



VOLUME 95, ISSUE 18

LEADERS REFLECT, CHANGE AHEAD

Student executives discuss accomplishments

Cayla Menges
TEC STAFF

As East Carolina University's Student Government Association (SGA) begins its campaign process for the 2021-2022 academic year, current SGA President Tucker Robbins and SGA Vice President Laura Hayes will begin their transition out of their SGA leadership positions on April 10.

Robbins said his goal was to make SGA more visible to students on-campus and to create more transparency between students and the association with his term. He said although the COVID-19 pandemic put a delay on the execution of initiatives, he and Hayes will conclude their term with strengthened relations between students and law enforcement, the launch of the Better You app and their steps

toward increased accessibility to campus.

There were times when Robbins wondered if his decisions were for the better good of the students, where he wished he could address each individual student's needs, but he said he knew that could not always happen. He said he relied on SGA's Student Assembly to be honest with him on certain situations as they were a representation of ECU's student population.

"Every decision I've made, everything I've advocated for, definitely

is for the greater good of the majority of our students," Robbins said.

With his last day in office as SGA President on April 10, Robbins said he will leave behind some proposals he hopes to see come to light through the next leadership administration. He said himself and Hayes developed a proposal for a rideshare program through ECU that will increase accessibility to campus for students who live past where ECU transit routes go or need rides past the operation hours of transit.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, SGA switched its focus from its long-term initiatives to address the immediate needs of the student population, according to Robbins. He said he is in the process to advocate for the removal of fees to use the University of North Carolina (UNC) proctoring system, as students did not choose to be moved online and carry the burden of additional costs associated with the transition.

Robbins said the SGA president's spot on the ECU Board of Trustees (BOT) helps keep the committee in the loop about what goes on daily at ECU. He said being the only student on the board can be difficult sometimes, but it creates a space for the student voice to be heard.

"I kind of play a different role in the trustees (BOT) because I'm solely there to advocate for the students, but I'm also aware of the university advancement," Robbins said.

A position with SGA gives students an opportunity to gain leadership skills and time management, according to Robbins. He said he would advise the

Meet your 2021 SGA candidates

Staff Report
TEC STAFF

Elections for the East Carolina University Student Government Association (SGA) will be held from Feb. 24 to Feb. 26, and a list has been released which details each candidate's platform. According to SGA's website, the voting process will be held entirely through Engage.

Ticket 1 for the Executive Board includes Presidential Candidate Morgan A. Fried and Vice-Presidential Candidate Hailey Hogan. The platforms for Ticket 1 include "Reducing the SGA Fee," "Sexual Assault & Crime Prevention" and "Promoting a Diverse Campus."

As of Feb. 16, Ticket 1 has 175 followers on its Instagram account, @friedhogan_ticket1.

"The Fried/Hogan ticket is committed to promoting a diverse campus. Whether this be supporting minority student organizations on campus or encouraging inclusion in the Student Government Association, we are dedicated to supporting your voices," the candidates said.

Ticket 2 for the Executive Board includes Presidential Candidate Chandler Ward and Vice-Presidential Candidate Savannah Slade. They hope to make ECU students and officials more transparent with each other, make mental health programs more available to students and provide more safety to students both on and off campus. In the document, Ticket 2 did not provide a direct statement.

As of Feb. 16, Ticket 2 has 685 followers on its Instagram account, @ward_slade_ticket2.

Ticket 3 for the Executive Board includes Presidential Candidate Lilah El-Halabi and Vice-Presidential Candidate Marvin Francisco Del Cid. They aim to use their experience of leadership to help motivate ECU students to voice their opinions and visions.

"I want to ensure that ECU is standing behind its students of marginalized communities during a time of need and support. I hope to fill this roll with passion and vulnerability," the candidates said in the SGA document. "I truly believe that the idea of belonging is tied closely to the idea of creating space for communities to develop on our campus."

As of Feb. 16, Ticket 3 has 158 followers on its Instagram account, @vote3.delcid.halabi.

ONLINE | FULL STORY

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



CONTRIBUTED BY CHARLOTTE HASTY

Student Body President Tucker Robbins and Vice President Laura Hayes will lead Pirates through the spring semester.

> SGA page A2

ECU volleyball to play two-game series

Pirates will host the USF Bulls back-to-back in Minges Coliseum after previous losses

Stephen Babich
TEC STAFF

Magdalena Lovell
FOR THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The East Carolina University volleyball team (1-2, 0-2 AAC) will face the University of South Florida Bulls (2-2, 0-0 AAC) on Feb. 18 and 19 at Minges Coliseum in Greenville, North Carolina.

The Pirates are 1-2 in 2021 so far, and they come off back-to-back losses against the University of Cincinnati Bearcats (4-2,

2-0 AAC) on Feb. 11 and 12. Head coach Adler Augustin said he liked the team's fight during the series.



Adler Augustin needed to be more crisp. Overall, I think they did a really good job implementing the game plan, we just need

to be able to close it out."

ECU finished its 2019 season 19-11 overall, 6-10 AAC. The Pirates swept the season series against USF and they last played the Bulls on Nov. 10, 2019, at the USF Corral in Tampa, Florida. The Pirates came out on top with a 3-1 victory. ECU won the first set 25-20, then the second 25-23. ECU lost the third set 25-13, but were able to close out the match by winning the fourth 25-19.

According to ECU Pirates.com, the

Pirates outperformed the Bulls in points (62-35), kills (52-29), aces (7-3), assists (43-29), and digs (46-31) on Nov. 10, 2019. USF led with overall errors and gathered 18 while ECU totaled 12. ECU had more blocks than USF with an overall of 5-1.

"South Florida has a new coaching staff and they're going to have a different style than they've had over the years," Augustin said. "Their style is different from Cincinnati."

> SERIES page A6

Mixed media artist Karen Warren recognized

Yasmine Curmon-Ward
TEC STAFF

Greenville, North Carolina's own Emerge Gallery and Art Center has selected Karen S. Warren, jeweler, artist and owner of Karen S. Warren Art and Doe Run Studios, who is also a East Carolina University alumna, as

the featured artist of the month for February as she continues to dedicate her retirement to create mixed media collages and paintings.

When Warren retired from her career as a registered dietician, she said she wanted to pursue her art, so she began to take classes at Emerge and the Greenville Museum of

Art (GMOA). She said she took metal work, painting, pottery and mixed media classes.

"Their (Emerge and GMOA) classes are fantastic because they will take you at any level and the people (in the class) who are a little more experienced help the people who are less experienced. It (Emerge) really has a

community feel, the Pitt County Arts Council, they do a lot for the community," Warren said.

Art was an interest of Warren's throughout her childhood, and she said art is a way to express oneself and connect with other people.

> ART page A4

ONLINE

»NEWS: CET Engineering, Technology Career Fair to take place

»Check out our website for articles, photo galleries and more.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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@TEC_Newspaper

BRIEFS

A.L.A.N.A Workshop series to be held

Today, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) and the G.O.L.D Leader Series will host an in-person workshop series from 4 to 5 p.m. This event, which focuses on social support, effective communication and goal setting, is located in the Main Campus Student Center (MCSC).

Virtual 'Reel Talk' to be hosted

Today, the Ledonia Wright Cultural Center (LWCC) and the G.O.L.D Leader Series will host "Reel Talk: One Night in Miami" from 6 to 8:30 p.m. This virtual event will give students the opportunity to participate in discussion about various social inequalities as well as the impact of television and film in today's society.

CLCE to continue G.O.L.D. Series

Tomorrow, the Center for Leadership and Civic Engagement (CLCE) will host a Citizen and Civic Engagement event as part of the G.O.L.D. Series from 5 to 6 p.m. CLCE Assistant Director Alex Dennis will share information and resources about the Pirates Vote initiative and how civic engagement can be promoted throughout student organizations and in the community. Those who may be interested can RSVP through the ECU Engage website.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

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



BINTA TOURAY | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

The university's 2021 spring semester has seen the most freshmen applications in ECU history, which totals 21,563 students as of Feb. 16.

Enrollment increases at ECU

University sees influx of student admissions despite the current pandemic

Breanna Sapp
TEC STAFF

Spring semester enrollment at East Carolina University has seen a significant increase from last year as 26,716 students are currently enrolled, which is over 100 more students than in spring 2020.

Assistant Vice Chancellor and Director of Undergraduate Admissions Stephanie Whaley said the university has enrolled 79 new freshmen this spring, which is 33 more freshmen than last year and the most for the spring semester in ECU history. She said 631 new transfer students have enrolled as well, 25 more than last year. Whaley said despite obstacles COVID-19 has presented, she is excited that spring enrollment numbers have seen success.

She said as an institution, it's wonderful to see students show interest in the university and that she has hope for the upcoming fall semester. Whaley said as of Feb. 16 admissions has seen 21,563 freshman applications for next fall as well, 477 more than the previous year, which makes the most freshman applications in ECU history. "We've taken a more personalized approach at recruiting new students during COVID(-19) by offering them a variety of options so that they can choose the option that's most comfortable for them," Whaley said. "I think that personalized approach, saying we can give you



Stephanie Whaley

a virtual information session, or an on-campus tour, or a virtual appointment, I think students have found that appealing."

Emily Schultz, ECU admissions and regional counselor, said her role is spread throughout the region, so communication through email and phone calls with students has been a challenge. Schultz said admissions has had to adapt and learn with students, and though it's been difficult, there's a lot of flexibility to be found.

Schultz said an advantage ECU has is its availability of in-person campus tours which cooperate with COVID-19 regulations. She said as her and other counselors reach out and recruit students, she also often uses Zoom or Cisco WebEx to communicate with local high schools, texts her students at their convenience and holds one-on-one virtual counseling appointments.

"Having students come in and still be really excited about starting college and registering for classes, I think was a statement to how well our entire office did this fall in recruiting students and keeping them engaged," Schultz said.

Senior Transfer Admissions Counselor Sydney Luyster said she would normally go to community colleges directly, but COVID-19 has changed how she can communicate with students. Due to this, she said she has turned to virtual recruitment, which has brought a lot of success, to her surprise. She said she finds that students prefer to text her or attend a one-on-one virtual session rather than traditional recruitment interactions.

ECU offered a free application week from Oct. 19 to Oct. 30 for transfer applicants who applied for the spring semester, Luyster said, which she believes attributed to the increase in applications. She said students seemed to take advantage of their free time and get ahead on their college applications.

Luyster said ECU will even offer modified in-person admitted student events for freshmen fall 2021, such as Pirates Aboard, where students will have the opportunity to visit campus and talk with departments from the university like the Office of Financial Aid and Campus Living.

"I think I hear this a lot of times, but we're just so responsive, and our customer service is just top notch. I feel like so many people in our office are just so good and on top of things, and I think our office does a great job at expressing (how great ECU is)," Luyster said.

Luyster said many students were motivated to get back to ECU and get a jump start on their degree. She said she was shocked by the number of students who applied for the spring semester, but believes admissions has done a wonderful job with the students and provided them with a lot of different recruitment options and information.

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

Students receive COVID-19 vaccine

Health Sciences individuals were included as healthcare workers under Phase 1A

Sarah Porter
TEC STAFF

As COVID-19 vaccines become available to healthcare workers in North Carolina, East Carolina University Health Sciences students have been given the option to get vaccinated, as they were included as healthcare workers in Phase 1A of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC's) vaccine plan.

ECU Health Sciences students include those in the Brody School of Medicine (BSOM), the College of Nursing (CON), the School of Dental Medicine and the College of Allied Health Sciences, according to Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Nursing Annette Peery.

Peery said students in the CON are not required to be vaccinated because the vaccine is still new and is not currently required by healthcare agencies.

Peery said many students in the CON received the vaccine from their employers, and some got the vaccine through ECU Physicians when it was available.

"We do know that ECU will be receiving some vaccines at some point because they have been approved as a recipient of the vaccine, and previously all the ones they had were from Vidant," Peery said. "When that



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

ECU College of Nursing students will continue to be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccinations.

happens, we are hopeful that we'll have more vaccines that we'll be able to give out to our students who are in clinicals and doing direct patient care."

If people continue to follow these rules and get the vaccine when it becomes available to them,

Peery said the hope is that COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths decrease.

"As a nurse, I feel like I should also be a role model and set the example for people," Peery said. "I think it speaks volumes when healthcare providers say 'I feel great going to get this vaccine, and I trust this process.'"

Director of ECU Student Health Services (SHS) LaNika Wright said the main role of SHS in the vaccine process has been to provide information and guide schools within the Health Sciences area to identify students who see patients face-to-face and need their vaccine.

Wright said people with SHS helped staff a vaccine clinic held in Brody Commons with vaccine doses from Vidant. She said the hope is that ECU can set up their own clinic to vaccinate students, faculty and staff once the university gets its own supply of vaccines. "There have been some delays and short-

ages of vaccines, just because the supply of the vaccines and everyone's schedules have to line up," Wright said. "When we had more vaccines coming in, not everyone's schedules made it possible for them to come in."

It is important for healthcare workers to get vaccinated, Wright said, because it models for the community what they think should happen.

"We really encourage people to think hard about getting the vaccine and the benefits of that and what that means for them personally and what that means for their community," Wright said.

Sophomore intended nursing major Kayla Roberts said in an email statement that she received her second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at the end of January. Roberts said as a CNA at Vidant she was eligible.

"I think it is important for healthcare workers to get the vaccine because they are putting themselves at risk as soon as they enter the hospital," Roberts said. "It not only benefits them but it benefits all the patients they work with because it slows the rate of infection."

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

SGA continued from A1

next student who serves as the SGA president to stay true to themselves and not to let anything get in the way of advocating for students' needs.

SGA Vice President Laura Hayes said her role through SGA taught her the power of communication and delegation of tasks. She said her position runs the internal affairs of student government and she spends a lot of her time in collaboration with the directors underneath her.

Hayes said the SGA vice president position deals with several different matters that come up at random, which can take unexpected time out of the day. She said her time with SGA has prepared her for her future career in the field of administration.

"There are a lot of student needs and those needs vary very much, so it's really important to take the time to listen and to find the best way to give back and serve the students," Hayes said.

Prior to her role as SGA Vice President, Hayes said her position on the ECU Conduct Board made her aware of the work needed to be done for students and the university. She said when Robbins first reached out to her to run alongside him in their campaign, she was thrilled.

Hayes said transparency of student dollars was a focus for herself and Robbins because she feels a lot of students don't know where their money goes. She said the SGA director of Academic



Laura Hayes

Affairs Joshua Spears has worked to create transparency in student textbook prices, which she hopes to see go into effect when the next administration steps in.

For the future of Pirate Nation, Hayes said she hopes to see more access to campus for students alongside more access to proctoring as the COVID-19 pandemic has hindered students ability to go to in-person centers. She said her hope is for East Carolina to continue to persevere through the years to come.

"Serving Pirate Nation has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life and I will be forever grateful for the abundance of knowledge and skills that I will carry into my professional career," Hayes said.

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

OUR VIEW

Mitchelson deserves recognition

East Carolina University's Board of Trustees (BOT) Athletics and Advancement Committee met on Feb. 11 to discuss the proposal to change the names of five campus buildings. The committee voted for the Ad Hoc Naming Committee to create a set of standards for decisions made in regard to the proposal to be voted on at the next BOT meeting on March 31.

The buildings designated to be renamed in the proposal include Jarvis Hall, Fleming Hall, Joyner (West) Library, Joyner East and Cotten Hall. Interim Chancellor Ron Mitchelson said the individuals who the buildings are named after represent "white supremacists."

Mitchelson created the Ad Hoc Naming Committee in October 2020 to research the individuals whose names were on the five campus buildings.

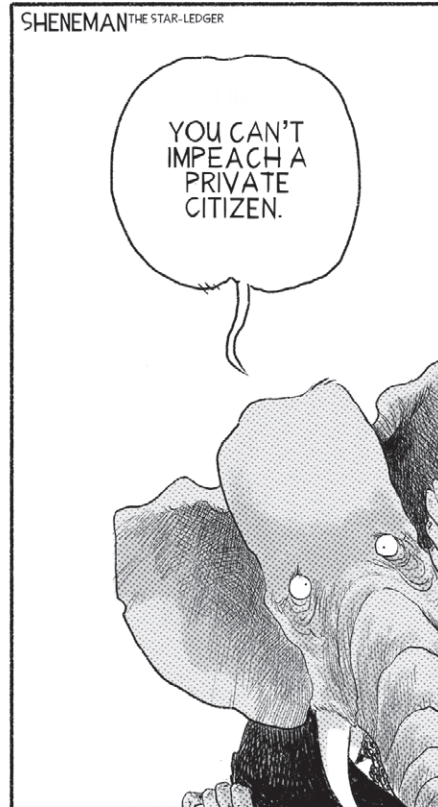
ECU BOT Chair Vern Davenport said he agreed with the Ad Hoc Naming Committee's decision to create a set of standards. He said the university must move forward with the decision as the university is committed to diversity, social justice and equality.

We, the editorial staff of The East Carolinian, believe Mitchelson's proposal to the ECU BOT for the building name change is needed, as ECU stands for diversity and inclusion. While we understand Mitchelson is not able to recommend a building to be named after himself, we believe the work he has contributed to the university qualifies one of the five buildings to be named after him.

As Mitchelson is expected to retire in June, we believe a building name change should be made to honor his contributions.

Mitchelson has worked at the university since 1999 as a professor, chair of the Department of Geography and provost from 2015 to October 2019.

DEFENSE MECHANISMS



Career Services is essential

Students should take advantage of the resources offered to them



Thomas Halasz
GUEST COLUMNIST

Career Services, more important than ever before!

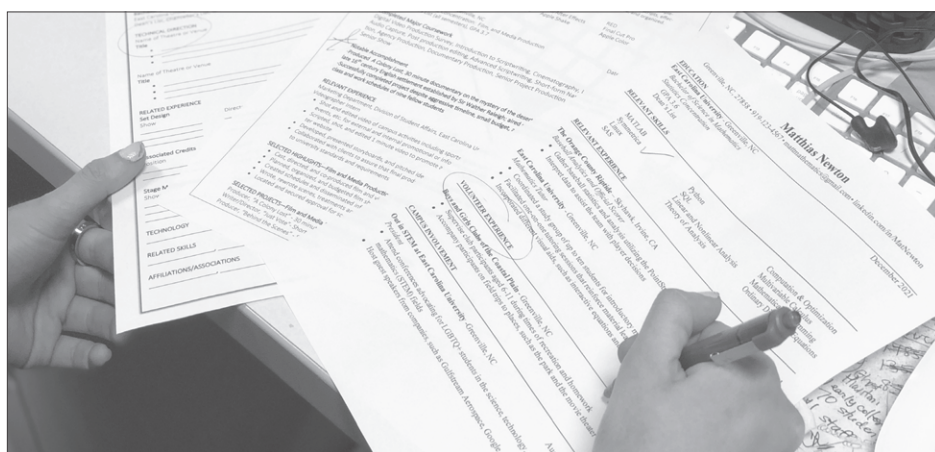
As Director of Career Services for East Carolina University, I'm often asked about when students should use ECU Career Services and how we help students.

The answer I typically give is, "now is the time." Whether a student is in their first year and trying to find a career direction, a sophomore or junior looking for internship opportunities or a senior preparing to graduate and searching for full-time employment; Career Services can help! According to a recent Gallup study, graduates who visited career services at least once during their time in college were almost 20% more likely to be employed full time after college compared to those who did not.

ECU Career Services has a wide range of services, programs and resources available. Through one-on-one career counseling, virtual services and a vast amount of online career resources; ECU students and alumni can directly increase the opportunities available to them before and after graduation.

Here are three reasons ECU students should be using Career Services:

One, experts in your career development and career counseling. ECU Career Services operates on a liaison model, which means that each career counselor works with students from specific colleges to customize services and programs to meet the diverse career needs of academic disciplines. These career experts are familiar with hiring employers, best practices and the skills graduates need to secure employment within different industries. Career Counselors assist students in exploring



ECU Career Services offers programs, resources and services, such as resume help, for students.

career interests and provide career assessments to help students choose a graduate program or create clear goals.

Two, exclusive resources are available only to ECU students. In addition to one-on-one career counseling help, ECU Career Services provides a wide array of online technologies to connect students to career opportunities. Many of these resources are subscription based, meaning only ECU students and alumni can access them. Handshake is a job database for ECU students and alumni that hosts all internships, part-time and fulltime job opportunities, listings of upcoming events including job fairs, on campus interviews and thousands of employer contacts. Handshake averages over 5,000 job and internship postings available at any time.

Three, 24/7 accessibility. Even though ECU Career Services operates during normal business hours of Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with virtual drop-ins available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., many of the services and resources available through our website can be utilized at any time. Career Services offers a virtual

resume review that can be accessed through Handshake and allows students to receive feedback virtually without scheduling an appointment or attending drop-ins.

Also included on our website are free preparation resources like Interview Stream, which helps students build customized practice interviews, record responses using a webcam or tablet, then review or share their interview for feedback. Finally, Career Services hosts several sample resumes listed by academic discipline to help display ideal format, experiences, and overall structure to resume writing through examples.

The most common feedback we receive from students is that they "wish they would have used Career Services sooner." I can't stress it enough, do not wait, take advantage of our resources and services today!

For more information on how ECU Career Services can help you achieve your career goals, visit <https://career.ecu.edu/>

Thomas Halasz is a director at ECU Career Services and a TEC columnist. To contact him, email opinion@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Attendance policies need adjustment



Jennifer Sieg
TEC COLUMNIST

In order to adhere to and recognize the various challenges the COVID-19 pandemic brings to an average college student's everyday life, professors need to remain flexible with their course structures and do away with strict attendance policies.

While the battle of online class instruction still lingers among college students throughout the course of the ongoing pandemic, new and difficult obstacles continue to appear as we face deadlines, exams, life issues and outside work efforts.

We all miss the normality and atmosphere that college used to bring to our everyday lives. We miss sitting in class next to strangers and walking aimlessly throughout campus free to talk to anyone without the anxiety that comes with this new norm of distanced socialization. However, we never asked for this pandemic to surface and change the way we all hoped college would be.

When it comes to online instruction, I know I'm not the only one to sometimes struggle. Without being on campus, some students have had to adapt to this new way of learning. Some have taken this unprecedented opportunity and taken up an extra job or extra hours, some have moved home

"Flexibility within course structure and attendance policies absolutely needs to be considered and worked into the academic curriculum during a public health crisis."

-Jennifer Sieg

to live with their families, and some have created a new way of learning that is more self-disciplined.

Online coursework and attendance policies need to remain flexible. Don't get me wrong, I was always one to attend class when we were able to in person. I learned best that way, listening in on the lecture and taking notes as it went along. But that's not the case anymore, and times have changed.

To require attendance in order to pass a course prior to COVID-19 causing most courses to take over in an online format is one thing, but to require synchronous attendance for online lectures in order to pass a class, is absolutely crazy to me. As I've said before, students have had to adapt to these challenging times and their average day no longer looks like it did when we were able to walk to class, sit down, take out a notebook and write lecture notes in front of an instructor.

Some professors have created a format

where they give students the option to attend lectures via online video conferencing rooms, and if students are unable to attend, that lecture is uploaded to Canvas and can be viewed throughout the duration of the course. This is how it should be. If some professors can show flexibility within course structure throughout this time, other professors should be able to do the same.

"If a student misses three or more class sessions, that student will automatically fail the course," is no longer acceptable in a time of continuous uncertainty and change. Flexibility within course structure and attendance policies absolutely needs to be considered and worked into the academic curriculum during a public health crisis.

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

EVENTS

TODAY

- Karaoke Night**
5th Street Distillery
120 E. 5th Street
10 to 11:30 p.m.
252-757-3034
- Open Mic Comedy Night**
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
7:30 to 10 p.m.
252-227-4151
- Open Mic Comedy Night**
The Blackened Kraken
123 E. 5th Street
7 to 11 p.m.
252-215-8822
- Open Mic with JT Ackerman**
Molly's Community Café
300 S Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449

TOMORROW

- Comic Book Club**
Smashed Waffles
718 Dickinson Ave.
7 to 9 p.m.
252-364-2872
- College Night at Stumpy's**
Stumpy's Hatchet House
816 Dickinson Ave.
5 to 8 p.m.
252-751-0300
- February Advintage Wine Tasting**
Dickinson Avenue Public House
703 Dickinson Ave.
5:30 p.m.
252-689-6388
- Pop Punk Karaoke**
Molly's Community Café
300 S. Evans St.
5:30 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449

FRIDAY

- Pitt Partners Donation Night: JOY Soup Kitchen**
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt St.
5 to 8 p.m.
252-227-4151
- Cierra Linton**
AJ Murphy's
1914 Turnbury Dr.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-355-7956
- Acoustic Showcase**
Molly's Community Café
300 S. Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449
- Brandy's Food Truck**
Local Oak Brewing Company
2564 Railroad St.
2 to 9 p.m.
252-364-8815

SATURDAY

- Black Vendor Market**
Pitt Street Brewing Company
630 S. Pitt Street
1 to 5 p.m.
252-227-4151
- Eclectic 252**
Molly's Community Café
300 S. Evans St.
6 to 9 p.m.
252-227-4449



KATE FRANCIS | THE EAST CAROLINIAN

Helen Lewis' mural "Bubbles," located on the Fourth Street parking deck, was in progress as of Jan. 27. It was completed on Feb. 6 with the help of Kinsley Rhodes.

Mural on Fourth Street completed

Local artist Helen Lewis finishes three-month 'Bubbles' project

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

East Carolina University senior art education major Helen Lewis has finished the mural "Bubbles" on the Fourth Street parking deck on Feb. 6 with the help of the Pitt County Arts Council (PCAC) at Emerge.



Lewis said the mural, which features bubbles moving across the three panels facing Cotanche Street, started as a project in her digital painting class taught by Beth Blake, an East Carolina University associate professor of painting, drawing and first year classes of the School of Art and Design, last spring, Lewis said.

"I initially just started thinking about what would look good in a public space," Lewis said. "Something that's bright and colorful that people of all ages, ethnicities,

backgrounds, whatever could relate to and enjoy, and enjoy driving by and viewing. For whatever reason, I immediately thought of bubbles."

For the project, the class came up with designs for a mural, which were sent to the PCAC, Lewis said, the class would have then worked on the mural together last spring if not for COVID-19. In summer 2020, PCAC Executive Director Holly Garriot told Lewis her mural was chosen to continue as a solo project. Lewis said the Greenville City Council approved the mural in November 2020, and she began painting in December 2020.



Helen Lewis

Lewis said her internship at a local elementary school and cold weather has made progress slow.

"I would love to do murals

because I believe that they, and art in general, have the potential to really brighten up and positively change a wide variety of spaces," Lewis said.

Senior art education major Kinsley Rhodes said she met Lewis at The Painted Peacock, a paint your own pottery and creative studio in Greenville, North Carolina, and through the ECU art education department. Rhodes said she offered to help Lewis paint the mural after she heard Lewis would work on the project.

Rhodes said she spent a couple days on the mural with Lewis where she offered to carry supplies, help paint and give her opinion when needed. Rhodes said she is grateful to have helped work on the project.

"While working on the mural, I was so surprised about how much local support we had. Almost every car slowed down to admire the work or to give us a few words of

encouragement and show their appreciation," Rhodes said.

Paula Rountree, programs director of Emerge Gallery & Art Center said in an email statement it has been a pleasure working on the project. Rountree said her role is to oversee the project, and to facilitate any needs Lewis may have.

"Working with student artists and professional artists is one of the same in my mind. Both individuals (are) very busy and excited to create an amazing piece of art for our community. A lot of time and commitments go into creating a mural and as artists they want to put their best out in the community," Paula Rountree said.

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

Blacksmith classes to continue



CONTRIBUTED BY THOMAS MILLER

Thomas Miller teaches blacksmith classes at Makerspace.

Kyle Arnoe
TEC STAFF

Junior criminal justice major Thomas Miller will light up his forge "Hammer & Quill" to teach a new batch of apprentices on Feb. 20 at the Makerspace of Greenville, where pupils of the class will create knives from railroad spikes and absorb knowledge about metalwork.

Thomas Miller said he has been a blacksmith for three years and his forge resides at the Makerspace of Greenville, located at 102 Staton Court, suite E. Mentored under The History Channel's "Forged in Fire" champion Stephen Bryan, Miller said he began learning the art for his senior project in high school.

Miller taught the Makerspace's first two blacksmithing classes, both held on Feb. 6, and will teach the upcoming class on Feb. 20, and more classes are scheduled for March.

"I love this craft so much just because it's so versatile, and you can make just about anything you need, and so I'm going to switch it up, and we're going to switch it around a couple times," Miller said.

Darby George said he and his wife Tara George co-founded the Makerspace. Darby George said the Makerspace provides tools and workspace, at the cost of membership, for people who may not be able to afford the space or tools for their creative needs.

As the business grows, Darby George said he will continue to invest in more tools and supplies. Currently, he said the Makerspace

has a full woodshop, metalworking tools, sewing machines, vinyl cutters, 3D printers and a laser cutter and engraver.

"One of the first areas we really wanted to grow in was blacksmithing classes, and actually just about a month ago we were approached by a blacksmith who was looking for a place to keep his equipment and actually be able to teach classes from, so we did our first classes last Saturday (Feb. 6), and they sold out really fast, it was really cool," Darby George said.

Bill Kitzerow, a lifelong woodworker and patron of the Makerspace, said long-time members of the Makerspace are always ready to help and contribute to one another's projects, and the Makerspace adheres to necessary social distancing guidelines.

While he was not present for the Feb. 6 Blacksmithing class, Kitzerow said Miller does some "really amazing work" and that Miller is a part of a group of talented people at Makerspace. Kitzerow said he participated as a teacher in one of Makerspace's earlier woodworking classes.

"I always say If you're not having fun, you're doing it wrong. And if you're not having fun, just don't do it. It's a very social environment that we've created. And of course, being in the times we're in we do practice social distancing," Kitzerow said.

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

ART continued from A1

Warren said she was surprised she was chosen to be featured this month out of all of the talented artists who work with Emerge.

"Especially because I started taking classes there and now just a few years from being a student there to being artist of the month was exciting," Warren said.

Warren was an art major when she first enrolled in college, but she did not have the confidence at the time to fully pursue an art degree, she said. Warren said she decided to

pursue a career in nutrition and has no regrets from her decision.

The first art business venture Warren said she decided upon was Doe Run Studios, her jewelry company. The name of her business came from the road on which she and her husband built their cabin in Boone, North Carolina, she said.

"Originally, the only place I had time to make my jewelry was on Doe Run Road, and one of the first places I sold it was in a couple of the art shops in the mountains,"

Warren said.

Whenever she hears about a new technique or material she likes to experiment with it and she enjoys learning new art techniques, Warren said.

The artist community is very supportive, according to Warren. She said she is a part of artist communities online where artists help each other with materials and information on different techniques.

"One thing about artists, they are extremely generous. If you ask somebody 'how did you do that?'"

If you are interested in what they are doing they are going to want to talk about it and tell you about it," Warren said.

Now, she is focused more on her artwork which is branded as "Karen S. Warren Art," Warren said. She said in March, her jewelry and artwork will be available for purchase at The Wander Co., located at 132 North Market St. in Washington, North Carolina.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

Classifieds & Puzzles

CLASSIFIEDS

Did someone say FREE?

Looking for a roommate or a sublease?
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ECU students can submit a classified for **FREE!**
Contact smaa@ecu.edu for more information.



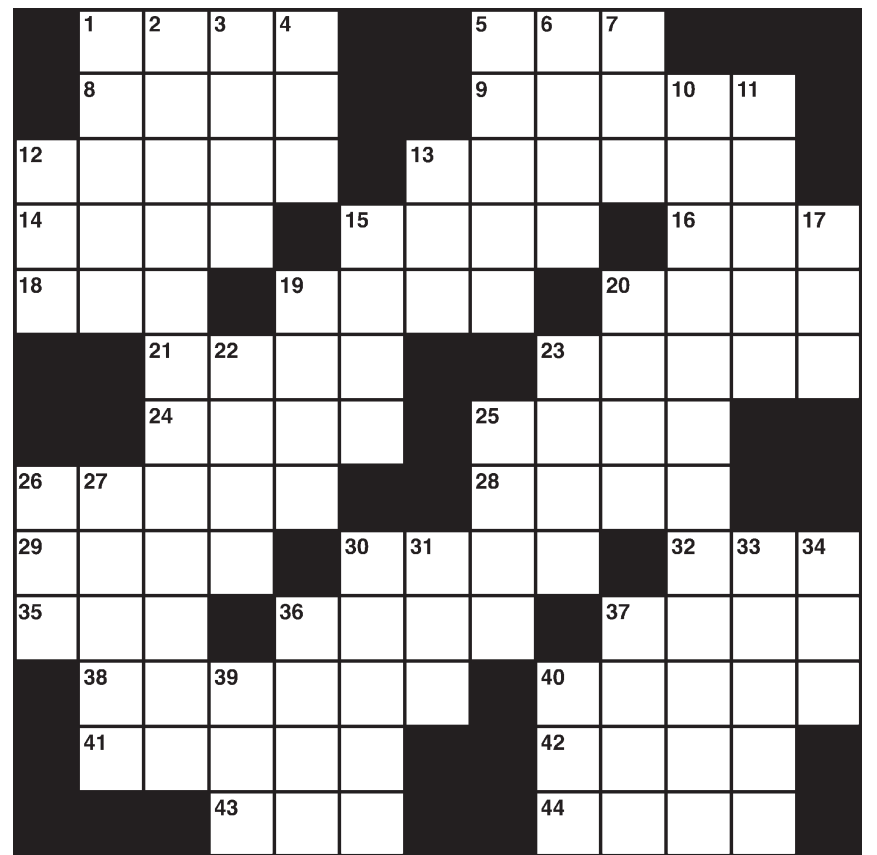
HOROSCOPES

- ♈ Aries** (March 21-April 19) — Today is a 7 — Monitor budgets and cash flow with changes. The best laid plans can go awry. Follow rules carefully. Ignore distractions or gossip. Stay flexible. Maintain backups.
- ♊ Gemini** (May 21-June 20) — Today is a 6 — Take a refreshing pause to check your course. Unexpected events require a different response. Adjust and adapt plans. Wait for developments as you prepare.
- ♋ Cancer** (June 21-July 22) — Today is an 8 — Pull together. Support friends around a challenge. Stay sensitive to shifting social conditions. Sometimes inaction is the best move. Connect and coordinate your team response.
- ♌ Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22) — Today is an 8 — Prepare for a professional test. Research options, benefits and costs. Strengthen infrastructures and connections. Call in expert support when needed. Determination and persistence win.
- ♍ Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Today is an 8 — Pursue educational goals and prizes. Study current events. Discuss the changes you're witnessing in real time. Monitor conditions closely. Patience pays. Take it easy.
- ♏ Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Today is an 8 — Adapt with your partner. Support each other around an unplanned situation. Stifle rebellious tendencies and help out. Consider consequences to avoid later regrets.
- ♎ Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Today is a 6 — Listen and observe conditions. Slow to avoid accidents and pitfalls. Don't push if it doesn't feel right. Guard your health, safety and energy. Relax.
- ♏ Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Today is a 7 — Keep standing for love. In pursuit of beauty, art and creative inspiration, you may notice everywhere it's missing. You don't have the full picture. Patiently persist.
- ♒ Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Today is an 8 — Stick close to home. Slow to consider a domestic challenge. Listen to family for multiple perspectives. Adapt for changing circumstances. Discover unexpected treasure.
- ♐ Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today is an 8 — Breaking news requires adaptation. The impact surprises. Express your response in clear terms. There's a disruption to the status quo. Find hidden opportunities.

CROSSWORD

THE TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

- ACROSS**
- 1 Mayberry resident
 - 5 "What ___ to Wear"
 - 8 Give, but expect back
 - 9 "Return to ___"
 - 12 Hayworth and Moreno
 - 13 "___ People"
 - 14 Get ___; take revenge
 - 15 ___ Moore
 - 16 Actress Larter
 - 18 ___ person; apiece
 - 19 "Star Wars: Episode VI - Return of the ___"
 - 20 Actress Barbara
 - 21 Woodwind instrument
 - 23 Close, for one
 - 24 Votes from antis
 - 25 Lawn trees
 - 26 Messy folks
 - 27 Purple poodle on "Clifford the Big Red Dog"
 - 29 "Spenser: For ___"
 - 30 "Due ___"; Robert Downey Jr. film
 - 32 Setting for "The Golden Girls": abbr.

- 35 Eddie's "Green Acres" costar
- 36 "My Two ___"; Paul Reiser sitcom
- 37 Lincoln & Vigoda
- 38 Merman & Waters
- 40 Makes eyes at
- 41 Actress Spacek
- 42 "Family ___"
- 43 "...___ the season to be jolly..."
- 44 Citrus drinks

- DOWN**
- 1 Popeye's love
 - 2 Actor on "S.W.A.T."
 - 3 ___ instant; very quickly
 - 4 Begley & Bradley
 - 5 One of the Judds
 - 6 Actor ___ Katz
 - 7 ___ for tat
 - 10 Jennifer Lopez drama series
 - 11 Hayes or Hunt
 - 12 Pelosi's title: abbr.
 - 13 Nourished
 - 15 Ruby and Sandra
 - 17 Home for the Loudons on "Newhart"
 - 19 Behar & her namesakes
 - 20 Actress Sommer
 - 22 Movie about a pig
 - 23 Storm or Gordon
 - 25 Fall months: abbr.
 - 26 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
 - 27 "Days of Our ___"
 - 30 Tyne and Tim
 - 31 Commercials
 - 33 City in England
 - 34 Burro
 - 36 Ricky Ricardo's portrayer
 - 37 Elderly
 - 39 ...FDR, ___, DDE, JFK, LBJ...
 - 40 "Men ___ Certain Age"

Solution from 02/10

CBS	ALIEN	AMY
OLA	TELLA	LOO
LOU	PALIN	LDL
TONTO	CREEK	
DAMON	WAYANS	
	CHOIR	EST
	MSU	
ELF	DEBRA	
DIANE	SAWYER	
ADANO	AEIOU	
RIB	LEARN	ELS
MEL	TAMED	ILE
SSE	ERICA	OER

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

THE SAMURAI OF PUZZLES By The Mephams Group

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, please visit sudoku.org.uk

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

Solution from 02/10

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

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COMICS

BREWSTER ROCKIT

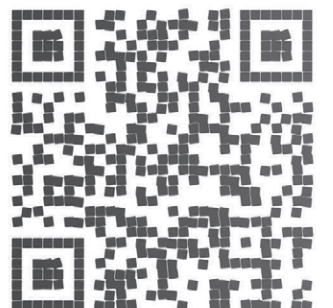


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TEC 'sperts

The East Carolinian Sports experts predict this week's athletic contests

Pat Polomchak

Sports Editor

@pattywhaKK



Women's soccer vs. VCU on Feb. 20
Who wins? ECU defeats VCU 2-1
Why? After the

team's overtime thriller against Houston, which ended in a 1-0 Pirate victory, ECU will ride the momentum from the close win and take down VCU in another close game. While this one won't hit overtime, the Pirates improve to 2-1 with the victory.

Brendan Cavazos

Sports Chief

@bcvaz_xi



Volleyball vs. USF on Feb. 18 and Feb. 19
Who wins? ECU defeats USF 3-1 on Feb. 19

Why? Following back-to-back losses to Cincinnati, this is an opportunity for the Pirates to make up for it with back-to-back matches against USF. The Pirates should be able to win both days, 3-2 on Feb. 18 and 3-1 on Feb. 19.

Cade Carlson

Women's basketball reporter



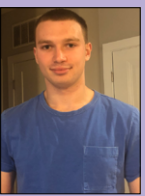
Women's Basketball vs. Wichita State on Feb. 20
Who wins? ECU wins 67-60

Why? ECU just suffered a one point loss against Temple. Wichita State has lost three straight and they are ranked No. 10 in the American Athletic Conference.

Jess Sabin

Men's basketball reporter

@Jess_Sabin



Baseball vs. Rhode Island Series on Feb. 19 through Feb. 21
Who wins? ECU wins series 2-1

Why? The amount of youth and inexperience on the Pirates' roster will cost them a game. However, the Pirates have the clearly more talented roster despite its youth.

Stephen Babich

Track and Field reporter

@stephenbabich1



Softball ECU vs. Coastal Carolina on Feb. 19 and Feb. 21
Who wins? ECU sweeps Coastal Carolina

Why? In 2020, the Pirates and Chanticleers had similar records (14-9, 18-3 respectively). However, the Pirates have played two games already and the Chanticleers have played none this season. This gives the Pirates a mental advantage because they've already gotten experience playing with each other this season.

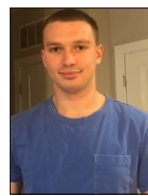


Junior left-handed pitcher Jake Kuchmaner winds up for a pitch during one of the ECU baseball team's games from the shortened 2020 season. COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

» ANALYSIS

High expectations linger

Pirate baseball team heads into 2021 with a young roster



Jess Sabin
TEC STAFF

With the East Carolina University baseball team's 2021 season about to begin, the team has not played a real game since March 11, 2020, when the 2020 season was cut short as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Pirates' first game of the season is scheduled to be played on Feb. 19 against Rhode Island. The game will be the first of a three-game series played at Lewis Field at Clark LeClair Stadium. First pitch is scheduled for 4 p.m.

Expectations are one of the most prevalent things in sports. On every level of athletics from little league baseball to the MLB, players have expectations put on them be it fair or not. This applies to the East Carolina University baseball team, as it enters the season with very high expectations from fans and analysts.

The 2021 team is significantly younger than its 2020 counterpart. The 2020 team was made up of 11 freshmen, seven sophomores, 14 juniors and four seniors. This made it a balanced group with a fair amount of veteran leadership. The 2021 team, however, is overwhelmingly made up of underclassmen, with 22

freshmen, six sophomores, nine juniors and three seniors.

Over the past few years the Pirates have seen many players leave for the MLB. In the 2019 and 2020 drafts, eight Pirates were selected by professional teams, including Jake Agnos, Spencer Brickhouse and Bryant Packard in 2019 and Alec Bureson in 2020.

Despite being a young team and having lost several key pieces the past few years, the Pirates are still favorites to win the American Athletic Conference (AAC) title this season, according to NCAA preseason projections. The Pirates are the only AAC team to come into the 2021 season with a national ranking. According to the NCAA standings, ECU is ranked No. 25 in the country.

While the Pirates are expected to win the AAC title, teams such as the University of Tulane, the University of Central Florida, the University of Houston and Wichita State University are all expected to make strong pushes as well.

ECU does not have a currently ranked opponent scheduled for this season and will play most of their non-conference games at home. ECU will host Old Dominion University, the University of

North Carolina (UNC) at Charlotte, Illinois State University, St. John's University, the University of Rhode Island, Duke University, Appalachian State University and UNC Chapel Hill at home this season.

For non-conference away games, the Pirates are scheduled to play Georgia Southern University, Duke, UNC Wilmington and UNC Chapel Hill.

In large part due COVID-19 travel restrictions, the Pirates will not have to travel a lot this season for non-conference games. UNC Charlotte, Duke, UNC, UNCW and Appalachian State are all in North Carolina, while Old Dominion is in Virginia.

One of the Pirates' strengths this season is the starting pitcher rotation. ECU's projected starters in its pitching rotation are junior right-handed pitcher Gavin Williams, senior right-handed pitcher Tyler Smith and junior left-handed pitcher Jake Kuchmaner.

Additionally, the Pirates will return some of their best batters from their 2020 campaign, including sophomore infielder Connor Norby and outfielder Lane Hoover.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

» ANALYSIS

ECU holds worst AAC record in 2021



Brendan Cavazos
TEC STAFF

After an impressive start to the 2020-2021 season by the East Carolina University men's basketball team (8-8, 2-8 American Athletic Conference), inter-conference opponents and COVID-19 have brought the Pirates back down to Earth.

ECU currently sits at the bottom of the AAC rankings with the worst inter-conference record in the conference at 2-8. Temple University (4-8, 3-4 AAC) sits directly above ECU in the AAC standings with the second worst record.

The Pirates shot off to a 5-0 start to the new season amidst several cancelled games in November 2020. This start featured several impressive wins, with a 91-62 victory over North Carolina Wesleyan College (9-4, 6-1 USA South Atlantic) on Dec. 1, 2020.

The first loss of the season came against the Pirates' first conference opponent, Southern Methodist University (11-4, 7-4 AAC), on Dec. 16, 2020. ECU lost that game 70-55 with Gardner leading the Pirates' scoring with just 13 points.

To end the year of 2020, the Pirates faced a postponement due to COVID-19 exposure concerns among the Wichita State University team (12-4, 8-2 AAC) on Dec. 30, 2020. However, the Pirates ended the year with an impressive 7-1 record.

Unfortunately for the Pirates, the 2021 year has not been kind to them. The team has gone in the complete opposite direction since the start of January. ECU lost five games in a row during conference play, with several double-digit losses included among the matches.

The impact of junior forward Jayden Gardner has slightly diminished compared to last year during a crucial junior season. Last season, Gardner averaged 19.7 points



Sophomore guard Tristen Newton looks to pass. COURTESY OF ROB GOLDBERG | ECUPIRATES

per game along with 9.7 rebounds. In comparison, he currently averages 18.1 points per game with 8.6 rebounds.

Currently, the Pirates' basketball activities have been paused due to COVID-19 concerns as of Feb. 10. As a result, ECU's two games against Temple and a rematch against the University of Houston (17-2, 11-2 AAC) have been postponed, along with a Wichita State game on Feb. 21.

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

ONLINE | FULL STORY

SERIES continued from A1

nati. It creates a different defensive matchup for us."

For ECU, senior right side Bri Wood led in kills with 17 and was second in the team for digs with 18. For USF, sophomore setter Lauren LaBeck led the team in assists with 45. USF sophomore outside hitter Lindsey Pliapol led her team in kills with 19, according to gousfbulls.com.

Cincinnati swept the series against the Pirates on Feb. 11 and 12 at Fifth Third Arena in Cincinnati, Ohio. According to ECUPirates.com, in the first game of the series on Feb. 11, the Pirates fell to the

Bearcats, 3-1. Cincinnati had the advantage over ECU in kills (66), aces (10), assists (63), and digs (81). ECU had 11 blocks to Cincinnati's six.

According to ECUPirates.com, ECU's senior setter Alisi Motu'apuaka led the team in assists with 32. Senior outside hitter Sydney Kleinman led ECU in aces with two out of the team's four. For Cincinnati, junior outside hitter Maria Mallon led the team in kills with 21 and also led the team in digs with 21. Senior setter Ashley Kozier led Cincinnati in assists with 57, according to gobearcats.com.

Cincinnati completed the series sweep on Feb. 12 by shutting out ECU 3-0. The Bearcats had the upper hand in kills with

45 and aces with five. However, the Pirates had 62 digs while the Bearcats had 58. Both teams had five blocks and 39 assists, according to ECUPirates.com.

According to ECUPirates.com, Wood led ECU in digs with 13. Also for ECU, Allen led the team in kills with 18. For the Bearcats, freshman outside hitter Sarah Norcom led Cincinnati in aces with two according to gobearcats.com. Cincinnati's Kozier led the team in assists with 57.



Bri Wood

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