

America's next great national university: The chancellor's vision for ECU

ECU WOMEN CLOSE THE SCIENCE GENDER GAP

Campus and research news, faculty and alumni interviews and more

# EAST

THE ECU MAGAZINE



FALL 2017



A World of .  
Opportunity

STUDENTS TAKE THEIR STUDIES  
ACROSS THE GLOBE





Delta Zeta sorority sisters, from left, Taylor Williams, Lilly Aus sieker and Bailey Sceifers welcome new students outside Minges Coliseum at an Aug. 20 orientation event.



*On the Cover:* ECU student Shannon Esterwood bites into a macaroon near the Eiffel Tower in Paris. She visited the city during a study-abroad at Linnaeus University in Sweden in fall 2016. Read more about ECU students' study-abroad experiences beginning on page 26.



29,000 students inspire Chancellor Staton to ensure ECU takes its place among the nation's top universities.

## 18 Expecting Excellence

Chancellor Cecil Staton sees ECU taking its place among the nation's best, and he has a plan for getting us there.

# Say Hello!

To a new *EAST* magazine

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East Carolina University is a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. It is a public doctoral/research-intensive university offering baccalaureate, master's, specialist and doctoral degrees in the liberal arts, sciences and professional fields, including medicine. Dedicated to the achievement of excellence, responsible stewardship of the public trust and academic freedom, ECU values the contributions of a diverse community, supports shared governance and guarantees equality of opportunity. ©2017 by East Carolina University





### ECU is a very special place.

That was evident to me from my first introduction to this campus. But the magic that makes it truly extraordinary reveals itself more with each new day as I meet more of the university's faculty, staff, students and alumni and as I learn new stories about their many successes, their research and the service projects always underway.

Today, after a bit more than a year as chancellor, it's more clear than ever how special this university is. Our graduates leave here fully prepared to capture new horizons. Our faculty come here energized by the impact they can make on the lives of their students and the research that will make this a better world. Our alumni come back often, with a love for this place that never wanes. And members of our university staff never tire in their commitment to fulfilling this institution's promise to change lives for the better.

All of that positive energy and so many examples of success would make anyone who knows ECU believe it's already recognized as a national leader in higher education. But the fact is our university is not as well-known as it deserves to be. That's about to change. This redesigned issue of *East* is just one example of the changes ahead. In the weeks and months ahead, you'll be seeing new television, newspaper and social media advertising that will make people take another look. You'll see more in the news. And in time you'll see our state and nation recognizing ECU as the great university we already know it to be.

ECU is America's next great national university. Pirate pride is justified! Thank you for your love for ECU. Catherine and I are proud to be part of Pirate Nation.

Cecil P. Staton, D. Phil.  
Chancellor

## Letter from the Chancellor

### Welcome to the new ECU

At ECU, our horizon is boundless. It is time to take a confident step forward.

A bold vision. Big goals. Great opportunities.

Getting there means telling the ECU story in an equally bold way. Promoting a message that makes clear the path to success. And establishing an identity that is memorable, engaging and fits the path to becoming America's next great national university.

**East Carolina is taking the next step forward to become known as ECU.**

And we're challenging our students, faculty, staff, alumni, donors and all stakeholders to capture your horizon.

Chancellor Cecil P. Staton recommended an update of ECU branding elements in order to better represent a top national university. He wanted to include the campus community in the process. They agreed that while our brand has served us well over the years, it is time to create a new look and feel—a new brand—that represents our national leadership, our commitment to excellence and our promise to address the special needs of our state and its citizens.



Look for an upcoming commercial introducing the new ECU with student Haley Creef.

Research was conducted to determine the degree to which our stakeholders felt new branding was appropriate, and the survey response was overwhelmingly positive from faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, trustees and others.

In addition, the survey was posted on social media in order to give ample opportunity for a wider audience to participate. Informal, on-campus focus groups were held as well. Participants were asked the same questions as on the survey, and they were given an opportunity to comment on font treatments and graphic elements.

A graphic appearance that shares attributes with leading national universities while remaining authentic to ECU will help ECU look like it belongs among the very best in America.

**We're ready for our close-up.**

### A new identity



Of the more than **8,500** survey responses and 90 focus group participants, 85 percent supported elevating the ECU brand. Four-fifths expressed significant support for updating our moniker to ECU.



### What's new

In addition to a new logo, the university is producing commercials, an admissions video (above), print ads (below) and more to showcase research, recent initiatives and achievements.





## In This Issue

Grant supports STEM teacher training, new simulators  
boost health care education, laser research and more.



“BE BETTER,  
DO MORE,  
DREAM BIG.  
AND DO  
WHATEVER  
IT TAKES  
TO MAKE  
A DIFFERENCE  
IN THE LIVES  
OF OTHERS.”

### Educator Ron Clark '94 shares message of leadership, success

Acclaimed teacher and East Carolina University alumnus Ron Clark brought seven of his middle school students to Greenville in April to show them what success looks like. Clark was the keynote speaker at ECU's third annual Corporate and Leadership Awards ceremony, where more than 400 people gathered to celebrate young alumni, corporate partners, scholarship donors, advocates and leaders. Clark's appearance and the event were sponsored and hosted by the Division of Student Affairs.

As founder of the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Clark said he and other teachers take their students across the nation. He has brought students to the annual ECU homecoming football game for 10 of the past 12 years.

As a first-generation college student from Beaufort County, Clark said ECU gave him the foundation for his career. "It taught me how to be a leader. There are so many leadership opportunities at ECU," Clark said. "It also taught me to be humble and not be pretentious. I learned that it's important to be a good friend and to find a way to make a difference in the community."

A watershed moment came when one of Clark's education professors, the late William Scott Thomson, stopped class, stared at him and said, "Ron Clark, you will be the National Teacher of the Year one day," Clark said. "He believed in me." Thomson was right. In 2000, Clark was named Disney's American Teacher of the Year.

Clark sang part of the U.S. president rap he created early in his career to get his mostly African-American students interested in history when their textbooks were focused on white people. "You'd be disconnected from it, too," Clark said. He began teaching his students about Africa and its countries including Mali, Sierra Leone and Sudan to include missing information from the history books to highlight positive things about a powerful civilization. "I realized I had to educate my students differently," he said. "When I did, their eyes opened up. I gave them something to hold on."



As a leader, Clark said he models the attitude and actions he wants his staff and students to follow. "Don't be so above yourself to set the tone," he said. "Sometimes being a leader means you do what is necessary." Clark said his school is spotless, although close to 700 guests tour the academy on educator visitation days. That's because Clark picks up every piece of trash he sees. And because Clark does, others do, too. "That's what it means to be a leader," Clark said. "Humble yourself, bow your head, do what nobody else wants to do, and when you look up, you'll see you're not alone."

He implored the audience to take the opportunities they're given to make positive change. "We are ECU. We have been given a spirit, a goodness, a compassion for others, a knowledge to affect the community. Why aren't we doing more?" Clark said. "Take that spirit with you. Be better, do more, dream big. And do whatever it takes to make a difference in the lives of others."

Since the academy opened 10 years ago, more than 40,000 teachers and administrators from the United States and more than 22 countries have visited the school to learn better ways to engage students, promote academic rigor and create a climate and culture that promotes success.

– Crystal Baity



ECU has received a \$1.2 million grant to help produce additional math and science teachers. Here, students at Williamston Middle School study flatworms.

### Grant supports scholarships for math, science teachers

▶ A five-year, \$1.2 million grant will help the ECU College of Education provide scholarships for additional math and science teachers in eastern North Carolina as well as gain insight into their early teaching experience.

The National Science Foundation Noyce Grant, named for famous physicist Robert Noyce, will provide 30 scholarships for ECU students to earn science or mathematics licensure and a master's degree. Noyce advocated for improving public education in math and science before it was known as STEM (science, technology, engineering and math).

This is the second Noyce Grant awarded to ECU. The first – funded from 2009 through 2015 – produced 40 new mathematics and science teachers (15 math, 25 science). Seventy percent of ECU Noyce Grant scholars have stayed in eastern North Carolina to teach.

– Crystal Baity



## Scholars from around the world meet at ECU



Attendees came to ECU from countries such as Russia, Algeria, France and Lebanon to explore global education and regional economic development.

Gang Yu, a visiting scholar from the Hubei Polytechnic University in the People's Republic of China, listens during the Global Partners in Education Conference at ECU.

Higher education professionals from 20 institutions around the world met at ECU this spring for the 10th annual Global Partners in Education Conference. The conference brought together representatives from colleges and universities participating in ECU's award-winning Global Academic Initiatives, which allow students in different countries to virtually meet and learn from each other. The programs introduce students to the idea of studying abroad and provide ways for them to have a global experience without leaving campus.

Jami Leibowitz, ECU's interim director of GAI, said the Global Partners in Education programs help students better understand themselves and their place in the world, including how to understand, be respectful of and effectively communicate with individuals from diverse backgrounds.

Attendees came to ECU from countries such as Russia, Algeria, France and Lebanon to explore global education and regional economic development.

Collectively, approximately 17,000 students worldwide have participated in Global Partners in Education programming since it began 10 years ago. It started with three countries outside the U.S. and now includes 62 institutions in 33 countries. Twenty of those institutions were represented at the conference.

Femi Olufunmilade from Igbinedion University in Nigeria brought five of his students to the conference to expose them to different cultures.

"We are in an age of globalization. You can't be an island. We have to reach out to reach our fullest potential," Olufunmilade said.

One outcome of the virtual learning experiences is an interest among student and faculty participants to pursue study-abroad opportunities at institutions they have come to know virtually. Olufunmilade said one of his students has shown an interest in coming to ECU for a graduate program, and another is pursuing study-abroad opportunities in France to broaden his experience for a career as a diplomat, both because of experiences through GPE.

During the opening ceremony, ECU Chancellor Cecil P. Staton said studying abroad had a profound impact on his future. "It changed my world and my perspective. It eventually led me to dream about going to Oxford University; otherwise, I would have never thought about the possibility," said Staton.

Globalization has been one of Staton's areas of focus since becoming ECU's chancellor in July 2016. Twelve to 13 percent of graduating students at ECU have a study-abroad experience. He told conference attendees he hopes to increase those opportunities but realizes not all students will have the resources to travel abroad. "We've got to bring the world to ECU. We've got to make sure we are a gateway to the world for all of our students whatever their background—and you are a part of that and we are so glad," said Staton.

— Jamie Smith



## Health care training hits the road

ECU's Clinical Simulation Center took another step forward this spring when it unveiled its new mobile health care simulation unit, a vehicle designed to take training and continuing education opportunities on the road to reach medical professionals throughout eastern North Carolina.

The unit, built by Rosenbauer America, the fire truck and emergency vehicle manufacturer, is one of only nine in the country and the only one in the Southeast. It contains a realistic, simulated, fully equipped hospital resuscitation bay, an additional ambulance compartment, a control area and video debriefing capability. The interior can be converted into a classroom setting to accommodate a variety of educational activities.

The high-fidelity mannequins can simulate numerous situations that would be encountered in a clinical setting, said Dave Schiller, operations and simulations manager. From a 5-year-old with a leg injury to a female giving birth, they expose trainees to the entire spectrum of medical situations.

"Simulation is a bridge between the classroom and real-life experiences," said Dr. Walter "Skip" Robey III, assistant dean for simulation and safety education and director of the Interprofessional Clinical Simulation Center at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU.



"It allows medical professionals to learn, train and rehearse together in an environment that does not compromise patient safety."

The Interprofessional Clinical Simulation Program is a collaboration between the medical school and Vidant's Center for Learning and Performance. Last year, the center logged 7,500 learner encounters, including students and professionals from Brody, the College of Allied Health Sciences, the School of Dental Medicine and Vidant. The 7,500-square-foot center encompasses 14 simulation rooms and now offers the mobile unit.

Programming is supported by a grant from the Childress Institute for Pediatric Trauma to provide pediatric trauma training to regional hospitals in eastern North Carolina.

— Jules Norwood



The mobile unit, above, features a fully equipped resuscitation bay and high-fidelity mannequins.

## Students build MV-22 task trainer

From left, medical student Daniel Jourdan, Andrea Strickland of the Office of Innovation and Economic Development and EC Scholar Tulsi Patel work on a high-fidelity mannequin inside an MV-22 Osprey Task Trainer. The unit was designed and built by ECU students to allow U.S. Navy corpsmen and critical care nurses to practice operations under conditions like those found aboard a real aircraft. The trainer is at the Innovation Design Lab on Jarvis Street.





### Staton initiated into Phi Kappa Phi honor society

Chancellor Cecil P. Staton was initiated into the ECU Chapter of Phi Kappa Phi, the national honor society, during a ceremony April 9.

Membership in Phi Kappa Phi is extended by invitation only to undergraduate and graduate students who are at the top of their respective classes. Faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the university are nominated for induction.

"One my favorite activities as chancellor is interacting with our students, learning about their own academic journeys and hearing how the university is making a positive difference in their lives," Staton said. "I am honored to help recognize the academic achievements of these impressive scholars on our campus and to be inducted into Phi Kappa Phi at ECU along with them."

The ECU chapter of Phi Kappa Phi was formally installed April 17, 1970. It provides student

achievement awards, sponsors awards as part of ECU's Undergraduate Research Symposium and sponsors public lectures, forums and debates.

Phi Kappa Phi was founded in 1897 at the University of Maine and is the nation's oldest, largest and most selective honor society for all academic disciplines.

– Lacey Gray



Chancellor Cecil P. Staton

### Professor uses laser for record-breaking particle pull

ECU physics professor Yong-Qing Li and students in his lab have successfully pulled—not pushed—a particle for 10 meters, a distance 10 times greater than earlier experiments.

"The normal way of thinking is the laser will push the particle away due to the laser's oscillation or the pressure," Li said. "But what we're doing here is ... the particle will be pulled toward the laser beam."

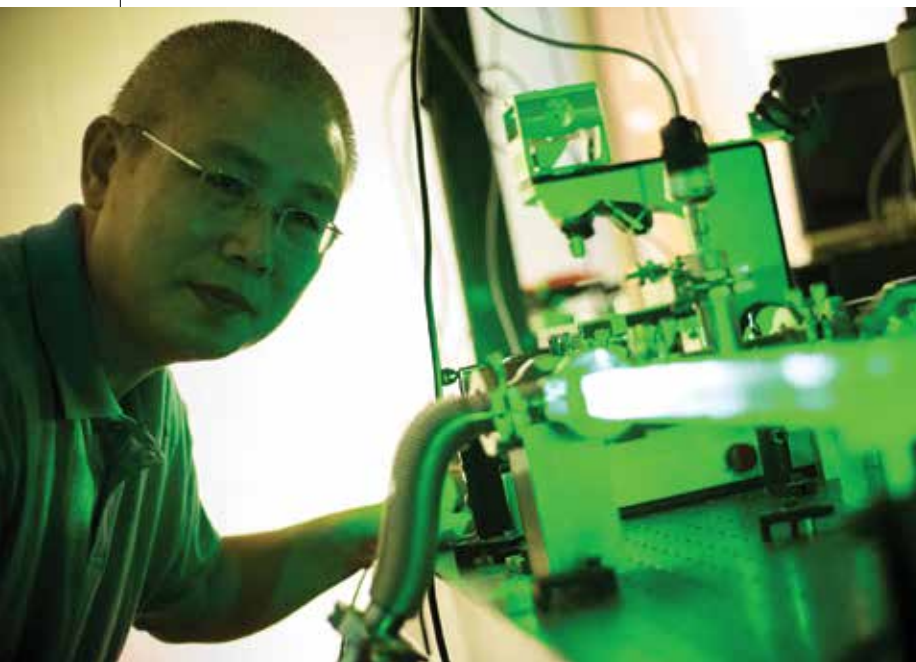
The idea of pulling particles with a laser, rather than pushing them, opens up new theoretical possibilities, Li said. If it can be achieved over longer distances, particles from space could be pulled in and captured for analysis. It might even be possible to lift particles from the surface of a planet without a landing craft.

The experiment relies on the principle of photophoresis, in which small, suspended particles migrate when illuminated by an intense beam of light. In Li's laser lab, the particle is inside a glass tube with slightly reduced air pressure.

The particle absorbs energy from the laser and becomes hotter than the surrounding molecules, and collisions with those molecules change the momentum of the particle.

"This technology may open up a wide range of applications, but we don't know yet," Li said.

– Jules Norwood



Physics professor Yong-Qing Li checks equipment in the lab before conducting a record-breaking particle pull in April.



The class met for four hours, four days each week during summer session 1, taking up three rooms in Jenkins Fine Arts Center.

Clockwise from top left, instructor Judd Snapp assists a student; Amber Delgado works on her board; Michael Jordan clamps a board; board parts await installation; a student sands his board; paddles being assembled.

### Art and design students make stand-up paddleboards

▶ Twelve ECU students learned the art of making paddleboards during an intense summer class. Following a successful canoe-building course last summer, the School of Art and Design gave students the opportunity to make stand-up paddleboards this year.

The popularity of stand-up paddleboarding made it a good choice, said ECU instructor Judson Snapp, who has built several boards and is a former kayak guide on the Outer Banks. "It gives the students incentive to have their own when it's done," Snapp said.

Amber Delgado, a rising senior from Fayetteville who is majoring in art with a concentration in film and video production, took the course to fulfill a survey class requirement. "I feel a lot more comfortable working with power tools now, so that's good," she said, while sanding the bottom of her board. "It is a lot of work, though. It's like a PE and a woodshop class (combined)." Delgado had never been paddleboarding before taking the class. "I'll definitely use it after putting in all this work," she said.

ECU junior Nick Leach has been woodworking since high school. He said growing up in Minnesota, which has more than

10,000 lakes and borders Lake Superior, means being around water. Leach also had an interest in the class as an ECU Campus Recreation Adventure employee.

"I've gotten to expand my knowledge," said Leach, who has framed houses and made cabinets, furniture, cutting boards and trinket boxes. "We're making everything from the paddle to the fins."

The class met for four hours, four days each week during summer session 1, taking up three rooms in Jenkins Fine Arts Center. The School of Art and Design offers this type of course during the summer due to the size, scope and intense amount of work necessary to complete the projects, said director Kate Bukoski.

"These courses enhance the school's approach of thinking through making," Bukoski said. "The focus on functionality pushes students to consider how their evolving artistic skills can be leveraged in a different context, providing experience that enhances their professional development."

– Crystal Baity





### 3-D printing leads to surgical breakthrough for patient

A life-size, 3-D printout of a patient's ribcage helped ECU doctors perform a less-invasive, life-changing surgery for one Goldsboro man.

Franklin Arnold was left with chronic pain after a surgery to correct his debilitating scoliosis three years ago. Several doctors told him there wasn't anything they could do for him, and then his pain management doctor referred him to Dr. Carlos Anciano, a thoracic surgeon and ECU assistant professor.

"Dr. Anciano walked in the room and said he knew what was wrong and could fix it," said Arnold.

Anciano and Dr. Preston Sparks, ECU cardiothoracic surgery fellow, collaborated with Ranjeet Agarwala, an assistant professor with the ECU College of Engineering and Technology. The project was personal for Agarwala, who dreamed of having his college team up with ECU's Brody School of Medicine and Joyner Library after his daughter needed a thoracic procedure in 2014.

During that process, he began to see the role 3-D printing could play within health care.

"I knew ECU had the infrastructure to use this innovation to have an amazing impact in the future," said Agarwala.

Prior corrective surgeries caused a deformity in Arnold's chest, which led to what he called traumatic pain that impaired his daily functions, forcing him to wear a brace for two years and taking away his breath.

"I kept telling everybody I'm having major pain here," said Arnold. "I was on a lot of pain medicine."

After meeting with Arnold, Anciano and Sparks discussed treatment options. Sparks, who is on active military duty and completing his surgery fellowship at ECU and Vidant Medical Center, said he was not used to seeing this kind of chest wall trauma in Greenville. It resembled traumatic injuries accustomed to battlefields and wartime.

"I was in Dr. Anciano's clinic when we saw Franklin come in initially," said Sparks. "We sat down between cases one day, and he said he had this idea."

That idea was to introduce 3-D technology into Arnold's treatment plan. Knowing ECU's 3-D printing capabilities, Sparks reached out to Agarwala, who responded quickly.

With MRI files in hand, Sparks met with Agarwala and College of Engineering and Technology graduate student Joshua Bruce Stevens.

"(The 3-D model) showed us the original disfiguring that came about from Franklin's twisted spine," said Anciano. "It also showed the way he healed from previous corrections to his curvature."

Anciano used the 3-D model to provide a topographical map for rebuilding the patient's chest wall with titanium mesh. The surgery was completed March 22. It took nine hours.

"Dr. Sparks got me up out of bed two days later, and I was able to walk," said Arnold. "I immediately realized my breathing; it was a whole lot better. Talk about taking walks with my wife and child – I can do that now. Yes, I still have issues, but I know without a doubt it's helped a lot."

When the graduate student got the chance recently to meet the patient whose rib cage he 3-D printed months before, Stevens described it in three simple words: "It's like Christmastime."

"He (Arnold) was able to get something wonderful out of it, and I was able to get something out of it, too," Stevens said.

Now, Arnold is waking up every morning looking forward to the day ahead. He says his wife introduced him to the term "quality of life."

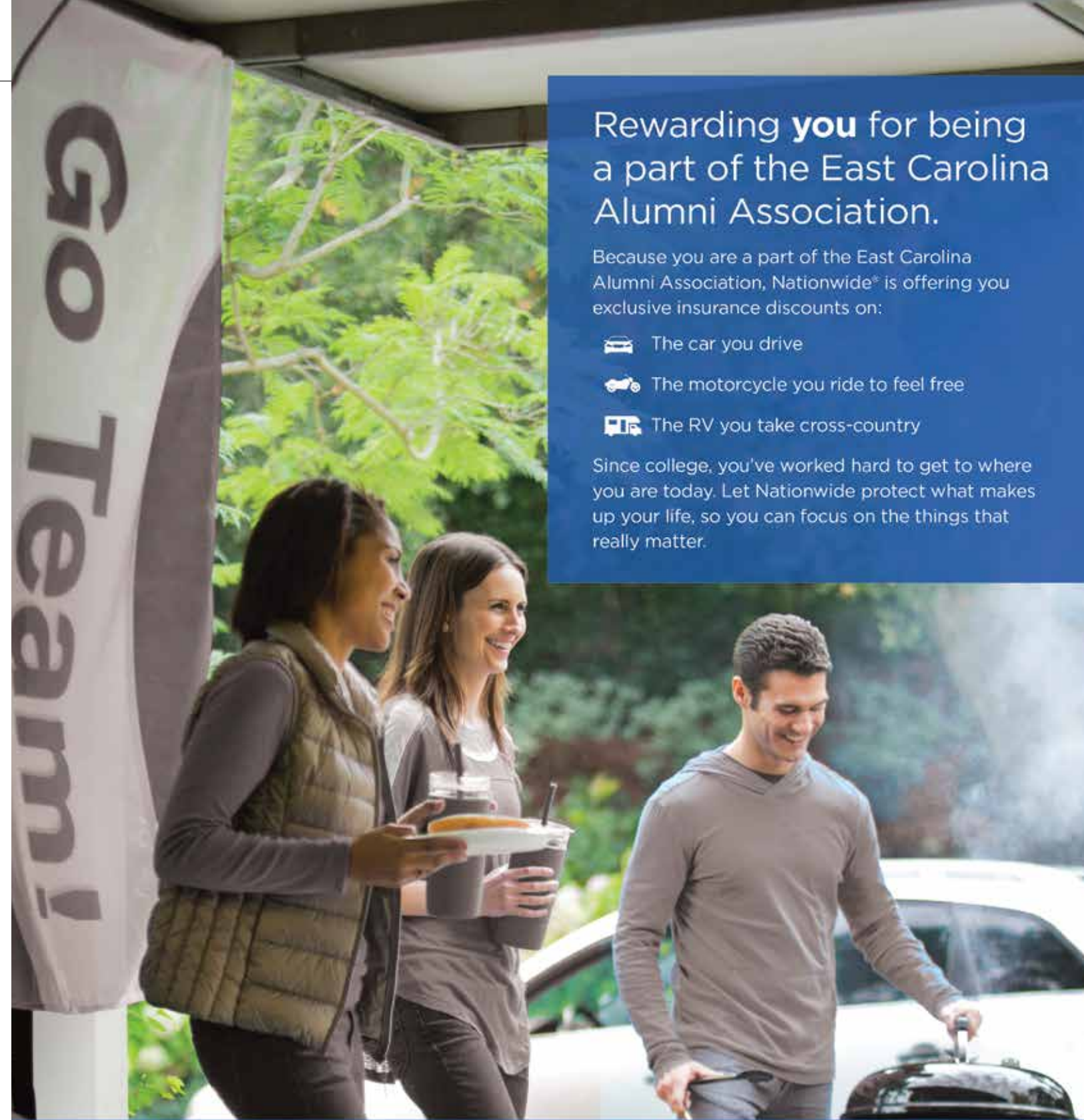
"I didn't understand it before, but I do now."

– Michael Rudd

SEE THE VIDEOS

A Medical & Technical Collaboration at ECU Helps Patient

<http://bit.ly/2v53tRy>



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An afternoon thunderstorm forms off the North Carolina coast. ECU atmospheric science professors and students are studying the mechanisms that control weather patterns in the southeastern U.S., supported by a three-year grant from the National Science Foundation.

### Project models regional weather systems

► Professors and students in the ECU Department of Geography, Planning and Environment are taking an in-depth look at weather patterns in the southeastern United States, thanks to a \$450,000 grant from the National Science Foundation.

There are two main types of rainfall in the region – widespread rain from large systems such as fronts and tropical storms, and localized rain from isolated thunderstorms, said Rosana Ferreira, ECU associate professor of atmospheric science.

“When you just look at precipitation without splitting it into these two components, it looks like it’s just flat year-round,” she said. “What we’ve found in our previous research is that buried in there is a ramping up of the thunderstorm season in the summertime, and then ramping back down, much like what you see in a monsoon climate.”

During the next three years, Ferreira and Tom Rickenbach, associate professor of atmospheric science, will be studying the springtime transition between those two dominant patterns in an effort to better understand and predict long-term regional precipitation.

“What we’re trying to understand is how the meteorological conditions, like the wind patterns and the amount of energy from heating of the atmosphere, are changing in the springtime as we ramp up toward the turning on of this afternoon thunderstorm regime,” Rickenbach said. “And we want to pinpoint the timing of that.”

The hypothesis is that the transition happens quickly, over perhaps a couple of weeks in late May and early June, as the jet stream shifts north and the North Atlantic subtropical high begins to feed warm, moist air into the southeastern states. The study will use a detailed radar dataset from the National Centers of Environmental Information, a repository of climate data.

The data will be averaged into five-day periods to determine when the transition occurs each year.

“And then we’ll find out what happened meteorologically just before that onset occurred and what happens afterward,” Ferreira said.

Several graduate and undergraduate students will participate in the project, helping with the tracking of weather systems, modeling and analyzing data.

– Jules Norwood



Daniel Wilkinson, left, and Mark Mannie

### Doctoral student’s research could lead to treatment of MS, other diseases

Like many great scientific discoveries, Daniel Wilkinson’s came almost by accident.

As part of his doctoral research at ECU, Wilkinson was working on a way of creating regulatory T cells, which are used in the treatment of autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis. But Mark Mannie, Wilkinson’s supervisor and a professor in the Brody School of Medicine’s Department of Microbiology and Immunology, said the results of Wilkinson’s experiments kept coming out differently from what they were expecting.

“He was getting information that didn’t make any sense,” Mannie said. “We were going over it, and it became apparent that what we were trying to do, the opposite was happening. And that became our ‘Eureka!’ moment. We then realized what was really going on and the potential of that.”

T cells are cells in the body that attack infectious organisms, such as viruses and parasites. Most people don’t get autoimmune diseases because of a subset of T cells called “regulatory T cells” that protect the body. But sometimes the T cells become confused and will attack healthy parts of the body, leading to autoimmune conditions such as MS and Type 1 diabetes.

Wilkinson, a Charlotte native who got his bachelor’s degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel

Hill, has figured out a way to replicate the regulatory T cells through an in-vitro process.

“What Daniel has done is figure out a way to grow these cells in such a way that they are stable and maintain their identity. It’s the foundation where we might be able to use these cells therapeutically to treat autoimmune disease,” Mannie said.

Wilkinson has a provisional patent on the process, and he and Mannie are writing a paper on their work. Ultimately, the goal is to license the technology to a biotech company that can use the process to create a treatment for autoimmune conditions.

As an undergraduate, Wilkinson wanted to study medicine to become a physician. But during his senior year, he worked in an HIV research lab, and that changed his outlook. “That really opened me up to a whole new world of discovery, so the idea that I could be the first person to discover something is kind of intriguing to me and what led me to follow this path.”

That’s precisely what Wilkinson has accomplished with his work on regulatory T cells. “At first, it was kind of shocking,” he said. “I didn’t know what I had done exactly, how significant it was, until Dr. Mannie told me that people had been trying to do this for decades. It’s kind of cool.”

– Phillip Ramati



# Spotlight

**Liza Wieland**  
Professor  
Award-winning writer

## English professor recognized for fiction

English professor Liza Wieland had no idea when she opened her email earlier this year that she had been chosen for a major award.

The Fellowship of Southern Writers, a prestigious nonprofit organization that encourages the creation and development of literature in the South, had named her the recipient of its 2017 Robert Penn Warren Award for Fiction. The award, given every other year, will be presented at the fellowship meeting in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in November.

"You don't apply for it or gather a package or get nominated," Wieland said. "It just sort of comes in an email."

The award recognizes a writer's entire body of work. Wieland is the author of eight books: three collections of short fiction, four novels, and a volume of poems.

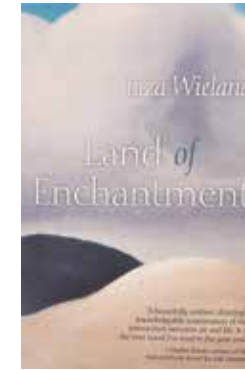
"I almost can't believe it," Wieland said. "I've wanted to be a writer all my life and have worked toward it single-mindedly, and it really feels like a sort of arrival, especially because I didn't put it in motion myself; it just happened."

The fellowship includes and honors writers who are from or who identify with the South. Wieland lived in Atlanta from the time she was 6 years old until she left for college. Even after leaving to attend college and living elsewhere, she was interested in and drawn back to the South. "So many things about the South trigger these memories – the smell of gardenias outside the window – I always sort of knew I would come back," she said.

Wieland came to ECU in 2007 and teaches fiction writing. She said she is impressed with the commitment to writing and reading her students exhibit. "They've got so much energy, and they love each other's work and read it with enthusiasm and kindness; it's a great group," she said.

"Dr. Wieland is a master of literary craft; she creates memorable characters and makes the English language sing," said Marianne Montgomery, chair of the ECU English department. "She holds her students to high standards and offers them mentorship both inside and outside the classroom as they strive to become better writers and to publish their own work."

– Jules Norwood



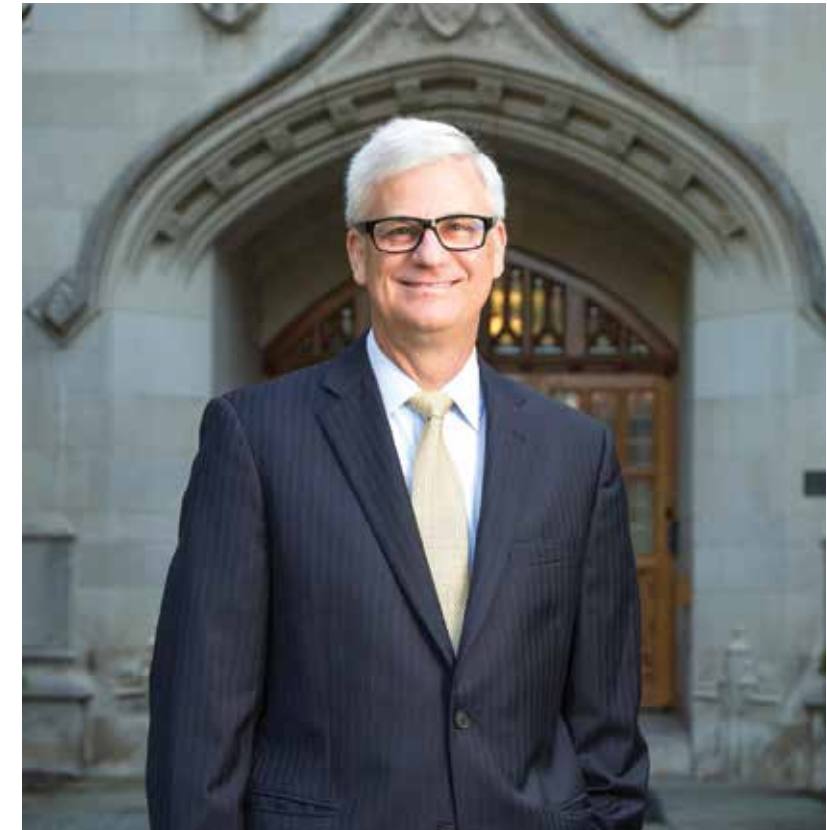
## ◀ The Wieland File

### AWARDS

Pushcart Prize, Michigan Literary Fiction Prize, Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the North Carolina Arts Council.

### BOOKS

- *Quickening* (2011)
- *You Can Sleep While I Drive* (1999)
- *Discovering America* (1994)
- *Land of Enchantment* (2015)
- *A Watch of Nightingales* (2009)
- *Bombshell* (2001)
- *The Names of the Lost* (1992)
- *Near Alcatraz* (2005).



## Stacey named dean of medical school

Dr. Mark Stacy has been named dean of the Brody School of Medicine. He comes to ECU from Duke University, where he has been vice dean for clinical research since 2011. He has also been a professor of neurology and chief of the Movement Disorders Division at Duke. Stacy has an undergraduate degree from Southeast Missouri State University and a medical degree from the University of Missouri. He completed a Parkinson's disease and movement disorders fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. His clinical and research interests include motor and non-motor symptoms in Parkinson's disease. Before moving to Duke University, he served as director of the Muhammad Ali Parkinson Research Center in Phoenix. He has published more than 250 manuscripts and one book, *The Handbook of Dystonia*.



**Dr. Elizabeth Baxley**, senior associate dean for academic affairs and professor of family medicine at the Brody School of Medicine at ECU, has been elected chair of the American Board of Family Medicine. She will serve a one-year term.



## Ploehn to lead College of Engineering and Technology

Harry J. Ploehn has been selected as dean of the College of Engineering and Technology. He comes to ECU from the University of South Carolina, where he was a professor of chemical engineering and associate dean for faculty affairs and strategic initiatives in the College of Engineering and Computing. At USC, Ploehn also served as vice provost and director of academic planning for two years and as interim dean of his college. A fellow of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, he's received several teaching awards at USC. His research focuses on, among other topics, nanotechnology, or the manipulation of matter on an atomic, molecular and supramolecular scale. Ploehn holds four U.S. patents, has published 95 peer-reviewed journal articles and has received \$9.8 million in 29 externally funded research grants, including 18 as the principal investigator.





EXPECTING

# Excellence

Chancellor Cecil P. Staton sees ECU taking its place among the nation's best. And students, professors and alumni say the university is ready for big ideas and big achievements.



*Clockwise from top, Taylor Easter, researcher Keith Keene, EC Scholar Maggie Marshall and doctoral student Eric Maertz. On the facing page, Tia Holloway studies in the University Writing Center.*



**W**hen Chancellor Cecil Staton takes his daily walk across campus to the Starbucks truck, he sees a lot of reasons to make East Carolina “America’s next great national university,” as he likes to say. About 29,000 reasons. But students aren’t all that make Staton confident about ECU’s future. The university also boasts 170,000 alumni, 12 colleges and schools and is one of only 45 universities in the country with schools of medicine, dentistry, engineering and business, as well as NCAA Division I athletics.

“When you begin with all of those things as a foundation, that’s about as good as it gets right now in public higher education,” Staton said at the August 2016 faculty convocation that kicked off the academic year.

“ECU is a hidden gem in higher education in this country. And there is no virtue in being hidden,” he said. “We’re going to work intentionally to raise our profile.”

*East* asked the chancellor to talk about some specifics of his vision for ECU, and here’s what he had to say.

#### How would you describe where ECU is today?

Many people have heard me say that if ECU didn’t exist, North Carolina would have to create this university to meet the many higher education needs we’re addressing. That’s how absolutely critical this institution is to our state, and increasingly to our country.

More than 10,000 new teachers are needed each year through 2020 in North Carolina alone. At a time when our schools are facing teacher shortages like never before, ECU produces more education leaders than any other four-year institution in the state.

We are also responding to the need for other high-demand professions. At the start of the 2016 school year last fall, 43 percent of our students were enrolled in health care or STEM-related programs. Our growing engineering program recently celebrated its 500th graduate. Monica Sasser, a 2017 graduate from Goldsboro who was profiled during our May commencement, is just one example of a student who received a bachelor’s degree in engineering in May and was swiftly employed at GlaxoSmithKline pharmaceuticals in Zebulon.

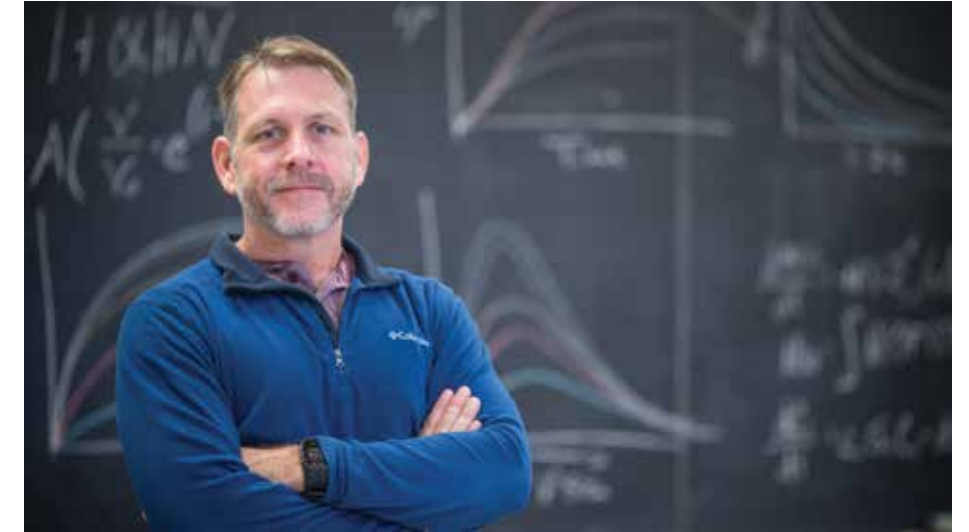
We’re answering the need for more primary care providers, the family physicians who serve every need from maternity to the flu, in multiple ways. The nationally recognized Brody School of

Medicine leads the state in the percentage of medical graduates training or practicing primary care in North Carolina five years after completing school. That’s a huge return on investment as we invest our resources in people who stay here. Top-notch Pirate nurses are critically important to the future of health care in North Carolina, and nearly 90 percent of our graduates (the most in the state among four-year schools) remain in state to provide care. The numbers are much the same for allied health service specialties, which includes everything from dietitians and audiologists to physical therapists.

Our impact extends far beyond the region. From Sylva in the west to Elizabeth City in the east, ECU’s School of Dental Medicine is training dentists with a special interest in providing care to the underserved, bringing the very latest, cutting-edge skills to rural areas. We are also extending our reach past the boundaries of our state and nation. ECU students are studying in more than 50 countries, and our award-winning Global Academic Initiative, in partnership with 62 institutions in 33 countries, is bringing international experiences to students right here on our campus.

All across the university, our faculty are making exciting discoveries in many disciplines. Earlier this summer, physics professor Yong-Qing Li made a significant breakthrough in his ongoing laser research that could open new possibilities for the future of space exploration. Even as we look to the future, our students and faculty are also at work uncovering the past. For three years in a row, ECU graduates have made up the largest number of new practitioners added to the Register of Professional Archaeologists. Just this past fall, ECU anthropology professor Megan Perry, working with her team on the Petra North Ridge project in Jordan, garnered international attention for the discovery of a remarkable pair of marble statues of Aphrodite and Eros dating from the second or third century A.D.

With the largest business school enrollment in North Carolina, we’re delivering about 1,000



Clockwise from top left, ECU student Anna Urbanek helps at a STEAM summer camp, ECU biologist Michael McCoy, Air Force ROTC Cadet Josh Cole and dance student (and 2017 graduate) Ashley Hill.

innovators, entrepreneurs and future business leaders to the economy every year. Through the new Miller School of Entrepreneurship, we will cultivate that entrepreneurial spirit to drive economic growth for generations to come.

We continue to expand educational opportunities by providing working professionals the ability to pursue advanced degrees, on campus and online. With more than 90 online programs, ECU is North Carolina’s leader in distance education.

I am especially proud of ECU’s commitment to the military. We are consistently recognized by national publications as a military-friendly school, and in 2017 we were the first university in the nation to receive the Department of Defense Extraordinary Employer Support Award.

Honestly, I could go on and on with examples. But I think world-renowned hand transplant surgeon and Brody graduate Dr. Kodi Azari said it best during a recent visit to campus: “I got a first-rate

education that was an absolute bargain. This is a world-class medical institution; I don’t think you can beat it.”

As evidence of that, *USA Today* recently published the results of a medical school ranking that put Brody No. 1 in affordability.

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“We’ve learned that as Pirates we are ‘undaunted.’ I love that word. It means we are fearless and unafraid to grasp opportunity.”

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We should be proud of these contributions and what this university has become. I don’t believe any other university provides the return on investment for North Carolina that ECU does.



**In an ideal world, where would you like to see ECU in five years?**

ECU has done an extraordinary job developing 12 colleges and schools that are closely aligned with the skills employers and graduate schools are seeking, and students from across America are discovering the difference. Enrollment continues to grow – at a very healthy rate – as students turn here for an education that makes them strong competitors for 21st-century jobs. In fact, ECU is ranked among the top 10 percent of universities in the nation for the economic value added to our graduates.

We are well on our way to becoming America's next great national university, and I believe that within five years we'll be recognized as such. Here are some markers that will serve as guideposts along this journey:

**GOAL 1: In the next five years, we plan to double the amount of research activity across our university.**

We must do this to provide our students opportunities to develop their critical-thinking skills and to generate health care treatments, new technologies and other innovations that change our world for the better. That very practical experience with research helps our students become problem-solvers who learn to work collaboratively, just as they will in the workforce they'll join.

**GOAL 2: We plan to double the number of ECU students participating in international experiences.**

Our students will live and work in the global, knowledge-based economy, which looks very

different from the one in which many of us began our careers. For them to be prepared, ECU must become a gateway to the world. This will involve more opportunities for study abroad, more international faculty, more students from other countries on our campus and increasing use of technology to bring the world to ECU.

**GOAL 3: Five years from now, we'll be well into the public phase of a \$500 million comprehensive campaign to raise funds to support initiatives at ECU.**

We will do what all great universities must do – raise the resources to fulfill our aspirations and provide our students an ECU education that prepares them to change their communities, North Carolina, our nation and even the world.

**What are your goals for ECU's new strategic plan, and how do you see it helping accomplish your vision for ECU?**

We are in the process of extending our current strategic plan following the completion of the UNC system's new strategic plan. It's important to ensure that our priorities and goals align with those of the system to which we belong. Fortunately, there is significant synergy and correlation between ECU and the system.

Our strategy continues to focus on student success, public service and regional transformation. But we will look to the markers I mentioned earlier as measures of our success. ECU will continue to focus on making education accessible to students who come from tough circumstances—through programs such as our COAD 1000 course and

**East asked others for their views about Chancellor Staton's vision and goals for ECU. Here's what they said.**

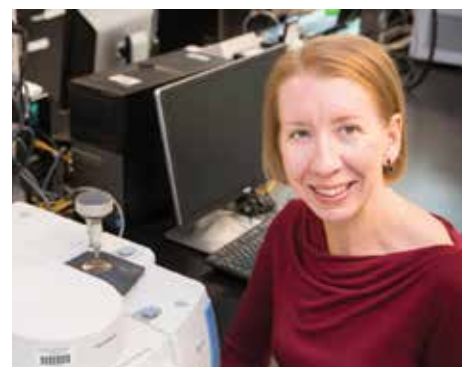


**LaQuon Rogers**  
ECU SGA president

It's a vision students can understand and apply. A lot of times the difference in communicating a vision is how do we get there. He really laid out that vision quite nicely. Setting the bar high shows how much he believes in ECU. This is a time for everybody – faculty and staff and students – to buy into this vision and be able to communicate the value of its implementation.

**Allison Danell**  
associate professor of chemistry

One of the keys is the public-private partnerships we're already building and taking advantage of. So often a university and a company have the same intent, so these public-private partnerships will help us move forward.



**Jay Golden**  
vice chancellor for research and graduate studies

The senior leadership of the university is all in agreement that ...research will play a pivotal role in our success. That success will benefit our students, faculty and the region as a whole.



**Kirk Little '82**  
vice president and chief operating officer Apogee Solutions

The chancellor's desire to expand our footprint and impact outside eastern North Carolina, while not forgetting the region we serve, is important to how we serve others and share with them the essence of being an East Carolina Pirate.



**David Fisher '70**  
financial services industry professional and vice chair of the ECU Foundation board

(These are) big ideas this university has needed for a long time. When you connect that to the big numbers he has put out there for the campaign—to some people it's daunting, to others it's scary, but when you are used to it, it's motivating. It sets the bar for achievements. I want to see ECU break out of the view of the rest of the country that we are a small, regional university and always will be. We do a lot of good for the region, but...I would like to see us as one of the United States' great universities.



Access Scholarships—while ensuring they have the support to succeed and graduate. I'm very pleased that graduation rates have been improving – trending up for five of the past six years.

It goes back to what I said earlier: We are uniquely North Carolina's university because of the substantial contribution we are making across the state, but we intend to increase our impact even more in the years ahead.

**Thinking about the attributes you've said you envision for ECU – global focus, national university, and so on – have you encountered any resistance or anyone saying that's not ECU's role? If so, how have you responded?**

I've stated publicly that the greatest threat to our success is small-mindedness. It's natural for people to find change uncomfortable, and institutional culture is one of the hardest things to transform. But how will we ever get to the next level if we don't evolve and refine ourselves as times change?

It won't be easy, but I believe the ECU spirit includes a very determined streak. It's a can-do

attitude that doesn't like to quit or shirk a tough challenge. We actually like high goals, and we'll push hard to achieve them. As I visit with Pirates in many different professions, I'm finding that most believe fully in ECU becoming America's next great national university. They're very proud of all that's been accomplished. And they want the world to know about it.

**What role does rebranding play in helping ECU achieve these goals and why?**

That is another priority for the next few years. We must increase our state's awareness, and even America's awareness, of our university and its extraordinary capabilities and contributions. I am always surprised by how little is known about the ECU of today or how much our brand is tied to the ECU of a few decades ago. We need to make sure our university brand is well-known – and accurate.

We will make big improvements in the way we tell our story and by doing a better job in the way we market the university. Look for some initial steps in this direction this fall.

“We must raise money because that is what great universities do. We can't just leave fundraising to the elite schools and hope for the best with public funding. But we must recognize that behind every dollar raised by our campaign, it is essential that there be great ideas – transformational dreams and aspirations about where ECU can go.”



*Clockwise from top, performers rehearse for ECU's February production of 1776; student William Miller; Zay Jones*

“If you ask, what is your horizon, you may be saying what are your limits. Or we imagine it's so far, we can never get there. But if we want to be more positive, the question could just as easily be what are your possibilities? What is your scope? What is your prospect? How far can you see? How far can you go?”



*Clockwise from top, ECU students Bryan Brown and Adam Atkinson and the new health sciences student center.*



**How can students, faculty/staff and alumni help ECU become America's next great national university, achieve a global focus and do the other things you envision for the university?**

There is a lot to be done. But the important work begins internally with each of us. I'm encouraging everyone to remain focused on the goal and share ECU successes to any who will listen. Each of us can be a persuasive and very credible ambassador for the university if we stay positive and are not distracted by competitors or naysayers.

No doubt, we're not perfect, and we'll make mistakes. But it's time for us, as a team, to step up and play in the majors. This is a great university with a great mission. I'm inspired by this place and its people every single day. And I know that together we are going to make great things happen. ▶ ε

SEE THE VIDEOS

Capture Your Horizon  
[ecu.edu/chancellor](http://ecu.edu/chancellor)

Chancellor's Installation Video  
<http://bit.ly/2v5b96a>





# PIRATES ABROAD

Students travel  
the globe  
with international  
programs

STORY BY JULES NORWOOD





# You could call it a form of distance education

when Ashlyn Biggers recently took a semester's worth of classes in art, Italian, literature and art history—distance education in that she took the courses in Italy. “We were surrounded by the Chianti hills and olive orchards,” says Biggers, who took part in the Italy Intensives program in the small Tuscan town of Certaldo Alto. “It was challenging for sure but well worth it. I retained so much and learned so many skills that wouldn't be possible in a standard university classroom setting.”



Above, ECU student Ashlyn Biggers. Right, a view from a Venice gondola. Previous pages, Shana McCusker at Lagos, Portugal. She studied this spring at the University of Chester in England.



Each year more than 500 students leave East Carolina University's campus – and the country – to experience life abroad while continuing their studies and participating in unique learning opportunities through study abroad programs.

Chancellor Cecil P. Staton, who describes his own study-abroad experience as a defining point in his life, is encouraging even more Pirates to travel abroad and promoting a renewed focus on international programs.

Nationally, about one in 10 undergraduate students participates in a study-abroad program before graduating, according to figures from the Institute of International Education.

“Students get a different perspective on both life and on their career field or major, and they broaden their skill set,” says Katie Erickson, assistant director for education abroad. “They also gain confidence in themselves because they really have the chance to be independent.”

Jon Rezek, executive director for global affairs, says many students return to campus more mature and focused. “The benefits of studying abroad are particularly strong for students who haven't experienced other cultures,” he says. “It can be a transformative experience.”

ECU offers some 200 programs in more than 60 countries. Top destinations include Italy, the United Kingdom, Spain and Australia, but programs are offered on nearly every continent. Botswana, Costa Rica, China, Thailand, Germany and Canada are all on the list.

Some are exchange and consortium programs offered in partnership with other universities, in which the student travels independently to the host country and takes courses taught by faculty at the partner institution. Others are faculty-led programs in which the student travels with an ECU faculty member and other ECU students.

One example of the latter is the Italy Intensives program, which is the only faculty-led program conducted every semester and summer. It offers coursework in the humanities, social science, English, science and fine arts and includes excursions to Rome, Venice, the Amalfi Coast, Pompeii, Florence and Cinque Terre.

Like the other study-abroad programs at ECU, it focuses on learning as well as travel and the experience of foreign cultures.

“Instead of learning by seeing digital images on a screen in a classroom, our students walk through art history with classes on site in museums, cathedrals and monuments,” says Linda Darty, director of Italy Intensives. “Our geology students hike the trails of Cinque Terre to study coastal



processes and erosion, and world history classes explore Pompeii, the Roman Forum and the Colosseum.”

Biggers, an art major, says the cultural immersion was inspiring.

“I left feeling like I was leaving a second home,” she says. “The difference in lifestyle and pace struck a chord within me that made me yearn to adapt and incorporate the Italian way into my routine back home.”

Alyssa Martinez, who studied abroad in Italy last fall, says the experience opened her eyes to how much she could learn from other cultures, histories and people.

“Being immersed in the Italian culture and partaking in their lifestyle was a life-changing experience that helped me to grow both as an individual and in my academics,” she says.

Senior psychology major Haley Jamrog is shown with children at the Avarua Primary School in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.



## Statons give to study abroad

In March, Chancellor Cecil Staton and his wife announced a \$100,000 commitment to endow the Cecil P. Staton and Catherine D. Staton Study Abroad Fund. The donation will support international travel and educational opportunities for ECU students.

"Our students aspire to become leaders and public servants for the world they will inherit," Staton said. "Catherine and I are excited to financially support this great institution by creating an endowment to fund one of our top priorities: global awareness and understanding."

Boosting global academic projects to increase participation in study abroad while also bringing an international focus to activities on campus has been one of Staton's priorities since his selection as chancellor in 2016.

"I've always recognized my study-abroad experience as an undergraduate as a defining point in my life," he says. "It led me eventually to do my doctoral work at the University of Oxford."



Nationally, about one in 10 undergraduate students participates in a study-abroad program before graduating, according to figures from the Institute of International Education.



Gary Lavenia participated in an exchange program in Paris, living with a host family and studying the language and culture in the French capital.

"The French department at ECU is fantastic, which is why I was prepared for this," he says. "That being said, there is no way I could have experienced this in America."

Some programs are service-learning oriented, such as the College of Nursing's program in Guatemala. Students live with Guatemalan families and participate in family and community activities while learning how care is provided in regions where people have limited access to health services.

One of the obstacles to increasing study abroad participation is the perceived cost, says Rezek, but depending on the program, the expense can be similar to or not much greater than tuition and expenses in Greenville. There are also scholarships available.

"It actually was cheaper for me to study abroad than to stay in Greenville paying rent, utilities, groceries and textbooks on top of tuition," says Martinez. "This was the best decision I ever made and it has encouraged me to live abroad once I graduate."

The Harold H. Bate Foundation is one of a number of organizations and individuals who provide financial support for international programs. Two recent grants totaling \$100,000 provide opportunities for students from rural eastern North Carolina counties to spend a semester abroad.



*Clockwise from above, ECU students take a photo class in Italy, student Jessica Emerine and friends climb vines in Costa Rica, students take an art class in Italy, Ian Flynn looks over the Gulf of Genoa from Cinque Terre, Italy, and Tionna Brittany is shown in Granada, Spain.*



Mary Grace Lee, majoring in biology and Hispanic studies, hopes to become an immunologist and understands the importance of being able to communicate with Spanish speakers. A Bate Foundation scholarship helped fund her summer studying in Granada, Spain, which was her first trip outside the United States.

"I have taken Spanish classes for about six years now, including high school, and was never comfortable speaking it until I had to while living in Spain," she says. "My vocabulary expanded as well as my knowledge and understanding of the different tenses and grammatical points. This trip truly changed my life."

Some students may be hesitant to leave behind the familiar, says Whitney Morris, coordinator of faculty-led study abroad programs.

"They may come from families that aren't used to traveling a lot," she says. "We usually have at least one student a semester who's never been on a plane before. Many are applying for a passport for the first time."

Those may be the students that benefit the most from the experience, says Rezek. That's why there's a team of global ambassadors — students who have returned from studying abroad who encourage their fellow Pirates to participate and help guide them through the application and advising process.

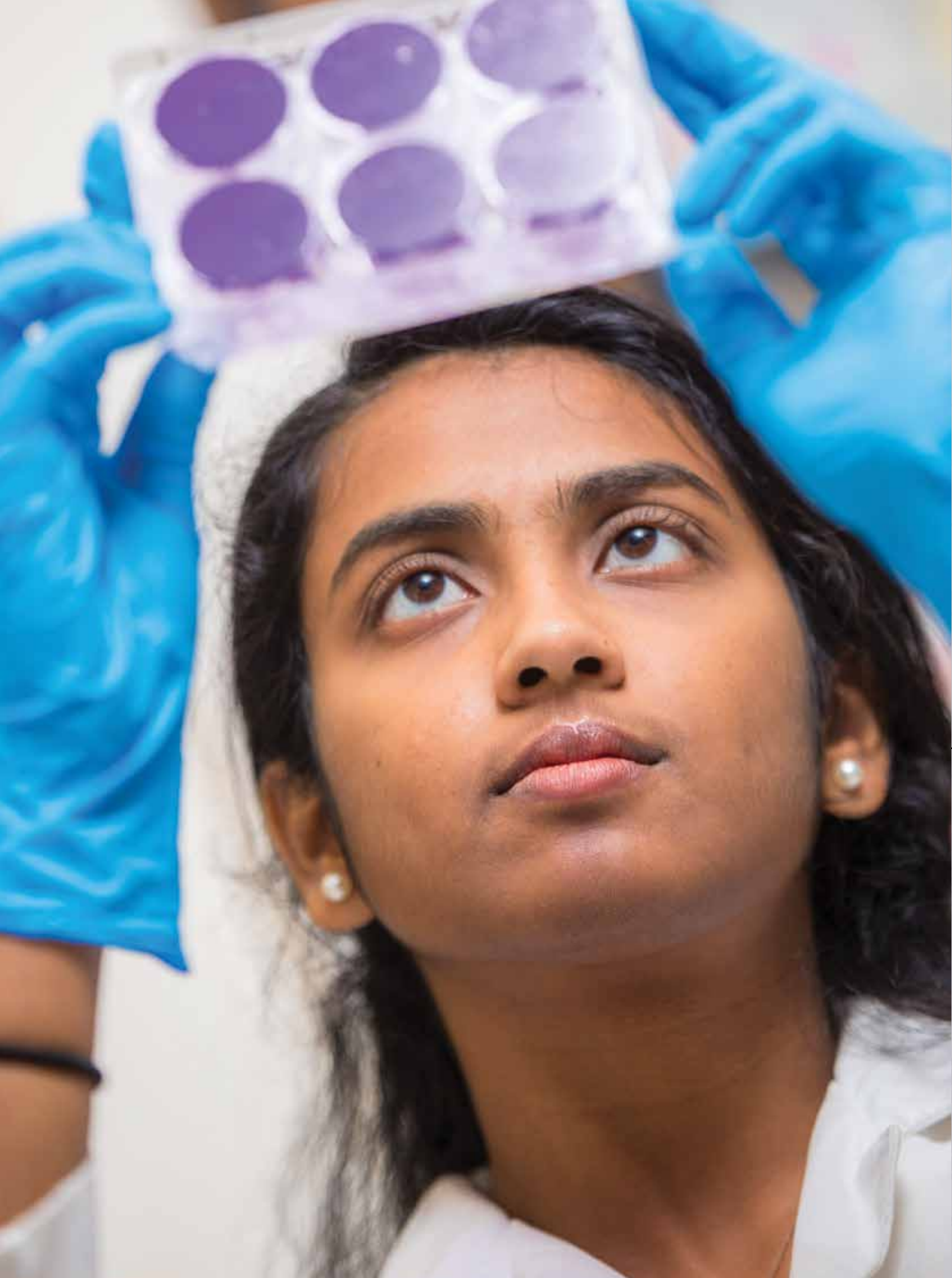
Public health studies major Nick Livingston says he learned about studying abroad from a friend.

"I would have never known about it if it were not for her," he says. "I had never been overseas before, so it was definitely a novel experience."

In our society, everything is so fast-paced and we are prone to miss the little things in life that can have the biggest impact. It was crazy coming back to ECU's campus and riding a bus, only to look around and see every passenger enamored with their cell phone."

Wherever they go and whatever they study, students gain from the experience, says Erickson. "A lot of times they've learned something about who they are and what they want to do," she says. ▶





STORY BY JAMIE SMITH

# Scientific WOMEN

## Closing the gender gap in STEM fields

In a lab nestled in the corner of the Brody Medical Sciences Building at East Carolina University, senior biology major Rishita Yeduri works on research related to the vaccinia virus.

The research is taking place in the lab of Rachel Roper, associate professor of microbiology and immunology at ECU, who is working to uncover how viruses turn off the immune response and may lead to safer vaccines for the Zika virus, Ebola, HIV, rabies and cancer treatment.

Yeduri began working with Roper as a freshman and is one of hundreds of women at ECU pursuing a degree in a field related to science, technology, engineering or math, known as STEM. Within the last decade the lack of women pursuing careers in these fields has become a source of national conversation.

Nationally, women make up nearly 47 percent of the college-educated workforce but are underrepresented in STEM careers such as chemistry, engineering and computer science. Statistics from the National Science Foundation show women make up approximately 35 percent of chemists and 11 percent of physicists and astronomers.

At ECU, the number of women majoring in and receiving degrees in some STEM fields is close to or greater than the number of men. In ECU's engineering program, however, men still outnumber women. In 2015, 108 of the 639 students pursuing a bachelor's degree in engineering were women.

One of ECU's guiding principles is to increase opportunities for underserved groups, so university faculty and administrators are working to help increase the number of women in STEM fields through mentorships, community outreach and campus involvement like the university's chapter of the Society of Women Engineers.



Companies such as Patheon, Pfizer, Mayne Pharma and many others make eastern North Carolina the home of nearly 8,000 life sciences jobs.



Angela Moore '05 '06 is a wife, mother and scientist at Alkami Corp., a pharmaceutical company in Durham. She enjoys mentoring interns and other female scientists, especially young mothers. Moore says people act surprised when they find out her profession, but she points out that women can bring unique qualities to their jobs.

“Women are inherently talented at multitasking, which is key to success in the pharmaceutical industry and makes us excellent scientists,” says Moore.

Companies such as Patheon, Pfizer, Mayne Pharma and many others make eastern North Carolina the home of nearly 8,000 life sciences jobs. That makes the need for scientists – male and female – vital for the region’s growth. ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson says women add a wide range of talents and ideas in STEM fields and that growing the number of women in these careers is good for the university, region and world.

“Why would we limit this category of employment and creative activity to one-half of the population? We’ve been missing too much of the talent, and the problems we face are too large to ignore that simple fact,” says Mitchelson.

ECU faculty members Roper and Cindy Putnam-Evans, associate dean for research and biochemistry professor, say a key element to increasing the number of women pursuing STEM careers is women acting as mentors.

Mitchelson agrees. “We need all the role models we can muster at ECU,” he says.

Roper says most girls lose interest in science and math around eighth grade, making mentoring at that age critical. She says aptitude test scores of girls at that age are the same or better than boys, but factors such as social and cultural expectations and subconscious gender bias often steer girls away from pursuing science and math careers.



Top, ECU anatomy and cell biology doctoral student Ellen Velte washes samples in a lab. Bottom, student Eva Gallardo.

### Inspiring opportunities

To support the interest of middle-school students in STEM, especially girls, ECU hosts events including the STEM Girls Conference. Each fall 100 middle school girls visit ECU to participate in the conference hosted by faculty in the College of Engineering and Technology, the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education. The girls participate in hands-on activities, learn about jobs and meet women who work in STEM fields. Additional opportunities are hosted on ECU’s health sciences campus and through the College of Engineering.

“These interactive events help girls learn more about STEM and hopefully encourages them to

take higher-level math and science classes in high school to set them up for majoring in STEM when they go to college,” says Putnam-Evans.

Once at ECU, undergraduate students in biology, chemistry and physics can jump into research by working in a lab with a faculty member.

“It can be a very good opportunity for women seeking women mentors,” says Putnam-Evans.

Yeduri and Moore mention research opportunities as a significant reason they chose ECU. As a freshman, Yeduri began working in Roper’s lab and found mentors and friends who helped encourage her to get involved on campus and pursue interests outside her comfort level. She didn’t seek out women mentors but says working alongside them has helped her become more confident.

“I don’t know what I would have done if I wasn’t at ECU. Most of the opportunities I have had and the growing I have done has been in the last two years here,” says Yeduri.

Lillian Howie, a senior studying coastal and marine geology, says female students and professors in the geology department have encouraged her. As an EC Scholar and member of the Honors College, Howie says she has received a lot of support from being a part of these programs.

“I’ve connected with ambitious young women in many different disciplines, all with innovative ideas to improve our local and global communities,” says Howie, who is also a GlaxoSmithKline Women in Science scholar.

Last spring, Roper invited Yeduri to attend the 2017 Incredible ECU Women Series luncheon, which recognized extraordinary alumnae and is sponsored by the university’s Women’s Roundtable. Yeduri said she saw women at ECU supporting and standing up for one another.

“I feel proud to be a woman, and ECU has had a big role in making me feel stronger,” says Yeduri.

In addition to the Women’s Roundtable, which recognizes alumnae for their philanthropy and leadership, the Chancellor’s Committee on the Status of Women has been active since 1971 and works to bring recognition to the achievements and challenges of women on campus. Every two years, the committee recognizes 10 “Women of Distinction” at ECU – alumni, faculty, staff and administrators.

### Faculty growth, but more to do

At ECU, women make up 47 percent of assistant professors in the 23 STEM departments.

“Twenty-four years ago when I first came here, I don’t know what the numbers were, but I can bet you it was nowhere near 47 percent, so we’ve made great progress,” says Putnam-Evans.

At ECU, women make up 47 percent of assistant professors in the 23 STEM departments.



ECU’s Margaret Turner talks about technology with Pitt County middle school students during a STEM Girls day on campus.

But, there is still work to be done. Putnam-Evans points out that once you begin moving across ranks, the number of women who are associate or full professors at ECU drops to 37 and 15 percent, respectively. She says it’s not just ECU; it’s a problem at universities nationwide.

She, Roper, Mitchelson and Stephanie George, assistant professor of engineering, are part of a faculty group at ECU that hopes to receive funding through the NSF ADVANCE program, which is geared to help women and underrepresented minorities advance in their academic careers.

As associate dean for research in the largest college at ECU, Putnam-Evans speaks with

candidates interviewing for tenure-track jobs and has noticed female candidates ask direct questions about the university’s climate toward women and the opportunities afforded them.

“I think it’s really positive that we can say, ‘Here’s an institution where we’re aware of these challenges, and we are dedicated to making sure that all of our faculty, women included, are successful,’” says Putnam-Evans. ▶



SEE THE VIDEO

College of Engineering and Technology Summer Academy for girls  
ecu.edu/summeracademy



STUDENT **SNAPSHOT**

EC Scholars



## ECU welcomes our newest EC Scholars

From aspiring engineers to entrepreneurs and music education majors, the newest class of EC Scholars is thinking big.

The EC Scholars program is the most prestigious and competitive undergraduate merit scholarship at ECU, recognizing outstanding academic performance, commitment to community engagement and strong leadership skills. Each year, 20 scholars are admitted to the ECU Honors College and receive a scholarship for four years, along with a stipend for study abroad, for a total value of approximately \$62,000.

“EC Scholars are among the university’s most valued investments as they embody academic excellence, intellectual curiosity, and leadership, a way of life that is at the heart of East Carolina,” says Todd Fraley, program director.

The incoming class has an average combined math/verbal SAT score of 1339, average ACT score of 28 and an average unweighted GPA of 3.88.

Front row, left to right: Dana Shefet, Cary; Marianne Congema, Wilmington; Victoria Chan, Holly Springs; Tiana Washington, Raleigh; Peyton Jackson, Wilmington; Jamie Chamberlin, Winterville; Marguerite Hemedinger, Raleigh; Chelsea Lennon, Hope Mills. // Second row, left to right: Phoenix Little, Clayton; Ben Estorge, Winterville; Zachary Barnett, Pittsboro; Breanne Smith, Wake Forest; Taylor Malachowski, Concord; Marissa Ferrell, Knightdale. // Third row, left to right: Jiahao Li, Winterville; Josh Gurganus, Greenville. Not pictured: Breanna Alligood, Greenville; Summer Kenny, Greenville; Malinda Massey, Denver; Nikita Revankar, Jamestown.

**LEARN MORE**

More about the program [ecu.edu/ecscholars](http://ecu.edu/ecscholars)

More about the scholars [ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/EC-Scholars-2017.cfm](http://ecu.edu/cs-admin/news/EC-Scholars-2017.cfm)

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## PIRATE PROUD ✨



**ALUMNA PROVIDES  
ART OPPORTUNITIES IN  
EASTERN N.C.**



Each June, a new group of artists-in-residence from across the United States moves to the eastern North Carolina town of Columbia, where they live and work for a year at Pocosin Arts. It is a step in their development as professional artists, nurtured in a town of about 900 residents including Marlene True '08, executive director of the art studio and education center on Main Street.

“Our presence and programs offers our community opportunities to explore the arts, to experience unique cultural events and provide a significant boost to the downtown community,” True said.

Pocosin Arts has helped transform the Scuppernon River town by bringing more than 450 people – half the size of the town’s permanent population – for classes, seminars, summer art camps and workshops each year. Local youth participate through after-school programs, a middle-school art club and projects at the high school, made possible by grants from the Grable Foundation in collaboration with the Tyrrell County Public Schools, True said.

Also this year, Pocosin helped place an art teacher 20 hours each week in Tyrrell Elementary School, which hadn’t had one in about four years. The teacher, Tenisha Morrison '15, also served as the middle school girls’ basketball coach last year. Looking across the studio, Morrison said, “Without this, none of these opportunities would exist,” she said. “It’s meant a lot to me. It’s opened a lot of doors.”

The emerging artists-in-residence provide art instruction, fill Pocosin’s gallery with innovative and sophisticated work and add vibrancy and energy to the community, True said.

True was a graduate student in ECU’s metals concentration when she was introduced to Pocosin Arts through its founding director Feather Phillips. “Feather had a vision of a place that connected culture, arts and the environment and worked tirelessly to see the vision become reality,” True said. “Through sheer perseverance, she garnered the support and funding needed to complete the education center we have today.”

True attended a workshop and was invited to teach a jewelry class after graduating from ECU in 2008 and has been involved in some aspect of the non-profit ever since. As executive director, she is responsible for programming, marketing, grant writing, fundraising, board and public relations.

At ECU, faculty members Linda Darty, Robert Ebendorf, Tim Lazure and Mi-Sook Hur had a strong impact on True’s life, she said. “Robert Ebendorf was already a legend in the field, and the lore proved true,” True said. “His energy, desire to share knowledge and sincerely caring approach to teaching inspired me then and continues to inspire me.”

True also was in the first group of ECU students that Darty took to study abroad in Italy, an exchange program that’s still thriving. “I am still in regular contact with them and value their friendship,” True said. “It’s reassuring that I know I can always call on them for feedback and advice.”

As a working artist, True uses repurposed steel and enamel to create accessories, and will be showing her work in Seattle later this year. ECU has partnered with Pocosin Arts to lease its lodge for 90 days each year, and Pocosin artists regularly participate in ECU’s annual metals symposium.

– Crystal Baity

## 5 MINUTES WITH TIM MEIGS '89

**Position:** Assistant general counsel– intellectual property, Becton Dickinson & Co.

**Degree:** Bachelor’s degree in biology with a minor in chemistry

**Hometown:** Cullowhee

Tim Meigs came to ECU wanting to become a band director, but he changed direction and majored in biology. Now an attorney, he manages patents and other intellectual property for Becton Dickinson’s corporate research unit in Research Triangle Park and several of the company’s business units elsewhere in the U.S. He stays involved with ECU as president of the Biology Department Advancement Council. In April, he finished first in his age group at the Boston Marathon.

**My biology and chemistry courses and labs... gave me the solid foundation in the sciences that have enabled me to figure out the ever-advancing new technologies that have come along in my patent law career.** So in addition to the actual facts and theories we learned in class, ECU taught me how to carry that forward and build upon that knowledge.

**One person in particular that set me on the course to where I am today was Beryl Waters.** She was an advisor in the biology department. She said I should look into patent law, as the field of biotechnology patent law was just then (in the late 1980s) emerging, and it would require lawyers who knew something about biology. Her advice ended up being some of the best I ever received, as that’s what I ended up pursuing through law school and thereafter.

**I ran track in high school, but was never very good at it, but also because I didn’t take it seriously.** However, I got back into running in 2006 – the year I turned 40. At first, it was just a way to lose weight and get in shape. Then it became a big part of my social life. The competitive piece came along later.

**I think one of the most important lessons I learned at ECU was to balance multiple facets of my life – social/family, academic/professional, talents/hobbies, health/fitness – without getting too focused on one thing to the detriment of others.** Maybe that’s why it took me five years (including summer school) to graduate, but I have no regrets!





## PIRATE PROUD ✪



**TRANSPLANT  
BONDS PIRATE  
ALUMNI**

Austen Butler (left) and Tyler Dandrea (right)

When Austen Butler '14 and Tyler Dandrea '13 met as 18-year-old freshmen at East Carolina University, they had few concerns other than preparations for a big midterm or whether there was a party to attend that weekend.

Before long, they became fraternity brothers and roommates. But halfway through their time at ECU, their focus shifted to something more serious when Butler was diagnosed with Berger's disease, a condition that causes kidney inflammation.

Butler remembers something Dandrea said to him jokingly when they were juniors and didn't yet understand the severity of Butler's condition: "If I need to, I can always give you my kidney."

"It was kind of a joke at first because it felt so far away," Dandrea said. "I don't know if he took it seriously at first. But I really meant it when I said it then."

The two stayed close through college, and just a couple of years after graduation they found themselves in Charlotte, where Butler helped Dandrea get a job at Wyndham Capital, the mortgage company where he was a loan officer. Butler's health had been pretty steady since his initial diagnosis, when he made some diet and lifestyle changes. But about a year ago, his symptoms worsened, and doctors told him he was headed toward kidney failure.

Dandrea remembers the first thing he asked when Butler told him the news was what type of blood he had. Butler didn't know, and Dandrea told him he needed to find out as quickly as possible. Their blood types were a match, and Dandrea felt sure about following through about the vow he had made at ECU.

Butler's father underwent testing first, and when he wasn't a match Dandrea was still there, as resolved as ever to help his friend live a healthy life again. He was a match, and on Feb. 15, just two months after Butler began dialysis, the two went in for surgery at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

"People think it's amazing," Dandrea said. "But I just feel like you don't want to see a friend go to dialysis every day for four hours. That's not life. I feel blessed about it, that I was able to do that for a good friend of mine."

— Bethany Bradsher

### GRIFFIN NAMED N.C. PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

Jason Griffin '02 '07, principal of Hertford Grammar School in Perquimans County, is the 2017 Wells Fargo North Carolina

Principal of the Year. The Title I school, where nearly two-thirds of the 400-plus students in third through fifth grade are from low-income families, achieved a school grade of B for the first time last year. The school also was just one of six elementary schools in the state's northeast education region to earn at least a B while also exceeding its targets for academic growth.

Griffin joined Hertford Grammar in 2011 as a third-grade teacher and served as dean of students before being named principal. He previously Griffin was a second-grade teacher at Perquimans Central School and started his education career as a third-grade teacher at E.J. Hayes Elementary School in Williamston.



He was teacher of the year for Perquimans County Schools in 2012 and participates in numerous leadership activities in the district.

Griffin has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in middle grades mathematics from ECU, a master's in school administration from Elizabeth City State University and an education specialist degree from ECU.

He was one of eight regional finalists chosen earlier this year following interviews and school visits by the selection committee. Other finalists included Maria Johnson '88 '99 of Northside High in Jacksonville.

— ECU News Services

# Introducing...



# ECU CONNECT

Expand Your Network | Advance Your Career  
Find Jobs | Gain Knowledge  
[WWW.ECUCONNECT.COM](http://WWW.ECUCONNECT.COM)

ECU Connect is the new online home of the Pirate Alumni Network, allowing you to reconnect with former classmates and expand your professional network with trusted ECU contacts. With more than 190,000 alumni, faculty, staff & friends, users are able to tap into the power of the global pirate network to expand their career connections.

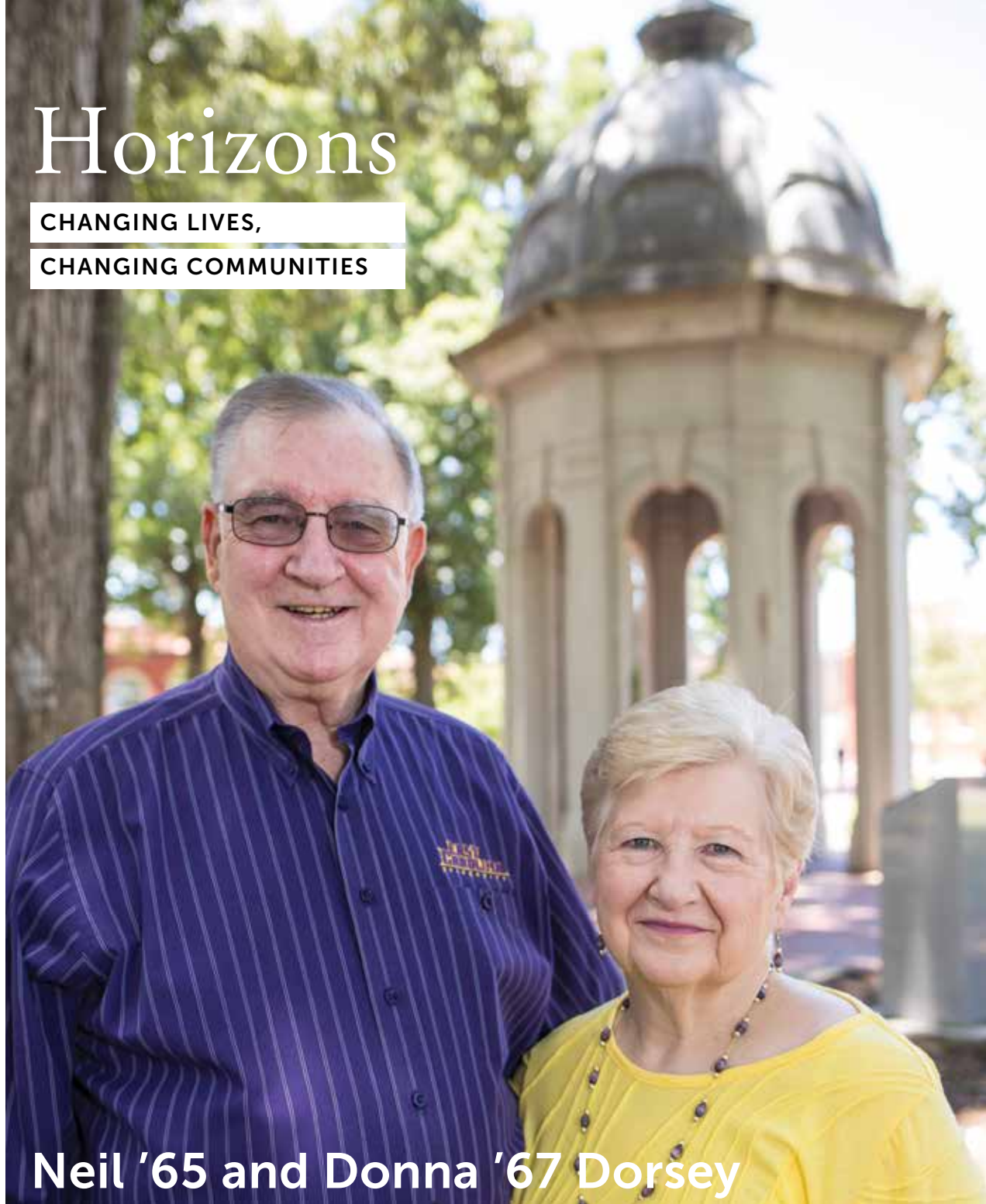
ECU Connect also provides a robust online mentoring platform that allows users to directly seek career guidance or serve as a mentor for current students and recent graduates. Easily sign-on and sync with your LinkedIn account to quickly connect with people you need to grow and refine your personal and professional network.





# Horizons

CHANGING LIVES,  
CHANGING COMMUNITIES



**Neil '65 and Donna '67 Dorsey**

Neil is a retired correctional administrator, and Donna works at the Brody School of Medicine. The Dorseys count serving on the East Carolina Alumni Association board, chairing the Alumni Scholarship Committee and Golden Reunion, and serving at Alumni Scholarship events among their volunteer work at ECU.

### Giving time

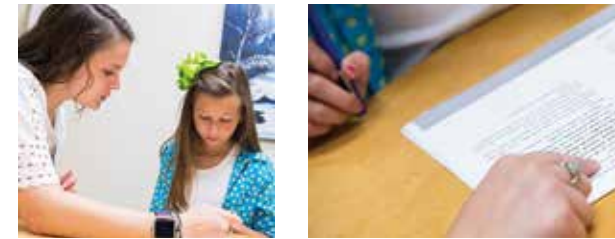
"With the shrinking state support for higher education, philanthropy has taken on a much more important role at ECU. Philanthropy is more than donating money. Just as important is opening up opportunities for students through mentoring, educating or job opportunities. We have benefited from these actions and must take action to increase the philanthropic efforts of ECU to achieve success."

### Volunteering makes a difference

"We can make an impact on the lives of others and, in return, grow as an individual. We have been involved in volunteering for most of our lives and have seen and had many positive outcomes that makes us want to give back even more."

### Connect with ECU

The new ECU Connect website provides opportunities for alumni to connect with each other and the university in an online community setting similar to LinkedIn. Members can post and search through opportunities to serve as mentors to students and other alumni as well as access other engagement and volunteer activities related to ECU. Join at [ecuconnect.com](http://ecuconnect.com).



*Above, ECU graduate student Kaylee Webb works with Payton Cutler on her reading skills.*

**For children with speech-language and reading disorders, getting through grade school can be difficult, and there is the fear that they could be left behind.** But thanks to a partnership between the Scottish Rite Foundation and the ECU Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic, those children aren't falling through the cracks.

"If they've not become efficient readers (usually around the third grade), reading to learn is extremely difficult. That's usually when the big problems show up," said Lori Kincannon, clinical program coordinator and a clinical instructor at ECU's Speech-Language and Hearing Clinic.

With the funding from the The N.C. Scottish Rite Masonic Foundation, parents with children who are experiencing these reading difficulties can get them tested for speech-language or hearing disorders for a fraction of what it would normally cost. Once the child is tested, those at the clinic can work with them to overcome those speech-language or hearing disorders.

Payton Cutler is dyslexic and was one of those students who was falling behind. "We've had testing done with her, but the Scottish Rite has provided more in-depth type testing that allows us to know where she is at various levels, so then they (those at the clinic) know how to teach her the information and how she's going to process the information," said Payton's mother, Stacy Cutler. With help of the testing and their work with the clinic, Cutler said Payton has moved up four reading levels this year. "She's a totally different child. She's my spunky Payton again," Cutler said. Scottish Rite has given more than \$1.1 million to ECU.

"The Scottish Rite's involvement in assisting children with communication problems began in Denver, Colorado, over 60 years ago," said William Brunk, CEO of Scottish Rite in North Carolina. "Our involvement with East Carolina gives us an opportunity to provide assistance in eastern North Carolina, an area with as much need as anywhere, but with only a certain amount of resources."

— Rich Klindworth

## DONORS RECOGNIZED WITH NEW AWARD

To show his and East Carolina University's appreciation for the generosity of significant donors, Chancellor Cecil Staton has created a special recognition he calls "the Chancellor's Amethyst."

It is the premier recognition of philanthropic commitment to ECU. The distinction celebrates a demonstrated and ongoing legacy of philanthropy to the university. The amethyst vase will be awarded twice a year — in the fall and in the spring. So far, amethysts have been awarded to the following individuals and organizations:

### Fall 2016

- **Golden LEAF Foundation.** The foundation has given more than \$6.5 million in grants for programs at ECU focused on transforming the formerly tobacco-dependent areas of eastern North Carolina as well as providing
- **Walter and Marie Williams.** The Williamses, multi-million-dollar donors, have supported many campaigns and initiatives over the years, most recently the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Southside Renovation project.

### Spring 2017

- **BB&T.** Over its lifetime of support, BB&T has donated more than \$3.6 million to ECU to fund student success and leadership among other priorities. Additionally, BB&T has pledged \$1 million to the Southside Stadium Renovation Project. Scott Evans, BB&T northeastern N.C. regional president, accepted the award.



### • Carl and Connie Rogers.

The Rogerses, Pirate Club members and season ticket holders for 25 years, have pledged \$875,000 to name the Pirate Club Level at Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium that will be in the soon-to-be-renovated southside tower. Carl Rogers is in his sixth year as a member of the Pirate Club Executive Committee after serving as president in 2015-16.

- **Dr. Mary Raab and William McConnell.** Raab and her late husband, Dr. Spencer Raab, played pivotal roles in establishing the Leo W. Jenkins Cancer Center. McConnell has supported student scholarships and numerous other projects around campus.



"When you see who has been recognized with the Chancellor's Amethyst, you notice a common theme," Staton said. "These are individuals and corporations that show their servant-leadership in a way that helps and inspires others and, at the same time, shows their love for ECU."

The next Chancellor's Amethysts will be given out during a fall Board of Trustees meeting.

— Rich Klindworth



# Calendar

## ON CAMPUS

**Oceanographer Robert Ballard** presents "Human History Under Water" as part of the Voyages of Discovery Series at 7 p.m. Sept. 14 in Wright Auditorium. Ballard is best known for his 1985 discovery of the Titanic and has tracked down numerous other significant shipwrecks. He is a National Geographic Society Explorer-In-Residence, a commissioner on the U.S. Commission on



Ocean Policy and president of the Ocean Exploration Trust. An explorer, discoverer and historian, Ballard teaches a great deal about the past and has encouraged others to take strides in the survey of the mysteries of the deep sea.



In the second Voyages event of the fall, Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist **Colson Whitehead** reads from his novel *The Underground Railroad* at 7 p.m. Oct. 4 in Wright Auditorium. Whitehead has established himself as one of the most versatile and innovative writers in contemporary literature. *The Underground Railroad* is a 2017 Pulitzer Prize winner, was the 2016 National Book Award winner and appeared at the top of the *New York Times* bestseller list. *Tickets are available at [www.ecu.edu/voyages](http://www.ecu.edu/voyages).*

## ON STAGE

**Sense and Sensibility**, a playful new adaptation of Jane Austen's beloved novel, hits the McGinnis Theatre stage Sept. 28-Oct. 3. The play follows the fortunes (and misfortunes) of the Dashwood sisters — sensible Elinor and hypersensitive Marianne — after their father's sudden death leaves them financially destitute and socially vulnerable. Set in gossipy late 18th-century England with a fresh female voice, the play is full of humor, depth and bold theatricality. Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$10 for ECU students and those 18 and under.

**Dance @ Wright** continues the performance season with a fun and unique performance Oct. 27-29 at Wright Auditorium. The eclectic lineup of ballet, jazz, tap, modern and contemporary dance has plenty for the dance newcomer and the dance lover. Tickets are \$15 for the public and \$10 for ECU students and those 18 and under.

It's alive! The musical comedy adaptation of Mel Brooks' monstrously funny film **Young Frankenstein** comes to McGinnis Theatre on Nov. 16-21. Tickets are \$17.50 for the public and \$10 for ECU students and those 18 and under.

Tickets and show times for all events are available at [www.ECUARTS.com](http://www.ECUARTS.com) or by calling 252-328-6829.

## S. RUDOLPH ALEXANDER PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

**The S. Rudolph Alexander Performing Arts Series** opens its 56th season Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. with "Billie and Blue Eyes," a performance featuring the return of guitarist John Pizzarelli and his band with singer Catherine Russell. The salute includes Billie Holiday classics such as "All of Me" and "What a Little Moonlight Will Do" as well as Frank Sinatra hits such as "Witchcraft" and "I Thought About You." Pizzarelli is credited with reinvigorating the Great American Songbook and repopularizing jazz (*Boston Globe*). Russell has performed and recorded with David Bowie, Steely Dan, Paul Simon and Rosanne Cash among others and recently won a Grammy Award for her appearance as a featured artist on the soundtrack album for HBO's *Boardwalk Empire*.

Tracing its history to 1296, the **Vienna Boys Choir** — which included Joseph Haydn and Franz Schubert among its members — will offer a joyful program titled "Smile" on Oct. 17 at 8 p.m. Works

will include selections from Couperin, Mendelssohn, Purcell, Schumann and Mozart as well as contemporary selections such as Nacio Herb Brown's "Singin' in the Rain," Edwin Hawkins' "Oh Happy Day" and Pharrell Williams' "Happy." Audiences at East Carolina will be among the half-million people worldwide to hear the choir live this season.

**Evidence: A Dance Company** will serve a multi-day residency with support from South Arts' Dance Touring Initiative and perform Nov. 7 at 8 p.m. Artistic director Ron K. Brown integrates traditional African dance with contemporary movement, music and spoken word and has set works on significant African-American companies that have also performed in Wright Auditorium. "I hope that when people see the work, their spirits are lifted. I am interested in sharing perspectives through modern dance, theater and kinetic storytelling. I want my work to be evidence of these perspectives," says Brown.

ALL SRAPAS performances are in Wright Auditorium. Subscriptions and individual tickets are available at 252-328-4788 or [www.ECUARTS.com](http://www.ECUARTS.com).

## MUSIC



## FESTIVALS

**North Carolina NewMusic Initiative** director Ed Jacobs welcomes percussionist **Ayano Kataoka** to ECU's **A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Oct. 13**. She has been praised by The New York Times for her "...atmospheric, tactile backdrop of pitched percussion, played deftly..."

ECU's **Four Seasons Chamber Music Festival** presents two concert residencies at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall in Greenville this fall with the **Season Opening Extravaganza** on Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. and Oct. 6 at 8 p.m.; and **Chamber Music Monuments** on Nov. 16 at 7 p.m. and Nov. 17 at 8 p.m.

The **Season Opening Extravaganza** is reprised Oct. 8 at 3 p.m. and **Chamber Music Monuments** on Nov. 19 at 3 p.m. at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church in Raleigh.

*Tickets and more information are available at [www.ecu.edu/fourseasons](http://www.ecu.edu/fourseasons) or by calling 252-328-6019.*

**Flutist Claire Chase** comes to A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Nov. 9. Chase is a soloist, collaborative artist, curator and advocate for new and experimental music. Called "the young star of the modern flute..." by *The New Yorker*, over the past decade she has given the world premieres of hundreds of new works in performances throughout the Americas, Europe and Asia, and she has championed new music throughout the world.



**Premiere Performances**, a concert dedicated to the newest ideas of ECU's developing young composers, will be presented Nov. 20 at the School of Music.

All **North Carolina NewMusic Initiative** concerts are at 7:30 p.m., and admission is free. *More information is at [www.ecu.edu/newmusic](http://www.ecu.edu/newmusic).*



## OPERA

**ECU Opera Theater** and director John Kramar present **Iolanthe, or The Peer and the Peri**, a comic opera by Gilbert and Sullivan, at the historic Turnage Theater in Washington, with performances Nov. 3 and Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. and Nov. 5 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$15 general admission, \$10 senior/faculty/staff and \$5 for students and are available at [www.artsofthepamlico.org/turnage-theatre](http://www.artsofthepamlico.org/turnage-theatre).

## ORCHESTRA

**The ECU Symphony Orchestra**, Jorge Richter, conductor, is in concert Sept. 23, Oct. 14 and Nov. 10. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in ECU's Wright Auditorium and are free and open to the public. For more information, call 252-328-6851.

## BANDS

The **ECU Symphonic Wind Ensemble**, Concert Band and Symphonic Band take the stage for Bandoramas on Sept. 26 and Nov. 8. Concerts are in Wright Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. and are free.

Oct. 26 is all things percussion at Fletcher Music Center when the **Percussion Ensemble** performs in Room B110 at 7:30 p.m. Free.

The annual free **Holiday Band Concert** featuring songs of the season is Dec. 3 in Wright Auditorium at 2 p.m. For information, call 252-328-6851.

Be there or be square as jazz rules at Wright Auditorium at 8 p.m. Dec. 2 with **ECU Jazz Ensemble (A)** and the ECU Dr. Billy Taylor Combo in a free combined jazz concert.

## GUEST ARTISTS

Classical guitarist **Luther Enloe** comes to A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall on Oct. 4. Possessing a distinctively resonant sound quality, lyrical phrasing and technical finesse, Enloe has received acclaim for the expressive command of his live performances from concert presenters and audience members alike.

The **Klasinc-Loncar Duo** performs at ECU on Oct. 11. Their programs often blend Baroque, Classical and Romantic compositions with Loncar's original works, transcriptions and arrangements of Spanish, Croatian and other Mediterranean folk styles and music of the Viennese tradition.

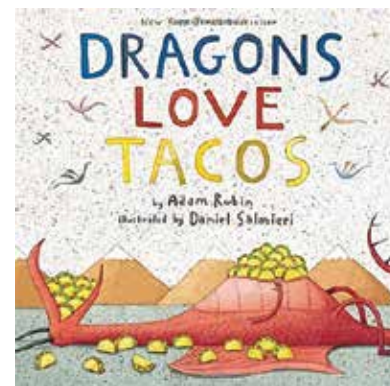
Both concerts are at A.J. Fletcher Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. For information, call 252-328-6851.



*Klasinc-Loncar Duo*

## FAMILY FARE

Family Fare enters its 28th season Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium with a musical romp through the kid-lit scene with Theatreworks USA's **Dragons Love Tacos and Other Storybooks**. Theatreworks has been a Family Fare staple for more than a decade because of its smart lyrics and captivating performances.



ECU Storybook Theatre, a performance-outreach arm of the School of Theatre and Dance, will stage the classic **Wind in the Willows**, based on the book by Kenneth Grahame on Dec. 1 at 7 p.m. in Wright Auditorium. A rich story about several animals living in the countryside centers on Toad's obsession with cars, the mayhem that ensues and the lessons he learns about his impetuous ways.

## EXHIBITS

The **Wellington B. Gray Gallery in the Jenkins Fine Arts Center** will feature a series of local and regional art exhibitions in the 2017-2018 academic year. They will include student and faculty work from the School of Art and Design. Hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and admission is free. The gallery is closed for all university holidays. More information is available by calling 252-328-1312 or at [www.ecu.edu/graygallery](http://www.ecu.edu/graygallery).

Lisa Beth Robinson hosts **End of Times 2: The Time is Now** in the Erwin Gallery from Sept. 1-28. Forty letterpress printers from around the world will be creating an edition of 80 prints that capture their personal styles and reactions to the current world climate. Information is at [endoftimesprints.com](http://endoftimesprints.com).

The **Erwin Gallery** is in the historic Erwin Building on the ECU campus. Public hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Free admission.

Tickets and show times for all events are available at [www.ECUARTS.com](http://www.ECUARTS.com) or by calling 252-328-6829.



**Heather Muise's Side Show** is presented Nov. 1-30. The exhibit includes a series of color etchings that explore autobiographical narratives, true and imaginary, using the denizens of the circus and sideshow.



Cynthia Bickley-Green presents **Looking Good: Visual Experience**, paintings representing entoptic visual experience inspired by sound and haptic sensation, Oct. 2-27.



HOME COMING

Oct. 21,  
2017



**Homecoming parade**

**Oct. 21, 9 a.m., Fifth Street**

Join us at the Taylor-Slaughter Alumni Center to watch the parade. See PeeDee, the Marching Pirates and other bands, ECU cheerleaders, student organization floats, the homecoming court and Alumni Award recipients.

**Pirate Game Day Tailgate**

**Oct. 21, Three hours before kick-off,** ECU soccer stadium Gather with fellow Pirates for a buffet meal by Aramark and Smithfield Chicken 'N Bar-B-Q. along with beverages, live music and entertainment, door prizes and more. Pirate Game Day Tailgate is open to friends and fans of ECU. Members of the alumni association can enter 30 minutes early. Information and pricing are at [PirateAlumni.com](http://PirateAlumni.com).

**Homecoming Concert**

**Oct. 18, 7 p.m.**

Performer TBA at [ecu.edu/homecoming](http://ecu.edu/homecoming)  
Wright Auditorium

**Treasure Found! Homecoming sale**

**Oct. 18-21**

Dowdy Student Store, Wright Building  
Discounts throughout the store and a FREE game day button with purchase. Alumni, show us your class ring and save up to 30 percent off regular prices. Extended hours before the game.  
[www.studentstores.ecu.edu](http://www.studentstores.ecu.edu)

**Homecoming canned food drive**

**Oct. 19, Noon-3 p.m.**

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina  
Contact: [homecoming@ecu.edu](mailto:homecoming@ecu.edu) or 252-737-1808

**Homecoming pep rally at Freeboot Friday**

**Oct. 20, 5-8 p.m.**

Five Points Plaza, Uptown Greenville  
Free, contact [homecoming@ecu.edu](mailto:homecoming@ecu.edu)  
or 252-737-1808

**The Black Alumni Chapter of the East Carolina Alumni Association**

presents the 2017 Black Alumni Reunion. Hotel blocks are available at the Holiday Inn Express at 909 Moye Blvd. and the Hilton at 207 SW Greenville Blvd. Details and registration information are at [PirateAlumni.com/2017BAR](http://PirateAlumni.com/2017BAR).

**Marching Pirates alumni reunion**

Join fellow former band members for a weekend of fun, music and football. The reunion fee is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members. Football tickets are available and are NOT included in the fee. A block of seats will be reserved in the Boneyard behind the marching band. Football block purchase details will be available at [PirateAlumni.com/2017MPReunion](http://PirateAlumni.com/2017MPReunion). The host hotel is the Holiday Inn Express at 909 Moye Blvd. Hotel block details and more information are at [PirateAlumni.com/2017MPReunion](http://PirateAlumni.com/2017MPReunion).

COLLEGE, SCHOOL AND DEPARTMENT EVENTS

**Career Services, Student Affairs Development and Parents & Family Programs**

**Parade of Pirates**

**Oct. 21, 9-11 a.m. (during Homecoming Parade)**

Career Services house on Fifth Street  
Karen Franklin, 252-328-6050 or [sadevelopment@ecu.edu](mailto:sadevelopment@ecu.edu)

**College of Allied Health Sciences 50th-anniversary alumni tailgate**

**Oct. 21, time TBD**

Location/cost/RSVP deadline TBD  
Alyssa De Santis Figiel, 252-744-2114 or [desantisa14@ecu.edu](mailto:desantisa14@ecu.edu)

**Department of Biology**

**Homecoming Nerd Nite**

**Oct. 20, 7:30 p.m.**

Tapped, 650 E. Fire Tower Road, Winterville  
Free, no RSVP  
Jeff McKinnon, 252-328-5258 or [mckinnonj@ecu.edu](mailto:mckinnonj@ecu.edu)

**Department of Chemistry**

**Homecoming 2017**

**Oct. 20, 5-8:30 p.m.**

Science and Technology Building third floor atrium area  
Cost TBD, RSVP by Oct. 6  
Aimee Callicutt, 252-328-9710 or [callicutta16@ecu.edu](mailto:callicutta16@ecu.edu)

**Department of Criminal Justice**

**Oct. 21, 10 a.m.,**

Rivers Building north lawn  
Free

**Campus Recreation and wellness**

**CRW alumni welcome reception**

**Oct. 20, 6-8 p.m.**

Student Recreation Center  
Free, RSVP TBA at [ecu.edu/crw](http://ecu.edu/crw)  
Greg Corack, 328-1564

**College of Education**

**Breakfast on the Porch**

**Oct. 21, 8:30 a.m.**

Front of Speight Building; parking available in adjacent lots.  
Free, no RSVP  
[COEOutreach@ecu.edu](mailto:COEOutreach@ecu.edu)

**College of Fine Arts and Communication**

**Homecoming tailgate (Co-sponsored by Pirate Radio 1250 & 930)**

**Oct. 20, three hours before kickoff**

Elmhurst School  
Free, RSVP by Oct. 13  
Mary Jane Gaddis, 252-328-1268 or [gaddism@ecu.edu](mailto:gaddism@ecu.edu)

**College of Nursing**

**Annual homecoming festivities, special recognition of the class of '67 and online alumni**

**Oct. 20, 5-8 p.m.**

College of Nursing building front lobby  
Free, RSVP by Oct. 3  
Jane Boardman, 252-744-6504  
[boardmanj@ecu.edu](mailto:boardmanj@ecu.edu)

**Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences**

**Alumni breakfast**

**Oct. 21, 8 a.m.**

On the lawn beside Whichard Building facing Fifth Street  
Free, no RSVP  
Jessica Nottingham, 252-737-1753 or [nottinghamj@ecu.edu](mailto:nottinghamj@ecu.edu)

**College of Health and Human Performance**

**Homecoming breakfast**

**Oct. 21, 8 a.m.**

Rivers Building Lawn  
Free, no RSVP  
Kathy Muse, [musek@ecu.edu](mailto:musek@ecu.edu)

GREEK EVENTS

**NPHC Step Show**

**Oct. 20, time/cost TBD**

Wright Auditorium  
252-328-4235

2017 Alumni Award Recipients

The following Pirates will be recognized Oct. 20 at the Alumni Awards Ceremony and Dinner and during halftime of the Oct. 21 homecoming football game.

**Valeria Lassiter '90** is the founder and CEO of Lassiter & Associates, a strategic partnership, communications and fundraising management firm.

**Harry Stubbs, IV '74 '77** (1952-2015) had a 32-year career in Washington, D.C., primarily with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

**Art Beeler '75** is a clinical assistant professor at North Carolina Central University in the Department of Criminal Justice.

**Sheilah Cotten '75 '77**, recently retired after 40 years of teaching and coaching at Louisburg College, is best known for her tenure as the head coach of the Louisburg softball team from 1986-2005, compiling a record of 516-293.

**Jim Newman '68 '74** is a former Navy officer and reservist with more than 30 years of service.

**William "Bill" Rowland '53** has played a key role for more than 50 years in the identification, recovery, documentation and preservation of the CSS Neuse, a Confederate ironclad discovered in the Neuse River at Kinston.

The alumni awards ceremony and dinner is 6 p.m. Oct. 20 at the Greenville Convention Center. Alumni, friends and guests are welcome; advance registration is required. Sponsorship opportunities are available. To be a sponsor or for general information, contact Shawn Moore '91 '98 at 252-328-5775 or [moresh@ecu.edu](mailto:moresh@ecu.edu). Information is at [URL](http://URL).

The alumni association is accepting nominations for the 2018 Alumni Awards through Nov. 1. More information is at [PirateAlumni.com/AwardsProcess](http://PirateAlumni.com/AwardsProcess).



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# EAST

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## DueEast

8.21.17

While it didn't get dark, the great American Eclipse did happen in the skies over ECU. Student Jeremy Massenburg was among those who donned solar safety glasses to watch the moon move across the sun from the bottom of College Hill on Aug. 21.