

Residence hall
renovations raise the
student experience

IDEAS TO INNOVATIONS,
ECU AIMS TO BOOST RESEARCH

Campus and research
news, faculty and alumni
interviews and more

EAST

THE ECU MAGAZINE



SPR
2018



You know an ECU Doctor

MEDICAL GRADUATES SERVE THE STATE





On the Cover: Dr. Beatriz Juncadella '05 holds Kingston Long at her practice in Thomasville. Read more about ECU physicians' impact across the state on beginning on page 24. Photo by Cliff Hollis



ECU Honors College student Maggie Marshall demonstrates how virtual reality will be used in a two-year, \$600,000 study on balance control and concussion by ECU kinesiology faculty members Chris Mizelle, Nick Murray and Zac Domire. The study is funded by the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Naval Research.

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Not to mention educate and graduate

EAST

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With graduates across the state, chances are there's one near you



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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. ©2018 by East Carolina University

Correction: In the "Horizons" feature in the fall issue of East, Donna Dorsey was incorrectly said to work at the Brody School of Medicine.



Letter from the Chancellor

A force for progress.

It's been over a century since ECU started making an impact in eastern North Carolina, and there's no stopping us now.

Our credentials speak to that. We remain the only institution in the University of North Carolina system with professional schools of engineering, medicine and dental medicine at the same institution. We have more than 300 faculty members engaged in externally sponsored research and service, with grants from the National Science Foundation to the Department of Defense. And our 200,000 square feet of research and laboratory space continues to grow.

Simply put, we are eastern North Carolina's humming engine for research, revival and positive change—and what we do here transcends Greenville to the national stage.

Now is the time to work together as a community of students, faculty, alumni and researchers to keep ECU on this ever upward trajectory. Goals for the future include the following:

- The doubling of our sponsored research enterprise
- The building of a new research and greenhouse bioextraction facility
- The successful redevelopment of a historic community landmark into an innovation hub, via public-private partnership
- The continuation and growth of our recently announced Rural Prosperity Initiative, which serves as a rallying cry to support the development of our rural areas

These are achievable in spades with your unwavering Pirate Nation support and continued interest in our endeavors. Let's keep building a stronger ECU—and stronger nation—together.

Cecil P. Staton, D. Phil.
Chancellor



Jake Kuchman winds up in a game against the University of South Florida in April. The "WW" on his cap is in memory of ECU alumnus and benefactor Walter Williams, who died in April. Read more about Williams on page 11.

McMahon '69 speaks at spring commencement

► Fireworks flew and tassels turned May 4 in Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium as 5,479 students graduated from East Carolina University.

At ECU's 109th spring commencement ceremony, fireworks capped off a new format as the event was held in the evening for the first time. Also new this year was Grad Bash 2K18, a May 3 festival-style celebration for graduates, their families and the community in Greenville's Uptown District with an estimated 2,500 attendees.

At the evening ceremony, Chancellor Cecil Staton congratulated graduates and encouraged them to make a difference. "We are counting on you to show us the way to a productive and meaningful future for our communities, our nation and even the world," he said.

Introducing keynote speaker Linda McMahon '69, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, Staton said, "Today we are honored to have with us one of our own ECU Pirates, an eastern North Carolina success story, a public figure working and advocating on behalf of the 30 million small businesses in the United States."

McMahon, a native of New Bern, earned her bachelor's degree in French and her teaching certification at ECU. Together with her husband, Vince '69, she went on to become the co-founder and chief executive officer of World Wrestling Entertainment.

In recognition of her leadership, accomplishments and service, Staton awarded McMahon an honorary doctorate of humanities degree, as approved by the ECU board of trustees.

McMahon was a newlywed when she arrived as a freshman. She said she's taken a lot of risks and had some failures amid success.

"Challenge the status quo. At work, treat every day as if it's your first day on the job," McMahon said. "Your success will come from doing something better, smarter and more innovative than what's been done before."

She encouraged graduates to "find your passion, play to your strengths and never lose your curiosity. I think these apply to business or any path you take. While you can't script your life, your values will drive your narrative."

For the graduates, the ceremony brought a range of emotions, from joy and pride to nostalgia and anxiety.

"It's really bittersweet for me," said Toni Abernathy as she led the biology graduates into Wright Auditorium for their departmental ceremony. "It feels like just yesterday that I was in Garrett as a freshman — it's hard to believe it has really been four years."



Left, fireworks capped off the 2018 ECU spring commencement ceremony, held in the evening for the first time. Below, ECU Provost Ron Mitchelson, left, and Kieran Shanahan, chair of the ECU Board of Trustees, place a hood on keynote speaker Linda McMahon, administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration, who received an honorary doctor of humanities degree.



Abernathy, an environmental educator, will work at a science center in her hometown of Hickory before starting work on a master's degree next spring.

Graduates Danielle Torrone and Taylor Maleska said they liked the ceremony's later start because it gave family the opportunity to travel without taking off an entire day's work, a chance to sleep in and time to get ready for the event. And the pyrotechnics.

"The fireworks were definitely cool," Torrone said.
— Crystal Baity and Jules Norwood

ECU surgeons treating rare disorder with novel surgery

Sandra Callis is one of approximately 200,000 U.S. residents living with achalasia, a rare disorder that makes it almost impossible to eat.

The grandmother from Colerain remembers doctors first told her she had acid reflux, but this was worse.

"There was no rhyme or reason. When you have reflux, people will say to just figure out what you ate before you had an attack. Mine was getting to the point where it was anything I ate," she said. "Three bites of rice, and I'd be in the bathroom."

Achalasia occurs when a muscle between the esophagus and stomach loses its ability to relax, making it difficult for food and liquid to pass into a person's stomach and causing a host of health problems, including weight loss and an increased risk of esophageal cancer.

Now a team of ECU surgeons is among the first in North Carolina to perform a minimally invasive procedure – called a peroral endoscopic myotomy – that can relieve achalasia and help people get back to normal.

During the procedure, doctors insert an endoscope into the esophagus and then cut the muscle inside it that is not functioning properly, allowing food easier passage to the stomach.

Doctors first performed the POEM procedure



in Japan in 2008, and it has since migrated around the world. After performing their first POEM procedure last spring, ECU surgeons have completed approximately two dozen more.

"We're starting to see patients from other parts of the state and from other states who are now coming to ECU and Vidant (Medical Center) for this treatment," said Dr. Carlos Anciano, an assistant professor in ECU's thoracic surgery division.

Anciano performed Callis' surgery Feb. 5. Two weeks later, after a post-operation liquid diet, doctors gave her the OK to try "normal" food again.

"I came home and had a cheeseburger. It took me an hour to eat it, because my stomach wasn't used to food. But it sure was good, and I was fine. I was full," she said. "It was nice, it felt normal. I had forgotten what normal felt like."

– Rob Spahr

Dr. Carlos Anciano speaks as patient Sandra Callis listens at a news conference about POEM surgery at ECU.



ECU junior **Tyler Matthews** finished 21st in his debut race in the NASCAR Camping World Truck Series on March 26 at Martinsville Speedway in Virginia. Driving for MDM Motorsports, Matthews is scheduled to race again June 16 at Iowa Speedway in Newton, Iowa, and June 23 at Gateway Speedway in Madison, Illinois, just outside St. Louis. Matthews, of Richlands, is a construction management major in the College of Engineering and Technology.

Economic Development Academy aimed at officials, business leaders

In April, ECU officials unveiled plans to create an academy that will offer economic development training and certifications to elected officials, business leaders and economic development staffers.

The program, which coincides with ECU's Rural Prosperity Initiative, will partner with other North Carolina universities, community colleges and nonprofit organizations in equipping communities with the knowledge and skills needed to create jobs, recruit and retain businesses, boost wages and attract economic investment, according to Jay Golden, vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement at ECU.

Golden, whose division is leading the Rural Prosperity Initiative, believes the academy programs not only could move the economic needle for North Carolina communities, but also serve as a replicable model for university-based economic transformation programs around the country.



Jay Golden

ECU officials will organize expertise from other UNC system campuses and the N.C. Community College System to offer instruction around “place-based” economic development – custom strategies and solutions for the unique needs, assets and opportunities of a specific county, town or city. ECU tested the idea last year with leaders in Granville County.

ECU also intends to create a certification program for economic development professionals in the state, offering classes in legal, financial, ethical and other aspects of local economic development in a format that is practical and accessible.

– Matt Smith



Joe Dooley, left, was named head coach of the ECU men's basketball team in April. Dooley comes to ECU from Florida Gulf Coast University, where he was 114-58 with two Atlantic Sun conference tournament titles and two appearances each in the NCAA and NIT tournaments. Dooley was head coach at ECU from 1995-1999, compiling a 57-52 record. Also pictured are Chancellor **Cecil Staton**, center, and **Dave Hart**, whom Staton named as special advisor for athletics in March. Hart, who was ECU's athletic director from 1987-1995, led the search that culminated in Dooley's hiring and is providing operational and strategic guidance to the chancellor on athletic affairs. Hart has also served as athletic director at Florida State and Tennessee and was executive director of athletics at Alabama.



ECU's youngest students learning at Lab School

This academic year was the inaugural one for ECU's Lab School, which will complete its school year in June.

Housed in a renovated wing of South Greenville Elementary School, the ECU Lab School is designed to serve students who have underperformed in their traditional school setting by building upon the students' strengths. The Lab School not only addresses students' academic needs but also provides students with additional resources to enhance their development physically, socially and emotionally. Additionally, the Lab School operates on an extended day schedule with students remaining in school until 5 p.m. As a trade-off, Lab School students are not assigned homework.

While the first year of operation included only second, third and fourth grades, ECU plans to add a blended pre-K and kindergarten, first-, and fifth-grade classes to the lab school for the 2018-2019 school year.

— Cole Dittmer



Staff and teachers meet students at the Lab School open house last August.

\$500
MILLION

**\$182
MILLION***
TOWARD CAMPAIGN ALREADY
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*APPX.

Funding the future

In November 2016, ECU launched a \$500 million comprehensive fundraising campaign that promises regional transformation, increased student success and research incentivization. So far, \$182 million has been raised, and the total continues to rise daily.

An increase in individual donors and strong support for ECU's first stand-alone day of giving — Pirate Nation Gives — helped ECU raise more than \$48 million in fiscal year 2017. To complement our ambitious fundraising efforts, ECU introduced the Chancellor's Amethyst to recognize the highest level of philanthropy among Pirates.

Each gift ECU receives brings us one step closer to transforming our campus and providing the foundation we need to be recognized as America's next great national university. Each gift is a commitment to improving the university, the lives of our students and the communities we serve.

I-Corps puts innovation in the crosshairs

More than two dozen ECU students, faculty and staff, as well as members of the Greenville community, have begun an entrepreneurship boot camp called I-Corps to help hone their business ideas and jump-start the startup process.

The pilot program, designed to encourage and embrace the ideation, innovation and commercialization process at ECU, has received a \$500,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to establish an Innovation Corps site.

In April, ECU recognized the spring semester's 26 teams for their innovative ideas, including BetaSol, a product developed by professor Richard Baybutt, which provides a dose of vitamin A to smokers to help prevent lung injury; FoodMASTER, an educational curriculum that uses food to teach math, science and nutrition skills led by professor Melanie Duffrin and graduate student Allender Lynch; and Glean, a local baking flour product created by a group of entrepreneurs from "ugly" vegetables that are rejected by retail stores.

I-Corps@ECU is the vision of Marti Van Scott,

director of the ECU Office of Technology Transfer, to improve the process of identifying, assessing and commercializing new product opportunities generated by ECU faculty, staff and students.

"To me, the exciting thing about this program is that it emphasizes the entrepreneurial process," said Mike Harris, director of the Miller School of Entrepreneurship in the ECU College of Business.

One of the components of the program is assessing the needs of potential customers by getting out in the community and interviewing the people who make up the target market for the product.

Becky Gilbird of the clinical simulation program at the Brody School of Medicine said she participated to determine which aspects of the simulation program are marketable. Other participants had existing businesses they wanted to improve or ideas they to try.

I-Corps@ECU will support 30 entrepreneurial teams a year and provide seed grants of up to \$3,000 each to help fund customer discovery and prototype development activities.

– Jules Norwood

I-Corps is a federal program designed to enable and prepare teams to accelerate development of ideas using its proven methodology.



Nutrition science senior Tremayne Saliim (above) holds a wooden African mask during an exercise in which teams were given a series of random objects and challenged to come up with a solution to a global challenge during an I-Corps event last fall.

ECU loses longtime supporter Walter Williams

Walter Williams '51 '55, one of ECU's most loyal advocates and benefactors, died March 5. He was 88.

Williams and his wife, Marie, have been champions of ECU programs across campus and have given more than \$6 million to the university. Williams was a Pirate Club member for more than 50 years, served as the executive president from 1997 to 1998 and was director emeritus until his death. He also served on the ECU board of trustees from 1995-1999.

"Walter's longtime support and advocacy helped make ECU what it is today," Chancellor Cecil Staton said. "He and Marie set a high bar for giving at ECU and are true examples of the impact that individuals can make in the success of our university."

Notable donations from the Williams family include providing the Pirate Club with its first \$1 million gift in 1993, which went toward renovating Mingos Coliseum. As a result, the basketball arena was rededicated as Williams Arena in their honor. The Williams-Harvey Teams Building and the Smith-Williams Center (Hall of Fame) also bear their name. They most recently made a \$1 million leadership commitment to support the Dowdy-Ficklen Stadium Southside Renovation Campaign.

Williams' support extended to academics as well. He helped fund the STEPP (Supporting Transition and Education through Planning and Partnerships) program, aimed at supporting students with learning disabilities.

One of four children growing up on a tobacco farm south of Greenville, he went on to found Trade Mart, a successful chain of gas stations and convenience stores with outlets up and down the eastern seaboard.

While he never hesitated to share that business success with ECU, Williams was unceasingly humble about his philanthropy. As he told *East* magazine in 2007: "I'm just a hard-working old man. You can't go through life getting accolades unless you are willing to pay the price of working for those accolades."

– Erin Shaw



Walter Williams '51 '55 and wife Marie



Calling it "overwhelming," ECU physiologist **Jitka Virag** was the top vote-getter in this year's STAT Madness, a nationwide contest searching for the "best innovations in science and medicine." Other universities involved included Harvard, Stanford, Yale and MIT. Virag's research into a protein's ability to repair the heart before and during heart attacks could one day change the protocol for treating heart attacks, leading to a significantly higher survival rate and improved quality of life for patients. More than 372,000 votes were cast in this year's tournament, which is hosted by the Boston Globe Media-produced national publication *STAT*.

Researchers investigate downed WWII bomber

Researchers in ECU's program in maritime studies are working with the Department of Defense on a project they hope will give some peace of mind to U.S. military families who lost loved ones during World War II.

Jennifer McKinnon, associate professor of maritime studies, and Jason Raupp, program archaeologist, recently led a team to perform an underwater archaeological investigation of a U.S. Army Air Forces B-24H Liberator. The bomber, with its crew of 10, was shot down north of Rome in 1944.

The investigation is funded by a Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency contract whose mission is to search for, recover and identify potential remains from missing personnel during past conflicts.

"The cause of recovering lost service members is something that you can't even put a value on, and to me it's a humbling experience to be involved in something like this," said McKinnon. "As a maritime archaeologist studying shipwrecks, often you wonder how practical, meaningful or how impactful your research is, and I can't imagine a more impactful project than giving families peace of mind knowing where their family members were lost."

Raupp said this mission shows that people are still interested and concerned for the military and their families.

"I feel incredibly honored. It's such a meaningful and important mission, and it is fortunate that ECU has been chosen as a partner," said Raupp. "As archaeologists, it is not often that you are involved in research that has the ability to give closure to families."

In addition to McKinnon and Raupp, the team includes Mark Keusenkothen and Jason Nunn, two ECU dive safety officers; Annie Wright, ECU maritime studies graduate student; Matt Hanks, an archaeologist with the National Park Service; Joe Hoyt, an ECU maritime studies alumnus working with NOAA; and an Italian colleague, Massimiliano Secci.

"Participating in this DPAA project was an incredibly rewarding experience," said Wright. "This allowed us to use our skills as archaeologists (and archaeology students) to assist in their mission. Talk about archaeology with a cause."

During the survey of the area, the team used acoustic imagery technology and photogrammetric survey to record the scattered wreckage and create a 3D model of the site. The combination of high-definition photogrammetric models, acoustic imagery and related



Above, the team heads to the dive site in the Tyrrhenian Sea. Left, ECU dive safety officer Mark Keusenkothen inspects a turret of a downed B-24H Liberator.

virtual documentation minimizes the time spent manually recording sites, and the resulting data set provides critical planning information, which assists decisions for future recovery efforts.

"This type of detailed digital site documentation elevates the quality of information so that DPAA may achieve the best possible accounting and messaging to MIA families, host country officials, other federal agencies and the public," said McKinnon.

Raupp and McKinnon said the local community and officials were very open, inclusive, hospitable and helpful.

– Lacey Gray

Bull sharks more abundant in N.C. waters, study says

► Sightings of nursing bull sharks in coastal estuaries such as North Carolina's Pamlico Sound are on the rise, largely due to ocean warming, a phenomenon that is encouraging bull sharks to "colonize" the sound as part of their nursing habitat.

That's the conclusion of a multiyear study by researchers from ECU and Simon Frasier University and published April 16 on Nature.com.

Researchers said bull shark nursing activity in the Pamlico Sound went from minimal before 2010 to an annual occurrence starting in 2011.

That's troubling news for humans as bull sharks can grow to more than 10-and-a-half feet long and are known to attack large prey, including humans. The Pamlico Sound is one of the biggest attractions on the Outer Banks, drawing tens of thousands of visitors annually.

"My co-authors and I were not specifically looking for bull sharks when we started analyzing coastal shark catch data from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries," lead author and former ECU doctoral student Chuck Bangley said in a blog post on Southern Fried Science. "In fact, previous evidence would have convinced us that bull sharks would likely be rare."

Bangley says the warming waters may have prompted the sharks to give birth to their pups farther north. He added that bull sharks seem to have "taken a liking to Pamlico Sound as a nursery habitat" since 2012.

Only six juvenile bull sharks were captured in Pamlico Sound from 2003 to 2011. From 2011 to 2016, the number jumped to 53, says the report.

The study says the results suggest increasing water temperature and salinity have allowed bull sharks to expand their nursery habitat, and this shift will have unknown, but potentially strong, impacts on local ecosystem and interactions with humans.

The study was also co-written by experts from the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries. The researchers involved in the report called the evidence "dramatic."

The findings are just the latest in a series of reports showing the impact ocean warming is having on sharks.

Bull sharks can tolerate brackish and fresh waters, which means they can be found in any body of water connected to the ocean, experts say.

"To our knowledge, this study is the first to attempt to associate environmental factors with the apparent

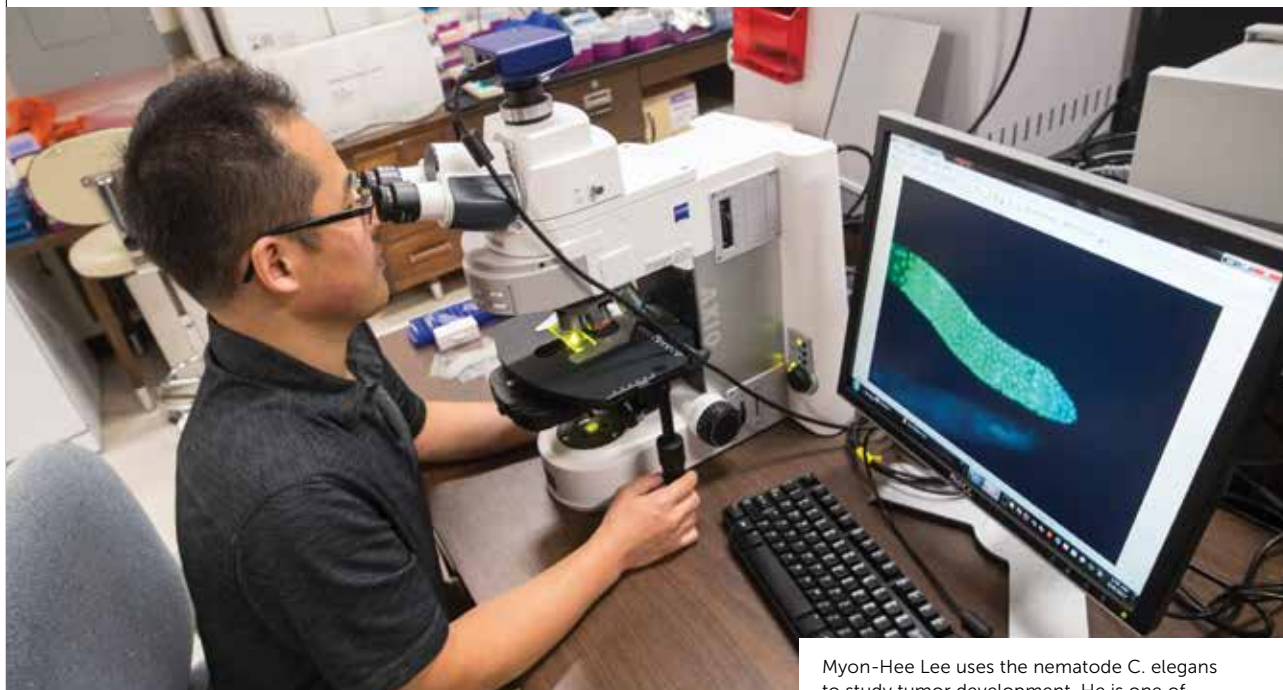
colonization of a nursery habitat by a marine apex predator," says the report. "The use of Pamlico Sound as a primary nursery may increase further if water temperatures remain warm and females born in the system reach maturity and return to give birth."

The study notes evidence that bull shark populations are recovering from previous declines, which may cause a range expansion into new areas where they once roamed. However, the Pamlico Sound was not one of those areas, the experts say.

— Doug Boyd



From left, Matt Ogburn of the Fish and Invertebrate Ecology Lab at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, ECU doctoral graduate Chuck Bangley and intern Michelle Edwards tag a bull shark in Florida to follow its migration.



Myon-Hee Lee uses the nematode *C. elegans* to study tumor development. He is one of several researchers on campus using the tiny worm as a model species.

Nematode valued for research

► A tiny worm commonly found in compost has become a useful subject for research and forms the basis for several projects across ECU that have received federal funding.

"*Caenorhabditis elegans* is a little nematode worm," said Brett Keiper, associate professor in the Brody School of Medicine's Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. "It's not a parasite. It's found in compost, and it's found everywhere on every continent. It's about a millimeter long, thin and clear. And it reproduces like crazy."

The nematode has earned three recent Nobel prizes for other investigators. Its reproductive cycle is part of what makes it a valuable model for research.

"It has a reproductive cycle that's really a lot like that of higher animals," Keiper said. "It reproduces sexually – it makes sperm and it makes eggs. ... And the developing gametes are lined up in a nice linear fashion, start to finish. We observe the expression of proteins that make stem cells turn into sperm, eggs or even tumors when mutated."

Each worm produces and fertilizes its own eggs – producing sperm in the larval stage and eggs as an adult.

"They make both gametes, one first and then the other," Keiper said. "So we have the opportunity to look at clonal lines. Every individual worm can make hundreds or thousands of copies of itself. That allows a lot of great genetics. If I make a mutation in the genome of one worm, I can pick an offspring from that worm and put it on a plate, and it'll make a thousand new clones of itself."

The worms go from fertilized eggs to fertile adults in three days. Also helpful is that *C. elegans*' was the first species to have its entire genome sequenced.

When Keiper came to ECU in 2003, he was the only researcher using *C. elegans* as a model system.

"There are about five of us now, and, remarkably – since federal funding is hard to come by – all of us have gotten some grants," Keiper said.

He received a three-year, \$635,000 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the mechanisms of protein synthesis. Myon-Hee Lee, associate professor of hematology and oncology, is a co-principal investigator on Keiper's grant and also has a three-year, \$367,000 National Institutes of Health grant to study cell fate decisions and how worms can be used as a model for tumor production.

Lee and Keiper received Brody Brothers Foundation grants funding the preliminary work that led to their federal grants.

On Main Campus, biology faculty member Xiaoping Pan uses *C. elegans* with funding from industry and government. Chemistry's David Rudel has received U.S. Geological Survey funding to evaluate the potential toxic effects of nickel exposure at environmental contamination sites.

Ultimately, the research at ECU could lead to cancer therapies, better crop yields or treatments for infertility, Keiper said.

– Jules Norwood



Support Your Family and ECU

It is possible to achieve all of these goals with some planning:

To view an illustration of the benefits of a charitable gift annuity or a charitable unitrust, call us or visit our website: eculegacy.org.



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East Carolina University Educational Foundation

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ECU Foundation, Inc., ECU Medical & Health Sciences Foundation, Inc., East Carolina University Educational Foundation (Pirate Club), and ECU Alumni Association

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Focus

Donna Roberson

College of Nursing

HIV/AIDS expert

Nursing professor serves on international AIDS board

Donna Roberson is helping shape the research and treatment of HIV and AIDS worldwide as a board member of the Association of Nurses in AIDS Care, a group with more than 2,200 members from 60 countries.

HIV/AIDS is not in the news as much now as it was in the 1980s, but it's still a significant health threat, with approximately 37 million people globally living with HIV in 2016, according to UNAIDS.

"We haven't cured HIV, but we understand now that if you can knock HIV down — suppress the viral load so it's not detectable in the blood stream — people are less likely to spread it, their immune system tends to be healthier and they tend not to develop AIDS," said Roberson, an associate professor and executive director of program evaluation in the College of Nursing.

As understanding has improved, so have treatment plans and patients' ability to adhere to them. Now, a diagnosis is no longer a death sentence.

"When I first started as a nurse, if you got diagnosed with HIV, you didn't live six months or a year because you quickly developed AIDS and died from it," said Roberson, who treated her first patient with AIDS in 1986. "It was really a scary thing.

"We had people taking 20 pills four and five times a day," Roberson said. "Now we've got it figured out where people can take combination pills and take them just one or two or three times per day. That's still a lot, but in the world of HIV that's such an improvement."

While talk about HIV may have declined, the virus is on the rise among certain demographics.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 23 percent of new HIV infections are among heterosexuals. The South accounted for 53 percent of U.S. AIDS diagnoses in 2016 (9,584 of the 18,160 diagnosed).

"Infection rates are increasing, particularly in women in the southeastern United States, particularly poor women of color," Roberson said. "They're acquiring HIV through heterosexual contact, and that's 100 percent preventable."

Roberson said infection rates are also growing among adults in their 50s and 60s.

— Natalie Sayewich



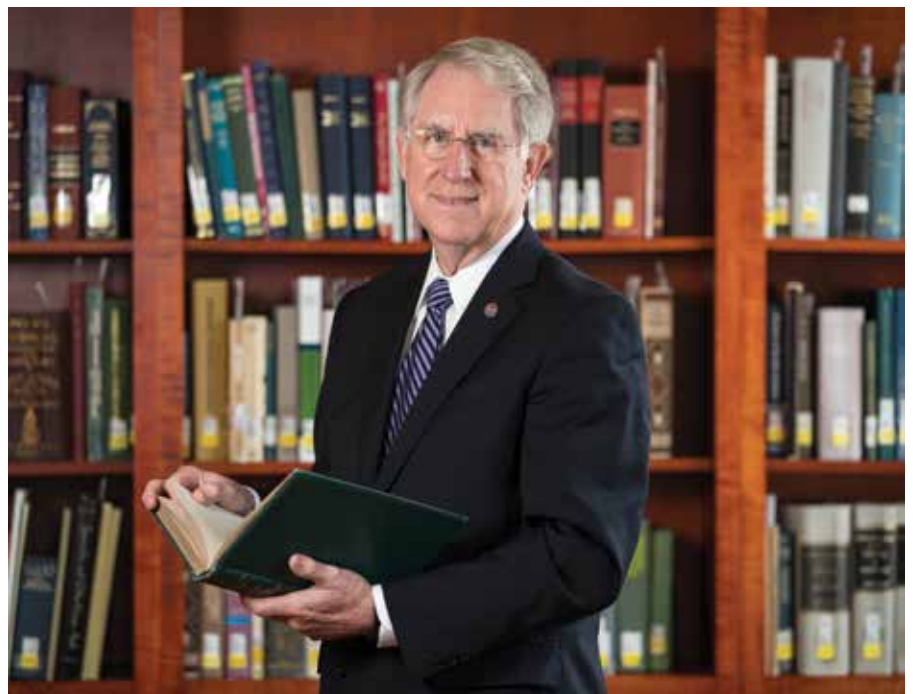


Anisa Zvonkovic has been named dean of the ECU College of Health and Human Performance. She begins July 1. Zvonkovic comes to ECU from Virginia Tech, where since 2011 she has headed the Department of Human Development. She has also taught at Texas Tech University and Oregon State University. She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and religious studies from the University of Virginia and master's and doctoral degrees in human development and family studies from Pennsylvania State University. She is president of the National Council on Family Relations and previously served as president of the Groves Conference on Marriage and Family. Her research centers on the effects of work and other demands on individual and interpersonal lives. She said she was drawn to ECU by the university's focus on service. She succeeds Glen Gilbert, who stepped down in December after serving 18 years as dean.



Sara Thorndike has been named vice chancellor for administration and finance at ECU. She began March 30. Thorndike previously worked as associate vice chancellor for finance and controller at UNC Wilmington. She's also worked in private industry and at other educational institutions. At ECU, Thorndike will lead the university's financial resources, which include total revenues of more than \$900 million. She will also oversee about 1,000 staff members and a divisional budget of approximately \$50 million. Thorndike has a bachelor's degree in accounting from Franklin University, an MBA from Ohio State University and is a doctor of education candidate at UNC Wilmington. She replaces Rick Niswander, who announced his plans last summer to return to a faculty position in the College of Business faculty. He served as dean of that college from 2004 until 2011, when he became vice chancellor.

Dr. Greg Chadwick, dean of the ECU School of Dental Medicine, received the 2017 Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service on Nov. 3 from the UNC Board of Governors. A native North Carolinian, Chadwick has long worked to improve access to dental health care in rural and underserved communities. Toward that end, he helped lead the creation of ECU's dental school and its innovative community service-learning centers. Chadwick is the fourth ECU faculty member to win the Holshouser Award since it was first awarded in 2007. Carmen Russoniello won the award in 2015 for his work with veterans; Dr. Thomas G. Irons earned the honor in 2011 in pediatrics; and Lessie Bass won in 2008 for social work.





IDEATE | INVESTIGATE

Not to mention educate and graduate

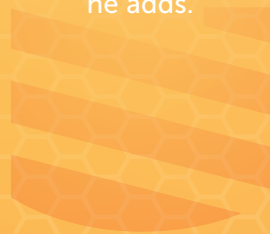


East Carolina's been a place for new ideas for more than 100 years. And new ideas are what university leaders are hoping will help grow the university's research enterprise in coming years. One place that potential for growth is shown in black-and-white is the Higher Education Research and Development Survey's annual list of U.S. colleges and universities in terms of their research funding and expenditures. ECU is on the list, but not where leaders want it to be. "When you look at the list... of the top 100-150 of these institutions are institutions you think of as great national universities," says Jay Golden, an engineer by training and ECU's vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement. "It's a benchmark." Golden is the point person for Chancellor Cecil P. Staton's goal of doubling ECU's research awards and expenditures in the next five years. "From a research and engagement standpoint, we have room to grow," Golden says. "We have to step up our game in research. But the positive is we're well-prepared."

"This university is going all in as far as financial, infrastructure and technical support," he adds.

INNOVATE

STORY BY DOUG BOYD





Clockwise from top left, Elizabeth Mason studies sand at the Coastal Studies Institute, student Madison Neves participates in tobacco research with researcher Janet Benjamin, Drs. Ian Woods, left, and David B. Leiser, chief of transplant surgery at ECU, perform a kidney transplant, and a cannon from Blackbeard's famed Queen Anne's Revenge is raised out of a tank to be put on display.

Research clusters

And one of the ways Golden plans to reach that goal is through the creation of research clusters – groups of scientists working together on a related issue.

“Smaller than a center, bigger than a collaboration,” is how Keith Keene, an assistant professor of biology, describes research clusters. He’s a co-director of the precision medicine cluster.

“These clusters allow the research to develop organically.”

Golden says the clusters are a first step. Other steps are being intentional about research and engaging industry and community partners.

“We’re being very focused,” Golden says. He wants to find researchers who want to collaborate and create an organization that reduces administrative burden. “You can say it all you want, but it can’t happen unless you support it and focus on making it happen.”

Brandon Morrison, director of strategic initiatives for the Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement, said the unique challenges eastern North Carolina faces require an innovative, problem-solving approach.

“Innovation seldom originates from isolation,” Morrison says. “Bringing together a network of faculty and researchers with diverse backgrounds and interests spurs collaboration and joint research projects,” he says.

Adds Golden, “While we are focused on the STEM areas in research, ECU will be very focused in including arts and humanities in our research efforts.”

The research clusters also come with some new terms, such as “decision theater” and “collision space.” Put roughly, these are places where scientists, policymakers and industry representatives meet to hash out new approaches to solve problems and create opportunities.

ECU Vice Chancellor of Research, Economic Development and Engagement Professor Jay Golden, left, signs a memorandum of understanding with Shannon Lasater, senior consulting manager education practice with SAS Institute at the East Carolina Heart Institute. >



“FROM A RESEARCH AND ENGAGEMENT STANDPOINT, WE HAVE ROOM TO GROW. WE HAVE TO STEP UP OUR GAME IN RESEARCH. BUT THE POSITIVE IS WE’RE WELL-PREPARED.”

Jay Golden, vice chancellor for research, economic development and engagement

Dr. David Collier is the other co-director of the precision medicine cluster. He sees the clusters as an organizing principle to focus research. In the case of his cluster, cancer therapies are the most likely target. Targeting specific gene mutations, precision medicine allows people with rare forms of cancer to be treated while also identifying people who would not benefit from the treatment. That saves time, money and the emotional distress of hoping something will help then finding out it won't.

“Thinking outside the genetics box, understanding why some respond and others don't, then developing therapies for the nonresponders,” he says.

As an example of professors from various fields working on a problem, chemistry faculty member Allison Danell has recently begun working with Collier on precision medicine.

Research clusters aren't a new idea. Numerous universities have them, as do other organizations. Any formally recognized groups that apply their

research expertise to a common area, field or theme or who are involved in a collaborative project or set of related projects can be called a research cluster.

One advantage is that while they can pursue different aims, together, their work can contribute to a single pursuit. In ECU's case, one of those pursuits is the Rural Prosperity Initiative, announced in September. That project aims to find solutions to the disparities in health, education and economic development in rural and coastal North Carolina communities.

“ECU has been and will continue to be North Carolina's rural university,” Golden says. “We have two times the number of undergraduate students from rural areas (as N.C. State and UNC-Chapel Hill). If we don't do this, who will? And no one will do it better than us.”

Partnerships

The project also serves as an intersection of discovery and economic development, of public institutions and private enterprise.

ECU is in the top three among University of North Carolina system institutions in several categories, according to the National Science Foundation's Higher Education Research and Development survey: ▼

2016 HERD SURVEY RESEARCH EXPENDITURES

PROGRAM	2016 EXPENDITURES	UNC SYSTEM RANK
Health Sciences	\$9.6M	2
Biological and Biomedical Sciences	\$11M	3
Geological and Earth Sciences	\$388,000	3
Funding from Health and Human Services	\$10M	3
Funding from Businesses	\$2.4M	3
Life Sciences	\$20.7M	3
Clinical Trials	\$2M	2

HERE ARE THE RESEARCH AREAS ECU WILL FOCUS ON AND THEIR LEADERS

Big data and analytics

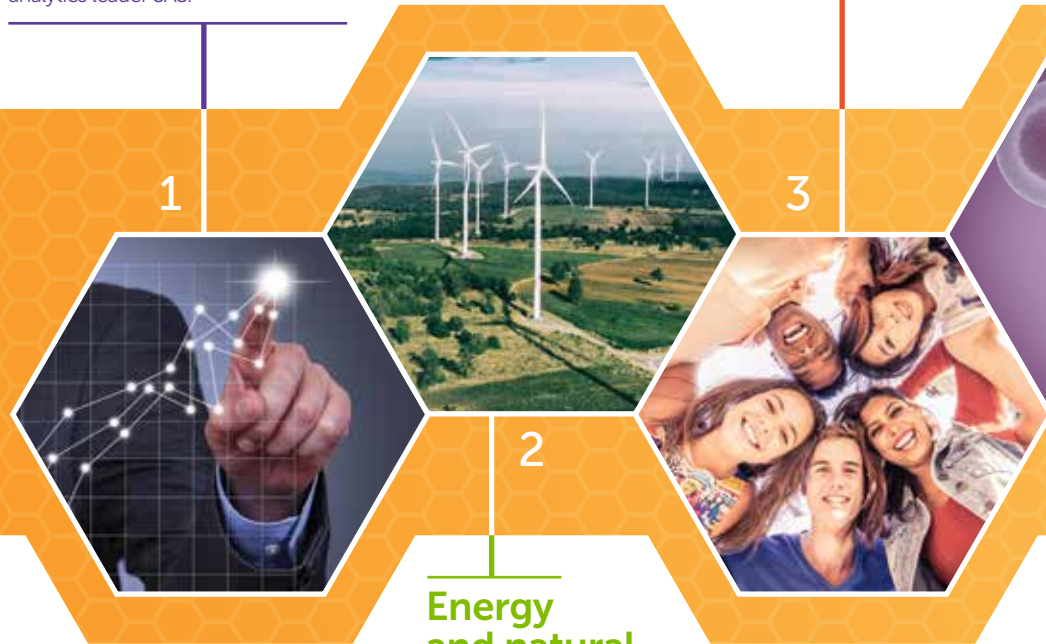
Leaders | Leonard Annetta, education
Huigang Liang, business

Focus Bioproducts and bioenergy, health sciences, machine learning and innovative visualization. The cluster intends to house and analyze data that supports rural-based companies in conjunction with ECU's recently announced partnership with analytics leader SAS.

Health behavior

Leaders | Sam Sears, psychology
Kim Larson, nursing

Focus How behaviors create patterns that can be used to influence health decisions; adolescent risk behaviors, especially those that affect sexual risk, mental health and physical activity.



Energy and natural resources

Leaders | Burrell Montz, geography, planning and environment
Alex Manda, geological sciences

Focus Biogas and off-shore energy, including wave and wind-powered energy, water quality in eastern North Carolina, surface and groundwater management, wastewater management and storm water management.

As such, ECU is partnering with SAS Corp. of Research Triangle Park. Golden and representatives of the software and data giant signed a memorandum of understanding in October describing how the company and ECU will work together to target research to specific areas, namely rural prosperity and economic development. The company is providing analytic software and consulting services at no cost to the university and researchers.

"The SAS partnership allows us access to their software, and, in doing so, gives those working with the big data and analytics cluster the ability to look into large data sets while visualizing results to make informed decisions," says Len Annetta, a professor of math and science education and

co-director of the big data and analytics research cluster. "It is generally agreed that making data-driven decisions is the best approach, and now we have a centralized location for not just housing data but also analysis and visualization of data at no cost thanks to this partnership between ECU and SAS."

Annetta says those working with the cluster include faculty members, students, start-ups, current industry and the military.

"This is an opportunity for SAS to support a university initiative that benefits the people of our home state," says Emily Baranello, vice president of the SAS Education Practice. "ECU's research, powered by the data and analytics at the heart of innovation today, could transform the lives and futures of rural North Carolinians."

Marine and coastal

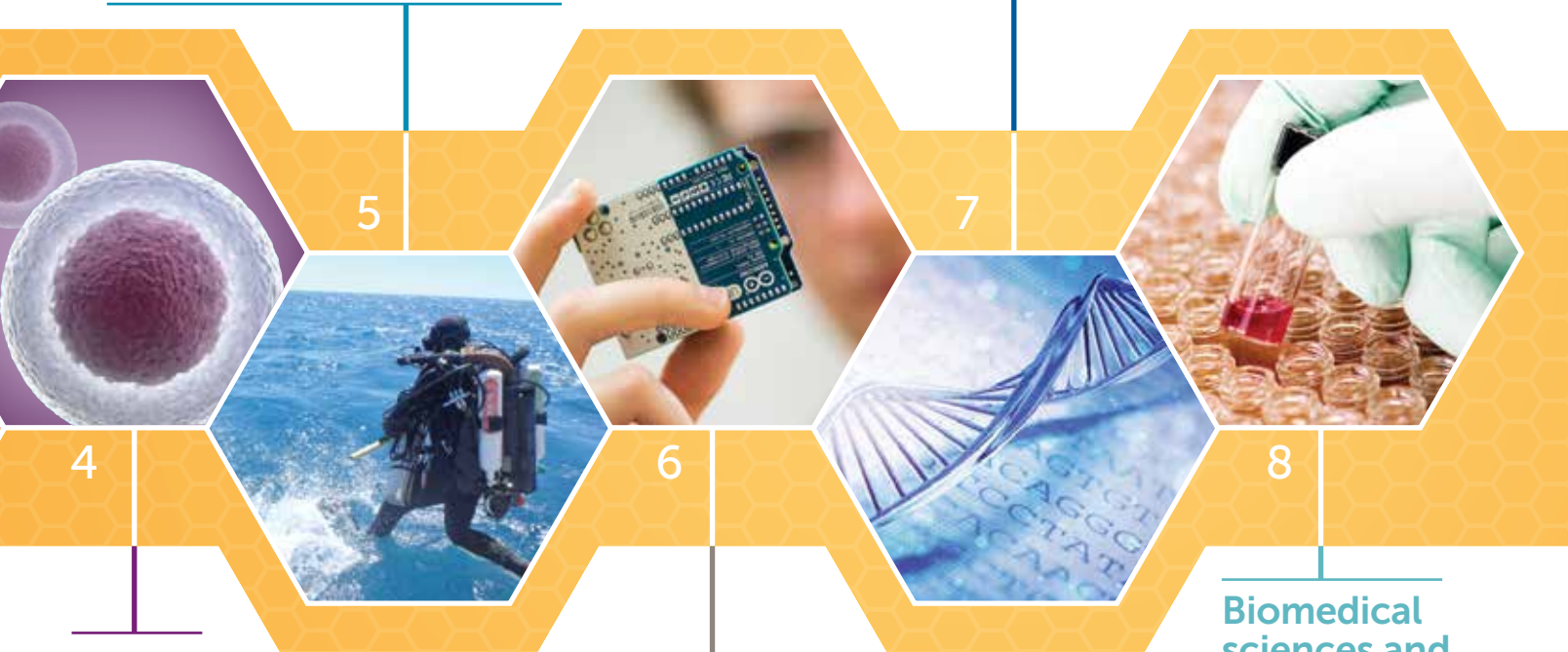
Leaders | Reide Corbett, Coastal Studies Institute
David Griffith, anthropology

Focus Continental margin resources including non-renewable and renewable energy, cultural resources and biological resources; natural hazards including storms, saltwater intrusion and human vulnerability; and marine and coastal health including environmental and human health, health disparities and toxicology.

Precision medicine

Leaders | Keith Keene, biology
David Collier, pediatrics

Focus How health care professionals can classify people into subgroups while providing optimal treatment options based on people's susceptibility to a particular disease and their response to treatments.



Human health and disease

Leaders | Espen Spangenburg, physiology
Mark Mannie, microbiology

Focus Increase understanding of acute and chronic disease in the region, including obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke and cancers.

STEM innovations

Leaders | Shawn Moore, education
Daniel Dickerson, education

Focus Teacher preparation and improvement, college workforce readiness and public understanding of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) content.

Biomedical sciences and engineering

Leaders and Focus TBD

“INNOVATION SELDOM ORIGINATES FROM ISOLATION. BRINGING TOGETHER A NETWORK OF FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS WITH DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS AND INTERESTS SPURS COLLABORATION AND JOINT RESEARCH PROJECTS.”

Brandon Morrison, director of strategic initiatives for the Division of Research, Economic Development and Engagement

SAS leaders also say the partnership will help prepare more graduates for the marketplace. Another partner is RTI International, the non-profit research institute headquartered in Research Triangle Park that is “dedicated to improving the human condition.”

“RTI is an internationally recognized leader for developing and implementing impactful research programs,” Golden says. “Our missions are similar in that we are focused on improving the human condition.”

Keene, the biology professor, has a succinct summary of ECU’s research outlook and the prospects for growth.

“It’s an exciting time to be a student or researcher or faculty member,” he says. ▶ E





You know an ECU doctor

WITH GRADUATES ACROSS THE STATE,
CHANCES ARE THERE'S ONE NEAR YOU

Sara King '79 recalls the time she called the office of her doctor, Mary Kirby, about a medical matter. She thought she needed to come in for an appointment.

Kirby '96 suggested instead that King stay home, as it was the peak of the flu season, and call her back on Kirby's lunch break, and she would answer King's questions.

“NOT MANY DOCTORS, NO. 1, ARE GOING TO TRY TO KEEP YOU OUT OF THEIR OFFICE, AND NO. 2, HAVE YOU CALL DURING THEIR LUNCH HOUR,” KING SAYS. “THAT’S THE KIND OF DOCTOR SHE IS.”

◀ *Dr. Beatriz Juncadella '05 examines Kingston Chance Long, 4 months, at her pediatric practice in Thomasville.*

“ WE RETURN TO AND LIVE IN TOWNS NOT TO BE IMPORTANT BUT TO GIVE BACK TO OUR OWN PEOPLE – THESE PEOPLE WHO MADE US WHO WE ARE PROUD TO BE. ”

Dr. Claudia Daly '83 '01

And that’s the kind of doctor many graduates of the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University are. They want to increase access to care. They want help their patients stay healthy. They want to reduce complexity.

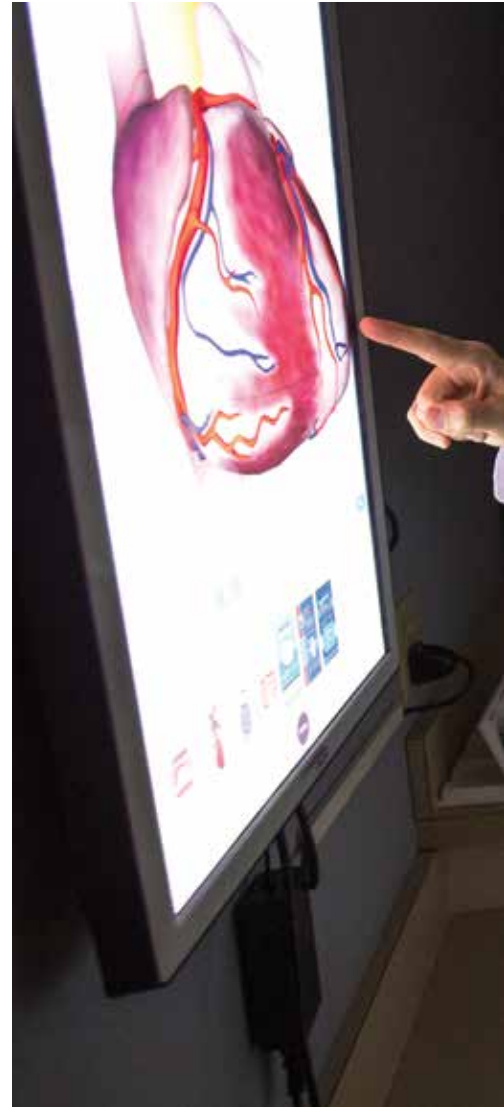
“We have first learned our mission to serve selflessly, and that is core to all care even more so when the return won’t always be financial or personal acclaim,” said Dr. Claudia Daly ’83 ’01, an emergency physician at ECU and president of the ECU medical alumni association. “We return to and live in towns not to be important but to give back to our own people – these people who made us who we are proud to be.”

Since 1977, ECU has graduated approximately 2,400 medical doctors. Of those, nearly half practice in North Carolina. They are working in 83 of the state’s 100 counties – from Manteo to Murphy, as the saying goes.

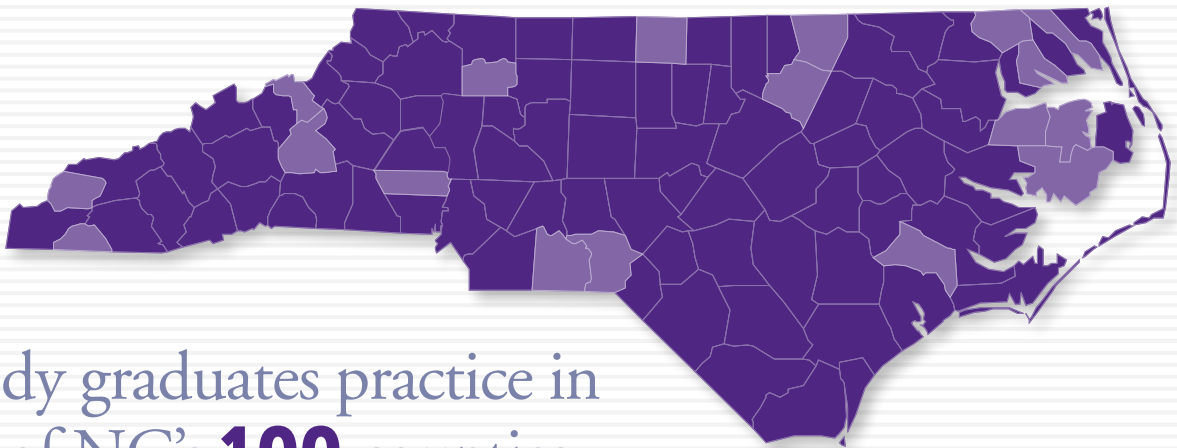
And chances are you know one.

Access is essential

Like Kirby, Dr. Mark McNeill ’02 makes access a priority. Most patient-practice communication takes place through his family medicine practice’s Web portal rather than a telephone. With few exceptions, patients schedule themselves for appointments.



BRODY GRADUATES REMAIN IN NORTH CAROLINA

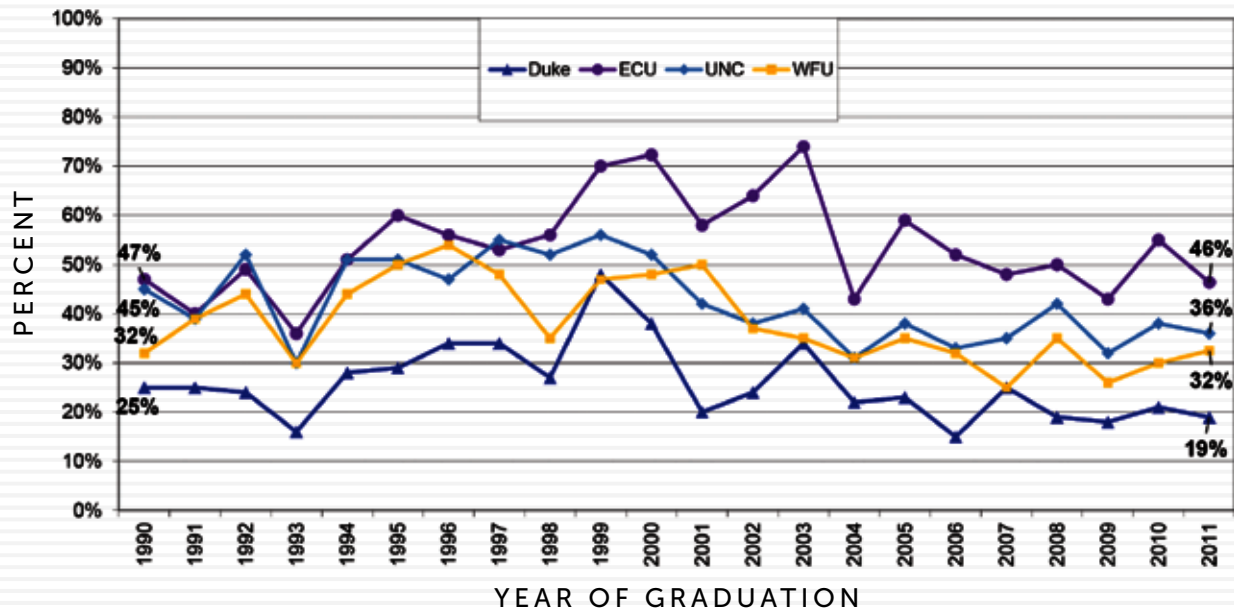


Brody graduates practice in
82 of NC’s **100** counties



Clockwise from top, Drs. Alex and Mary Kirby, Dr. Mark McNeill and Dr. Beatriz Juncadella

PERCENTAGE OF NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL GRADUATES (CLASSES 1990-2011) PRACTICING IN PRIMARY CARE FIVE YEARS AFTER GRADUATION



Sources: NC Health Professionals Data System and NC AHEC with data derived from Duke, UNC-CH, ECU, Wake Forest, NC Medical Board, and AAMC.
 Note: Primary Care = Family Medicine, General Pediatric Medicine, General Internal Medicine, Internal Medicine/Pediatrics, and Obstetrics/Gynecology.
 The NC Medical Board changed the way they collect specialties, and these specialty data are used for physicians practicing within the state. This may partially explain the drop in primary care.

“Life is better for everybody when access is easier for patients,” he said of his 1,200-patient practice. “I found that the more barriers I could remove for them, the better things went. Staff were less anxious, patients were more satisfied, they were getting better care. And the more smoothly things ran, the happier I was.”

Patients can send him a digital message any time, and he’ll respond within a couple of hours. He’s also available by phone but receives only about four calls a month, he says.

“Folks respect my time because this is a small practice and we have good relationships,” he says. “They always apologize for bothering me and are grateful for my input.”

Contributing to community

Pediatrician Beatriz Juncadella ’05 – or “Dr. Bea” – also prioritizes access to health care and helping her patients stay out of the emergency department. “If these families miss work, they miss pay,” she says.

An immigrant from Nicaragua, she knows what it’s like to overcome challenges. She was pregnant with her second child and in her last year of medical school at ECU when she was diagnosed with myocarditis and hepatitis and her Iranian husband was told his visa had expired and he had 90 days to leave the country.

Out of nowhere, a \$5,000 anonymous scholarship appeared, helping with mounting medical and legal bills. Her friends refused to let her fall behind in school. And her husband received a green card.

She has turned that fortunate series of events into a successful practice caring for children, particularly the poor, the underserved – many of them Hispanic.

“Brody encouraged us to give back, to care for those in the community who didn’t have access,” she said. “It was motivating to see faculty giving their time and talents. As an immigrant myself, caring for the migrants who attended those clinics, it was very special to see what it would look like to help those populations.”

McNeill gives back in another way: He's active in the Western Carolina Medical Society, and he lobbies local and state legislators on behalf of physician interests. He also precepts medical students and residents through the Mountain Area Health Education Center Family Medicine Residency Program, where he completed his own family medicine training.

Remaining in North Carolina to practice was an easy decision for him, he says.

"Getting such a great education for such a great value at a school that's so in tune to where they are and who they serve – that motivated me to stay in North Carolina," he says. "It made me grateful to the state. I feel an obligation to stay and to stay involved."

Calling North Carolina home

Alex '96 and Mary Kirby met at ECU and then traveled to Arizona for residency training. But the Colorado River and Grand Canyon couldn't push the Pamlico Sound and Atlantic Ocean off their minds. They wanted to come back to North Carolina.

At ECU, the primary care focus resonated with Mary Kirby. She calls the family doctors who led small group study sessions "role models for myself." Now in her own practice, she precepts health sciences students – medical, nurse practitioner and physician assistant students.

The son of an ECU graduate, Alex Kirby grew up in Durham. His first degree was in engineering, and he spent a few years working as a chemical engineer. He liked technical subjects, but he wanted to be more involved with people. So he came to ECU for medical school and then went into interventional cardiology.

Mary's family moved from Michigan to Rocky Mount when she was 12.

And the Kirbys themselves know an ECU doctor. Mary's sister, Renee Banaszak, is a family physician and geriatrician at ECU and delivered Mary's third child when Banaszak was in residency.

Alex Kirby says the view to serve North Carolina is widespread at ECU.

"I think we are people who tend to stay in North Carolina," he says. "I see the devotion to health care in all areas of North Carolina."

And as King says about the Kirbys: "They chose eastern North Carolina. I think that's fabulous." ► E

Amy Ellis contributed to this story.



“ LIFE IS BETTER FOR EVERYBODY WHEN ACCESS IS EASIER FOR PATIENTS. I FOUND THAT THE MORE BARRIERS I COULD REMOVE FOR THEM, THE BETTER THINGS WENT. ”

Dr. Mark McNeill '02



ADDRESSING CRITICAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS FOR NC

- ECU provides essential primary and specialty “safety-net” care for eastern NC’s 29 counties.
- ECU leads a statewide telepsychiatry network that improves access to mental health services in a cost-effective way.
- ECU is a national leader in the detection and treatment of early lung cancer, training physicians in advanced diagnostic procedures.





NEW FOUNDATIONS ATIONS

Campus renovations
boost student
experience

STORY BY **JULES NORWOOD**



The seventh floor of Greene Hall was home to eight students in the 1970s who have remained friends for more than 40 years.

“We met in 1975, in a very hot August,” says Lyn Hurst ’78 of High Point. “We all had our parents helping us unload our stuff. We were in a dorm with a functioning elevator but no air conditioning. . . . We’ve been to each other’s weddings, met children, been through divorces, parents’ funerals, and children’s weddings.”

And they recently returned to ECU to tour their former residence hall, which will undergo extensive renovations this year, similar to those done at neighboring White Residence Hall.

She and her friends enjoyed seeing the renovations in White, as well as revisiting Greene, much as it ever was. She talked about cooking meals with hot plates and toaster ovens, and sharing a phone. The communications technology, availability of dining options and air conditioning stood out as the most remarkable differences between the campus then and now, she says.

That elicits a response from Aaron Lucier, director of housing operations at ECU.

“I kid about this at orientation, but it’s only partial kidding,” says Lucier. “The happiest day of my life, other than my wedding, was the day that we air conditioned the last bed at ECU.”

Building success

While ECU’s shaded brick walkways, fountain and cupola are lasting landmarks, the buildings, and especially the residence halls, have seen significant change. To meet the needs and expectations of its students and faculty, and the demands of new ideas and technology, those changes have been deliberate and continuous; nearly every residence hall on campus is new or has been renovated within the last decade.

“We want to offer living and learning arrangements and experiences that are second to none,” said Chancellor Cecil Staton, citing the university’s plans to build a new fine arts center, a new medical education building and a new indoor practice facility for athletics. “All those are key parts of attracting the best students and ensuring the success of all our students,” he said.

For the 5,880 students who live on campus today, the focus is on making sure basic needs are met so they can study, learn and experience college life, says Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs.

“We strongly believe that students can thrive or struggle based on their living situation on campus,” she said.

With the goal of maximizing the opportunities

for student success, in the last decade or so ECU has built, redesigned, refaced or gutted almost every residence hall on campus. This work involves more than just aesthetic look and feel. There are more student-centric spaces, more opportunities for studying, group work and collaboration.

Living-learning communities, as detailed in the spring 2017 issue of *East*, are also part of the equation. Students in the LLCs study together, go to class together, socialize together and more.

“In essence, we have found there is a strong correlation between students succeeding in college and the housing experience,” Hardy said. “ECU has committed to this through all the construction efforts to make the experience positive.”

ECU has invested more than \$120 million in buildings and infrastructure in just the last eight years, says Lucier. Part of the focus has been on improving outdoor spaces and public areas, helping to contribute to students’ sense of community.

“It’s the alumni who come back and tell you how much improvement we’ve done,” says Lucier. “The students in four years are not here long enough to see the arc of change in the campus. But the alumni sit there with their mouths open, saying, ‘Oh, these students are so lucky, this is absolutely amazing.’”

Forming bonds

Senior Christofer Brothers has lived in Garrett Hall and Gateway East, where he is a resident advisor. His father, Floyd, was a resident advisor in Garrett Hall and head resident of Jones Hall in the 1980s. Cristofer says his dad still can’t get over how different Jones looks today.

“Jones used to have a cafeteria on the first floor, so there was a stairway to the second floor right on the front of the building,” he says.

“And where the dining hall is now, there used to be basketball courts,” Floyd says. “College Hill Suites weren’t there either.”

Cristofer says he appreciates how the residence halls have been brought up to date while maintaining a sense of history. Like Hurst and her friends from Greene Hall, he says his closest friendships were formed in ECU’s residence halls.

“They’re the ones that you have the late-night conversations with about all the problems in the universe,” he says. “The people that you’re sitting in the hallway with doing homework and end up sharing things until they know you better than anybody.”

The new and updated buildings and additional conveniences allow and encourage more students to live on campus and build close relationships, adds his father.

◀ *ECU alumnae Lou Ann O’Bryant, Kathy Helton, Paulette Deacy, Debbie Gibbs, Mary West, Annie White and Lyn Hurst gather for a photo after touring Greene Residence Hall on Aug. 12, 2017. The group carried a cardboard photo of their friend, ECU alumna Cindy Newell, during the tour of the residence hall they lived in while attending ECU.*

Previous page: A bulldozer works on the site of the Belk Residence Hall demolition.



Above: ECC campus in 1960.

Below: ECU athletics complex that houses the fields that once occupied the area where Brewster now stands. Also, the Bate Building, Science and Technology Building and Brewster Building, none of which existed in the archive photo above.



“Everywhere we go, Cristofer is introducing me to somebody,” Floyd says. “I always felt like the kids who stayed on campus got a better college experience. A lot would move off campus, but ... that community helps a lot of kids engage and stay in school — to achieve their goal of graduating.”

Today’s students see Gateway Hall, the renovated Tyler and Scott halls, and the Croatan as simply part of campus. In the same way, future students won’t look twice at the health sciences and main campus student centers or the dramatically improved White, Clement and Greene halls.

Richard Eakin, who served as chancellor from 1988-2001, was instrumental in bringing state-of-the-art facilities to ECU, including the Student Recreation Center, the expansion of Joyner Library and the installation of underground fiber-optic cable to improve communication throughout campus.

“We have come a long way with our residential and dining facilities,” Eakin says. “For example, when my wife and I arrived at ECU, there was a single, small dining facility, and there were no air-conditioned student rooms in the residence halls — quite a difference from today’s facilities.”

Facilities projects, he says, were important to him as an administrator because they represented a major advance in the overall student experience.

“A university experience has many facets,” he says. “We should be dedicated to making all aspects



The extensive updates to ECU’s residence halls have incorporated more student-centric spaces with opportunities for studying, group work and collaboration.





Belk Residence Hall (left) was demolished in 2014 to make way for Gateway Hall, a living-learning community that stands as an example of ECU's competitive living options. Below, the new Main Campus Student Center is scheduled to open this fall.



“ WE HAVE FOUND THERE IS A STRONG CORRELATION BETWEEN STUDENTS SUCCEEDING IN COLLEGE AND THE HOUSING EXPERIENCE. ECU HAS COMMITTED TO THIS THROUGH ALL THE CONSTRUCTION EFFORTS TO MAKE THE EXPERIENCE POSITIVE. ”

Virginia Hardy, vice chancellor for student affairs

of student life as rich and rewarding as possible in support of student development and learning.”

Lucier says the recreation center shifted the center of energy on the campus, and he expects the new student center to do the same.

“The rec center was built at the perimeter of the campus,” he says. “People don’t perceive that to be the perimeter of campus anymore because the rec center moved the campus energy in that direction. ... In two years, Umstead is going to become one of the most popular buildings we have, because it’s going to be right on top of the student center, and it’s going to feel like the center of attention, where all the energy is.”

Former Chancellor Steve Ballard oversaw more than a decade of campus development, including the dental school, the East Carolina Heart Institute and the student centers.

Gateway, he says, is a prime example, designed with shared spaces and living-learning communities in mind.

“Academic excellence and a positive campus experience are two sides of the same coin,”

Ballard says. ► E

STUDENT **SNAPSHOT**

Israel Mendez



Hometown: Morganton

Major: Public health studies,
community health concentration

Year: Senior

Career goals: Become a physician
assistant and operate a clinic

Why did you choose ECU?

The reason I came to ECU is because of (physician assistant) school. ECU is big on health care. Eventually, I want to open a clinic. Back home, we have one clinic, and it's not free. People have to resort to the emergency room, and that's not what it's there for.

How did you get involved in providing health care in Nicaragua?

I'm involved in Every Nation Campus ministry here on campus. They advertised a medical mission trip to provide free care to people who don't have the opportunity.

(In 2016, Mendez, raised \$2,250 through social media to pay for a 10-day mission trip to Nicaragua. Service is important to him. A certified nursing assistant, Mendez was asked to be a clinic manager on his most recent trip.)

I could speak Spanish and understand medicine. The clinic opens at 9 a.m. but people start lining up at 5 a.m. People don't know they're diabetic, and they don't know how to manage it.

What are you doing as a research assistant?

I work 15 hours a week talking with health leaders across North Carolina about health disparities. The project is with Dr. Joseph Lee, assistant professor of health education and promotion in the College of Health and Human Performance.

Another project is focusing on farmworker health and access to medical care. The project is assessing where farmworkers and their families get health information, as well as providing reliable, evidence-based information.

What other activities are you involved in?

I work for Pinnacle Home Care with special-needs patients. I work three days a week. We provide around-the-clock care. I've been doing it since freshman year. I volunteer (interpret) once a month at Pitt County Care Clinic. I'm an ECU Ambassador and a member of Sigma Nu fraternity.

You make time for the things you love. You stay busy. It's good stress.

Treasure the Traditions.



Capture the Memories.

Time honored traditions on campus—tailgating, late-night study sessions, a stroll by Wright Fountain, wearing your purple and gold and proudly wearing your class ring. Memories to last a lifetime.

A new tradition has begun—the formal ring presentation ceremony, an event shared with family and friends. Dowdy Student Stores is proud to partner with the ECU Alumni Association on this celebration.

We're not just the bookstore. We carry a wide selection of ECU spirit clothing and merchandise in our stores, along with technology products and the official ECU ring collection.

We hope you'll visit us whenever you're on campus. At Dowdy, we return profits right back to the University to support scholarships and campus programs, so the traditions continue for future Pirates. Your patronage helps support this mission.

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ECU
DOWDY
STUDENT STORES



PIRATE NATION ✪



Top, Pattie Hopkins Kinlaw '06 and Hank Smith. Right, Robert Thornhill, Kinlaw, Ben Parker, E. Scott Warren and Smith play as *The Current*.



HANK, PATTIE & THE CURRENT

PUT A TWIST ON BLUEGRASS TRADITION

If you've checked out the local bluegrass scene at all, chances are you've run across Hank Smith and Pattie Hopkins Kinlaw '06.

With their band, *The Current*, the banjo-fiddle duo plays traditional bluegrass with a twist or two. Often, they bring in a classical flavor, stemming from Kinlaw's formal violin training. And they're equally at ease playing pop songs.

News & Observer correspondent Stacy Chandler caught up with the band last fall in Raleigh at a "Beer & Banjos" show – a weekly showcase hosted by Smith at Raleigh Times featuring local roots-music artists. Her article is edited here; the complete version is available at newsobserver.com.

Smith and Kinlaw previously played together in the bluegrass band *Kickin' Grass* as well as the rock band *The Morning After*. When both groups reached the end of their roads, Smith recalled, "We just sort of looked at each other and were like, 'Well, now what do you want to do?'"

Bluegrass was the answer. To fill out the sound, they brought in three other musicians who knew the roots but liked to branch out: Ben Parker on guitar, Robert Thornhill on mandolin and E. Scott Warren on bass. Hank, Pattie & *The Current*'s onstage debut came at 2014's *World of Bluegrass*, and two years later they released their self-titled debut album. Critics lauded it, and the single "Sundown" was on the ballot to be considered for Grammy nomination.

Last summer brought their second album, *Hold Your Head Up High* (Robust Records), with 12 original tunes showcasing the band's vocal and instrumental skills as well as various musical influences. The band will release its third album this summer, a live recording of its show Sept. 22 at the Fletcher Opera Theater in Raleigh.

As a girl, Kinlaw had music in her blood and started playing violin at age 4. Her mother, Charley Ann Hopkins '79, is a classical and church organist, and her great-grandfather had a bluegrass radio show in Bertie County in the 1950s. Kinlaw grew up playing classical, but she also had a love for roots music and a dream to move to Nashville to be a fiddle player.

Her parents, however, insisted on college (She says now, "Which I am very thankful for at this time."), so she headed to ECU and studied violin performance and pedagogy, which has allowed her to connect classical and American roots music as a performer and a teacher.

For Kinlaw, who lives in Winterville and teaches in Greenville and Williamston, working with young musicians is a chance to pass along tradition as well as technique. They've also started the American Music Foundation of North Carolina, aimed at increasing education about American music in the state.

"As Americans, I personally believe that we should learn our music, these great American genres," she said. "So I teach my kids how to play a 12-bar blues, they learn how to play a Bach minuet, and they learn how to play jazz and blues and bluegrass and things like that."

Kinlaw and Smith have performed all around the country, but they see North Carolina as a bright spot for roots music.

"In the state in general ... we're so diverse in our culture and our history and music as a state," she said.

– Doug Boyd

5

5 MINUTES WITH MELISA BALL '08

Position: Manufacturing engineer, welding and fabrication, BSH Home Appliances Corp., New Bern

Degree: Bachelor's degree in industrial engineering technology, mechanical design concentration and a minor in business

Hometown: Clayton

"We incorporate many tasks of an industrial engineer. Daily tasks include welding robot programming, fabrication programming, plant layout and production flow. On a greater scale we focus on the value stream process to eliminate waste and decrease our time to make the product start to finish. It is never a dull moment. But I enjoy the merger of the two because it makes us all better-rounded engineers.

"I would not be here today if it were not for Amy Frank. At the time Amy was my advisor and I was struggling with my previous major, biology. I have always had difficulty reading. I was performing in all classes except the ones with a lot of research. She looked through my high school paperwork and suggested the (Bachelor of Science in industrial technology) program. I had never thought of a future in engineering or factory work. But once I began taking the classes, I excelled and had a blast. She even helped my husband find his road four years later. We owe her everything for our success and hopefully long futures in the engineering realm.

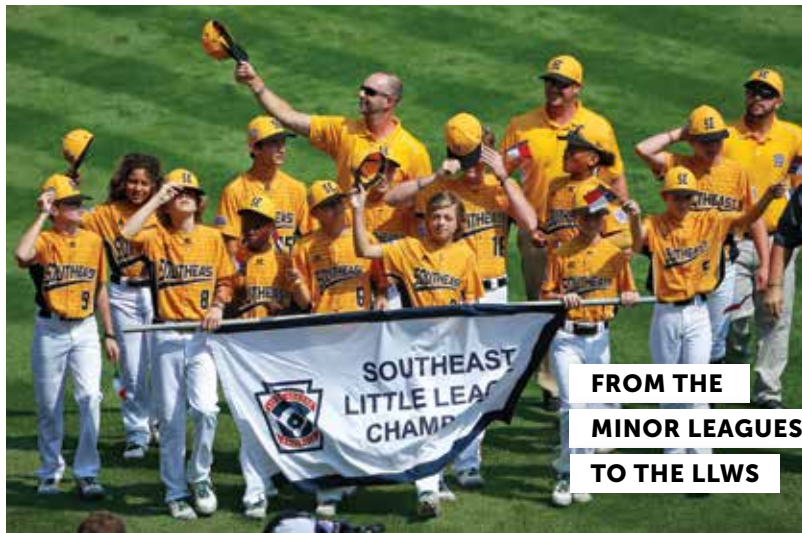
"I learned a lot (at ECU), but I think the main thing was always think outside the box. For many majors, the classes teach you the standard or only way of doing something. In engineering, there are hundreds of ways to get your task completed. The trick is to find the best one for the application. A lot of the professors in the BSIT program know that we all think and perform differently. They allowed us the freedom to complete the task our way, as long as the end result was the same. This helps develop each engineer and really makes one think on a larger scale.

"A lot of people would rather have women engineers. It brings a different skill set, a different approach."



We want to hear stories from alumni about how their experiences at ECU shaped them today and how they pass those lessons to others. Send us an email at easteditor@ecu.edu.

PIRATE NATION ☆



Brian Fields '98 '01 (holding out hat) led a team of 12-year-olds to the national spotlight.

Last fall in his Winterville office at Albemarle Bank – a Little League World Series plaque on the table behind him – Brian Fields '98 '01 described the similarities between baseball and banking.

“There’s a lot of rejection. You’ve got to be persistent. You have to keep grinding. To be successful, everybody’s got to play their parts,” he said.

And as millions around the country saw last August, Fields, his fellow coaches and a group of 12-year-olds from around Greenville – including his own son Tanner – did just that, coming within a run of capturing the U.S. Little League championship and going on to play for the LLWS title.

Fields has been coaching youth baseball for nine years. For three years, he’s coached the group that went to this year’s LLWS. The first year, they were second in the state. The next, they won state and were second in the regionals.

“This year, as fate has it, we finished second in the United States,” he said.

A left-hander who could throw strikes, Fields started his college career at N.C. State. But when coach Ray Tanner left for South Carolina, ECU baseball coach Gary Overton convinced Fields to come to Greenville.

After a season with the Pirates, Fields was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers in 1997 and played in the San Francisco Giants organization for two years. He had some success, but didn’t see himself advancing in the minor leagues, so he left professional baseball. He landed in the Wilmington area, playing extras in films that needed baseball players.

Then, he returned to ECU, earned his master’s in economics and is now a city executive with Albemarle Bank.

For now, though, he’s taking a break from coaching. He said it’s time for Tanner and his older son, Drew, to work with other coaches. But he might not be done.

“Now that I’ve been to Williamsport, I want to go back,” Fields said. “Now that I’ve gotten there, there’s that thing...I want another chance at it.”

And he’s aware of how his team captured the imaginations of people locally and farther away.

“It’s cool how the city and community ... kind of embraced that team and it kind of pulled everybody together,” he said. “It’s cool those 12-year-olds can have that kind of impact.”

With her Navy Seal-veteran father as inspiration, **Meghan Moser '97 '99** (below) of Wilmington designed a camouflage-colored coffee sleeve for Starbucks that was used in stores nationwide last fall. The goal was to recognize veterans and military spouses whom Starbucks has hired. Moser owns Patternseed Design Studio, where she creates hand block printed textile art for clothes, home furnishings and more.

– ECU News Services



– Doug Boyd



PIRATE
Adventures



LET'S GO ON AN ADVENTURE

Bring your sense of adventure and travel with the Pirate Nation. Come see the world with us on any of our exciting travel opportunities. With six different adventure packages, both domestic and international, you'll want to set sail with the ECU Alumni Association. Say yes to new adventures, and book your trip at PirateAlumni.com/Adventures today.





Mackell Schultes

Year: Sophomore

Major: Business administration

Hometown: Woodbury, N.J.

Position: Midfield

“ I THINK ECU STARTING A LACROSSE TEAM IS GOING TO CAUSE A CHAIN REACTION IN THE STATE. IT’S GOING TO BE HUGE. ”

LAX to the max

ECU’S NEWEST TEAM PLAYS COLLEGE’S

FASTEST-GROWING SPORT

Feb. 18 was a historic day for ECU.

The university’s new women’s lacrosse team scored its first victory that day, an overtime win against Gardner-Webb, and the team’s first player scored a key goal.

MacKell Schultes, who in 2016 decided to pack her bags two weeks before her first semester started at St. Joseph’s University in Philadelphia and head south to a new program at ECU, scored the tying goal with less than a minute to play. Forty seconds into overtime, freshman Megan Pallozzi scored the game-winner.

Schultes was the first player to join coach Amanda Barnes at ECU, the alma mater of her parents, Matt ’84 and Suzanne Schultes ’84.

“I decided to take a chance and go here. I feel like it all worked out the way it was supposed to,” Schultes said.

Lacrosse is the first sport ECU has added since women’s golf in 2000. It’s the 20th varsity sport and 11th women’s team. Men’s and women’s lacrosse have been club sports at ECU.

“It was a clear choice,” said Shelley Binegar, senior associate athletics director for external operations. “Lacrosse is the fastest-growing sport at the collegiate level.”

The team also uses the same field as women’s soccer, saving the cost of a new venue, Binegar added.

In North Carolina, 80 high schools have girls lacrosse teams, according to the N.C. High School Athletic Association. Several of those are in eastern North Carolina, including J.H. Rose High School in Greenville.

Among American Athletic Conference members, Cincinnati, Connecticut and Temple each field teams.

Binegar also said adding lacrosse was not aimed at a particular Title IX issue at ECU.

“Title IX was certainly taken into consideration, although we were not under any investigation,” she said. “We believe we meet Prong 2 of Title IX, which means we are continuing making improvements. This was just the next ‘improvement’ in our mind.”

Since being on the team from the beginning, as well as being one of two sophomores among 22 freshmen, Schultes sees herself as a leader.

“I like to help (the younger players) because I have a year of experience under my belt and have managed being away from home, balancing school and lacrosse, that sort of thing,” Schultes said. “I feel like if someone needs help, it’s my responsibility to check in with them.”

At the team’s first game Feb. 10, the Pirates lost to George Washington University, but the support the players received was “unreal,” Schultes said.

“It made us way more excited to be out there playing. I think it’s something that everyone on the team is going to remember forever.”

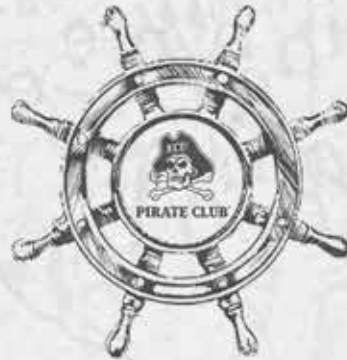
Follow the team on Twitter (@ecuwlax), Instagram (ecuwlax) and Facebook (ecuwomenslacrosse).

– Erin Shaw



Calling all Pirates!

20,000 MEMBERS
OVER FIVE YEARS



\$12 MILLION
IN SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT

ALL HANDS
ON DECK

LESS THAN 4%

OF ECU ALUMNI
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Horizons

CHANGING LIVES,

CHANGING COMMUNITIES



Seth Sutton

Hometown: Dehli, Louisiana

Year: Senior, double-major in biology and geology

Career goals: To earn a doctorate in vertebrate paleontology and become a college professor

Research and service

"I fully believe the reason that people attend college is so that they may not only better themselves but the world. When I do research for biology or geology, that research will have an impact directly or indirectly on the public. Knowing that research has impacts on people has also led me to give back by volunteering every way I can in our department. My favorite is Science Olympiad, where you get to see middle schoolers and high schoolers compete in events that are based on things I learned at ECU."

Philanthropy

"Philanthropy, in my opinion, is a necessity for our world. It is the ultimate way for people with resources to spare to help others who have not had the same luck in life but who do have the drive to better themselves. I know when I am able to I hope to impact as many people as I possibly can."



Donor spotlight

C.Q. Brown is credited with helping create the geology department at ECU more than 50 years ago. He has endowed two scholarships: the Elizabeth Brown Sledge Scholarship Endowment and the C.Q. and Barbara Hedgepeth Brown Endowment. Brown also

contributes to the C.Q. Brown Scholarship, which was established and funded originally by alumni and friends in his honor.

For information about these scholarship funds or the ECU Department of Geological Sciences, contact Jessica Nottingham at 252-737-1753 or nottinghamj@ecu.edu or visit www.ecu.edu/geology.

ecu.edu/give

Students with learning differences at East Carolina University and across the country will have better avenues to learning thanks to a \$1.5 million grant from the Oak Foundation.

The grant will be used to expand the reach of the College STAR (Supporting Transition Access and Retention) program, a collaborative initiative designed to help college campuses become more welcoming of students with learning and attention differences. The project is guided by a partnership of anchor campuses that includes ECU, Appalachian State University and Fayetteville State University.

The program, which originated as a UNC system initiative, is now headquartered at ECU and provides a network of support for students who are capable of college success but struggle academically because they learn differently. By balancing direct support for students with instructional support provided to faculty who teach increasingly diverse groups of learners, the project is making a positive difference for a variety of students.

GRANT TO AID STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES



Above left: Sarah Williams, director of the ECU STEPP Program. Above right: Stacy Parker-Fisher, former director of the Learning Differences Program at the Oak Foundation.

The grant will fund the fourth phase of the College STAR program, expanding partnerships beyond the North Carolina campuses to a national scope.

"After our early years with College STAR we feel like we've learned so much," said Sarah Williams, director of ECU's STEPP Program and principal investigator for the College STAR project. "It's exciting to think about expanding that learning nationwide to make a large and positive impact."

The Walter and Marie Williams STEPP Program at ECU was the first student-support program to participate in

the College STAR project and is designed to help students with learning disabilities transition to post-secondary education and provide support throughout their college experience.

Kevin Mantica, an ECU sophomore who participates in STEPP, said working with mentors in the program has helped motivate him.

"Not every college provides something like this – to give the students all the tools that they need to be successful," said Mantica. "It's going to impact a lot more students."

Funding will help create a national network that will facilitate collaboration, research, resource development and technical assistance related to ensuring that colleges and universities are places where students with learning and attention differences can excel.

"ECU has been an incredible partner in this work," said Stacy Parker-Fisher, former director of the Learning Differences Program at the Oak Foundation. "This is something that instructors are embracing. They see the difference this is making for their students."

– Rich Klindworth

ISLEYS COMMIT \$2 MILLION TO ENTREPRENEURSHIP AT ECU

The East Carolina University College of Business has received a \$2 million commitment from Van and Jennifer Isley of Raleigh that will provide a hub for business, engineering, technology and arts students to have "creative collisions" that produce innovation and entrepreneurship.



Van and Jennifer Isley

"The extraordinary commitment from the Isleys not only sets a high bar for alumni giving, its impact will certainly be felt here on campus, in the region and around the state," said Dr. Cecil Staton, ECU chancellor. "Our great young and diverse minds will have a place where they can work with one another in solving the problems of today and tomorrow."

In addition, Mike Harris has been named director of the Miller School of Entrepreneurship. He had served as interim director since January 2017.

Before that, Harris chaired the college's management department, and for 18 years, he led the college's Small Business Institute.

As director of the MSOE, Harris will be responsible for curriculum and degree offerings, hiring faculty, and invigorating the entrepreneurial spirit across ECU and in eastern North Carolina.

The hub, named the Van and Jennifer Isley Innovation Building, will provide a space where business, engineering, technology and art students can collaborate on product innovation and entrepreneurship.

Now known as Building 43, across from the Science and Technology Building and home to the mail services department, the redesigned facility will

cover 28,000 square feet, including a 5,000-square-foot space where up to 300 students can bring their interdisciplinary innovations to life.

The hub will also be the home of the College of Business' Miller School of Entrepreneurship and will feature a world-class fabrication and rapid-prototype workshop run by the College of Engineering and Technology.

Van Isley, a 1985 accounting graduate, said his entrepreneurial spirit started way before he arrived at ECU. A couple of coaches purchased a golf driving range, and, at the age of 14, "they threw me the keys and said 'Run this thing for the summer.'"

Today, Isley is the CEO and founder of Professional Builders Supply, which he started after 18 years in the financial and building-supply arenas. He said he understands and appreciates the entrepreneurial energy employees can bring to a company. They are usually risk-takers who are willing to try new things.

"Personally, I'd hire a graduate with an entrepreneurial degree," said Isley. "I like that mindset. I'm just thrilled to be in a position to do this. ECU was a big part of the foundation that helped me get to where I am."

– Michael Rudd

In Memoriam



Bunnie Elizabeth S. Smith '30 of Kinston died Aug. 18, 2017. At 108, she was one of ECU's oldest alumni at the time of her death. Smith taught home economics and science in Greene, Craven and Wayne counties from 1930 until her retirement in 1971.

ALUMNI

1930s

Eloise C. Melton '35 of Burlington, N.C., on Oct. 16, 2017.

1940s

Virginia S. Barfield '46 of Merry Hill, N.C., on Jan. 10, 2018.
Josephine E. Bullock '46 of Robersonville, N.C., on Oct. 22, 2017.
Mildred Griffin '43 '60 of Greensboro, N.C., on Jan. 27, 2017.
Ann S. Cottrell '48 of Satterwhite, N.C., on Jan. 12, 2018.
Jesse Mayo Lamm '48 '49 of Lumberton, N.C., on Nov. 8, 2017.
Dahlia A. Lautares '46 of Greenville, N.C., on Aug. 29, 2017.
Hilda McDonald '45 of Elkin, N.C., on Jan. 29, 2018.
Alice C. Richardson '45 of Durham, N.C., on Aug. 18, 2017.
Annie B. Stovall '40 of Sanford, N.C., on Aug. 23, 2017.
Wilma Dean Tilley '44 of Oxford N.C., on Aug. 19, 2017.
Mary W. Vars '48 of Greenville, N.C., on Jan. 21, 2017.
Myrtle Westmoreland '41 of Statesville, N.C., on Feb. 3, 2018.
Ruth Lassiter Wilson '47 of Greenville, S.C., on Aug. 31, 2017.
John D. Zeh '49 of Charlotte, N.C., on Oct. 28, 2017.

1950s

Frances Aiken '59 of Eden, N.C., on Jan. 7, 2018.
Charles H. Armstrong '57 of La Plata, Md., on Dec. 2, 2017.
Daphne J. Askev '50 of Ahsokie, N.C., on Feb. 12, 2018.
Mildred C. Boyd '52 of Durham, N.C., on Dec. 4, 2017.
Dorothy E. Branch '57 '62 of Canonsburg, Pa., on Jan. 27, 2018.
Jack Britt '53 '54 of Fayetteville, N.C., on Dec. 22, 2017.
Francis Bailey Dean '56 of Oxford, N.C., on March 21.
Robert Gerald Jones '57 of Williamston, N.C., on Oct. 17, 2017.
Wilton G. Joyner '50 '53 of Greenville, N.C., on Sept 11, 2017.
Anne Whitehurst Keel '52 '55 of Tarboro, N.C., on Feb. 8, 2018.
Merle Phillips Kirby '53 of Hoke/Kitty Hawk, N.C., on Jan. 9, 2018.
Dottie J. Knight '58 '85 of Greenville, N.C., on Aug. 22, 2017.
David L. Martin '55 of Greenville, N.C., on Oct. 7, 2017.
Lee R. McDonald '59 of Raleigh, N.C., on Dec. 23, 2017.
John Franklin Nelson '58 of Morehead City, N.C., on Jan. 8, 2018.
William Redfearn '57 of Swansboro, N.C., on Aug. 15, 2017.
Mitchell L. Saieed, '54, of Wilmington, N.C., on Nov. 18, 2017.
Pearl M. Settlemire '56 of Raleigh, N.C., on Jan. 20, 2018.
Mary Frances Peterson Thrift '54 of New Bern, N.C., on Sept. 30, 2017.
Herbert "Bud" Wheless '58 of Greenville, N.C., on Sept 20, 2017.
Cecil Winslow '52 of Hertford, N.C., on Nov. 2, 2017.

1960s

M. Ray Baker '69 of Granite Falls, N.C., on Jan. 27, 2018.
Betty Anne Hardy Benfield '61 of Winterville, N.C., on Oct. 20, 2017.
Meredith M. Bostic '67 of North Topsail Beach, N.C., on Dec. 29, 2017.
Vivian Lee Clark '62 of Rocky Mount, N.C., on Jan. 19, 2018.
Alice "Nita" Cochran '64 '79 of Weldon, N.C., on Jan. 31, 2018.
Earl W. Deal '60 of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 31, 2017.
Sarah Drenan '69 of Reston, Va., on Jan. 27, 2018.
Bybe D. Graham '64 of Raleigh, N.C., on Nov. 23, 2017.
John W. Griffin '62 of Jacksonville, N.C., on Oct. 8, 2017.
Phoebe R. Hawes '63 of Bolivia, N.C., on Oct. 6, 2017.
Wayland G. "Pete" Hunter '66 of Hertford, N.C., on Feb. 3, 2018.
Virginia M. Hurst '65 of Staunton, Va., on Sept. 10, 2017.
Larry T. Jones '68 of Lillington, N.C., on Jan. 26, 2018.
Donald R. Joyner '65 of Lynn Have, Fla., on Sept. 13, 2017.
Janet Taylor Moore '68 '77 of Tarboro, N.C., on Dec. 25, 2017.
Alice P. Oglesby '62 of Winterville, N.C., on Nov. 11, 2017.
Rufus D. Owens '66 of Raleigh, N.C., on Feb. 2, 2018.
Alma Lou Pierce '64 of Zebulon, N.C., on Jan. 13, 2018.
Joseph C. Purcell '60 '63 '85 of Raleigh, on Dec. 29, 2017.
Julia Carolyn Dixon Stout '60 of Wilmington, N.C., on Feb. 4, 2018.
Elbert Townsend '64 of Wilmington, N.C., on Sept. 13, 2017.
Edna R. Watson '68 of Roseboro, N.C., on Aug. 19, 2017.
Betty Jean Williamson '65 of Whiteville, N.C., on Oct. 26, 2017.

1970s

Constance L. Barbee '70 of Pinehurst, N.C., on Oct. 24, 2017.
Connie Minges Bond '75 of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 11, 2017.
Robert Blaine Cargile '75 of Robersonville, N.C., on Sept. 20, 2017.
Nellie B. Carpenter '75 of Wilmington, N.C., on Nov. 25, 2017.
Madge S. Chamness '72 '77 of Greenville, N.C., on Sept. 12, 2017.

Joseph Edward Collins Jr. '75, of Greenville, N.C., on Nov. 10, 2017.
Carol Corbett '70 of Germantown, Md., on Jan. 19, 2018.
Walter J. Daniel '73 '76 of Charlotte, N.C., on Dec. 22, 2017.
Henry B. Grant '72 '74 of Rocky Mount, N.C., on Dec. 1, 2017.
Walter Harris '76 '84 of Belvoir, N.C., on Oct. 24, 2017.
Sherwood Miller Harrison '75 of New Bern, N.C., on Sept. 1, 2017.
Kenneth Hutcherson '77 of Greenville, N.C., on Nov. 27, 2017.
Dennis Parker Lynch '73 of Pinehurst, N.C., on Oct. 5, 2017.
Floyd McCullough '75 of Goldsboro, N.C., on Jan. 13, 2018.
George W. Millis '77 of Wilmington, N.C., on Sept. 9, 2017.
Beverly F. Moore '76 '86 of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 21, 2017.
John Nichols '71 of Vanceboro, N.C., on July 2, 2017.
Robert C. Tart '71 '78 of Wallace, N.C., on Oct. 27, 2017.
Bobby Tripp '76 of Greenville, N.C., on Sept. 5, 2017.
Jimmie Webb '73 of Buxton, N.C., on Oct. 30, 2017.
William T. Whitehurst '73 of Halifax, N.C., on Nov. 14, 2017.

1980s

Margaret Phelps Brown, '87, of Morehead City, N.C., on Sept. 21, 2017.
James David Carr '88 '94 of Farmville, N.C., on Sept. 2, 2017.
Ann R. Dunn '83 '87 of New Bern, N.C., on Sept. 20, 2017.
Walt Gurganus '83 of Greenville, N.C., on Oct. 22, 2017.
Marcy Crumbacker Moore '86 '89 of Cary, N.C., on Feb. 9, 2018.
Kelly D. Isaacs '86 of Holly Springs, N.C., on Sept. 17, 2017.
Arlene Burke-Morgan '89 of Minneapolis, Minn., on Dec. 16, 2017.
Samuel Glenn Smith '82 of Winterville, N.C., on Oct. 14, 2017.
Ragan Spain '88 '89 '92 of Winterville or Raleigh, N.C., on Nov. 21, 2017.
Ronda Sweet '87 of Woodbridge, Va., on Jan. 25, 2018.
Rebecca Elizabeth "Becky" Thompson '84 of Wilmington, N.C., on Jan. 22, 2018.
Louise Wainright '82 of Winterville, N.C., on Jan. 27, 2018.
Melba R. Webster '89 of Laurinburg, N.C., on Oct. 6, 2017.

1990s

Deborah Lynn Downes Ambert '92 '02 of Wilson, N.C., on Jan. 8, 2018.
Jane Bryan '92 of Vanceboro, N.C., on Jan. 1, 2018.
John Chance '90 of Goldsboro, N.C., on Jan. 1, 2018.
Claire Culbreath '95 of Winston-Salem, N.C., on Jan. 1, 2018.
Matthew Jones Duffy '97 of Roswell, Ga., on Jan. 17, 2018
Alton E. "Butch" McLawhorn '83 of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 11, 2017.
Xymena Solano '99 of Statesville, N.C., on Sept. 8, 2017.

2000s

Susan White Butler '03 '08 of Williamston, N.C., on Oct. 3, 2017.
Anne Miller Daniel '01 of Greenville, N.C., on Nov. 22, 2017.
Shedora Daughtry '09 of Windsor, N.C., on Jan. 1, 2018.
Shelby James Holt '07 of Winterville, N.C., on Dec. 31, 2017.
Cheryl Lynn Schwartz '05 of Burlington, N.C., on Sept. 29, 2017.

2010s

Kisha Murphy Harrington '12 of Grimesland, N.C., on Feb. 10, 2018

STUDENTS

Simmie Ione Marie Byrd of Garner, N.C., on Nov. 8, 2017.
Kent W. Dahlsten of Cincinnati, Ohio, on Feb. 5, 2018.
Destani May of Gastonia, N.C., on Dec. 10, 2017.
Turner Shafer of Grimesland, N.C., on Oct. 27, 2017.
Annalisa Schulze of Wake Forest, N.C., on Aug. 8, 2017.

FACULTY/STAFF

Charles Frederick Bath (music) of Greenville, N.C., on Jan. 17, 2018.
Austin Warren Bunch (administration) of Greenville, N.C., on Aug. 9, 2017.
John Ellen Jr. (history) of Gastonia, N.C., on Aug. 30, 2017.
Robert Fulghum (medicine) of Greenville, N.C., on Nov. 25, 2017.
George F. Hamilton (physical therapy) of Greenville, N.C., on Nov. 24, 2017.
Thomas Johnson (health and human performance) of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 10, 2017.
Floyd Mattheis (education) of Greenville, N.C., on Sept. 1, 2017.
Mary Alice Miller (faculty excellence) of Ayden, N.C., on Nov. 24, 2017.
Judy Tripp (Mendenhall) of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 11, 2017.
Florence Stacy Weaver (education) of Winston-Salem, N.C., on Jan. 13, 2018.
Douglas Wilms (geography) of Greenville, N.C., on Dec. 3, 2017.



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Due East

5.4.18

Fireworks capped off ECU's spring commencement — the first held in the evening — where nearly 5,500 graduates received their degrees. More coverage of the May 4 celebration is inside on page 6.