



# The East Carolinian



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East Carolina University nursing students Morgan Taylor and Briana Hawkins wear their purple scrubs on Brody School of Medicine campus.

## ECU nursing claims No. 17

### ECUCON ranked for online graduate nursing program

Madison Barnhill  
TEC STAFF

ECU College of Nursing (ECUCON) masters program was ranked No. 17 in the country for best online graduate nursing program by US News and World Report 2020 Ranking.

The US News site said they rank by the following five indicators: student engagement, faculty credentials and training, expert opinion, services and technology and lastly student excellence. Student engagement greatly determines the ranking with it counting part of 30% of the rank.

Student Engagement consists of students ready to help those in their class. This falls greatly on the professors to help keep them motivated to continue through the program, according to US News. Faculty credentials comes next, however, creating the backbone of the program keeping up with long distance students as well as helping the ones who might need that extra one-on-one time.

Dean of ECU's College of Nursing Sylvia Brown said they have a very high quality graduate program and because ECU has an online option for nursing students it makes it easier on them to balance the work demand. While rankings don't make the program Brown said it does bring recognition and draws attention to potential nursing students looking to obtain a graduate degree.

"Our devotion of our faculty and how they want to make sure our students are successful even though we are a large school our faculty is committed to making our students successful," Brown said.

Along with a committed staff they have a strong technology staff since "technology doesn't always go the way you want to," Brown said. With this being an online program keeping the connection up and running between student and professor is held with importance so the students studies do not falter.

Technology is just one service to assist the program along with the ECUCON counseling program to help students in general and in the program who might be feeling overwhelmed by the pressures of class and work with most working as nurses already.

"The counseling center support students when they aren't on campus and if they're at home, a work setting or the library studying you want to be able to contact someone and them respond quickly so all of our support services and faculty try to make sure they respond in a very timely manner to students helping

their confidence," Brown said.

When the students graduate most of the specialty degrees have to take a certification exam. Brown said they have almost a 100% pass rate way higher than the national average. The success of the graduates encourage more students in the program or to join the program because they realize they can get the information they need to be successful.

Many people come to ECU with intentions of attending their nursing school like Lylia Treece a freshmen intended nursing major who plans on going to graduate school to further her degree by obtaining a nurse practitioner's license and possibly learning more on women's health. Both of which are apart of the online graduate program.

"I had already believed East Carolina's nursing program was very impressive, and whenever I saw that the ranking was #17 in the country, it made me want to attend even more than before," Treece said.

Treece hopes to attend the program in the future with the reputation it has upheld from going from No. 27 in 2019 to No. 17 in 2020. This difference she said shows their commitment for progress and improvement for their students.

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



Sylvia Brown

## Faculty leadership reconvenes

Sarah Hooper  
TEC STAFF

On Tuesday, the East Carolina University Faculty Senate reconvened after the university's winter break. Faculty workloads and budgets were discussed, as well as salaries and hiring more staff for fall of 2020.

Notably present at the meeting was Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson and Vice Chancellor Virginia Hardy.

The meeting was led by Faculty Chair and ECU geology professor, Jeff Popke. He started the meeting by welcoming the faculty and speaking on faculty growth and sustenance, then to follow he introduced Mitchelson.

Mitchelson opened up the meeting with a discussion on governance issues within the ECU Board of Trustees which emerged earlier this week. After he briefly mentioned it, his focus turned more to faculty success and growth.

"I celebrate what we do on a daily basis. Faculty are heroic in their daily efforts to make sure students are successful," Mitchelson said.

Grant Hayes, ECU's acting provost, spoke on hopes to return to normalcy with the budget and faculty workload by the 2021-2022 school year. He cited challenges and priorities, such as recruiting and retaining faculty, increasing enrollment and staying committed to making ECU great.

Popke made a comment on Hayes priorities regarding faculty retention and said that service projects among faculty are important.

"Service on our faculty committees is not only integral to shared governance, but deeply rewarding and sometimes even fun," Popke said.

He then announced the new website adopted by ECU titled "Myname.ecu.edu." which was described as software which allows ECU staff, faculty and students to change their preferred name, pronouns and gender on ECU's website.

Popke said the program was adopted by ECU out of respect for its community. He explained the misuse of someone's gender pronouns does violate ECU policy.

"It is a matter of respect, of course we happily adopt anyone's gender pronouns, and we would not unduly punish anyone for making an accident as we become accustomed to using these new pronouns. A willful misuse of someone's gender pronouns could be considered wrong under our discrimination policy, however," Popke said.

ECU School of Communication professor John Howard introduced himself and his duty to serve faculty, staff and administrators. He said he tries to assist in the



Ron Mitchelson

> FACULTY page A2

# ECU pays tribute to Kobe Bryant

## Pirate basketball mourns over the tragic loss of NBA star 'the Black Mamba'

Lydia Ryan  
TEC STAFF

The sports community, and the world, suffered a great loss on Sunday. The National Basketball Association (NBA) superstar Kobe Bryant, along with eight other victims, were tragically killed in a helicopter crash in Calabasas, California.

While Bryant never attended East Carolina University, he wore his own purple and gold playing for the Los Angeles Lakers for his entire 20 season NBA career. His work ethic, competitive nature and sportsmanship inspired and set an example for an entire generation of basketball players, including several Pirates.



Jayden Gardner

"I was distraught

(upon hearing of Bryant's death)," sophomore forward Jayden Gardner said. "Kobe Bryant was my favorite player, the reason I started playing basketball. Being able to wear the purple also factored in to me choosing ECU. It was tough, I cried a lot. It was just heartbreaking."

In the wake of his death, many teams, both collegiate and professional have been finding ways to pay tribute to Bryant. During Sunday night's games the teams playing allowed for the 24-second shot clock to run down and committed 8-second violations in honor of Bryant's jersey numbers while playing for the Lakers. The Dallas Mavericks also announced Monday that they would retire the No. 24 jersey in honor of Bryant as well.

Wednesday night, during East Carolina University men's basketball team's matchup with the University of Houston, the Minges Maniacs set up a sign for fans to write messages. After signed, it



Kobe Bryant, right, during Game One of the 2008 NBA Finals in Boston, Ma., on June 5, 2008.

> KOBE page A4

### ONLINE

» ARTS: Really Really Free Market comes to Greenville on Sunday

» NEWS: ECU to host summit for male success tonight

### SOCIAL MEDIA

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## BRIEFS

**Smash Waffles to help the homeless**

Today Smash Waffles will host "Smash'n Serve: Hygiene Kits for the Homeless" from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Health Science Student Center Lobby. Supplies will be provided for students to make hygiene kits for the homeless. Those who complete a kit will receive a free smash waffle in return.

**CRW aims to relieve students' stress**

Today Campus Recreation and Wellness will host Therapeutic Thursday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Main Campus Student Center. Students will be supplied with materials to create their own infused essential oil bracelet to help deal with the stress of the new semester.

**Democratic campaign comes to Tapped**

Tomorrow Eastern North Carolina Leadership Pete-Up will host a leadership meeting to celebrate the organizing of the Pete Buttigieg democratic campaign here in Pitt County from 6 to 8 p.m. at Tapped located at 600 E Fire Tower Rd.

**Pirates to serve up breakfast to the community shelter**

Tomorrow Pirates Promoting Community Wellness will make breakfast from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. for the members of the Greenville Community Shelter. Students are advised to meet at the shelter to help volunteer.

**CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS**

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



East Carolinian reporter Sarah Hooper speaks with North Carolina Senate hopeful Atul Goel, as he shares his reasons for running and his primary values.

## Candidate shares policy ideas

### NC Senate hopeful Atul Goel explains his vision for office

**Sarah Hooper**  
TEC STAFF

As election year revs up, candidates will narrow down and voters will decide on who to choose for office both nationally and locally. One North Carolina man is running for Senate. He sat down for an in-depth interview with The East Carolinian.

Atul Goel has lived in Raleigh for over 30 years, working as a medical doctor, with social security and with the Air Force. He received his MBA from ECU online.

His platform is focused on healthcare, immigration, gun violence and foreign policy. He said he decided to run for office after his other efforts to make changes were going nowhere. One issue Goel acknowledged was the massive student debt crisis.

"We all acknowledge that the institutions have taken advantage of the system. They've gotten students to take on debt that isn't easily resolvable. Those types of

abuses and exploitations must be addressed and can be addressed in a legislative way. If that involves forgiving loans, we should go down that path," said Goel.

While Goel is a democrat, he mentioned that he does agree with the Republican party in some aspects. One of these aspects is serving one term, which many republicans have been outspoken on.



**Atul Goel**

In his interview, Goel said he is committed to serve only one term if elected. In this term, he would begin his plan to give affordable access to healthcare to all, citing it as his primary platform.

"Every single politician blames the hospitals and doctors and insurance and the drug industry—they make a 'boogey-man' to be elected upon," Goel said. "But

when they become elected, they won't work with those 'boogey-men' to solve the problem, since they've villainized them. I will not vilify anybody. We will have a dialogue where we can solve the problem at hand."

While discussing gun violence, Goel said he is committed to reducing gun violence as a whole. He said access to mental health care and allowing law enforcement to be more proactive when suspicions arise surrounding guns is important.

Goel also mentioned that while campaigning throughout NC and stopping at houses to speak to people about his policies, not one republican disagreed with him on his gun policy. Each republican he spoke to listened to him and agreed that gun violence should be addressed.

"I am committed to reducing gun violence. It does involve some limitations on gun control. The issue is not the shape of the gun, it's how many bullets can it fire.

We can have a conversation as long as gun owners feel that whoever is leading the conversation understands guns. Engaging people from an educated perspective, and not from an uneducated one," Goel said.

When asked if he had any advice for college students in regard to the upcoming election, Goel said it is vital that students become engaged in the election process.

"Do not form opinions based solely on what you believe. Do research. Be willing to accept the possibility that some of what the other side is saying may be decent," Goel said. "Be a team leader, join clubs, work for real politicians. Understand and learn how politics work. Be an advocate but be an advocate with an open mind. There may be a few things on the other side that are reasonable."

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# ECU may face severe flu uprise

## Center for Disease Control annouced increase of influenza virus

**Madison Barnhill**  
TEC STAFF

With over 20,000 currently enrolled, students at East Carolina University are included in the group who may potentially face an increase in the spread of the influenza virus within upcoming weeks, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC).

Inventory control specialist for ECU and clinical sales technician, Anthony Yocum, said ECU Pharmacy Services ordered nearly 15,000 influenza vaccines in several different presentations. The main vaccine that is given is the quadrivalent strength made for anyone over six months. The pharmacy ordered 12,000 alone and gave out every last one, according to Yocum.

ECU Pharmacy has re-ordered more influenza vaccines and are still dispensing them as they come in. They have different versions ranging by age more specifically the one for ages 65 and up and the majority of this version has been given out as well, according to Yocum.

"I can confirm that in one clinic (ECU Physicians) alone we have had 23 positive flu tests between October and today," Yocum said.

Yocum said that the CDC authorizes which strains go into the vaccine based on each year forecasts trends and previous history. However, the strain that is causing issues this year is a B-strain, meaning that it is typically not as prevalent as others

and 58% of the population that received the vaccine should still have converted the vaccine and be protected.

"The main reason some are considering this to be one of the worst flu (influenza) seasons is that the strain that is beginning to run rampant is not a strain that was included in this year's vaccine," Yocum said.



**Lanika Wright**

ECU student health director Lanika Wright said the issue with this flu season particularly is the length of time the virus has been widespread. She said it started earlier and has been persisting at the same level of consistency.

The flu is a viral infection so antibiotics will not work to alleviate the pain Wright said. However the CDC recommends in those with a chronic illness the use of antiviral medications like Tamiflu or Xofluza she says.

"SHS follows CDC guidelines and evidence based practices. The CDC recommends in most young healthy individuals to treat symptomatically with over the counter pain medications and fever reducers (Tylenol and ibuprofen), medications for cough as needed, and medication for congestion if present," Wright said.

While it is late into flu season it is still recommended by SHS that those who have not received an influenza vaccination it is always better to get vaccinated now than to be sorry later.



RYAN CUMMINS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

**Ryan Bennet sneezes into a tissue as he prevents the spread of germs.**

The CDC said in addition to a seasonal influenza vaccine to take further measures to avoid the flu like washing your hands and staying away from those who are sick.

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



SARAH HOOPER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN  
**Faculty Senate reconvenes for the first meeting of the semester.**

## FACULTY continued from A1

process of negotiating and working through issues with them

and their colleagues.

Howard said his goal is to reach out to others and educate them about the resources for information and activities on campus.

When he addressed the members of the meeting he said he will facilitate open conflict resolution and mediation so that nothing discussed in his office will remain confidential. Howard said he only reports to the university's chancellor's division.

"When I do my job, I do it to the best of my ability. My job is to serve you. The goal is for you to be comfortable where you are and comfortable to talk about what is going on. We, together can help ECU be that great place it is today and make it better for tomorrow," Howard said.



**John Howard**

The curriculum committee approved the removal of writing intensive designation from 16 courses in fine arts, communication and health and human performance. They also approved two religious studies courses to become writing intensive, according to Popke.

The educational and planning committee approved request to discontinue the Master of Arts in Education in birth through

kindergarten degree. Also, the hearing committee opened a 2020 position for English education. Popke said both of these policies were passed.

When the meeting concluded, Associate Vice Chancellor for Financial Administration Joe Graddis said there was a faculty analysis conducted and 17 faculty members at the meeting put in time and effort presenting concerns. They were heavily involved in the writing and reviewing of the report. Graddis started with one study in mind and ended up doing a lot more, he said.

The analysis had one study on salary compression, another on national salary benchmark that provided an external perspective, and the last was of the influence of promotion on salary. Graddis said full report is posted on the Faculty Senate welfare committee website.

"I want to stress again that the study was intentionally designed to be an internal analysis. Faculty can provide feedback to us. I encourage you to provide comments or ask questions about the study by completing the online feedback form by March 1, 2020," Graddis said.

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

## OUR VIEW

# University officials need to be held accountable

The students of East Carolina University can seemingly not enjoy a semester of classes without a scandal involving university officials. Mere months after the Dan Gerlach videos surfaced and his subsequent resignation as interim chancellor, allegations have risen regarding two ECU Board of Trustees members.

In a resolution from the UNC Association of Student Governments, ECU Board of Trustees members Phil Lewis and Robert Moore were alleged to have given a student financial support to run for Student Body President.

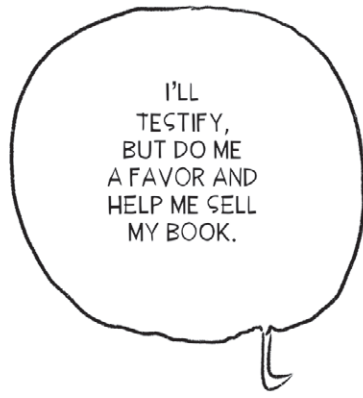
We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe that, if these claims are accurate, members Lewis and Moore, as well as any other person deemed to have broken the laws and policies set forth, should be punished accordingly.

On a deeper level, one would think university officials would have learned their lesson from the Gerlach situation and ensuing fallout. Pending the outcome of the investigation into Lewis and Moore, this situation could be yet another black eye on a university that does not need it at this juncture.

Continued scandal being released on the leadership of East Carolina, whether true or not, shines a negative light on the university and brings distraction to students. It hurts the current students and faculty as well as the perception that perspective students, parents and alumni have of the school.

If these allegations are true, all wrong-doing should be allowed to come to the surface for law enforcement, as well as the students, to see what is going on behind closed doors at ECU.

SHENEMAN THE STAR-LEDGER



THE OTHER QUID PRO QUO

# Construction a safety risk

## The work in progress on College Hill is a hazard to all



Glenn Hubbard  
TEC STAFF

Construction on College Hill has eliminated dozens of parking spaces for faculty and staff, as well as an entire sidewalk used by hundreds of students moving between College Hill and the main campus, resulting in frustration and potential safety concerns, but there are ways to improve the situation.

The problem is, especially at peak times in the morning and afternoon, there are throngs of pedestrians attempting to cross 10th Street at the same time multiple cars are lined up after leaving the College Hill parking lots.

At best, it's a huge inconvenience for faculty and staff, but we've become accustomed to parking-related inconveniences. Worse still is the risk that pedestrians could be hit by confused drivers trying to find a hole wide enough to get through.

One simple change could improve the situation: getting rid of a no-turn-on-red sign at the bottom of College Hill. This sign's purpose has been questionable since before the current construction, but now it's especially problematic because the pedestrian crosswalk signal only allows people to cross 10th Street when College Hill drivers have a GREEN light – so the only time drivers can turn onto 10th Street is when pedestrians are crossing. Once the light turns red, the pedestrians wait, and

often 10th Street traffic clears, but no one can turn... because of a sign.

I was recently in a line of traffic that waited through three cycles of a light without a single car moving, and that was after several more cycles when only one or two got through. I didn't time it, but I'd estimate a loss of at least 10 minutes. Adding to the frustration is the elimination of a left-turn lane. I happened to be about six cars back on College Hill that afternoon, intending to turn left – a turn that would have been unobstructed if a left-turn lane had been available.

I'm aware of the difficulty and slow pace of change when it involves petitions to the Department of Transportation. Some will say I should just accept things as they are. I strongly disagree, but in the absence of the common-sense change I'm proposing, how about this: Let's have either ECU or Greenville police direct traffic at peak times – just as they do on football game days.

I don't know why so much real estate is blocked off for a project that doesn't appear to have started yet, but could we at least have some consideration for the safety and convenience of hundreds, maybe thousands, of students, faculty and staff? It doesn't seem like too much to ask.



MADISON BARNHILL | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The construction on College Hill began during winter break and has continued through January.

Hubbard is a communication professor at ECU and a guest columnist. To submit an article, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

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As a designated public forum for East Carolina University, The East Carolinian welcomes letters to the editor limited to 250 words. Letters may be rejected or edited for libelous content, decency and brevity. All letters must be signed and include a telephone number.

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# ECU has many academic resources



Madison Barnhill  
TEC STAFF

This year marks my first at ECU and like any freshmen I was in awe, until of course my second exams came rolling around. There went my awe, which turned into late night studying, rough 8 a.m. classes and stressing.

From elementary to high school everyone says each grade gets harder. Yet now I'm here with everyone saying college is a breeze and you'll have the time of your life. That time of your life seems to be the most unhealthy when you're up late studying and snacking then back at it early in the morning with barely any sleep.

I was bombarded by classes, homework and feeling lost away from home. While I had friends, it had been a month or two since I had gone home or really talked to someone. With my mental health deteriorating so did my academic performance. I had overloaded myself and had a workload I couldn't grasp anymore which I was constantly losing track of.

Now with the second semester here everyone should have gotten a grasp at, well, college. If you haven't, are still in the process or even just want to know what you can do to improve then there are plenty of resources on campus to help.

The Pirate Academic Success Center

**"Now with second semester here everyone should have gotten a grasp at, well, college. If you haven't, are still in the process or even just want to know what you can do to improve then there are plenty of resources on campus to help."**

(PASC) is known for its tutoring resources like class study groups and one on one tutoring. If you find yourself in a struggle many people recommend going to them for help because while you may be stuck one way they can redirect and help you see it another way. PASC does not just do tutoring though, they also have Academic Success Coaching.

Academic Success Coaching is for everyone but recommended for first year students. In this they teach how to use a graphic organizer, time management, study skills and connections to academic resources. The people who will assist you are mentors who go through training to help first years specifically.

Not only is there PASC to help but there is also the Center for Counseling and Student Development (CCSD). CCSD provides a multitude of services with one being the Bridge to Balance Workshop. This workshop is psycho-

educational and is meant to help with mindfulness, and controlling stress and emotions.

Stress is highest among freshmen with them coming to a new environment but stress is still high among almost every person. Stress is inevitable and if you let it build up and bring you down it can disrupt every body system and cause negative emotional reactivity.

With anything else that you find hard that begins to stress you out like a paper, calculus problem or finding the time to actually sit and eat, it's best to take a step back, try breathing exercises, organize and make a plan of action and most importantly ask for help because everyone deserves help and support.

These steps might seem small but will help you have a feeling of control and next time you will have adapted and found a way around the situation.

Barnhill is a freshman intended nursing major and a TEC columnist. To contact her, email [opinion@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:opinion@theeastcarolinian.com).

# ECU star forward shines in January

## The East Carolinian chooses Gardner for Athlete of the Month

*Editor's Note: The sports staff of The East Carolinian chose the athlete featured in this article. This will be a monthly series.*

Lydia Ryan  
TEC STAFF

Brendan Cavazos  
TEC STAFF

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North Carolina is a basketball state. For years, schools like the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University have made the state stand out. East Carolina University, however, isn't known for its basketball program and it has been a long time since the school has had a player as impressive as sophomore forward Jayden Gardner.

As many know, Gardner was one of the only returning players on ECU roster this season. While the team's record is not stellar, Gardner has continued to be a driving force amongst his fellow teammates.

Gardner has had a dominating season for the Pirates thus far. The East Carolinian has named him Athlete of the Month for his outstanding performance in January, where he averaged 22.3 points, 10.6 rebounds, and 2.3 assists. His impact on the court is undeniable and has fueled several victories for his team.

The sophomore phenom is proud to be a Pirate and the purple and gold suits him well. With his family among the crowd cheering him on, which was one of the deciding factors in Gardner's choice to come to ECU.

Son of Darrel and Danielle Gardner, Jayden hails from Durham, North Carolina. He has one younger sister, Janiya, and enjoys that his family, immediate and extended, frequently come to support him at games.

"I chose the Pirates because it's close to home," Gardner said. "My parents can come see me anytime, come to most of the home games. My dad is at all the home games. A lot of family comes out to see me, so family was a big factor."

During the 2018-2019 campaign as a freshman, Gardner was the only player to start all 31 games. He led the Pirates in 11 statistical categories, including points (505), points per game, rebounds (262), rebounds per game, free throws made (171) and free throws attempted (228).

Coming into this season, Gardner faced the challenge of an entirely new team. He quickly became a leader and set an early standard for the team. Early in the season the attention was on his new teammates, Gardner quickly reminded Pirate Nation that he was still there.

Now in conference play, Gardner's presence has been felt at ECU and throughout the American Athletic Conference (AAC). He leads the AAC in scoring with 21.3 points and averaged more than that in just the month of January.



HALIE MILLER | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Forward Jayden Gardner prepares for a free throw in the game against the University of Tulsa earlier in the campaign.

"I think things are going well," Gardner said. "I think my teammates are finding me and our chemistry got up. We had some nice play calls from coach. I got a lot of things just going my way this month."

His sportsmanship and leadership abilities shine through on the court as well. Frequently seen being supportive of his teammates and being a team player. He keeps his eye on the prize during games and doesn't get easily distracted.

"I just gotta bring the toughness, the juice, the enthusiasm and be ready to come to work everyday," Gardner said. "Just be an everyday guy and give my all and play my hardest. Cause I love the game of basketball."



Joe Dooley

Gardner recognized the fans in the Pirate community and what sports mean to them and believes he can make a difference in the basketball program that will make the Pirate Nation proud. He attributes the fan mentality and energy as part of the reason he chose ECU.

"Jayden is a great representative of this university," head coach Joe Dooley said. "I think he brings work ethic. I think he brings caring about the school, caring about the program. He's been nothing but great to coach so far."

Gardner has a couple rituals that he likes to stick to before and during his games. He eats cookies and cream ice cream before every home game, tries to be the first player out of the shoot-a-round at home and typically stays pretty quiet before tip-off on game days.

"I eat cookies and cream ice cream before every home game. I stick to that one," Gardner said. "I try to be the first one out of shooting round at home games and I don't really talk that much before the game starts."

The ECU men's basketball team went 3-4 in the month of January. They took three straight losses in between a couple of victories, but with Gardner playing his best basketball of the season, they look to add more wins going forward.

Off the court, Gardner spends his down time relaxing and spending time with friends. He plays video games and enjoys eating and watching basketball and other sports and uses his little down time to unwind. He currently plans on pursuing a communications degree.

Gardner's outstanding play has been reliable all season for the ECU men's basketball team. The momentum gathered over the past month will surely carry into the rest of the season for the star player.

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

## KOBE continued from A1

will be sent to the Staples Center, the home of the Lakers, to show ECU's tribute to Bryant.

According to junior marketing major and Minges Maniacs president, C.J. Shaeffer, the idea stemmed from Shaeffer's love of basketball and what Bryant has done for the sport. With the Minges Maniacs large student body reach, Shaeffer wanted to find a way to honor Bryant.

"We got the idea of a sign because we usually make a bunch of signs anyway and figured we could include this one, which is gonna say, 'Thank You Kobe,'" Shaeffer said before the game. "We're gonna get anyone in attendance who wants to sign it and try to mail it off to the Staples Center as a sign of appreciation for what he did for basketball."

Shaeffer's thought behind the gesture is that a majority of the current generation of basketball players and fans have seen Bryant play, and that everyone who attends Wednesday nights game at Minges Coliseum have mourned him in some way.

During his career as a shooting guard, Bryant only played for the Lakers, joining the NBA directly after high school at only 17 years old. He was originally drafted 13th overall by the Charlotte Hornets in 1996 before being traded to the Lakers soon after. It soon became clear that he was not an average athlete and would take professional basketball to the next level and he didn't disappoint.

While in the NBA, Bryant accumulated many accolades. By his retirement in 2016 he scored 33,643 points (25.0 ppg), made 7,047 rebounds (5.2 rpg) and 6,306 assists (4.7 apg). He won gold medals with both the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Olympic USA men's basketball teams.

"It's obviously tragic for all nine people involved in the situation. He's (Bryant) obviously been an ambassador for the game and a lot of the young guys have always looked up to him," men's basketball head coach Joe Dooley said. "I think there is a few iconic figures in the game and he's one of them."

Bryant's career as a professional basketball player was only part of his image. He was also a husband to his wife Vanessa Bryant and a wonderful father to their four daughters. Tragically, however, his 13-year-old daughter Gianna Bryant was one of the victims of the accident that claimed Bryant's life.

After retirement, Bryant continued to share his love for the game. Not only did he become a mentor for many young players, but he also opened the Mamba Academy in 2018. He also coached his daughter Gianna's travel basketball team.

"I know it shocked me, I know it shocked the world a little bit. It's a sad moment," junior guard JJ. Miles said. "I watched him when I was a kid, still watching highlights now. He was a big part of basketball."

Kobe Bryant (41), Gianna Bryant (13), John (56), Kerri (46) and Alyssa Altobelli (13), Sarah (45) and Payton Chester (13), Christina Mauser (38) and Ara Zobayan (50) were all on board Bryant's helicopter Sunday flying to the Mamba Academy for a basketball tournament, that the girls were scheduled to play in, when it crashed during the flight. The reasons behind the crash are still being investigated, but there were no survivors.

Kobe Bryant was not a perfect man, but his legacy transcends beyond basketball community. He pushed basketball to the next level and inspired many to follow their dreams and do the same and although he is gone, his legacy will live on for many years to come.

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



COURTESY OF ECUPIRATES.COM

Senior swimmer Magnus Andersen competing in a swim and diver meet late in the fall season of 2019.

## ECU out of the water

Daniel Shepard  
TEC STAFF

It can often be tough to replace a crop of graduating seniors and still be successful the following season. Inside Minges Natatorium, however, that is exactly what head Swim and Dive coach Matthew Jabs accomplished with both his men's (6-2) and women's (7-2) teams.

Having lost a combined 10 seniors from his squad following the conclusion of last season, Jabs added a slew of newcomers to his roster. Totalling six freshmen on the men's side and 12 on the women's, a major challenge to this campaign would be overcoming youth.

"On the women's side, we're a very young group," Jabs said. "So to see them compete the way they did and have our youngsters step up and progress and kind of the evolution they had from the beginning of the season to the end of the season was really good to see. On the men's side, couple of events here or there, we've got an undefeated season. It really was that close, it came down to two or three races for us."

Quickly and quite convincingly, the Pirates showed that youth would not sink them like a rock. Instead, both squads reeled off large margins of victory in their combined 13 wins, losing to only staggering competition in the form of the University of North Carolina and the University of South Carolina.

On the men's side against UNC, sophomore swimmer Lyubomir Epitropov took home wins in the 100- and 200-yard breaststroke as the Pirates won eight of the final nine races in the event. A later defeat sealed ECU's fate 157-143, while the women lost by a heftier margin at 170-115.

Nevertheless their setback against UNC and the

men's slim defeat at the hands of South Carolina, the 2019-2020 swim and dive season was full of success, on both sides.

A 198-92 win for the men and a 188-107 victory for the women over Old Dominion University greeted the Pirates at the beginning of the season. ECU's men won all 16 events that evening as sophomore swimmer Marek Osina won three individual events while freshman swimmer Rodrigo Romero swept all diving events.

For their efforts early in the season, Epitropov and Romero earned American Athletic Conference Swimmer and Diver-of-the-Week honors respectively, marking the first of a trio of times Rodrigo would garner that award.

With early season success came a national ranking for the Pirates from Collegeswimming.com. Tabbed as the No. 15 men's team and No. 25 women's team in the country, ECU basked in the glow of the national spotlight.

"Anytime we can get some national recognition is a good thing," Jabs said. "Those dual meet rankings are a little bit more powerful earlier on in the season. As we get towards the end of the season, really now it comes down to, we need to get kids to the national meet if we want to be significantly ranked."

Building upon their quick start to the season, the men headed into a tri-meet while the women entertained a quad-meet at Minges Natatorium. As had been the case against earlier competition, ECU rolled over Lenoir-Rhyne University, Catawba College and Campbell University, winning all but one event on either side.

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



COURTESY OF CJ SHAEFFER

Minges Maniacs with tribute sign at Wednesday's game.



J.J. Miles

## CLASSIFIEDS

### HELP WANTED

Greenville Little League is seeking baseball umpires for the 2020 season. No experience is necessary however it is helpful to have some baseball background.

An informational meeting for prospective umpires will be held Sunday, February 9 from 5:30-6:30 at Elm Street Park (1055 South Elm Street). Questions may be directed to Brian Weingartz at baawein@aol.com or 252-341-5680.

Wanna run a classifieds ad?  
Contact teclassifieds@ecu.edu for pricing and information.

## HOROSCOPES

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Take care of yourself. Adapt to changes patiently. Travel could interfere with personal routines. Include soothing rituals. Carefully organize your plans and schedule.

**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Find another route around a blockage or delay. Minimize risk or hassle. Settle somewhere with an interesting view. Discover a hidden local treasure.

**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Love inspires and energizes. Find a silver lining below a dark cloud and share it with your sweetheart. Generate optimism and patience. Practice compassion.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Follow the plans you've already set. Adapt to changes on the fly. Turn down expensive invitations and favor peaceful privacy. Get productive behind closed doors.

**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Support family with a financial change or challenge. You can see the way forward. Pull together to lighten the load. A positive attitude pays off.

**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) -- Today is an 8 -- Settle into home comforts. Collaborate with family to resolve a change. New facts dispel old fears. Domestic chores soothe and satisfy. Cook up something delicious.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) -- Today is an 8 -- A group challenge may seem intimidating. The road ahead is clear. Pick yourself up and step forward. Get team support and provide it. Link arms.

**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -- Today is an 8 -- Collaborate for shared support with an unexpected circumstance. Old assumptions get challenged. Keep your bargains and promises. Clean up and lend a helping hand.

**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 7 -- Observe and study the news. A barrier blocks progress on a creative project. Consider potential strategies and options. Make requests. Take what you get.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) -- Today is an 8 -- Focus on a professional puzzle. It may require elbow grease. Work with what you have. Patiently go around an obstacle or barrier. Persistence pays off.

**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) -- Today is a 7 -- Resist making impulsive moves, especially with a barrier or obstacle. Prioritize your health. Observe and notice subtle clues. Patiently resolve a physical challenge.

**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) -- Today is a 7 -- Keep generating income despite a challenge. Spend thoughtfully. Costs vary widely. Don't dig into savings on a whim. You can get what you need.

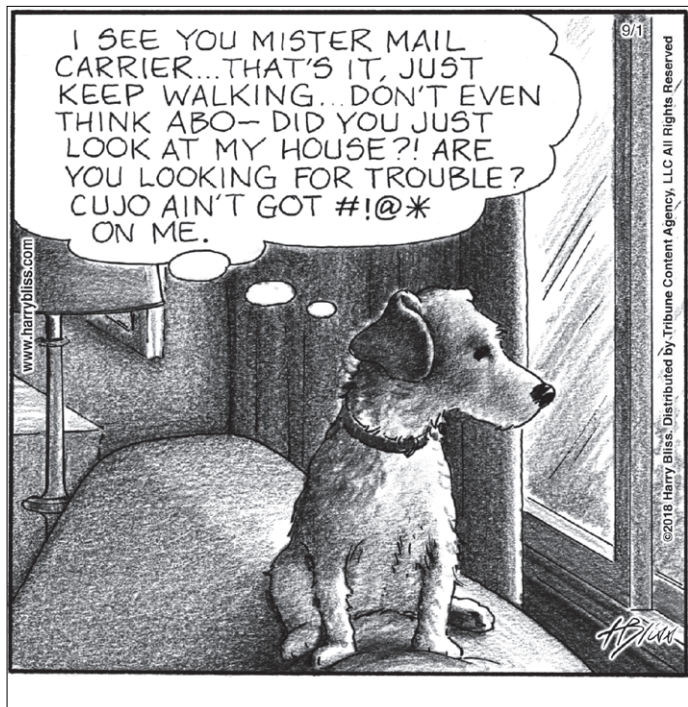
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## COMICS

### ONE AND ONLY BY BRIAN JUDGE



## BLISS



## CROSSWORD

# THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16						17		
18			19					20	21			
	22				23	24	25					
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	35			36						37	38	
39								40				41
42				43	44	45	46			47		
48				49						50		
51				52						53		

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

### ACROSS

- Saget of "America's Funniest Home Videos"
- "Green \_"
- "Grounded \_ Life"
- Yoko \_
- Actress Eva Marie \_
- Coach \_ Parseghian
- "\_ be in England now that April's there..." (Robert Browning)
- Tropical fruit
- Network for Wolf Blitzer
- Explorer \_ de León
- \_ PG; like movies possibly not for the whole family
- Actor on "NCIS: Los Angeles"
- Toaster's proclamation
- "Boys Don't \_"; Hilary Swank film
- Meyers or Graynor
- Role on "Up All Night"
- "The Big \_"; movie for Bogart and Bacall
- "Last \_"
- Glover or DeVito

- "The \_"; series for Mr. T
- Prefix for cycle or form
- Kingdom
- Bart Simpson's "Grampa"
- Banned insecticide
- Unfasten, as one's shoelaces
- Monogram for author Stevenson
- "\_ Yes to the Dress"
- Rings, as a bell
- "The Old Man and the \_"

### DOWN

- Betty of old cartoons
- "\_ of Old Smoky"
- Singer Pat \_
- \_ as a lamb
- President Arthur's monogram
- "The Adventures of \_ Tin Tin"
- High school subject: abbr.
- "The Perfect \_"; film for George Clooney
- "Fear \_"
- Crotchety
- Kentucky Sen. \_ Paul
- Dracula and others: abbr.
- Diane Sawyer's employer
- Pot \_; braised beef dish
- Role on "Cheers"
- Sigourney Weaver sci-fi movie
- Plummer or Peet
- "\_ Fair"; Reese Witherspoon film
- Actress \_ Jillian
- Singer and actor who played Mingo on "Daniel Boone"
- "The \_ and the Pendulum"
- Pancake topper
- Approaches
- "Gone With the Wind" star
- Failures
- Small plateau
- 180° from WSW
- "One Day \_ Time"
- Comic strip "\_ Abner"

Solution from 01/28

J	A	S	O	N				M	E	T										
A	M	A	N	A				M	A	O	R	I								
Y	E	M	E	N				C	A	M	E	R	A							
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## SUDOKU

# SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mepham Group

5	6			1							
	8		4	2	9			6			
	1		6								
	5							8	3		
		3					6				
7	4								9		
					3			4			
	9		7	5	2			1			
				8				5	6		

Level:

- 1 2  
3 4

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 01/28

3	4	8	9	5	7	2	1	6
6	5	7	1	8	2	4	3	9
1	2	9	4	3	6	7	8	5
9	6	3	2	1	8	5	4	7
5	7	4	6	9	3	1	2	8
2	8	1	5	7	4	6	9	3
7	9	5	3	4	1	8	6	2
8	1	6	7	2	9	3	5	4
4	3	2	8	6	5	9	7	1

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# TAP THE APP

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## EVENTS

### TODAY

**Live Music at Jack Browns**  
Jack Brown's Beer & Burger Joint  
7 p.m.

**Lightroom 101: Getting Started**  
ASAP Photo & Camera  
7 p.m.

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

### TOMORROW

**Who's Bad 2020**  
The State Theatre  
7:30 p.m.

**Unaka Prong Live Music**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
8 p.m.

**Tim Cifers Concert**  
Buccaneer Music Hall  
10 p.m.

### SATURDAY

**Pop-In, Pop Art: Enamel Pendant**  
Emerge Gallery and Art Center  
1 p.m.

**Umami Food Truck**  
Pitt Street Brewing Company  
6 p.m.

# ECU students make memories

## Plain Jane the Band hopes to share music in Greenville

**Macie Tano**  
TEC STAFF

An East Carolina University student-run band, called Plain Jane the Band, has performed at various locations around Greenville and has a few upcoming performances near campus as well.

The band consists of Emily Donovan who sings and plays the rhythm guitar, Zachary Osmond on the bass, and Taron Melvin, who plays guitar, according to Donovan, a junior majoring in jazz performance.

"It's all original music. I would say it is kind of an indie/rock alternative kind of style. We are working on an EP right now, hopefully it will be out in a month or two," Donovan said.

The band formed in January of 2019, when Donovan decided she wanted to get a band together. She reached out to Melvin, who agreed to join, Donovan said.

"I really wanted to have a band when I



CONTRIBUTED BY EMILY DONOVAN

Plain Jane the Band, Zachary Osmond, Emily Donovan, and Taron Melvin performing at Blackened Kraken.

**ONLINE | FULL STORY**

got to college. I'm in the School of Music and I'm a music major so I was thinking "who do I know already that would be good to work with?" I met

Taron last year and he was an awesome guitar player. We found a drummer and a bass player, and we started up. We lost our bass player this

year because they didn't come back to school, but we were lucky enough to meet Zach," Donovan said.

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).

# Tennessee music trio comes to ECU

**Hannah Bolick**  
TEC STAFF

University of Tennessee Chattanooga faculty ensemble, Fuze Trio, will have a recital tonight at 7:30 in Fletcher Recital Hall.

Tonight's recital is one of several events which will take place during the trio's residency. There will also be masterclasses with each musician as well as a talk with the East Carolina University School of Music's composition colloquium.

Fuze Trio utilizes three instruments not commonly heard together in a trio: flute, trumpet and piano. Erika Schafer, who plays trumpet in the group, said that it was formed not because of the



Erika Schafer

instruments themselves, but the people who played them.

"The people part is probably more important, some people might not realize that but with a chamber music group, meaning a small group of musicians where we're going to be running the group ourselves, there's no conductor, you really have to like the other people," Schafer said.

Flute player, Ronda Benson Ford, also noted how important it is to select reliable people for ensembles of this size and nature.

"So it's nice just to play with people and you don't have to worry, are they going to show up, are they going to be on time, will they do everything they said they will do, you know?" Ford said.

Having chosen the group based on who they wanted to play with, the trio is faced with the unique challenge of having to find music for their unusual

grouping of instruments to play.

She said that sometimes the music would be for a combination of their instruments and voice and could be arranged for their instruments. Sometimes they would find a piece arranged for choir, and the trio's pianist, Jenny Parker, would work out which of the voice parts would work for flute and trumpet.

Other times, the perfect piece just falls into their lap. Schafer found a piece by ECU composition professor, Travis Alford, originally written for just Fuze Trio's instrumentation.

"I started originally writing it because she (Alford's wife) played flute, I played trumpet and so I wanted to use both of those in an ensemble and I thought hey that'd kind of be a neat combination," Alford said.

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).

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2	2	2

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Contact [smaa@ecu.edu](mailto:smaa@ecu.edu) for more information.



MICHAELA EMORY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Outside of Greenville Museum of Art where the Games Meet Art and GMoArcade will be hosted.

# Local art museum to host gaming day for residents

**Hannah True**  
TEC STAFF

Greenville Museum of Art (GMoA) has strived to mix games and art through a couple of events and Games Meet Art and GMoArcade are both hosted at the museum and allow both GMoA members and non-members to enjoy the festivities.

Both events occur this Saturday; Games Meet Art lasting from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and GMoArcade lasting from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. While both strive to bring people into the museum, they still are a little different.

Executive Director at GMoA, Trista Reis Porter, describes the aims of each of the events.



Trista Reis Porter

"The day-time event, Games Meet Art, however, is less focused on raising money than it is providing a fun afternoon, free for GMoA Members and inexpensive for Non-Members, that gets people into the Museum and engaging with the space in a different kind of way. GMoArcade piggybacks on the day-time event and targets it more toward college students and young professionals looking for a fun evening," Porter said.

The events will include a variety of games such as ax throwing, corn hole, video games, board games, ping pong and more. To top it off, the day-time event will include a raffle with multiple prizes and the night event will feature an open bar and snacks.

Nabil Sultan, one of the committee

members for the events, expressed his opinion on the game-filled day.

"I believe events like this benefit both art and games. It exposes art to kids and others who may not expose themselves to it, I'm one of them, while simultaneously showing people who see games as a wasteful hobby that games can indeed be art themselves," Sultan said.

Kris Paine, owner of Well Played Games and longtime sponsor of events at the GMoA, explained that after opening Well Played Games, he was looking to expand business and connect with the community. When he was approached by GMoA about doing a video game event for the museum, he found it to be the perfect opportunity.

"When you combine the artistic talents of many game designers with the talent of writers, directors, programmers and many others it can basically allow the player to be the main character in a movie that extends far longer than a few hours. It's like combining a book and a movie and allowing you to interact with an imaginary world," Paine said.

Sultan encourages others to join him as he hosts a game show taking place during the events.

"Events like this aren't exactly common in Greenville. Bring your friends and enjoy a day of games, art, snacks and drinks while simultaneously contributing to the museum," Sultan said.

This writer can be contacted at [arts@theeastcarolinian.com](mailto:arts@theeastcarolinian.com).