Shenkman said. "Really like the facilities, really liked the campus, thought it was beautiful. The hitting facility was really amazing and the pitching facility, which is still a work in progress, but still very, very amazing. I really enjoyed going in there and looking at it. I really liked the locker rooms and everything around the facility."

Standing at 6-3, 225 pounds, Shenkman is an imposing figure on the mound. Still just a junior in high school, he was clocked at 90 MPH this fall with his fastball at the WWBA Championship in Jupiter, Florida.

"I think I've always been a power pitcher," Shenkman said. "I think pitching with velocity has been my strength most of the years, but hoping to make a velo jump this winter and this off-season to be ready for spring."

Modeling his game after Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan growing up, Shenkman is said to have a heavy fastball, one with good arm-side arm, according to scouting reports. With his delivery, Shenkman gets down the mound well,

using his length to shorten the 60-foot, six-inch gap between the pitcher and hitter.

On video, Wyatt's fastball stands out. Jumping from his right hand, it gets on hitters in a hurry and allows for Shenkman to work any quadrant of the strike zone. Still, however, with his youth and the desire by his coaches to keep him healthy, the breaking ball is still new to his repertoire.

"The curveball/slider, I've been trying to figure out which one to throw, which one to perfect," Shenkman said. "But I feel like I've had most command over that and then the change-up is still a work in progress, but it's getting there."

Sitting in the 76 to 79 MPH range, Shenkman's curveball/slider combo plays well off his elite fastball velocity. Additionally, Wyatt gets good separation velocity-wise on his change-up as it sits in the lower-80s range.

Tabbed to be the No. 1 starter for his high school team for the upcoming season by his head coach, Shenkman started the Virginia Class Four state championship game in June. While Riverside ended up losing that contest to Lafayette, it's that kind of big-game experience that prepares young pitchers for the next level.

"He works so hard in the weight room and with his diet and everything," Plank said. "He wants to play professional baseball, that's one of his goals. He works hard to get to the next level which is a high-end D1 program like East Carolina. Hopefully the next step after that is getting the chance to play professionally."



Sam Plank

Having made an additional step in his journey on a baseball diamond, Shenkman draws on



COURTESY OF BERL JONES

Shenkman pitches during a high school game.

the support from his family and coaches to keep working. Described as "driven" by Plank, Shenkman has earned a reputation as a hard worker from his coach.

Even so, Wyatt knows he would not be in this position without the support from his family, namely his parents, throughout the years.

"Parents, obviously huge impact with me always," Shenkman said. "Traveling with me to these tournaments and always supporting me. They've been great throughout the years and I'm really happy to have them."

Still with room to grow, Plank believes his ace can show up at ECU having added a couple inches to his frame and, in turn, some added velocity to his fastball.

"I think his ceiling is really high," Plank said.

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

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HOROSCOPES

Aries (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Reassess assets. A turning point arises over income and finances. Profitable opportunities come up over the next two weeks under the Taurus Full Moon. Generate positive cash flow.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Finish a project before beginning another professional phase. This Full Moon sparks a career shift. Focus on current passions. Don't reveal unfinished plans.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Begin a new health-and-fitness phase upon reaching a barrier or obstacle. Review and revamp skills and practices under this Full Moon.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) -- Today is an 8 -- A challenge redirects you. This Full Moon in your sign illuminates a new personal direction. Expand your boundaries. Turn toward an inspiring possibility.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 6 -- An exploration changes. The Full Moon illuminates a shift in your educational direction. Experiment with concepts. Travel expands your view. Learn from a master.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 6 -- Change direction with a romance, passion or creative endeavor under this Full Moon. Express your heart, imagination and artistry. Shift perspectives for a new view.

Gemini (May 21-June 20) -- Today is a 6 -- Review priorities privately. Meditate on dreams past and future. Some concerns are well-founded. This Full Moon illuminates a transition. Begin an introspective phase.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- The stakes could seem high with this Full Moon. Shift directions with shared finances over the next few weeks. Work out the next phase together.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Make repairs. Renovate, remodel and tend your garden. Domestic changes require adaptation under the Full Moon. Begin a new home and family phase.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 7 -- This Full Moon illuminates social changes. Patiently navigate a change. Friends come and go with community and group projects. Share appreciations, goodbyes and greetings.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Reach a turning point with a partnership under the Full Moon. Compromise and collaborate for shared commitments. Adjust to a change in plans.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Shift the direction of your research. A new two-week phase in communications, connection and intellectual discovery dawns with this Full Moon. Start a new chapter.

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COMICS

ONE AND ONLY BY BRIAN JUDGE



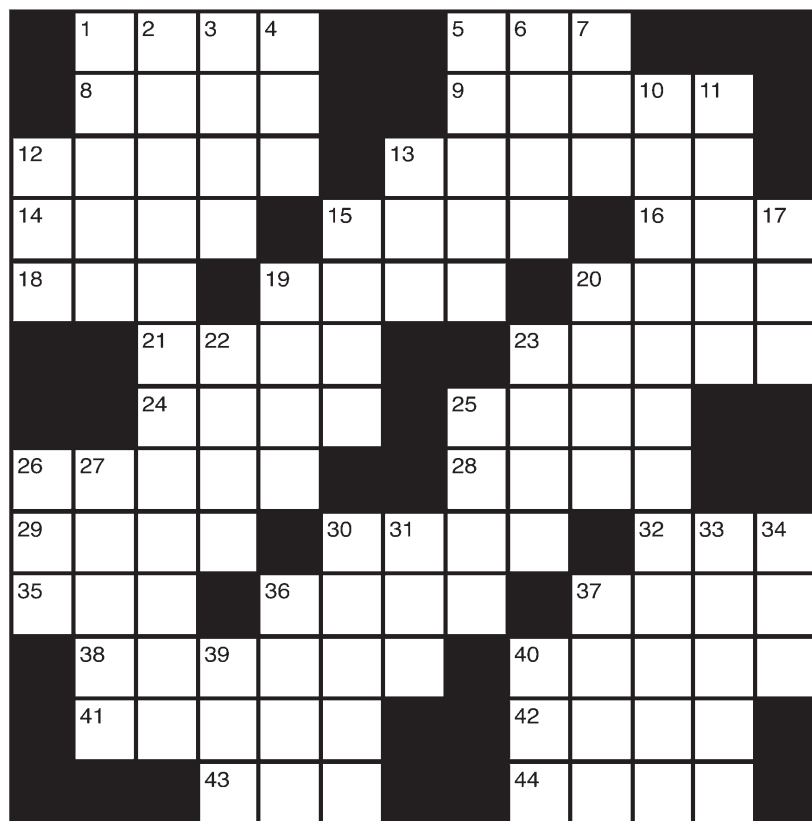
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THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

ACROSS

- 1 "Dr. ___"
- 5 "How I ___ Your Mother"
- 8 "The Amazing ___"
- 9 Actress Durance of "Smallville"
- 12 Bob and Dolores
- 13 Lily Munster's husband
- 14 Deadly snakes
- 15 Lowest male singing voice
- 16 Fleetwoods and Winnebagos, for short
- 18 Susan ___ of "L.A. Law"
- 19 "A ___ of Two Cities"
- 20 Narrow cut
- 21 Moran of "Happy Days"
- 23 Roz ___; role on "Frasier"
- 24 "All You ___ Is Love"; Beatles hit
- 25 Network for Suze Orman's program
- 26 "Law & ___"
- 28 ___ out at; attack verbally
- 29 ___ Patrick Harris
- 30 Comments from the flock
- 32 Goal; purpose
- 35 Actress Jillian
- 36 James ___; 007

- 37 "Harry Potter and the Goblet of ___"
- 38 "The ___ I"; movie for Fred MacMurray & Claudette Colbert
- 40 Nerdy kid on "Family Matters"
- 41 Cosmetics company founder ___ Lauder
- 42 "The ___ Event"; film for Barbra Streisand and Ryan O'Neal
- 43 Hockey's Bobby ___
- 44 Bancroft or Meara

DOWN

- 1 Ordinary, unpoetic writing
- 2 Sitcom for Eliza Coupe
- 3 Applies frosting
- 4 "___ Miserables"
- 5 Former Attorney General Edwin
- 6 Makes a mistake
- 7 Conway or Allen
- 10 Actress on "Suburgatory"
- 11 Blacksmith's block of iron
- 12 "If I ___ Known I Was a Genius"; Whoopi Goldberg movie
- 13 Linden of "Barney Miller"
- 15 "Making the ___"; reality series, once
- 17 Sault __. Marie
- 19 Wedding cake layer
- 20 Cries
- 22 Film holder
- 23 Samples in an FBI crime lab
- 25 ___ in; wearing
- 26 "Cat ___ Hot Tin Roof"
- 27 Actress Zellweger
- 30 Stupid mistake
- 31 "Parks ___ Recreation"
- 33 Actress ___ Dunne
- 34 Diner owner on "Alice"
- 36 Max ___ Jr.; Jethro Bodine's portrayer
- 37 ___ Drescher of "The Nanny"
- 39 Pontiac ___; classic muscle car
- 40 Actress Thurman

Solution from 11/7



SUDOKU

SUDOKU

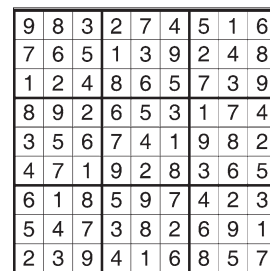
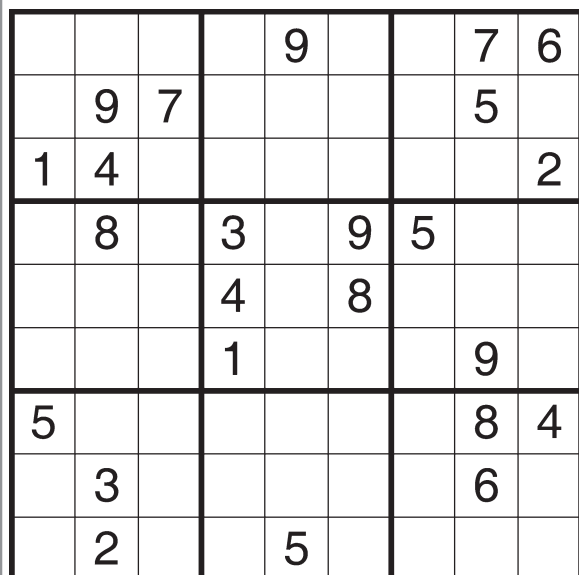
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

Level:



Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

Solution from 11/7



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EVENTS

TODAY

Rob & Curtis
AJ McMurphy's
8 p.m.

Sustainability Film and Discussion Series
Main Campus Student Center, Black Box Theatre
6:30 p.m.

Abigail Williams Senior Piano Recital
A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall
7 p.m.

TOMORROW

Sarah Lewis Visiting Scholar Lecture
Jenkins Fine Arts Center
5 p.m.

Faculty Author Book Awards
Joyner Library, Faulkner Gallery
5 p.m.

Vintage Tree Painting Party
The Painted Peacock
6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY

Stumpy's College Night
Stumpy's Hatchet House
4 p.m.



CONTRIBUTED BY ZACH CLELAND
Whirligig Youth Academy member Addie Reedy.

Tragedy takes stage

Whirligig hosts Shakespeare classic

Devin Raines
TEC STAFF

Tomorrow night, Whirligig Stage will continue to host its Youth Academy's Macbeth production at 7, and will perform throughout the weekend up until Saturday night.

Artistic Director, Elana Kepner, has been working with the Whirligig Stage Youth Academy, and it's teen group of adolescents from ages 12 to 18, to produce and perform Macbeth.

"I wanted to pick something that was a little out of the range of what maybe they were going to do at their high school, or what they had experienced before, and some of them had only performed musicals before, so I think it (Macbeth) was a great challenge for this group," Kepner said.

Some of the performers came into the performance without prior knowledge of the Shakespearean tragedy, which is something that Kepner found to be amazing. Seeing the kids take to the story with a clean slate has truly allowed for her to see what each actor is capable of, according to Kepner.

"The way that they are able to connect with the text and seeing that connection happen, seeing that kind of 'aha' moment in rehearsal, or seeing them tap into something that is a little bit deeper than they're used to, that's very rewarding, and I see them connecting to each other in new ways, and I think that's definitely my favorite part," Kepner said.

Kepner said being able to be a part of an artistic experience such as this performance is a great way to become closer to the community and to experience all that Greenville has to offer.

Production associate at Whirligig and East Carolina University alumna, Janie Bocanegra, is working with a handful of teens for the Macbeth performance as the technical minds of the show. This group is responsible for many things from costumes to board operating to stage management.

"Not every part of acting and theater tech is all glamorous, but there are times that I get to see them get really excited to do something, and that just lets me know it's really worth it, the long days and late nights, and trying to teach that age group something they've really not got to learn before," Bocanegra said.

Adjunct professor at ECU, Gabrielle Brant Freeman, is helping out at Whirligig as a volunteer for the production. Freeman herself has helped with creating props and costumes throughout the preparation for the performance.

After following up on an audition for her daughter last year, Freeman and her family have been participating in productions with the Whirligig Stage Youth Academy ever since, and her son has become involved with the technical side of the performance while also acting.

"I think the biggest benefit is that it's their team, it's a 'team sport,'" Freeman said. "They are part of the team, they work towards the same goal, they learn that it's very important that everybody to learn their lines and that everybody works together so that the show can come together."

The way that the Whirligig Stage Youth Academy explains Shakespeare is unique because it is not like in the classroom where one simply reads the script, but Kepner goes through the script and explains the jokes and makes the play something that is alive compared to reading in a vacuum, according to Freeman.

"I think that this is a situation where even if someone came in with no knowledge of Macbeth whatsoever, they would still be able to understand the storyline, they would feel the emotion," Freeman said.

Whirligig will host Macbeth tonight, Friday and Saturday. Tickets can be found through the Whirligig Stage website and can be purchased online for \$16 general admission and \$14 for members.

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



EC OOPS continued from A1

participants of previous "open mic" nights. We also work to market and share information about the event so that as many students as possible can enjoy the program," Thorn said.

Thorn also commented that this year's performance included faculty and staff members who shared their own personal "oops" moments and how they learned to grow from their mistakes.

Senior environmental health science major, Kierra Garrett, shared her poems at the event. Garrett said the platform

seemed like a good opportunity to share her original works.

"I'm performing at 'EC Oops!' because it seems like a great cause and I love to share my art with whoever is willing to listen," Garrett said.

Thorn even chimed in, saying that students should know that the struggle of an obstacle is just as important as the success of getting over it. She describes that "EC Oops!" is a way to share these stories in a way that showcases their talents.

"Too often, students don't hear about the "struggle" and only focus on the "success" but anyone who has worked through a difficult situation can tell you that the struggle is just as important as the resulting success," Thorn said. "Even though we focus so much on academics, many students have musical or writing talents that they can share and allow for a creative outlet."

Coordinator for Student Program - Lauren Thorn

ming, Emily Reynolds, further explained the point of "EC Oops!" and the benefits that the show encompasses. She said the event helps students realize that they aren't alone in the struggles that college brings them.

"Balancing classes, personal lives,



HANNAH TRUE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN
Vice Chancellor of Dean of Students Lynn Roeder.

internships, work study, clubs and organizations, and so much more can be very challenging as a college student," Reynolds said. "I think one of the benefits of 'EC Oops!' is showcasing the way performance can aid in resilience, but also normalizing the struggles that we all face."

More information on "EC Oops!" and other upcoming events hosted by SOA and SAB can be found on ECU's events calendar.

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

TONIGHT @ 6:30pm

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