



# The East Carolinian

YOUR CAMPUS NEWS SOURCE SINCE 1925

Thursday, 1.23.20

VOLUME 94, ISSUE 30



Harper Eisen, Bree Smith, Hailey Hutto, Sydney Lowe and Ramsey Osborn relax in the pool after taking the Polar Plunge in 2018.

## ECU prepares for icy dive CRW will host the 24th annual Polar Plunge tonight

Madison Barnhill  
TEC STAFF

The 24th annual Polar Plunge will be held at the ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness Center at 6 p.m. where they will have food, free shirts for the first 600 jumpers and an ice filled pool for those who dare to jump.

Associate Director of Programs for ECU Campus Recreation and Wellness,



Greg Corack

Gregory Corack, said this jump into the recreation icy-cold pool is a Pirate tradition and will be the 24th event to mark the opening of the recreation and wellness center.

"It really is about taking that plunge for the first time if

you've never done it since it's our 24th year it's really a big tradition with over 20,000 students that have jumped over the years," Corack said.

The first jump at 6:30 p.m. will broadcast the 45 students, faculty and staff members on a local news channel so everyone can watch this ECU tradition, according to Corack. The plunge will keep going for as long as there are students to jump in the pool with 40 students jumping at a time. He said they hope to exceed a thousand students jumping.

This event will also be combined with Pirates After Dark, which will be right after Polar Plunge in the student recreation center as well, Corack said. There will be free food, games and stuff to take back home at the end of the night. Making traditions at ECU come

at opportunities like the Polar Plunge and one junior made it her own. Public health major Ramsey Osborn has jumped the past two years with her friends and declared it their own ECU tradition. She said that this is something fun to do and to be apart of since you will only be in college once.

"My favorite part is just making the memories with my friends," Osborn said. "We are only going to be in college once so might as well do all the funny things together while we can and also my friends and I got our video clip of jumping in the ECU video so that was cool."

Osborn said she thinks everyone should do the Polar Plunge since it will

> POLAR page A2

## Construction continues at College Hill

Michelle Mazzei  
TEC STAFF

Construction on College Hill at East Carolina University started in Dec. 2019 when construction workers blocked off the roads, installed roadway signage and made changes for traffic patterns. However, students will face these obstacles until August 2020.

Some students who live on College Hill feel frustrated with this construction going on, due to the closeness of the east-end sidewalk, which results in every student on College Hill forced to walk on one sidewalk to get to and from classes.

Project Manager in the Facilities of Engineering, Robert Still, said eventually everything will look brand new on the hill even if students have doubts about the current state.

Construction will officially start in a couple weeks once their contract is fully executed, according to Still. Currently, the middle of the road is blocked off, so the eastbound side of the road is now split into two lanes. He said construction will not be complete until August 2020.



Robert Still

"Of course, it's an inconvenience to those students living on the Hill that have to walk to main campus for classes," Still said. "There is no interaction on the west-side of the road. In the summer, we'll close the road in front of Jones for a few weeks to open the crossing back up, but the construction will continue in front of Jones for a couple more months

until August."

Between now and May, the construction workers will work on the west-side of the road all the way up to Jones Residence Hall. All pedestrians and traffic have to travel on the east-side of the road, according to Still.

He said once everything is fixed and cleaned up, traffic will flow better and the work they're doing now will better impact the streets of ECU. This is just a temporary close and the roads will look brand new once construction is complete.

"This is the first phase of a multiphase project. In a year or two is when phase two will begin, when funding is present and everything is properly scheduled, there will be a third and fourth phase years down the road," Still said.

> HILL page A2



The 39th annual Music Scholarship Gala will be hosted at Rock Springs Event Center in Greenville.

## Scholarships for music

Hannah True  
TEC STAFF

The 39th annual Friends of East Carolina University School of Music Scholarship Gala will be this Saturday at Rock Springs Event Center at 6 p.m.

The Friends of the School of Music Board was established back in 1981 and was created to raise money for scholarships for talented music students. These scholarships will range from \$1,000 up to \$6,000, given to approximately eight to 12 students annually.

Mary Jane Gaddis, the Director of Development for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, explained that the event "is the major fundraiser for the Friends of Music board. The board is comprised of members of our community. They have raised well over \$1 million for music scholarships."

While tickets cost \$150 for current friends and \$175 for non-members, the

> GALA page A6

## ECU maintains culture

Daniel Shepard  
TEC STAFF

"On the road to get 1% better." That motto is written on East Carolina University head baseball coach Cliff Godwin's Twitter profile. More than just words and pixels on a screen, however, that is the mindset Godwin brings and expects from his players each day.

"You have to educate the guys, even the older guys, every single day on what it takes to win a National Championship and to play in the College World Series and to have consistent performances that allow you to win 20 games in the conference," Godwin said on Wednesday during media day.

Entering his sixth season at the helm of the Pirates, Godwin faces some interesting challenges. More than just facing a schedule that includes Duke University and the University of North Carolina, both of which figure to be forces in the Atlantic Coast Conference once again, Godwin and his coaching staff also welcomed a slew of newcomers to the 2020 roster.

Totalling 18, a mix of junior college and true freshman talent will attempt to replenish a roster that lost seven players to the Major League Baseball draft.

"I thought coach (Jeff) Palumbo, coach (Jason) Dietrich, coach (Austin) Knight, the entire coaching staff did a really good job getting the new guys acclimated to our system and understanding the fundamentals of what



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Bryson Worrell takes a swing during a game.

we need to do to be successful," Godwin said.

Teaching players how to be successful at the Division I level and doing it with new additions to the coaching staff can present possible challenges for any team.

Dietrich, the Pirates' first-year pitching coach, will inherit a stable of talented starting pitchers that rival the best in the nation. Junior left-handed pitcher Jake Kuchmaner, junior right-handed pitcher Gavin Williams and senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith project to be ECU's weekend rotation, barring injury or unforeseen circumstances.

> BASEBALL page A4

### ONLINE

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## BRIEFS

**CRW aims to reduce students' stress levels**

Today, Campus Recreation and Wellness will host its "Therapeutic Thursday" event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Joyner Library. The event will offer an activity where students can make their own affirmation hang tags.

**Faculty presents study abroad experience to students**

Today, the College of Fine Arts and Communication will host a study abroad to Japan information meeting from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center room 206. The meeting will discuss the opportunity to earn up to six credit hours while experiencing Japanese landmarks and cultural.

**CET prepares upcoming spring 2020 graduates**

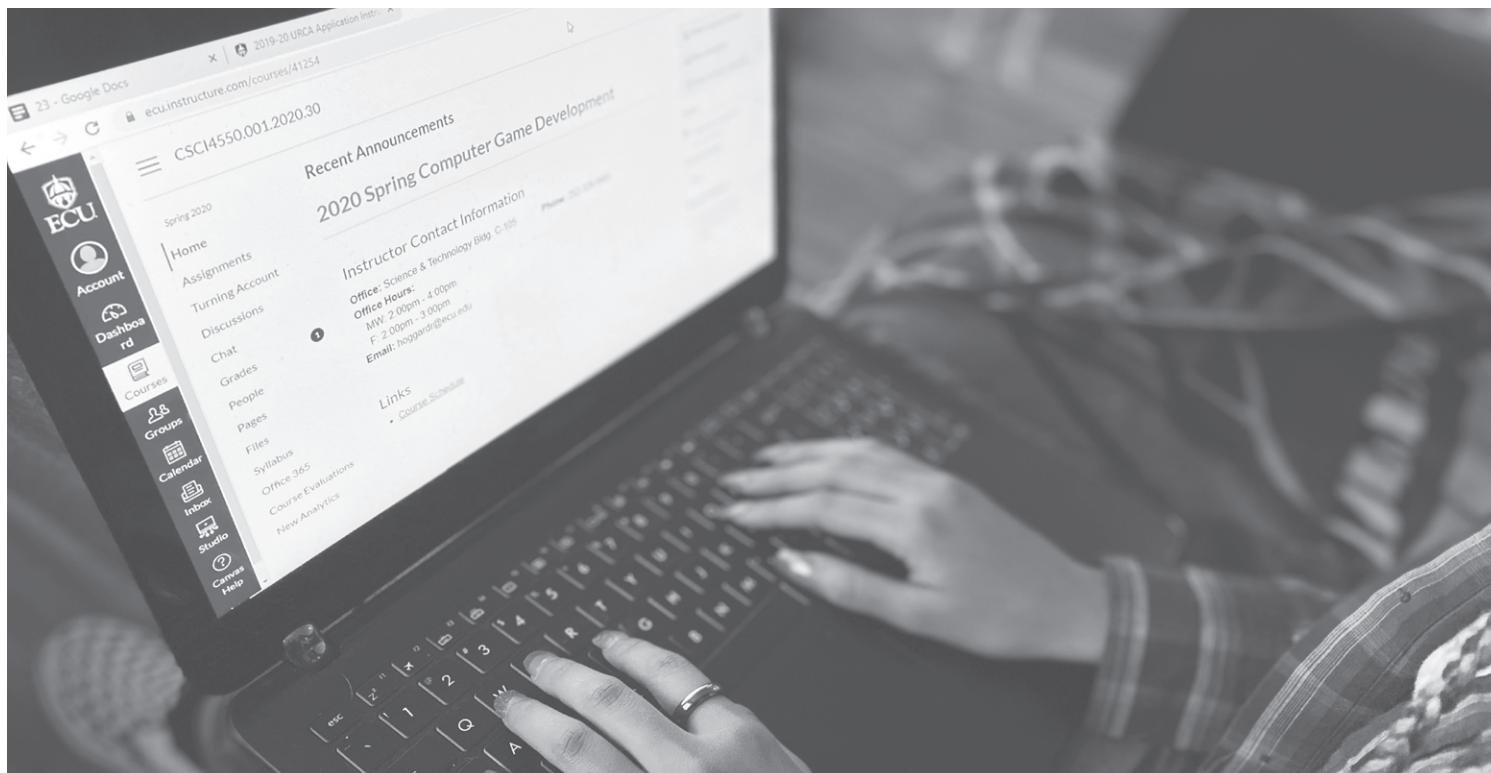
Today, the College of Engineering and Technology (CET) will host a resume and business card session for its students from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the CET Career Development and Leadership Center. Students will receive a free resume critique and personalized business cards.

**Free healthy snacks offered on campus**

Tomorrow, Campus Recreation and Wellness will host "Fresh Food Fridays" from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Sonic Plaza. Staff members will offer students the free healthy snack of crisp green beans togo.

## CORRECTIONS &amp; CLARIFICATIONS

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



KACEY COURTNEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

An ECU student browses their home page on Canvas, ECU's new learning management system. Blackboard is set to be phased out in Fall 2020.

# Blackboard to be replaced by Canvas

## ECU decides to switch learning management systems after 20 years

George Martin  
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University will make the switch from Blackboard to Canvas after using the previous service for 20 years beginning fall 2020. However, with some professors already making the switch some faculty and students have concerns and beliefs for improvements.

Senior teaching instructor and the Chair of the Distance Learning Technology committee, Timm Hackett, said that all the fears will be washed away once everyone is used to the new service.

"To me the learning management system needs to be student centered... and the mobile applications for Canvas are light years ahead from a learning standpoint and a teaching standpoint," Hackett said.

There are tutorials offered to students if they need help navigating the new system, Hackett said, and they can be found at canvas.ecu.edu underneath the "Students" tab.

Hackett also believes that the uniformity between classes offered by Canvas makes it an easier service to navigate than Blackboard.



Timm Hackett

"Sometimes (Blackboard) gave us too much freedom, in one class you could see 'Course Documents' and in another it could be 'Items I wish you to look at,'" Hackett said. "Assignments should be assignment, quizzes should be quizzes."

Hackett said that the service that Blackboard provided was going to go away after this year, and that a change needed to come.

This is because the on-site servers that host Blackboard were reaching the end of their use, and the Faculty Senate thought that a cloud based service in order to facilitate updates without constant downtime, according to Hackett.

The committee in charge of finding a new online learning service looked at multiple different sellers and had come to campus in order to present last fall, Hackett said.

"We brought in Blackboard, Canvas, a company out of Canada for open sessions that students could attend, and they gave these presentations, and the feedback from faculty and students was brought to us and we made a formal recommendation to Faculty Senate based on that," Hackett said.

Director of the Academic Technologies Department, Wendy Creasy, said that Blackboard has failed to evolve at the same rate as

Canvas, and it has caused multiple universities to switch between the two services.

Creasy said that most of the feedback that she has heard about the shift has been positive from both faculty and students, and she believes it's because of the tools offered by Canvas are useful.



Wendy Creasy

Creasy said.

She said since Canvas is hosted through the cloud, unlike Blackboard, ECU won't have to put the service on hold while updates are held, and there won't need to be faculty on campus who maintain the servers.

However, Creasy did concede that the switch to Canvas will cost "some bit more" than what Blackboard cost the university, but did not disclose the exact amount.

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## POLAR continued from A1

be something to look back on and a free shirt is included.

While students take the jump and exit the pool so the next forty can jump there is a man called the countdown man who Osborn said stands in the freezing water the whole time, jump after jump.

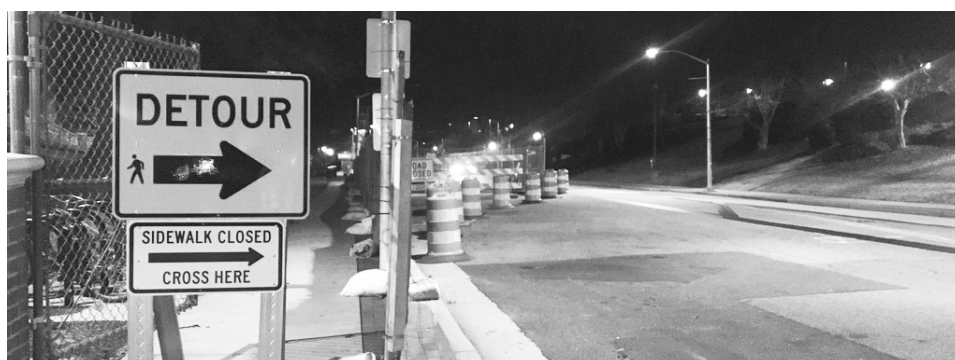
Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Virginia Hardy, said the countdown man otherwise known as Stephen Gray stays in the pool the entire time which she said she finds

amazing. Hardy said Stephen Gray is the Papa Bear of this polar plunge since he has done this event every single year and she looks forward to see him there once again.

"This is a Pirate tradition that I hope every student even if they don't jump into the pool they go and see what happens," Hardy said.

More information on Polar Plunge and Pirates After Dark can be found on the ECU events calendar and the official ECU Campus Wellness website.

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MADISON BARNHILL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Detour signs and several traffic cones prevent students from walking near the construction zone.

## HILL continued from A1

These phases include fixing the roads of Jones Residence Hall to Scott Hall, then from Scott through the student area between, Gateway and Todd Dining Hall, according to Still.

Freshman intended nursing major Lauren Dattilo said the construction is frustrating to her because no one has been informed as to why there was all this sudden construction going on and why one side of the road is closed where she lives. Although the construction isn't right outside her dorm, it is still affects her day to day life.

"It takes a lot more time to walk to classes especially since the sidewalks are overfilled since we can only use one," Dattilo said.

She said there's only one sidewalk to get to and from class and, which doesn't feel safe to her because of skateboarders, bicyclists and how everyone walks at different paces. The only way to pass people is to walk on the street, which is sometimes in the middle of traffic.

The sidewalk didn't look like it needed repairs as soon as possible, according to Dattilo. She said she doesn't understand why they had to start this construction in the middle of the school year. She feels as if she was more informed of the construction, she would've felt more prepared for this change.

"I don't think I'll be here to experience the new changes. I'm probably moving off campus next year, but I know it'll look nice," Dattilo said.

Freshman biology major Jessica Bidwell said the construction on College Hill is actually incredibly crowded and irritating. No one has been informed that this construction was going to start when it did.

She said since the construction hasn't even started yet, it'll be crowded and more of an inconvenience when it actually does, but she knows the roads will look better when the construction is finally complete.

"Due to this construction, it takes me about three to five minutes longer to get to class, and the foot traffic is terrible leaving and coming back to the hill," Bidwell said.

The crosswalks and sidewalks are completely crowded, and the bus stops have changed. There is just too much going on for only one side of the sidewalk to be open, according to Bidwell.

Bidwell said she thinks that the construction will make the streets of ECU better, but she thought the area was fine before.

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



## OUR VIEW

# MLK Day festivities appreciated

All this week, East Carolina University's Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) and other sponsors have hosted different events on campus honoring Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

During this week, students and the Greenville community were able to participate in several activities to learn more about King's work and his stance on uniting the nation.

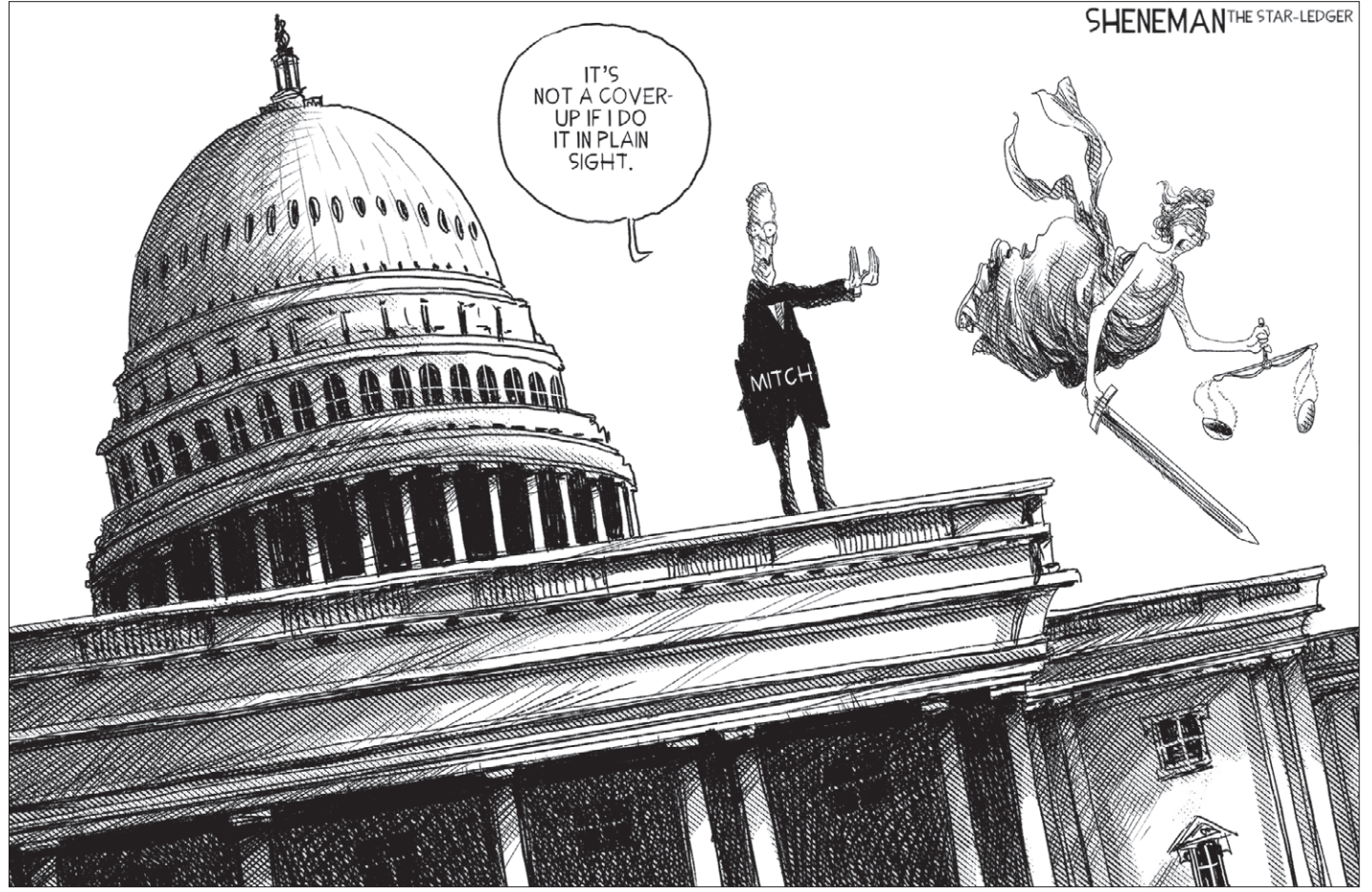
Some of the activities during the week included the annual Day of Service, where students could participate in a few service activities and the Balm in Gilead gospel concert on Tuesday.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is not just a day where students get out for school, but a day where we should reflect on the diligence and bravery King exhibited during the Civil Rights Era.

Although MLK Day is just a one-day observance, we must recognize every day how King and other Civil Rights leaders and followers risked their lives in order to unify the racial division in America.

King's actions during the Civil Rights Era are a great example of how people are able to gather a small percentage of people to tackle a big issue in America that has been happening since the founding of the nation.

We recognize King as a great example of being courageous and selfless who fought for what was right and we shall continue to honor his legacy. The festivities that happened on campus this week were a great way to honor King and practice his belief of giving back to the community and fighting for what's right. We recognize King as a great example of being courageous and selfless who fought for what was right and we shall continue to honor his legacy.



# Leadership needed at top

## New chancellor should have certain qualities to succeed

### Down Pat



**Pat Polomchak**  
TEC STAFF

Recently, a friend of mine sent a link to a poll created by SGA into a groupchat of ours. The poll had some basic questions about what we, as students, value the most in a chancellor, to help them pick a candidate based on student interest.

I was excited to see this poll, as it means they actually do care about taking student opinion into account. This was also signaled by the fact that there are students involved with the search committee to begin with, something I think is crucial to ensuring a chancellor is picked who will fight for the students.

It got me thinking about what I personally view as the most important qualities our eventual new chancellor should have. Some of the answers in the poll covered what I believe, and included everything from experience in academia to a passion

for athletics.

I'm not going to get into my views on how athletics should fit into things, as I covered that extensively in an article last summer. Suffice it to say, that is pretty low on my list of priorities.

First and foremost, I think the chancellor should have experience with finance, preferably on a large scale. The last interim chancellor was hired for this exact reason, and I thought it was a really smart move on the part of the decision makers. The top priority for any new chancellor should be expediting the process of fixing the school's budget deficit.

I also believe we would be better off with a chancellor who has experience working at a university, whether as a professor, administrator or both. It is difficult to imagine any candidate having the ability to properly guide the direction of a university without having worked at one previously.

Whoever gets picked should also be someone who has a passion for the student body, and has the ability to inspire students. Say what you want about Dan Gerlach, but he made an appearance at almost every

major event, athletics or otherwise, and was usually met with cheers and a round of applause from all students present.

On a more personal note, I would like to see someone who has an appreciation for the arts get the job. As more and more school programs cut funding to the arts, or cut them entirely, it is more important than ever to preserve our arts education. No matter where you are in life, no matter what you're doing, an artist was probably involved, from building design to being in the entertainment industry.

Our university has been without consistent leadership for most of the time I have been here, and without consistency at the top it is nearly impossible to expect consistency at any level. Most importantly of all, our new chancellor should have ideas for how to make East Carolina University the next great national university it wants to become.

Polomchak is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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# Students have options for mental health

### Tano Talk



**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

Mental health is an important topic that has come up time and time again, especially among college students. This is due to lots of factors; the environment, social relationships, copious amounts of classwork, exams, the list could go on.

According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, 30% of college students reported having trouble completing school assignments due to their mental health, and 50% reported that their mental health was below average. Of the students surveyed, 50% reported they have struggled with anxiety at some point, 80% said they felt overwhelmed with their responsibilities, and 40% of students have failed to seek and retrieve help (2012).

While those statistics are older, they still seem to be very accurate today, and mental health issues are relevant for many East Carolina students. Typically, students and faculty members who are struggling could make an appointment at the university's counseling center, the Center for Counseling and Student Development (CCSD).

However, in the past couple months, students and faculty have had difficulties getting an appointment. According to Virginia Hardy, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, the CCSD appointments were filled up for a good portion of the fall semester.

This is due to many students taking advantage of the counseling center's appointments, leaving few available appointments left. Another reason is that the CCSD is understaffed, as it lost some of its employees last semester,

**"Everyone experiences problems at some point or another in their life, and many experience these problems during their college years."**

who got offered positions elsewhere, Hardy said. As of January, the counselor to student ratio was one counselor per 1,507 students.

So, getting help has been harder than ever for students who are in need, which can in turn discourage them from seeking help. While it would be beneficial for students and faculty members to get help right on campus, that option may require those who need help to wait weeks or even months to be seen. However, there are additional options that are close to campus and around the Greenville area.

The CCSD does have a few additional clinics besides the main one. The Family Therapy Clinic, located at 612 East Tenth St., offers individual counseling, couples counseling, and counseling sessions for families. They can be contacted at 252-737-1415.

A few other ECU counseling centers located on campus include the McClammy Lab (252-737-4803), the Navigate Counseling Clinic (252-744-0328), and the PASS Clinic (252-737-4180). All these clinics offer individual, family and group counseling sessions.

In times of need, there is also the Crisis Center, which offers immediate services to students who are in serious need of assistance. They can be reached at 252-328-6661 on weekdays between 11 am to 4 pm. However, if you are in need after hours, press "2" at the end of the call to access 24-hour assistance.

Although it may benefit students to stay close to and on campus for counseling, whether it be due to their limited transportation or time constraints, there are numerous counseling clinics located around Greenville, many that the CCSD has already been referring students too.

One service students and faculty can try includes Side By Side Counseling, located at 2045 Eastgate Dr. It offers counseling for individuals and groups for a variety of issues, such as PTSD, alcohol and drug abuse, Depression and Anxiety, anger management, etc. It can be reached at 252-752-1333.

Another service in the Greenville area is Aspire Counseling, located at 223-D Commerce St., which offers services for, but not limited to, depression, anxiety, substance abuse and family counseling who can be reached to schedule an appointment at 252-375-8658.

Everyone experiences problems at some point or another in their life, and many experience these problems during their college years. While resources may seem limited at times, it is always important to reach out for help.

Tano is a junior majoring in communication and a TEC columnist. This writer can be contacted at [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).





East Carolina University's softball team takes the field for another season on Feb. 7 when it welcomes the University of Iowa.

## Softball swings into gear

Lydia Ryan  
TEC STAFF

With the start of the spring semester comes the start of spring sports. The East Carolina University softball team will return full swing in February to start its 2020 season.

ECU softball is scheduled to begin on Feb. 7 in Conway, South Carolina for the Kickin' Chicken Classic. They will face four teams in five games over the course of the weekend, including Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Feb. 8, 6 p.m.) and Campbell University (Feb. 7, 3 p.m./Feb. 9, 11:45 a.m.).

After multiple seasons of having a young team, ECU finally sees more experienced upperclassmen walk on the field this season. Fourteen of the 24 players this season are in fact juniors and seniors. The familiar names of senior outfielder Olivia Narron, senior infielder Kendra Ziemba, junior right-handed pitcher Erin Poepping and junior infielder Ashleigh Inae will continue to be seen on the roster.

"We've got Olivia Narron, who's started every game for the past three years. Kendra Ziemba, who's now coming back to second base for the third year in a row," head coach Courtney Oliver said of her team late in the fall of 2019. "So we've got some key players coming back. Ashleigh Inae



Courtney Oliver

is our junior shortstop."

New names will also be heard during games this spring. A combination of upperclassmen transfers as well as some freshman will enjoy their official spring debut in the upcoming tournament.

Junior right-handed pitcher Kama Woodall and junior infielder Chandley Garner both transferred from North Carolina State University over the summer to play for East Carolina. Freshman infielder and Greenville native Madison Bowers and freshman center fielder Sophia Wools are also likely to see time on the field this season.

"We have a transfer pitcher, Kama Woodall, in the circle, and a transfer middle and fielder, she's been playing third, Chandley Garner. They both came from NC State," Oliver said. "We also got some younger ones that are trying to break through the line up, but I would definitely say this is a more experienced team than we've ever had."

With a more experienced team comes the hope for a successful 2020 season. Coach Oliver enters her fifth season with East Carolina in the new decade and is only five wins from her 100th win with the program. After fall scrimmages, Oliver believes that the team doesn't have many weak spots in their game, but did make mention of showing a strong defensive game.

The 2019 squad experienced many ups and downs. Energy was high after starting the season off with

consistent wins. However, midway through the season saw injuries that benched key players. This stunted the teams momentum and sent them into a 12-game losing streak in late March and into April.

Despite finishing the season with a losing record (23-31), the Pirates did end the 2019 season on a positive note with wins against both the University of Houston and the University of Tulsa. Both teams that finished the 2019 season ranked in the top-40 programs in the country.

"We did start off really strong, and then halfway through conference we had an injury of a key player that made things hard for us moving forward," Oliver said. "Towards the end of the season, it really ended on a high note. We beat Houston, then we beat a No. 2 Tulsa and that's a top-25 team in the country. I think that we had a lot of confidence at the end of the season and it motivated our players to get that much better over the summer."

East Carolina's softball team has resumed practice for the spring season as of Jan. 14 in preparation for their first February tournament. Despite some difficult moments in 2019, both coach Oliver and her team look forward to the beginning of the 2020 season.

ECU will begin its season on the field with the Kickin' Chicken Classic in Conway, South Carolina on Feb. 7 against the University of Iowa.

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

## BASEBALL continued from A1

With that experience returned, the Pirates welcomed many new faces to the pitching staff, including freshman left-handed pitcher C.J. Mayhue, junior left-handed pitcher Elijah Gill and freshman left-handed pitcher A.J. Wilson. Those names, accompanied by the remaining fresh names on the roster, poise a challenge to Dietrich who changed coasts for his new job.

"It's been continuously going," Dietrich said. "As soon as you get here, my job has been to get to know these guys. Coach Godwin, coach Palumbo, they've filled me in, they've given me all the information on each guy. So my job is to continuously grow and build that individual relationship with each guy."

Dietrich, who was Collegiate Baseball's 2016 Pitching Coach-of-the-Year, racked up three years of experience at the University of Oregon and another three at Cal State Fullerton before joining Godwin's staff in August of 2019.

As would be the case on any roster, with so much newness, roles are still being worked on as the Pirates enter their pre-season schedule. With nine intrasquad scrimmages separating ECU from Opening Day, additional innings will be what adds definition to the pitching hierarchy.

"I'm really excited for the preseason and the three weeks coming up," associate head coach Jeff Palumbo said. "That's a huge piece of how these guys fit together and really a whole added piece to it is the coaching staff. We spend a lot of time just talking in the office about 'hey these are the guys, this is what they bring to the table' and how could we maximize those things and try to paint that picture for a lot of the guys."



Jeff Palumbo

The Pirates' inexperience fails to stop on the pitching side of things. Freshman infielder/right-handed pitcher Zach Agnos, the younger brother of Jake, junior catcher Ben Newton and freshman infielder/outfielder Alec Makarewicz are just a few of the new names attempting to make an impact with their bat.

For a team that finished second in the American Athletic Conference in team batting average last season, however, preseason All-American and AAC Player-of-the-Year Alec Burlison is set to be a cornerstone. In his draft-eligible year as a junior, it will be up to Burlison and some other veterans on the roster to set an example for the newcomers.

"It's a work in progress," Godwin said. "It's harder to sustain success than to have success for the first time. It's just human nature, everybody wants to get comfortable and think just because you put on the East Carolina uniform that you're going to host a regional."

Despite five NCAA super regional appearances, including last year, the Pirates are setting their goals at lofty heights for the 2020 season and for good reason.

Picked to win the AAC again and ranked by four preseason polls, ECU has the opportunity to once again make some noise within college baseball. At the top, that begins and ends with Godwin's installment of the culture that courses through the veins of his program.

Never satisfied unless his Pirates are hoisting the National Championship trophy at seasons end, Godwin once again has ECU on a trajectory of success in 2020.

"We just want to be the best version of ourselves, individually and as a group," Godwin said.

ECU baseball will begin its three-week preseason practice schedule on Friday and hold nine scrimmages in advance of Opening Day. On Feb. 14, the Pirates will welcome the College of William & Mary to Clark-LeClair Stadium for the first of a three-game set. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

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

## ECU ready to tee off 2020

Lydia Ryan  
TEC STAFF

Despite the cold snap in the weather, spring sports will soon be underway. East Carolina University women's golf team is preparing to tee up for its first tournament Feb. 2 through Feb. 4.

For seniors Dorthea Forbrigd, Siranon Shoomee and Grace Yatawara, it is likely to be their last season playing for the Pirates. Although their fall season was complete, it didn't stop Yatawara from competing in an international tournament.

Yatawara represented her father's home country of Sri Lanka in the 2019 South Asian Games. She traveled to Kathmandu, Nepal in December and finished the tournament 8-over-par to win the individual gold medal by 21 strokes and helped the Sri Lankan team win the tournament by 32 strokes.

"This was an experience like no other. I got to visit a new country, play a very challenging golf course like none I had ever played before," Yatawara said according to ECU Pirates.com. "Not only was this obviously a huge confidence boost going into the spring season, it also gave me the experience of a lifetime, playing on such a huge stage. I also learned how to handle the pressure of being in the lead for the entire golf tournament, which isn't always an easy spot to be in for me."

With a 75.73 average score for her season thus far, Yatawara has had varying results for the first half of her season. Her tie for fifteenth at the Pirate Collegiate Classic with 8-over-par 224 stroke score being the highest she has placed in the season.

Freshman Caroline Hermes and junior Kathryn Carson round out the team. With a full five player roster it provides the team with the advantage of less competition within the team, because they have no alternates.

Hermes has currently carries a 75.55 stroke average for the season. Her lowest score of the season coming

at the home tournament, the Pirate Collegiate Classic (220, 4-over-par).

Carson finished the Cardinal Classic, the last tournament of the fall season, with a tie for nineteenth (222, 6-over-par). This brought her season average to 74.82 so far this season.

For Buford and Assistant Robbie Fields it allows for them to fully focus on the team they have. However, with no replacements on the team it puts pressure on each of the five players to stay healthy throughout the season.



C.C. Buford

With new head coach C.C. Buford gaining footing in her first year, the Pirates had their ups and downs in the fall portion of their season. They started out strong with a second place finish in their season opener at the Minnesota Invitational and winning their home tournament, the Pirate Collegiate Classic.

This win was a goal achieving moment for the team with it being its fourth straight year winning on its home course. It was also a personal high for Forbrigd, as it was her second year winning the tournament with a tournament low score of 6-under-par (210).

"Winning our home tournament was one of the first goals we set for the year," Buford said at the end of the fall season. "For everyone I know that was a goal. For Dorthea specifically winning that event back-to-back years was a personal goal, one that was exciting for us to see her prepare very well and be very focused on those two days of competition."

Forbrigd, a native of Norway, rounded out the beginning of her season with a tied seventh place finish at the Minnesota Invitational and two top 20 finishes at the Princess Anne Invitation and the Cardinal Cup. Allowing her to consistently finish with 71.82 stroke score.

While the beginning of the fall season was positive, the second half took an unexpected turn. Back-to-back 11th place finishes in both the Princess Anne Invitational in Norfolk, Virginia and the Cardinal Cup



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

### Senior Siranon Shoomee participates in a recent tournament.

in Louisville, Kentucky ended the fall portion of their season on a sour note.

As the Pirates enter the championship portion of their season they prepare for five tournaments. One of the upcoming tournaments in February is the Puerto Rico Classic that ECU has finished in the top-six in for the past two years.

The Pirates are also scheduled to make appearances at both the Reynolds Lake Oconee Invitational in Greensboro, Georgia and the Briar's Creek Invitational in Charleston, South Carolina mid-season. Last season, ECU finished 10 out of 17 teams in the Briar's Creek Invitational.

"I really like our team this year, and we warmly welcome all the support we can get at home and across the country this season. We have a great group of ladies that I believe will make all Pirates proud," Buford said according to ECU Pirates.com.

In mid-April, the Pirates will compete in the American Athletic Conference Championships. The team has consistently finished among the top-five teams for this tournament since 2015, including a second place finish during the 2015-2016 season.

The Pirates will be back in action on Feb. 2 at the University of Central Florida Challenge in Orlando, Florida.

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




## CLASSIFIEDS

### OTHER

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## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is a 7 -- Insights, breakthroughs and revelations sparkle under this New Moon. Dreams seem within reach. Practice benefits a philosophical, spiritual and mindful phase. Make long-term plans.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Take a group endeavor to new heights. Breakthroughs in friendship, social networks and community provide cause for celebration under the Pisces New Moon.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- Professional opportunities shine under this New Moon. Accept new responsibilities as you prepare. Develop a project from an idea to reality. Innovate and create.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Study with a master. Education, travels and exploration sprout under this New Moon. Consider different views and perspectives. Reach out for a long-distance connection.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Find creative ways to grow your family's nest egg. A lucrative phase dawns with this New Moon. Launch a profitable initiative together.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Support each other through changes or transformations. Partnership blossoms under this New Moon. Collaborations flower beautifully with nurturing. Begin a new chapter together.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) -- Today is a 9 -- Your physical moves seem energized. This New Moon sparks growing health and strength. Put your heart into your actions. Practice for strong performance.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- This New Moon sparks a two-week family, fun and passion phase. A romantic relationship transforms. It's all for love and love for all.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is an 8 -- Wrap your love around home and family. A new domestic phase arises with this New Moon. A seed planted long ago flowers.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 21-Jan. 19) -- Today is a 9 -- Profit through communications. Breakthroughs arise in conversation under this New Moon. Share info, resources, gratitude and appreciation. Reach out for powerful connection.

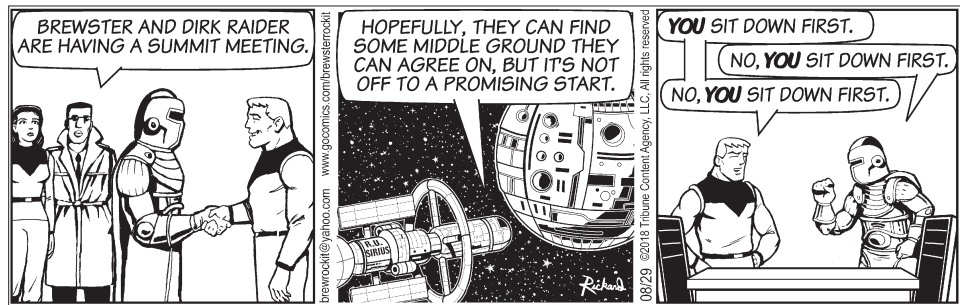
**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is an 8 -- Use creative communications for sales and marketing under this New Moon. Step into new levels of prosperity. Begin a lucrative two-week phase.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 9 -- Take control. A new personal phase dawns with this New Moon in your sign. Bring your talents, capacities and skills to new levels.

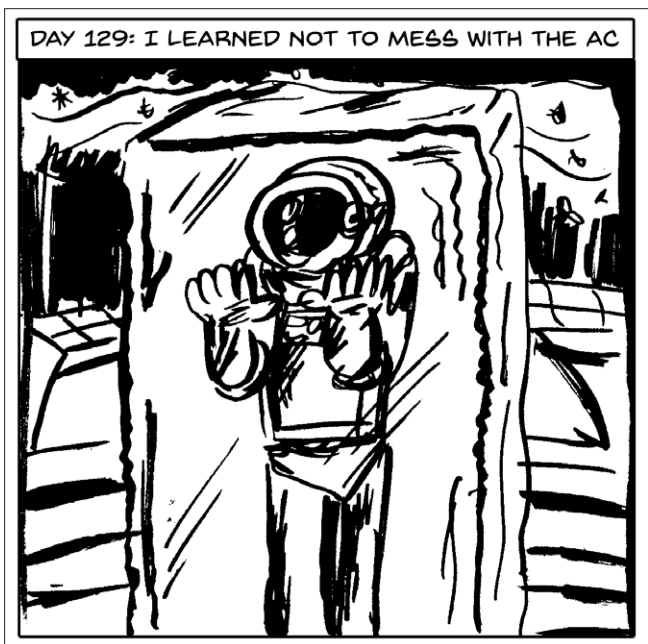
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## COMICS

### BREWSTER ROCKET



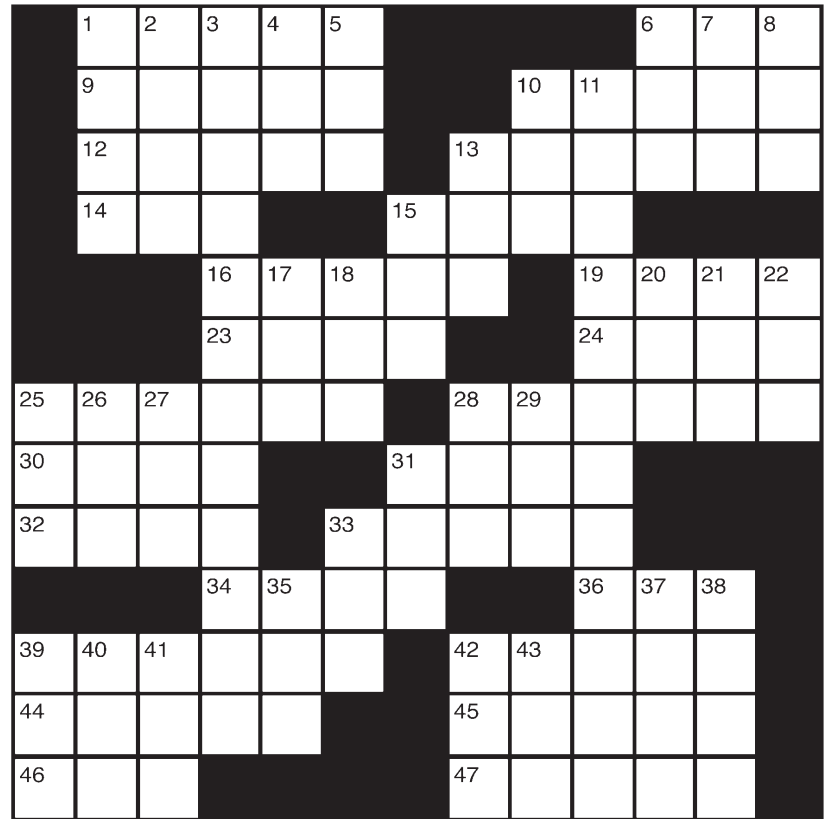
### ONE AND ONLY BY BRIAN JUDGE



## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

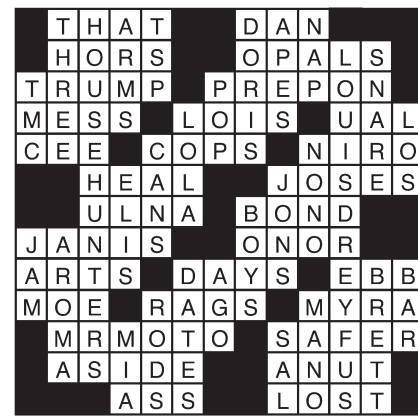
- 1 Ebert or Mudd
- 6 Actor Aykroyd
- 9 Goofed
- 10 "\_\_\_: Out of Order"; series on the National Geographic Channel
- 12 Drinks for Norm on "Cheers"
- 13 "\_\_\_ House"; movie for John Belushi
- 14 Actress \_\_\_ Madigan
- 15 Football kick
- 16 "\_\_\_ Tank"
- 19 Some accountants: abbr.
- 23 Taurus or Pries
- 24 Actress \_\_\_ Lange
- 25 Marilyn Monroe or Madonna, for example
- 28 "Candid \_\_\_"
- 30 Verdi opera
- 31 Stylish
- 32 "\_\_\_ the Fockers"
- 33 "\_\_\_ Watch"; Coby Bell drama series
- 34 Margarine
- 36 Eddie's "Green Acres" costar
- 39 Mark of "NCIS"

- 42 "The \_\_\_"; adventure series for George Peppard
- 44 Hee-haws
- 45 Danny Thomas' daughter
- 46 Mel the Giant
- 47 "Men in \_\_\_"

### DOWN

- 1 Sitcom about a soccer mom
- 2 City in Utah
- 3 Series for Ellen Pompeo
- 4 Suffix for command or profit
- 5 Yellow Brick and others: abbr.
- 6 Not well-lit
- 7 "Not \_\_\_ Stranger"; Sinatra movie
- 8 League for Ducks & Oilers: abbr.
- 10 Ms. Jillian
- 11 Josh Lucas' role on "The Firm"
- 13 Black-and-white diving bird
- 15 "Semi-\_\_\_"; Will Ferrell film
- 17 Paul Newman/Patricia Neal film
- 18 "I can't believe I \_\_\_ the whole thing!"
- 20 "The Raven" poet
- 21 Spring month: abbr.
- 22 "20,000 Leagues Under the \_\_\_"
- 25 Word from Emeril
- 26 "\_\_\_ to Me"; Tim Roth crime drama series
- 27 "\_\_\_ to Billy Joe"
- 28 Actor McBride
- 29 "Up in the \_\_\_"; George Clooney film
- 31 Comedian Margaret
- 33 "The Whole \_\_\_ Yards"; movie for Bruce Willis
- 35 "NCIS: \_\_\_ Angeles"
- 37 Singer Jerry \_\_\_
- 38 Actor John of "Good Times"
- 39 Premium movie channel
- 40 Carney or Linkletter
- 41 "\_\_\_ Race"; movie for Whoopi
- 42 Quantity: abbr.
- 43 Street paver's substance

Solution from 01/21



## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

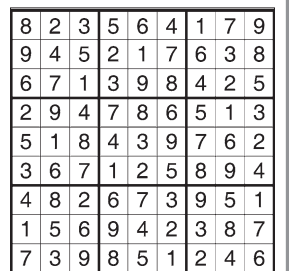
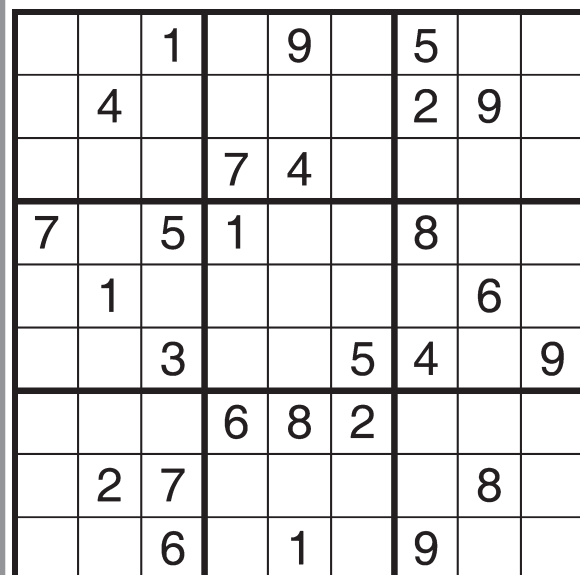
THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

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](http://www.sudoku.org.uk)

Solution from 01/21



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# Pirate Media 1

Join us on the southeast patio of Mendenhall on Jan. 29 from 3 to 5 p.m. for food, games, free swag and a copy of the new issue of Expressions! Get a tour of our new location and find out how you can join the Pirate Media 1 family!



## EVENTS

### TODAY

**Country Vintner January Wine Tasting**  
Dickinson Avenue Public House  
5:30 p.m.

**NC New Music Initiative: Wavefield Ensemble**  
A.J. Fletcher Music Center  
7:30 p.m.

**Comic Book Club**  
Smashed Waffles  
7 p.m.

### TOMORROW

**Sip, Savor & Create: Shibori**  
Emerge Gallery and Art Center  
6:30 p.m.

**Jared Release Party**  
Whirligig State  
7:30 p.m.

**The Sandwich Shack Food Truck**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
6 p.m.

### SATURDAY

**Matt White & Friends Comedy**  
Whirligig Stage  
8 p.m.

**Yoga in the Galleries**  
Greenville Museum of Art  
10:30 a.m.

**Cosmic Charlie Concert**  
The State Theatre  
8:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY

**Froggs Annual Fundraiser**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
4 p.m.

**Carolina Outdoor Expo**  
Greenville Convention Center  
9 a.m.

**Zine Workshop**  
Markerspace of Greenville  
1 p.m.

### MONDAY

**Lipbone at Christy's**  
Christy's Euro Pub  
Midnight

**Monday Night Pub Run**  
Mpourium  
6:15 p.m.

**Make a Mini Monday**  
AR Workshop Greenville NC  
6 p.m.

### TUESDAY

**Seinfeld Trivia at Uptown Brewing Company**  
Uptown Brewing Company  
7 p.m.

**Karaoke at Pitt Street Brewing Co.**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
7 p.m.

**Island Bob Live at AJ McMurphy's**  
AJ McMurphy's  
8 p.m.



HANNAH TRUE | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Philadelphia-based contemporary ballet company, BalletX, teaches East Carolina University's dance students ballet during their masterclass on Tuesday night.

## BalletX takes a spin on ballet

### Philadelphia based company brings talent to East Carolina

**Hannah True**  
TEC STAFF

Last night, a version of contemporary ballet took the stage in East Carolina University's Wright Auditorium.

BalletX is a company from Philadelphia that showcases ballet in a new contemporary way by performing internationally three seasons per year.

Michael Crane, the associate dean of Research, Market and Outreach for the College of Fine Arts and Communication, explained the difference between BalletX and other ballet performances.



Michael Crane

"Expect movement that looks like ballet, but don't expect to see tutus or 'storybook' work. Most dance companies start with a core movement vocabulary. So ballet for this company, and then choreographers work from that language to build or set work. You'll recognize the vocabulary as ballet, but you'll appreciate the contemporary nature of the work," Crane said.

Other than last night's performance, BalletX also took the time to teach a class to some of ECU's dancers on Tuesday. One of the students was sophomore dance major, Madeline Douglas, who expressed her newfound love for BalletX.

"As a dancer, I am always looking for opportunities to take dance classes with guest artists. I love ballet contemporary, so I knew I wanted to attend BalletX's afternoon ballet contemporary master class," Douglas said. "Taking class alongside company members was a really cool and inspiring experience for me."

Tara Keating, Associate Artistic Director, one of the founding members and previous dancer of BalletX, explained one of her favorite parts of being part of the company.

"We love to share our passion for dance with new audiences. To be able to connect with the students and community not only in the performances but in the masterclasses as well, it's really what it's all about for us," Keating said.

The performance takes a spin on ballet that is normally seen in the dance world. It allows for a fresh taste of dance while

keeping the beautiful original pieces of ballet. The performance lasted two hours, leaving a short break for intermission.

Crane also explained that people should broaden their horizons and go see shows that they normally wouldn't see.

"My opinion is that your collegiate experience isn't complete until you've experienced opera, know if you like reggae, know how to appreciate the kinds of arts that you don't normally engage with," Crane said.

Douglas expresses how awe-inspired she was with the performance and being able to have the opportunity to watch BalletX's performance in Wright and the dancers looked effortless in their movements.

"Their (BalletX) partnering was stunning and they all had beautiful movement quality. BalletX has an incredible group of dancers, and I'm so thankful they came to share their talent and knowledge with the ECU Dance Program," Douglas said.

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

## Dance company grants wishes

**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF

The Dance Collective will present an original ballet production of "Aladdin" Saturday night at 6 in Wright Auditorium.

This family-friendly event will benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation. A portion of every ticket will be donated with The Community Foundation of NC East matching the total donation amount for the night.

Taylor Lucas, East Carolina University alumna and dance instructor for The Dance Collective, said that this ballet

Taylor Lucas

was newly created for this performance.

"We started from scratch. Made everything; costumes, storyline pretty much based off the real story of Aladdin, props, everything, and just put it together to make a ballet," Lucas said. Even though the storyline won't be exactly like the classic Disney version, company manager, Cherita Lytle, said that it will have many similar and recognizable characters, just with a plot that more closely resem-



KACEY COURTNEY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The Dance Collective practice for their upcoming "Aladdin" ballet production.

bles that of The Arabian Nights story.

She also said that there are some themes of empowerment portrayed in the show, particularly through the actions of the character, Jasmine.

"There's a part where Jafar is trying to kidnap Jasmine to get rid of her so that he and the sultana can go through with their plan, but she fights back," Lytle said.

Lytle went on to express how much she has enjoyed watching the students' hard work and hours of practice pay off.

"I think the biggest thing is to foster their love for dance and their love for being on the stage, and just seeing that come to life," Lytle said.

Members of the Dance Collective, ages 10 to 17, started work on

this show in June according to Kacey Paules, ECU Sophomore psychology major and senior company member of the Eastern NC Dance Foundation.

Paules, who's main part in this show is the genie, said she was excited to be able to participate in this show because of the professional environment she has gotten a chance to work in and can't wait to be a part of her first performance with The Dance Collective.

"It's just been so different from any other performance I've done anywhere else. Is just such a hardworking environment and it's just so fun to be around so many people that share the same love of dance that I have. And all the costumes are and all coming together, it's just going to be an amazing show and I'm really looking forward to performing," Paules said.

Showtimes are at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. Tickets are \$20 general admission and \$50 for a VIP ticket. Tickets can be purchased from the central ticket office in the Main Campus Student Center or at ECUArts.com.

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

## GALA continued from A1

money funds the scholarships which around 15 students are currently on. The tickets include dinner, drinks and performances by a range of ensembles.

The event originally started as drinks and dessert at Greenville's country club. From there they needed to accommodate attendance, so it was moved to Rock Springs Event Center to allow for more space and to showcase more students. Chris Ulfers, the Director of the School



Chris Ulfers

of Music, explained the change the gala has gone through over the past years.

"It's a black-tie event and one of the premier events in Greenville," Ulfers said. "The biggest change has been the involvement of students. Years ago, it was faculty performers. Beginning in 2007 we started focusing on students performing."

Lori Wacker, Professor of Music Theory and Faculty Advisor for the Friends board, explained the gala is often attended by not only current ECU staff members but retired staff as well and the process of scholarship recipients accepting the award.

"Many current and retired faculty from the School of Music attend the gala each year. It is a fun event and supports a good cause," Wacker said. Jamie Kirby, president of the Board of Directors

for the Friends of the School of Music, expresses how much she enjoys attending the gala and how much she admires the ECU music department with their hard work on the event.

"I consider the music gala to be one of the best events in Greenville each year. It is an elegant evening with good food and amazing entertainment. I continue to be impressed with the talent and poise of the students. I believe that our music department at ECU is one of the best in our state and probably in the country," Kirby said

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